

THE

OKLAHOMA



MASON

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

March 2023



Glen A. Chaney
Grand Master

**2023 Return to your
Blue Lodge Campaign**

Greetings Brothers. I appreciate each and every one of you for the hard work you are doing and the efforts you are making in the name of Freemasonry. There is a message that I want to convey to you that is becoming an increasingly necessary message.

Your Blue Lodge needs You!

The question we need to ask is, do you still need your Blue Lodge? The question is one I want all of us to ask ourselves. If the answer is Yes, then we must support and attend them and be there!

If you refer to our Landmark, Ninth, you will read about the necessity for Masons to gather in Lodges. It says "necessity" not "suggestion." This wording is a thought that has always stood out to me. We know from our work that the stones used to construct the great Temple "were all hewn squared and numbered in the quarries where they were raised." Now think of ourselves as the living stones in our world. We too are hewn, squared and numbered in the several quarries where we are raised. Those quarries are our Blue Lodges. We gather there to meet with well-informed Brothers, learn the lessons encapsulated in our lectures, and hewn ourselves as those living stones.

I am challenging every Brother across our great State to return to your Blue Lodge if you have not been regularly attending or have not attend-



The Grand Lodge
OKLAHOMA

ed for a time. Go and shake hands and sit with your Brothers. Even if you feel you do not know them, remember that you do. They are all of us and are working for the betterment of themselves and our communities.

I have enjoyed the incredible opportunity of traveling around this State over the last few years and have seen Blue Lodges in such disrepair. It concerns me greatly. I know your brothers care about your Blue Lodge, and I know you want to help.

I am issuing a challenge to return to your Blue Lodge within the next 60 days. Imagine their happiness and joy seeing just a few Brothers that have not been able to attend. If you know of a Brother that has not participated, reach out and encourage them to meet this challenge. The Blue Lodge is our core and is the vital link between the Man awaiting initiation and all of our Masonic bodies, appendant and concordant.

Suppose we continue to let our Blue Lodge suffer with a lack of attendance and member support. In that case, it will not be long before we are closing the doors of Freemasonry in numerous communities and thereby removing Freemasonry as an option for those good men in them.

You may not yet personally know the Brothers who occupy the chairs at your Lodge if you have not been there. You may be asked to prove yourself since we direct the lodges to challenge a Brother they do not know. You may be asked to provide a dues card or other form of recognition. Please remember, we guard our West Gate as best we can. Practice your virtues, and comply as best you can. Your Brothers want you there. They need you there. I know they will be happy to assist you in reconnecting with your Lodge.

We are all Masons, and we are all Brothers. I can promise that if you look at the pictures of Past Masters on the wall of your Lodge and count 10, 20, or 30 years, you will see men who are just like us. Men who enjoyed taking the time to sit and talk, share ideas and thoughts, contemplate our teachings, and love each other just as we do now. I ask you all to commit that within the next 60 days, you will visit your Blue Lodge.

One stated meeting, a degree, or a practice. Just one time might be enough to re-spark that Masonic love inside your heart and compel you to return to your Blue Lodge this year. It may be enough to help another Brother remember that this Fraternity is worth supporting. Not only once but to attend, support, and strengthen our core. **Your Blue Lodge needs You.** I sincerely hope you will consider returning. Not only once, but rejoin our Brotherhood, For Life.

If you know a good Man that is not a Mason, remember to share the beanoklahomafreemason.org website and visit gloklahoma.com for resources and Grand Lodge event calendars.

Glen A Chaney

Grand Master, 2023



The M.W. Grand Lodge of Oklahoma Committee on Education

Presents

The Middle Chamber Program



Crafted for Brothers searching for a deeper, more **Esoteric** interpretation of our symbols and allegories of our Craft. Each session – facilitated by “well-informed” Brethren – utilizes a mixture of open discussion, self-study, and contemplative exercises to investigate the Mysteries of our Order.

This education program offers Oklahoma Masons an opportunity to explore the rich symbols and allegories of our Craft. Improve yourself as Men and Masons.

Instructors are experienced Masons specially trained to assist each Brother as he examines the Masonic rituals, himself and his relationship with Deity.

Four Sessions are offered and are progressive in nature - that is, you must have completed each of the previous sessions in order to continue to the next session.

Contact the Grand Secretary for enrollment details and payment information

Introductory Class – Introduction to Masonic Symbols and Allegory (*Open to all Master Masons*).

Entered Apprentice Session –
- Introduction to the First Degree
- The Physical Nature of Man

Fellow Craft Session –
- Introduction to the Second Degree
- Psychological Nature of Man

Master Mason Session –
- Introduction to the Third Degree
- The Spiritual Nature of Man

COST: Introductory class is Free of charge. Degree Sessions require a one-time purchase of a \$150 Middle Chamber Program Kit, which includes a personal journal, and a variety of study materials.

2023 Schedule

Introductory Class (Free to MMs)

Feb 25 6:00pm Broken Arrow #243

Mar 30 6:00pm Lawton #183

Apr 24 6:00pm OKC #36

Entered Apprentice Session

Mar 11 9:00am Broken Arrow #243

Apr 8 9:00am Lawton #183

May 6 9:00am OKC #36

Fellow Craft Session

June 17 9:00am Broken Arrow #243

July 1 9:00am Lawton #183

July 8 9:00am OKC #36

Master Mason Session

July 29 9:00am Broken Arrow #243

Sep 9 9:00am OKC #36

Sep 23 9:00am Lawton #183

2023 Oklahoma Masonic Fundraiser



John F. Carter

Deputy Grand Master

As we embark on another Masonic year, I hope this issue of The Oklahoma Mason finds you and your family healthy and looking forward to a productive year serving our communities as we build "Brotherhood for Life."

After considerable thought and seeking input from Brethren across the state, we have made significant changes to the 2023 Oklahoma Masonic Fundraiser. While we are very appreciative of the efforts of the Craft over the past three years in raising funds for the Grand Lodge budget through the raffle, we have changed the focus this year for several reasons. One significant reason for the change this past year is that the funding required to break even on the raffle did not come in until the last week before Grand Lodge's annual communications.

To replace the raffle, we have developed the Oklahoma Masonic Market. This market is an online collection of personalized gift items laser engraved with a unique Oklahoma Mason logo. These items are available at www.okmasonmarket.com. The website is also available by scanning the QR code on the flyer with your smartphone camera.



We have designed this year's fundraising effort not only to bring in much-needed funds for the Grand Lodge budget in 2024 but also to provide the Craft with the opportunity to purchase quality personalized items that proudly display the square and compasses in a unique way. They are also suitable for commemorating events and as gifts for lodge members. We anticipate adding new items every month.

All proceeds from the Oklahoma Masonic Market will go to the 2024 Grand Lodge budget.

If more information is needed, don't hesitate to contact me.

I very much appreciate and am honored to serve the Craft of the great state of Oklahoma. If I can help you or your lodge, please get in touch with me.

2023 OKLAHOMA MASONIC FUNDRAISER

NEW ITEMS ADDED!!!

Introducing the:

NEW ITEMS ADDED!!!

OKLAHOMA MASONIC MARKET

A collection of personal
gift items engraved with
the unique Oklahoma
Mason Logo



*Additional personalization available
Check the website often for new items*

***All proceeds benefit the 2023 Deputy Grand Master Fundraiser
and will be applied to the 2024 Grand Lodge operating budget***

**SCAN TO
VIEW THE
MARKET**



OR VISIT THIS WEBSITE:

www.okmasonicmarket.com

**CHECK OUR MENU ONLINE,
OPEN YOUR PHONE CAMERA
AND SCAN THIS QR CODE!**

*John F. Carter
Deputy Grand Master*



**MORE INFORMATION:
580.795.4684**

carter5807@gmail.com

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!

Johnston County Veteran's Center



TISHOMINGO, Okla. (KTEN) -- After nearly a decade of waiting, planning and constructing, the Johnston County Veteran's Center held its grand opening Friday afternoon.

The veteran's center was intended to open its doors in 2018, but due to project setbacks and a change in financial goals,

the center has officially opened to serve Johnston and Marshall County veterans.

With the opening of the center being the first step in the process, providing another home to those who've served is the next objective.

"If you think about it, your over there, if you're getting shot at or if you're just away from home... that's your family," president of the center Terry Hutchins said. "You have family here but you have family there too. I don't know how to explain it, but it's a brotherhood."

Friday's opening featured a ceremony from veter-





ans who are a part of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma Masons, along with appearances from Johnston County Commissioners and Tishomingo city officials, all welcoming veterans to their new 1.4 million dollar facility.

"I dedicate and consecrate their work to the service of humanity," Glen A. Chaney said,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma Masons. "The enjoyment of the people and the benefit of all who follow."

President of the center, Terry Hutchins, says that he plans to furnish the building next, but helping the next man or woman retiring from our military is his ultimate goal.



WE ARE ONE ON THE LEVEL



James Roderick
Senior Grand Warden

So many times, we hear that statement, yet, at times, it seems quite hollow.

There will always be times when we, or our lodges, feel that "it is just you and me".

And maybe, at times, that is somewhat true. Yes, we are Masons, but we are humans, and humans are fallible. We get caught up in our little world and don't see ourselves as part of the bigger picture. Sometimes, the lodge gets a bit separated, not just within its walls but from other lodges. There are times when Grand Lodge is seen as opposing or above the constituent lodges.

Yes, it is going to feel that way at times. But the answer to that problem is in Communication. In reaching out, in respectful and open conversation and the exchange of ideas, in remembering we are ALL Brothers of one of the Oldest Fraternities in the World. Together WE can do almost anything.

MOST IMPORTANTLY... WE MEET ON THE LEVEL.

In my travels, I hear many times about how some feel like Grand Lodge is the government, they are no help, and all they want is more money and to impose restrictions.

I can see where some get that idea. But the Truth is, the elected line is made of your brothers and selected by you, the Craft. They were voted in to protect and serve this ancient fraternity. They are still the same brothers on the same level as before being elected. Grand Lodge is here to Serve You. Grand Lodge works for YOU.

Does Grand Lodge have a lot of money? No, and it is operated on a shoestring. Your elected line is doing everything possible to improve that issue, but that won't happen overnight. Rest assured that your elected line works diligently to improve that painful issue.

The thought process of "things have always been done this way" no longer works. Change is uncomfortable, and in fact, it is just plain hard but essential to survive.

Yes, Grand Lodge does impose restrictions. These restrictions were voted in by the Craft, and since Grand Lodge works for you, it must maintain that which was voted in by the Craft and keep that order that was desired and decided upon in the voting process.

But all rules, codes, constitutions, laws, and regulations, beyond the landmarks, are changeable.

Again, change is uncomfortable at times but very necessary. Change doesn't require anyone of elevated rank or standing. It only requires a Master Mason who wishes to write a resolution to add, subtract or remove a code or rule and submit it in proper form to be voted on by the Craft at the Annual Communication.

The Fraternity needs fresh and inventive ideas to compete and survive in this world. We must ALL work TOGETHER...ON THE LEVEL to accomplish this.

Want change? Let's get those ideas and resolutions out there. Talk to me. Talk to any Grand Lodge Officer. We work for and are here to serve YOU. We will listen.

Does your idea require a new resolution or a change in an existing one? Let's talk. Need help writing a resolution? Ask for help, contact me, a Grand Lodge Officer, or a brother who has been down that path. Writing a resolution may not be as complicated as you think.

BOTTOM LIINE - Let's COMMUNICATE

TOGETHER, as Brothers, On the Level, WE CAN improve. WE CAN do better.



District 28 Meeting

Honing Accountability



Don H Stanton

Junior Grand Warden

The Chinese General Sun Tzu, the author of *The Art of War*, wrote, “Never trust a friend who is silent about your flaws.” This statement fits our Masonic elevator speech about “making good men better.” However, what does this mean? Should I point out his flaws and hope for the best? We have all witnessed the disastrous results of that type of communication. We must look no further for the answer than Sun Tzu’s statement and our Masonic Ritual.

From Sun Tzu’s quote, we can assume that only a devoted friend should point out the flaws of another friend. Likewise, we find that in our ritual, we are authorized to correct the errors of our friends. The common element is friendship. When we build friendships, we become the

builders of better men. We want the best for our friends. This desire allows us to point out flaws and errors. As you can imagine, this is a tricky business. Who made you the judge of another man? Fortunately, we do not set the standard. The standard is on our Holy Alters. Our Book of Faith sets the standard by which we all compare.

So, with a strong friendship and a Book of Faith, are we prepared to “make good men better”? You are prepared, but the process of change takes time and accountability. Both time and accountability seem to be in woefully short supply. Unfortunately, none of us control time, and we, at best, can determine how we use it. Holding each other accountable, however, is within our grasp.

Sun Tzu recognized that accountability between friends would result in men and better friendships. He was “making good men better.” A lifetime of honing out flaws and imperfections makes us all, as Masons, better men. “Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom,” Psalms 90:12. I like the analogy of sharpening a knife. When you properly set a knife to a whetstone, you get a perfect edge in time. However, the blade will still be dull if you do not allow enough time. If you do not apply enough pressure, the blade will remain

dull. The edge will remain dull if you use the wrong approach or angle. We learn in time how to properly sharpen a knife. It is a skill like learning how to improve our friends and ourselves.

We need to learn how to apply the right amount of pressure. Our approach or angle must be spot-on to be effective. Lastly, we need to give it time. We have heard about or knew men who were masters of accountability. They challenged others to learn the ritual. They encouraged a generation to become better men. They set the standard in their lodge for others to follow. They were steadfast in teaching others.

My brothers, are you that man today? The time has come for us all to assume that mantel. We need to be better friends with one another, and we need to hone our accountability and accept the correction of our flaws. You will feel pressure, but if done correctly, you will be one step closer to perfection and a heart of wisdom.

IRON SHARPENS IRON



Comanche Lodge #41—Fellowcraft Degree—February 22nd

THE SECRETARY'S DESK



Mike Dixon
Grand Secretary

Things have been busy at the Grand Lodge office. We have completed two of the three scheduled Secretary Workshops. The turnout has been great. We had 50 men at the session at the India Shrine Center and another 45 at Eufaula Lodge. One more session is scheduled at Delta Lodge in Tulsa on April 11th. It's not too late to enroll, or you can register on the event day. The fee is \$30.00 to cover the cost of the materials. You will receive an updated Secretary's Handbook and a new Constitution & Code. The Constitution & Code Committee, chaired by MW Bob Peters, has just completed a complete update and reformat of the Constitution & Code. Unfortunately, the change pages in the coming years will not work with previous versions because the Table of Contents, Indexes, and page numbers have changed. However, we should be back on track from this

edition forward to issue annual change pages.

RW John Carter has kicked off the annual fundraiser. This year we are trying something new the Oklahoma Masonic Market. You can get more information at www.okmasonicmarket.com. Here you can order a large variety of Masonic items which can be personalized. We have an inventory of things at the Grand Lodge office should you be in the area and want to stop by. All the net proceeds from the sales in this program will be applied to next year's budget. Let's support our Deputy Grand Master by looking at the website. There you will find many ideas for birthday and Christmas gifts.

Grand Master Chaney and the Education Committee have kicked off the Middle Chamber Educational series. This program will take the participants on an exciting and informative journey into the ritual. If you are looking for a deep meaning of the ritual, the symbols, and the allegory, this might be just the thing for you. You could enroll at any of the other locations if you missed the opening session in Broken Arrow. However, you must attend all the sessions in order, i.e., EA, Fellowcraft, and Master Mason. Details can be found on the Grand Lodge website.

We are starting the collection of data for the 2023 Blue Book. Your lodge Secretary will probably get a phone call from one of the volunteers here in the office. They verify that your lodge has completed the annual audit and reported it to the Grand Secretary's office, completed your 990N tax report, and reported the elections of your lodges' officer elections and installation. For those not using Grand View, now is the time to complete your annual report to the Grand Secretary. This year we are also asking to verify the lodge street and mailing addresses.

Now is the time to consider preparing any proposed resolutions and Medal of Honor nominations. Let us know if we can assist you with either of these.

So, as you can see, the work goes on, and we here in the office enjoy the work and our continued relationships with the Masons of Oklahoma. As always, the door is always open, and you are encouraged to drop in when you are in the Guthrie area.

Breakfast at Myrtle Lodge #145



Moore High School

Cheer Squad

January 28th

Brink Junior High

Pom Squad

February 25th



WORDS FROM THE CRAFT

Will the Lights go out?

By Robert L. Carr P.M.

Whenever I go to a Masonic meeting, whether it is a Blue Lodge, York Rite, Scottish Rite, or Shrine, someone says something about the membership being down. I am also a member of some non-Masonic organizations, and the same things are being said there.

I hear comments like, "I haven't seen Bill in a long time. Has anyone else heard from him?" That is when I say, "Have you tried to call or go by to check on him." I have suggested setting up a committee of people to do just that. Go and check on the Brother/Member. You will not believe some of the answers I have heard about that suggestion.

It is far too easy to get caught up in our personal lives and forget the simple act of a phone call or visit with these men. This is why we must do our best to maintain the personal contact with the Brethren we have been missing. What concerns me is, are we so busy with our lives that we don't have time for others? How would you feel if you were that forgotten Brother?

Yes, I will agree that memberships are down, and we are the only ones who can do anything about it. WE CAN FIX IT. Talk to your secretary, and you will also find that dues are left unpaid. WE CAN FIX THIS ALSO. A solution for that is a perpetual membership so you won't have to pay your dues each year. Some people say, "I can't afford it". Have you talked to your secretary about it? He can help you arrange to make payments where you can obtain that perpetual.

Brothers, will the lights go out in your lodge? Are you going to be the person who flips the switch? Or will you follow your obligation to step in and make a difference in your lodge?



District 28 Valentine Dinner February 11th



Cushing Lodge #111—Master Mason Degree—February 7th



WORDS FROM THE PAST

What is a Mason?

What is a Mason? Simple answer: a man who belongs to the Fraternity of Freemasonry; the largest and oldest organization for men in the world, outside of religious organizations. But there is much more.

A Mason is a member of a Lodge, or local group of Freemasons. He may also belong to other Masonic organizations, but to be a Mason he must belong and continue to belong to a local Lodge or Blue Lodge (two names for the same thing).

To become a member, he has been through at least one of three stages of initiation. To be a full Master Mason, he must have been through all three.

The Degrees, or stages of membership are Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft {Fellow of the Craft} and Master Mason. Each Degree is based on ancient traditions and ceremonies which have the purpose of transforming the person into a thinking, autonomous, adult male—in control of himself and aware of his abilities and limitations.

This growth and development is the primary purpose of Freemasonry. Charity is not a purpose. The many charities which care for children with disabilities; fund research into eye disease, diabetes, mental health, and Alzheimer's disease; care for the elderly; support education and much more are an effect of that growth and development. Mutual benefit is not a purpose. It is an effect of men who share a common goal and understanding, and have agreed that a Brother is entitled to any help they can reasonably give.

Essentially, a Mason is a man understands that he is not a “finished product.”

He understand that he has a responsibility to continue to grow, to develop, and to become more thoughtful, more compassionate, more in touch with his own spiritual nature and with the world around him. And he chooses to use Freemasonry as a path toward that growth.

The best answer to the question was given by the Rev. Joseph Fort Newton, a Baptist Minister



Dr. Jim Tresner

who was one of the best-known and most powerful religious voices of the first part of the 20th Century.

When is a man a Mason?

When he can look out over the rivers, the hills, and the far horizon with a profound sense of his own littleness in the vast scheme of things, and yet have faith, hope, and courage-which is the root of every virtue.

When he knows that down in his heart every man is as noble, as vile, as divine, as diabolic, and as lonely as himself, and seeks to know, to forgive, and to love his fellowman.

When he knows how to sympathize with men in their sorrows, yea, even in their sins-knowing that each man fights a hard fight against many odds.

When he has learned how to make friends and to keep them, and above all how to keep friends with himself.

When he loves flowers, can hunt birds without a gun, and feels the thrill of an old forgotten joy when he hears the laugh of a little child.

When he can be happy and high-minded amid the meaner drudgeries of life.

When star-crowned trees and the glint of sunlight on flowing waters subdue him like the thought of one much loved and long dead.

When no voice of distress reaches his ears in vain, and no hand seeks his aid without response.

When he finds good in every faith that helps any man to lay hold of divine things and sees majestic meanings in life, whatever the name of that faith may be.

When he can look into a wayside puddle and see something beyond mud, and into the face of the most forlorn fellow mortal and see something beyond sin.

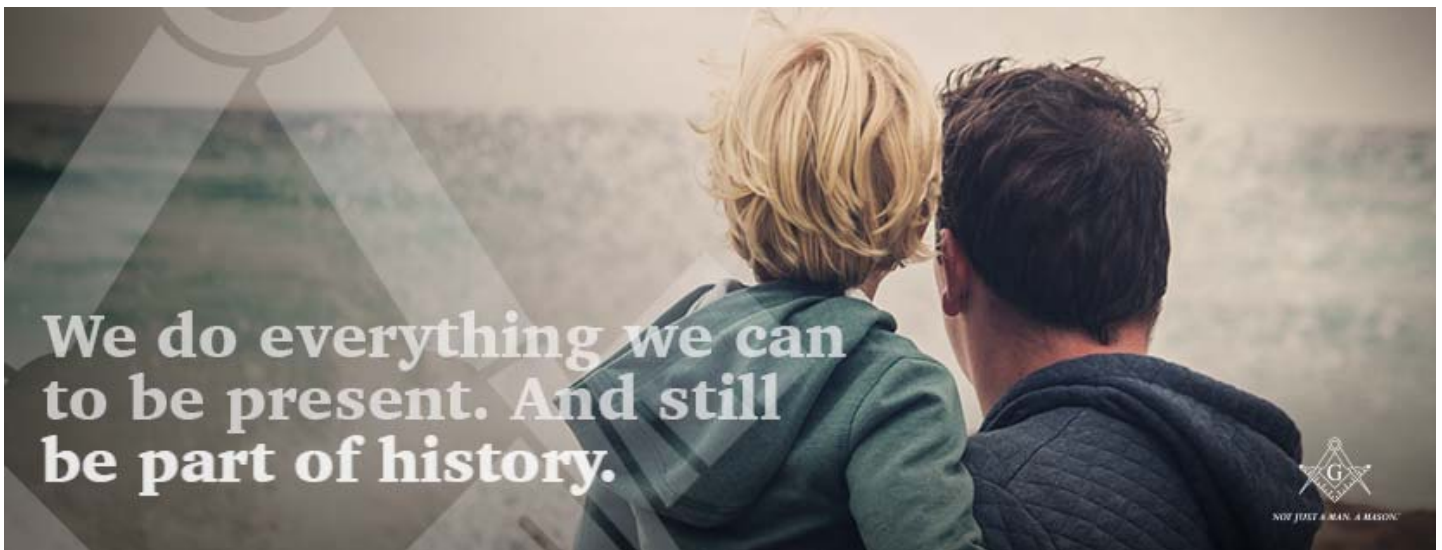
When he knows how to pray, how to love, how to hope.

When he has kept faith with himself, with his fellowman, and with his God; in his hands a sword for evil, in his heart a bit of a song-glad to live, but not afraid to die!

Such a man has found the only real secret of Masonry, and the one which it is trying to give to all the world.



The Grand Lodge *of* OKLAHOMA



We do everything we can
to be present. And still
be part of history.

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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