

THE



OKLAHOMA

MASON

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

October 2024



John Carter
Grand Master

The Quandary:

Obscurity or Renaissance

On June 24, 1857, Albert Pike delivered a St. John's Day address to Muscogee Lodge #93 in the Creek Nation, Indian Territory. This Lodge eventually became Eufaula Lodge No. 1. His words on that day still have significance for our Fraternity. On that occasion, Pike said:

"The rapid increase in the number of Masons has also efficiently aided in lowering the standard of Masonic excellence. The candidate receives little instruction and too often really remains standing in the northeast corner of the Lodge."

Notice in the year 1857, just after the ending of the Anti-Masonic period in America, near the beginning of the zenith of the growth in the number of Freemasons (and other forms of fraternalism) in this country, 100 years before the start of the decline in numbers in Freemasonry; facing the opposite of the current membership crisis in Masonry; fast increasing membership instead of dramatic decline, what does Pike lament? He decries the lack of quality of the masonic experience, so much so that he says, metaphorically, the initiate is left standing in the northeast corner, making no real progress in the mysteries of Masonry.

Pike goes on to say: "... the symbols remain unexplained, and are either not understood or misunderstood, ...and the members remain standing on the threshold of the inner Temple, whose golden doors continue



The Grand Lodge
of
OKLAHOMA

closed against them, and the true Masonic light forever hidden from their eyes.”

It appears Masonry faces the same problem today regarding the quality of the masonic experience. Therefore, the relevance of Masonry in the lives of men and the decline in numbers, though very real, is a symptom - not the disease. Moreover, the rate of masonic membership decline is increasing, and those who understand statistical trends say the Fraternity is destined for extinction in the not-too-distant future. This extinction may occur in the lifetime of many members of the Fraternity today, certainly in the lifetime of those men who are currently being initiated into Masonry. If that trend is not slowed or reversed, masons today are facing the inevitable demise of the Fraternity.

Here is the quandary: though the statistics indicate Masonry is on the brink of obscurity, is it also possible that the Fraternity is on the verge of a renaissance? Perhaps the quality of the masonic experience can be improved for men who are now masons and the young men who may come into our Fraternity soon. Masonry likely has what thousands of young men today (known as millennials) seek.

Mark Koltko-Rivera, a Masonic scholar and author, says the first step in Masonic Resurgence is to “Repair the Temple,” that is: “...we must improve the lodge experience, so that it better fulfills the promise that we make to men upon their initiation; the promise that Freemasonry will help them understand more about the great questions of life and that Masonry will help them become better men.”

The critical question is how to improve the masonic experience. One of my favorite truisms is: “Keep the main thing the main thing.” I also submit before we can improve the masonic experience, we in Masonry must define the main thing. Indeed, it is not an easy task. If one asks ten masons that question, there will be ten different answers. Can we say that we are better men having attended Lodge? What is the focus of our lodge meetings, reading the minutes, and paying the bills? All may be essential items, but not the main thing.

Perhaps, as Koltko-Rivera has suggested, the main thing in Masonry is contained in the simple and time-tested phrase: “making good men better.” From that simple phrase flows the rest of the Masonic experience: Charity, Brotherly Love, Benevolence, and so on.

There are two apparent components in “making good men better.” The first is one must start with “good men.” Others have said it this way: guard the west gate. The first step in improving the quality of the masonic experience is the quality of the men who are allowed to petition and are accepted into our Fraternity. Good moral character must be first and foremost.

Almost one-half of the men who become Entered Apprentices in our state never finish. Pike would say we have left them standing in the northeast corner. More importantly, for those who have progressed through the degrees, how many remain in the northeast corner?

Back in 1857, Pike also had words for “seasoned” masons: “If a man having passed through the ceremonies of the three degrees, thinks that there is nothing further to be learned, and that to be an accomplished Mason, one need only accurately learn and fluently repeat certain phrases and set forms of words, he does not understand and appreciate Masonry. It may be useful to him, -it may even make him a better man; - but its true value is greatly beyond that which it has to him.

If a man, having assumed the obligations, and taken on himself the duties of a Master Mason, yet practically regards them as unreal; if he still continues to be narrow-minded, illiberal, intolerant, uncharitable; if he still cheat in trade, and make unfair bargains; or by winning it, take and use the money of his brother when it is not his own, because he has not earned it or given an equivalent for it; if he still wrongs his brother, and speaks evil of him; then he does not at all understand and appreciate Masonry; and it is of no value to him whatever.”

Perhaps what Pike was saying then is just as relevant for us today as it was when he spoke it. As Master Masons, the critical item in “keeping the main thing the main thing” is that the great moral truths contained in our ritual must be applied in our lives. We must walk the walk as well as talk the talk. If we are to bring about a resurgence in masonic quality, Master Masons must redouble our efforts and commit to apply the great moral truths that our ritual teaches. That does not happen through osmosis; it requires quality masonic education as our focus.



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Finally, let me close with Pike again: “To those who put a lower estimate on Masonry, and care nothing for its philosophy or history, nor appreciate the importance and dignity of its mission, it may indeed be useful. It may help them in their trade or business, it may save them when in danger, and afford them assistance when in want, and so may be of value. If it cause them to be more charitable, more forgiving, more tolerant, kinder and better husbands, fathers, brothers, sons, friends and neighbors, then indeed it is of great value; but still not of the greatest; unless, in addition to this, it leads them to the highest truth, and induces them to engage in the great work of human improvement and advancement, of which Masonry is the apostle.”

Surely now, as in 1857, Pike's advice must be heeded, and Masonry can be as relevant in the future as it has been in previous times. When there is a quality, relevant masonic experience in the lives and hearts of Masons, we will not only "make good men better" but impact the world around us. And when that happens, membership issues will be solved as well. Freemasonry has done so in the past.

In the enlightenment of the 1600s, Freemasons changed the course of science through the Royal Society and charted the course of nations. In our country, the Founding Fathers, who were Masons, wrote the masonic principles of one man – one vote, freedom of assembly, freedom of religion and worship, freedom of speech, and freedom from the tyranny of state or church, into our country's constitution. This great republic and its experiment in democracy and representative government stands as a beacon to the world and a heritage to Freemasonry.

In the years following Pike's address in 1857, there was an explosion in fraternalism both in membership and benefit to humanity. From then until the 1930s, charities and hospitals were established. Civic and service organizations, such as Lions, Rotary, and Kiwanis, were all founded by Masons, and organizations such as the Boy Scouts and FFA were again begun by men who were Masons. All had and continue to have an influence beyond the walls of the Lodge.

Regarding the plight of obscurity or renaissance, I am convinced that Masonry can be at the forefront again. It is up to us. Today, the world needs what Masonry, what the Fraternity, can give:

- A moral compass and anchor in a world awash in a sea of moral relativity.

- A lesson in civil discourse in a world full of polarizing rhetoric.

- A spiritual awareness in an ever-secularizing society.

- A male figure mentor to a generation that might have grown up without one.

In summary, I think there are four things our Fraternity must consider if we are to solve our membership quandary and our future:

- Keep the main thing the main thing.

- Guard the west gate.

- Apply the great moral truths of our ritual – Walk the walk as well as talk the talk.

- Make Freemasonry relevant again outside the walls of the Lodge.



2024

GRAND MASTER'S *Banquet*

November | 8 | 2024

6:30 PM • Scottish Rite Temple • Guthrie, OK

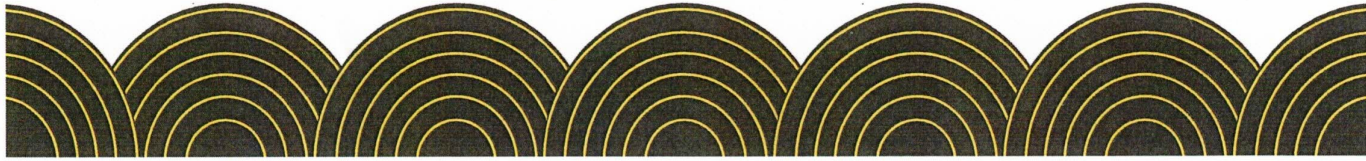
\$45 per person - Tickets must be purchased in advance by October 25

Traditional Thanksgiving Dinner with all the trimmings catered by
Ben Coffin. Plus plenty of Masonic introductions!

Pay in person at the Grand Lodge office or by phone (405)282-3212
or at the Grand Lodge website at gloklahoma.com.

A donation for the Rainbow Girls assisting with the
banquet will be collected so come prepared!

Attire is suit and tie or church dress.



Order of the Sacred White Buffalo



An Eye to the Future

Greetings Brothers. Another busy year is about to come to a close, and progress has, and will continue to be, made by your Grand Lodge Trustees.

There have been several hot topics this year, and I would like to touch on a few of them briefly.

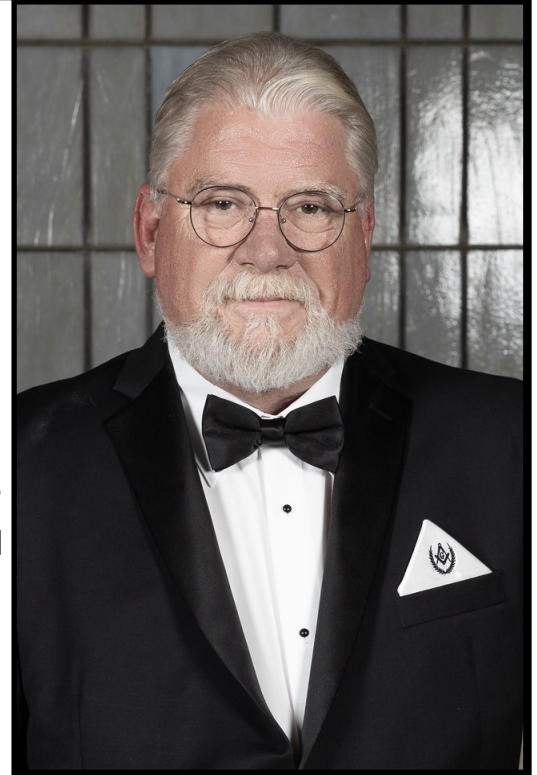
The first one I will touch on regards membership concerns and the statistics I have been asked about during my lodge visits. As for the statistics of where we have stood over the past ten years, I requested W. Stuart Lough, Assistant Grand Secretary, to run a report from Grandview that reflected a couple of different areas we should be paying attention to.

The first question addresses the natural attenuation of our membership population. How many of our brothers have put away their working tools in the last decade? That number is 7,284. Yes, that is an alarming number of deaths in our fraternity. There are no preventative measures we can take to address that issue.

The second question is how many new Master Masons we have raised in that same ten-year period. That number is 2,796. That number would have to increase 257% to break even with the number of brothers who have passed away. There are measures to be taken to improve this issue. I am not saying we run out and grab every man with a heartbeat and make him a Mason, but this can be addressed.

I truly believe in quality over quantity. But these numbers beg the question of how many potential good brothers we have left by the wayside because they left us without advancing. That, in turn, begs the question of why they left.

The third set of numbers is quite bothersome to me. How many Entered Apprentices have we initiated that failed to advance in that period? That number is 4,032.



James Roderick
Deputy Grand Master

Using raw numbers, had we kept those EAs interested and added them to the number of Master Masons raised, we would have approximately 6,828 Master Masons in that decade. That number would have nearly kept up with the number of brothers who passed away, and we would only be short by roughly 16%—a very easy number to achieve.

Membership numbers are just numbers, but what concerns me is how we have failed to keep 4,032 men.

Were we not guarding our West gate well enough, and we initiated men who were not ready or capable of becoming Masons?

Did we neglect these interested men and not truly mentor them, leaving them on the sidelines as strangers to a new organization they had no idea how to navigate on their own?

Did they get bored of paying the bills, planning a fundraiser, and getting no insight or education into the Craft they heard so much about?

Were they tired of the lack of harmony they were trying to escape in the outside world only to find in their new lodge?

I bet it is one or more of each thing on that list of questions.

We may not be able to fend off the loss by death, but we can certainly begin to correct the other losses we have incurred in membership.

I understand that society has changed. It has drastically changed over the years and more so in very recent years. Our society has become a "what's in it for me?" isolation of ourselves even in a crowd. Cell phones are looked at more often than a live human's face. Feelings get hurt at the drop of a hat, and most interactions between people are somewhat defensive or aggressive.

All that being said, what are the most valuable tools we have at our disposal



**NEVER STOP WORKING TO MAKE
THIS WORLD A BETTER PLACE.
YOUR ACTIONS ARE NOT IN VAIN.
SOMEONE IS LISTENING. SOMEONE
IS WATCHING. AND SOMEONE IS
BEING EMPOWERED BY YOU.**

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to start correcting the issues at hand?

In my opinion, the first order of business is to leave the outside world's negativity and single-mindedness outside our lodge buildings' doors.

We can do so by treating everything and everyone within our lodge building with the reverence of the Sanctum Sanctorum. It is a place of escape for brothers to feel a brotherly connection free from the burdens of outside work. Free from the harshness of personal piques, quarrels, and segregated cliques.

A place where we do what we have vowed to do in our obligations. A place where we can take off the masks we wear in the outside world, in business, and, in many cases, in public. Create an atmosphere of brotherly love, even for the brief time we spend in that lodge building a couple of nights a month.

Our Grand Master, MW John Carter, set that noble idea in motion with his motto, "Building A Civil Brotherhood." He not only set the idea in motion, but he also showed it to us all through his actions. His words and intent were not hollow. They should be heeded.

The second order of business, which can be built once we master the first one, is mentorship. We need genuine and honest connections with our new brothers and involve them in masonic education and fellowship.

MW Scott Vincent found and brought forth an amazing program that does wonders in guiding us to interact with new and old members alike. A vehicle that brings back common ground and fellowship and strengthens the bonds of brotherhood and education. That program is named "The Ashlar Program," and it has been successfully used in many other jurisdictions.

Brothers, I don't know how you feel about it, but I yearn for the return of a bonded and civil brotherhood. I yearn for the existence of that safe place, that sanctuary, that we call our lodge. That place is where we shut out the negativity and aggression of the outside world and look for peace within. That place to rediscover and practice all those things that brought us to masonry in the first place. A place where petty battles don't exist and the words and threats of "masonic charges" are a rare occurrence.

We can do this, Brothers. We can bring that all back. It costs nothing, and it brings great joy and peace of mind. That's what we came for, isn't it?

What say we give it a try?

I look forward to seeing you all at Grand Session on November 9th.

2024 GRAND LODGE

Ladies Event

9

NOVEMBER

\$15 PER PERSON

10:00 AM-2:00 PM

SCOTTISH RITE TEMPLE BALLROOM

- 9:00 Ballroom opens for refreshments
- 10:00 Cookie Decorating
- 12:00 Lunch (Save your parking place! Men and women can purchase an advance ticket for lunch at the Temple for \$15, if desired)
- 1:00 Walking Tour of the Temple

Pay in person at the Grand Lodge office or by phone (405)282-3212 or at the Grand Lodge website gloklahoma.com

TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED BY OCTOBER 25

ATTIRE IS CASUAL

Lawton Lodge #183 RGLO



District 37 Meeting

Tishomingo Lodge #91



You Are Cordially Invited to Join the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma

With Group Leader Don Stanton for The Splendors Of Masonic England & Scotland, 2025



**Group Leader
Don Stanton**
See QR Code Below

YOUR ITINERARY

\$5698. Per Person From Tulsa

Tour Code: 225136

May 8-May 19, 2025

\$4370. Land Only Without Airfare

On **May 8**, you will depart the U.S. to begin your United Kingdom adventure, landing in the timeless city of London on May 9 to discover the hidden treasures of this city. Fantastic excursions, cultural encounters, preserved historical sites, delicious foods and wonderful shopping make this trip exciting and rewarding. Bring these memories home with you on **May 19**.

SPACE ON THE TOUR IS LIMITED, SO DON'T DELAY! PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION AND \$500 DEPOSIT TO EATOURS.COM BY NOVEMBER 20, 2024, TO RESERVE YOUR SPACE ON THIS TOUR!



London—May 9 - 13, 2025

On May 9, you will arrive in England to begin your European adventure as you transfer to your hotel. Following hotel check-in, you will finish your first night in London with dinner*. As the center of the glorious British Empire for numerous centuries, London has much to offer visitors in the way of entertainment and adventure. Start May 10, with a guided tour* which offers such sites as Westminster Abbey, Piccadilly Circus, Buckingham Palace and Trafalgar Square. You then uncover history and culture at the British Museum*, one of the many exciting London sites to await you. This evening you will enjoy a wonderful Gala dinner* at a masonic location before returning to your hotel. The highlights of May 11, begin with your visit to the United Grand Lodge of England* and explore London's iconic castle, the Tower of London* where beefeaters tell historic tales, and where you will find the fabulous Crown Jewels. May 12, offers an excursion to the prehistoric monument Stonehenge* followed by an afternoon to the beautiful and charming town of Bath with its historic Roman Baths*. May 13, you will bid farewell to London as you travel to Edinburgh.

Edinburgh - Amsterdam—May 13 - 19, 2025

May 13 takes you to Edinburgh, Scotland, known as the "Prince of Cities". Upon arrival, you will transfer to your hotel for check-in. In the afternoon you will enjoy a guided city tour* including Edinburgh Castle*, the historic fortress which dominates the skyline of Edinburgh. Begin May 14, with a visit to the Grand Lodge of Scotland* followed by a visit to the nearby Canongate Kilwinning Lodge*. May 15 takes you on a morning departure for a Scotch Distillery tour*, followed by a visit of the 15th-century Rosslyn Chapel*, founded on a small hill above Roslin Glen as a Catholic collegiate church. Dinner* this evening is included. May 16, you will travel to the town of Ayr to Celebrate Scotland's national poet with a visit to the Robert Burns Museum*. Today offers you a visit to the Barr Castle Lodge*. Your day will be completed as you arrive in Glasgow. On May 17, a tour of Sterling Castle* is planned before a scenic drive* into the Scottish Highlands. On May 18, your flight to Amsterdam departs in the early afternoon. Upon arrival you will experience a panoramic tour of Amsterdam before arriving to your Schiphol Airport hotel. On May 19, you return to the United States with fond memories, amazing experiences and perhaps a souvenir or two from your European adventure.

SPECIAL TOUR CONDITIONS

SPECIAL TOUR CONDITIONS: *The estimated tour price, if payments are made by cash or check, is \$5698.00 otherwise, if paying by credit card, a 3% credit card service fee (charged by credit card company) will be due for, other than the initial deposit for which there is no credit card service fee, whatever amount is charged to the credit card. A land only package price is available for \$4370.00 per person. *If you wish to use a credit card for your initial deposit, you will be allowed to pay the remaining payments by check and still receive the listed tour price without a 3% surcharge.* Tour price is based on double occupancy and includes point-to-point transportation between cities while in Europe, all breakfasts and 3 evening meals. Additionally, entrance fees and/or transportation marked with an asterisk (*) as well as city tours or guided tours, are included in the tour price (I.E. Guided tours in London and Edinburgh) British Museum, Tower of London, Stonehenge, Roman Baths, Edinburgh Castle, Distillery, Rosslyn Chapel, Robert Burns Museum, Barr Castle, Sterling Castle, as well as panoramic tours of Scottish Highlands). Additional items may be offered optionally, are subject to availability and are not included in the tour price. *A guaranteed single room may be available for a per person supplemental charge of \$990.00.* Included are the estimated applicable governmental international airline ticket taxes, fuel surcharges, security surcharges, and associated fees. If applicable, unforeseen tax increases will be billed on a supplemental invoice. A minimum number of paying participants may be required to operate the tour.

A \$500.00 non-refundable **(for any reason)** application fee / deposit is required to reserve your space on this tour. **All tour participants must submit an online application.** Please go to "Student/Traveler Sign Up" on the home page at www.EAtours.com. Your tour number is **225136** and must be entered on your online application. A second payment of \$1000.00, for which you will receive an invoice, will be due no later than 30 days from the date that EA Tours receives your initial payment and online application. Final payments are due no later than one hundred ten days (110) days before departure.

Updated tour details (hotels, day by day itinerary, flights, etc.) are scheduled to be released approximately four weeks prior to departure. Please note: Additional **tour conditions apply, that also relate to potential Covid Virus issues and are listed in the Tour Conditions Section on the Online Application.** Applicable items listed above may supersede those listed in the tour conditions section on the online application.

SPACE ON THE TOUR IS LIMITED, SO DON'T DELAY! PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION AND \$500 DEPOSIT TO EATOURS.COM BY NOVEMBER 20, 2024 TO RESERVE YOUR SPACE ON THIS TOUR!



Scan me!



T.C.A. TRAVELS
A DIVISION OF THE CRAFTSMAN'S APRON



Myrtle Lodge #145 - Capture of the Altus Traveling Gavel by Britton Lodge #434



2024 GRAND LODGE



LUNCH at the TEMPLE

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9
12:00-1:00 PM**

TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED BY OCTOBER 25

Enjoy a convenient, casual lunch in the Temple Ballroom with other Masons and keep your parking place!

Stop by the Grand Lodge office, pay by phone at (405)282-3212 or use the Grand Lodge website gloklahoma.com

MENU

**PULLED PORK SANDWICHES
BAKED BEANS
POTATO SALAD
COBBLER**

Anniversary Celebrations



Akdar Lodge #555

Fifty Year Pin





Composite Lodge #107

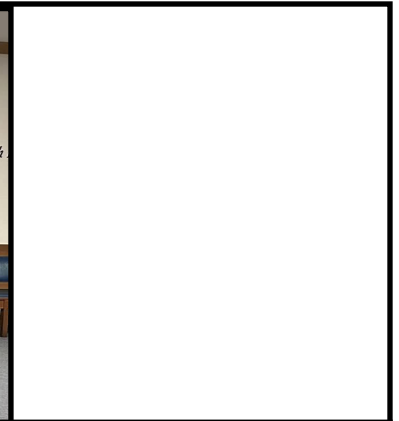
Fifty Year Pins





Coronado Lodge #56
Sixty Year Pin





Healdton Lodge #23
Seventy Year Pin



Murrow Lodge #49



Service Pins



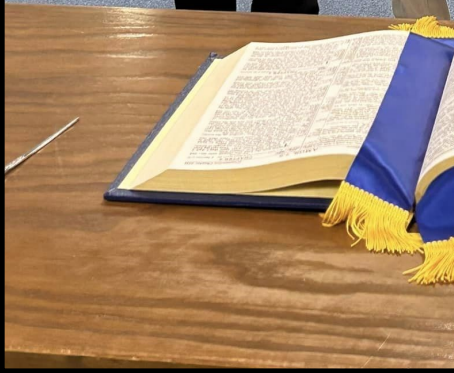
Tyler Lodge #42



Service Pins



Woodward Lodge #189



Fifty Year Pins



A CHANCE?

My Brothers, the first year as a member of the Grand Lodge Trustees is a learning year: learning how the Board works, learning about the Grand Lodge Budget, continuing to study our Constitution, and general personal Masonic growth. Here is what I have learned since our last Annual Communication:

1-The Grand Lodge Trustees function under and are tasked with maintaining the rules that the Craft vote for and establish in our Constitution, and therefore, have little arbitrary influence on a Constituent Lodge. That is as it should be. Each Constituent Lodge is generally autonomous if and until the Constituent Lodge fails to function in accordance with our Constitution.

2-There is very little money in the Grand Lodge Budget to pay for much other than expenses associated with the Grand Lodge building and keeping the office open, and that amount is decreasing annually. It seems that Constituent Lodges can make the same comment.

3-The vast majority of us are incredibly good-hearted and caring men across our Jurisdiction.

So, do we stand a chance? Yes, we do! We must learn to balance our revenues and expenses proactively. A Constituent Lodge has a much greater ability to do that than the Grand Lodge. A Constituent Lodge can structure its fundraising to benefit the lodge and a community organization much more quickly and easily than the Grand Lodge.

As all budgets get stretched hair-thin, increasing expenses and decreasing revenue becomes a simple math problem: decrease expenses and/or increase revenue. Expenses can be reduced to zero, meaning we meet in the freezing cold or the oppressive heat or have no separate place to meet. This method is first-order thinking, which is immediate, shallow, and superficial.

We have some lodges in Oklahoma that are financially well-off. Of concern are the lodges that are not. Annual dues are low, per capita is low, and recapitulation is low. That is a set-



James Oates

Junior Grand Warden

up for financial failure.

In my home lodge, just over 50% of our living members are Perpetuals, so less than half of us pay annual dues. I would never tell another person how to use their discretionary funds, and every one of us has a say on whether our Fraternity survives financially.

Second-order thinking requires slower, more cautious, and more well-reasoned contemplation. What is the likely result of my decision in 10 years? Do I want my lodge to be here for my son or grandson? What value do I place upon our Fraternity? Am I willing to financially support my local lodge and the Grand Lodge at a level above what I already provide? I am unaware of any Brother who knowingly wishes to harm our Fraternity financially. (Many of us are doing so unknowingly). What are possible solutions?

Some possibilities I consider worthy include increasing regular revenue to our local lodge and Grand Lodge (through auto-debit from a credit card or bank account, just like other personal expenses). Perpetual members continue to pay their annual dues or at least pay \$25 to cover the per capita that the lodge pays to Grand Lodge; minimize the opportunity for Perpetual Pathway Programs and instead conduct Chance-To-Advance Programs (still a one-day program except we have a dues-paying Master Mason vice a perpetual member); changing the Perpetual Fund so that 100% of investment returns are not paid out (some portion remains to grow the corpus). If I were a dreamer, I would ask for donations to increase the endowed building fund to \$2,000,000 so that the investment returns cover the Grand Lodge building expenses each year instead of needing to be covered by the general operating budget.

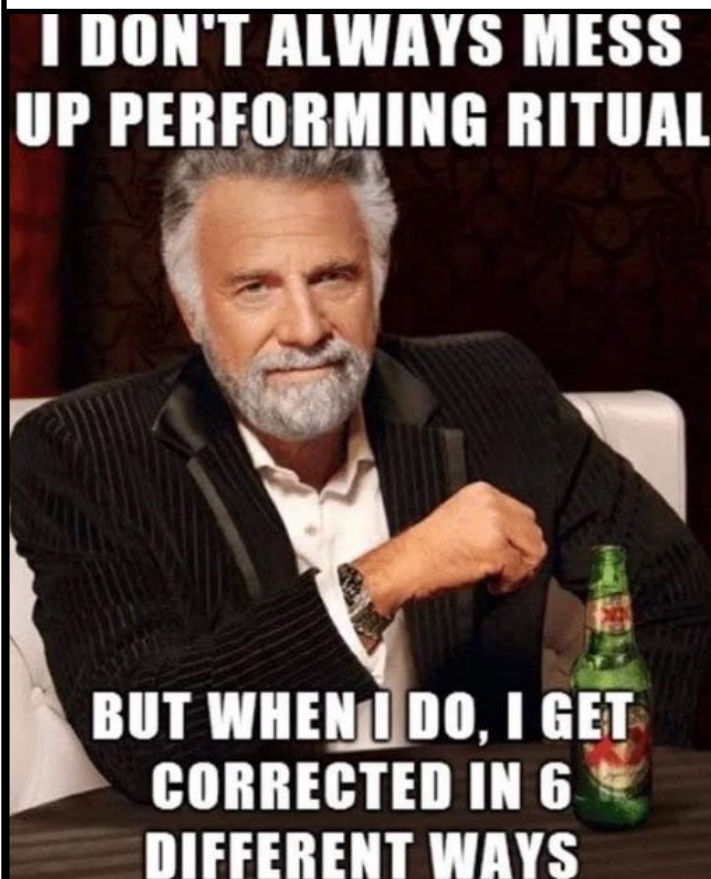
Are there any or all of these possible solutions you can and will implement? If each of us takes personal responsibility for the success and survival of our Fraternity, our heyday lies in our future, not our past.

I would greatly appreciate your thoughts and feedback (joatesiii@aol.com).





Mustang Lodge #407—Entered Apprentice Degree



NEVER OVER
NEVER UNDER
ALWAYS
ON THE
LEVEL

Fellow Craft Degrees



Mustang Lodge #407

Myrtle Lodge #145



Master Mason Degrees



Mustang Lodge #407

Myrtle Lodge #145



Master Mason Degrees



Norman Lodge #38

Purcell Lodge #27



From the Secretary's Desk

Attending the upcoming Grand Lodge session is of significant importance for members of the Masonic community. This event is not just a ceremonial gathering but a cornerstone for fostering fraternity, personal growth, brotherhood, and community service.

The Grand Lodge of Oklahoma is steeped in history and tradition. Masonry itself dates back centuries, with roots in medieval stonemason guilds. The Grand Lodge serves as a custodian of these traditions, ensuring that the values and rituals of Masonry are preserved and passed down through generations. Attending the Grand Lodge session allows members to connect with this rich heritage, reinforcing their commitment to the principles of brotherhood, charity, and truth.

One of the core tenets of Masonry is the bond of brotherhood among its members. Grand Lodge gives a unique opportunity for Masons from various lodges across Oklahoma to come together, fostering a sense of unity and camaraderie. This gathering allows members to share experiences, exchange ideas, and support one another in their Masonic journey. The sense of belonging and mutual respect cultivated during the Grand Lodge sessions are invaluable, reinforcing the fraternal bonds central to Masonry.

The Grand Lodge session is also a crucial platform for the governance of Masonry in Oklahoma. It is here that important decisions are made about the administration and direction of the fraternity. Attending the Grand Lodge allows members to take part in this democratic process, ensuring that their voices are heard and their interests represented. This involvement in the governance of the fraternity fosters a sense of responsibility and ownership among members, encouraging them to take an active role in the future of Oklahoma Masonry.

Grand Lodge brings together Masons from diverse backgrounds and professions, creating a rich environment for networking and collaboration. Members have the opportunity to build



Mike Dixon
Grand Secretary

relationships with like-minded individuals, share resources, and collaborate on projects. These connections can lead to personal and professional opportunities and innovative solutions to challenges the fraternity and the broader community face.

The rituals and ceremonies of Masonry are central to its identity and practice. Grand School is the pinnacle of these ceremonial activities, providing a setting for the fraternity's most significant and solemn rites. Participating in these rituals at the Grand School is a profound experience that reinforces the spiritual and moral teachings of Masonry. It also allows members to see and partake in the highest expressions of Masonic tradition and symbolism.

Attending the Grand Lodge can be a source of inspiration and motivation for members. The event often features speeches and presentations from distinguished Masons, sharing their experiences and insights. These narratives can be incredibly motivating, encouraging members to strive for excellence in their Masonic endeavors and personal lives. The collective energy and enthusiasm of the gathering can reignite a member's passion for Freemasonry, inspiring them to contribute more actively to their lodge and community.

In conclusion, attending the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma's annual session is paramount for fraternity members. It is an opportunity to connect with Freemasonry's rich history and traditions, strengthen fraternal bonds, and engage in personal and professional development.

Grand Lodge also plays a vital role in the governance of the fraternity, the coordination of community service efforts, and the performance of Masonic rituals. By participating in this event, members can contribute to the future of Freemasonry, build meaningful relationships, and find inspiration to continue their Masonic journey.

When Bro Secretary reminds
you of the date of the next
meeting and that's your
wife's birthday



Bryan County EMS Building Cornerstone



CANDIDATES AVAILABLE FOR ELECTION

Grand Master

R.W. James R. Roderick, Deputy Grand Master, is unopposed for the office of Grand Master.

Deputy Grand Master

R.W. Don H. Stanton, Senior Grand Warden, is unopposed for the office of Deputy Grand Master.

Senior Grand Warden

R.W. James Oates, III, Junior Grand Warden, is unopposed for the office of Senior Grand Warden.

Grand Treasurer

Craig S. Simon (Unopposed)

Raised: 08/26/1985

Time Missed: 0.0

Memberships: Perpetual Member, Pilgrim-Rock No. 522; Perpetual Member, Jenks No. 497

Offices: Junior Steward, Pilgrim-Rock No. 522; Junior Warden, Rock No. 513; Senior Warden, Rock No. 513; Worshipful Master, Rock No. 513; Secretary ProTem (3 Terms), Jenks No. 497; Secretary, Jenks No. 497 (2 Terms); Treasurer, Jenks No. 497 (2 Terms)

Grand Lodge Offices: None

Grand Lodge Committee: Award of Excellence; Public Schools (2 Terms)

Candidate's Statement: Worshipful Simon and his wife Lorie have four adult children. Worshipful Simon is a Certified Public Accountant with 35 years of experience and has retired from Amoco/BP where he was a Senior Tax Manager – Income Tax Reporting. He is a member of the Tulsa Scottish Rite and the Muskogee York Rite Bodies, Akdar Shrine having served three terms as Treasurer and one term High Priest and Profit, the Saba Grato and is the current Monarch. He is also a member of the York Rite College, Knight Masons, the Allied Masonic Degrees, and the Order of the Eastern Star.

Worshipful Simon is a member of the Board of Directors for the Transitional Living Center of Oklahoma (Lindsey House) having served two terms as the Treasurer.

Worshipful Simon states he wants Masonry to thrive in Oklahoma and to do so the Grand Lodge needs to be financially secure, and his finance and accounting skills will aid the Grand Lodge in those areas. In conjunction with and support of other Grand Lodge Trustees, his goals are to 1) institute or continue programs to attract and retain men of good moral character into our Blue Lodges; 2) maintain and strengthen sound financial responsibility within the Grand Lodge budget; 3) support the appendant Bodies so that all of the Masonic traditions are strengthened within the State.

Grand Secretary

M.W. Michael L. Dixon, PGM, is unopposed for the office of Grand Secretary.

Grand Lecturer

Charles K. Babb (Unopposed)

Raised: 06/03/1978

Time Missed: 0.0

Memberships: Perpetual Member, Edmond No. 37; Perpetual Member, Oklahoma Lodge of Research No. 1999; Perpetual Member, Oklahoma City Lodge No. 36; Perpetual Member, Blanchard No. 395

Offices: Senior Steward, Broadway Circle No. 546; Senior Steward Blanchard No. 395; Junior Deacon, Broadway Circle No. 546; Senior Deacon, Broadway Circle No. 546; Tyler, Broadway Circle No. 546; Senior Warden, Broadway Circle No. 546; Worshipful Master, Broadway Circle No. 546; Secretary, Broadway Circle No. 546 (3 Terms); Junior Deacon, Edmond No. 37; Senior Deacon, Edmond No. 37; Worshipful Master, Edmond No. 37; Tyler, Edmond No. 37; Secretary, Oklahoma City No. 36 (2 Terms)

Grand Lodge Offices: District Deputy Grand Master, Deputy Grand Lecturer

Grand Lodge Committee: Masonic Unity Committee (2 Terms); Award of Excellence Committee; Appeals and Grievances Committee; Public Schools Committee; Prevention of Blindness Committee; Deputy Grand Lecturer Assistant; Statewide Forum (4 Terms); Grand Lodge Fundraising (4 Terms); Deputy Grand Lecturers Committee (4 Terms)

Candidate's Statement:

The Masonic Fraternity has been a part of Brother Charlie Babb's life for as long as he can remember. He became a part of the Fraternity when he was initiated into DeMolay and has enjoyed being a part of various Concordant (Scottish Rite, York Rite, Shrine), Androgynous (Eastern Star), and Appendant (DeMolay, Job's Daughters, and Rainbow) bodies. Brother

Babb is a perpetual member of Edmond #37, Oklahoma City #36, Blanchard #395, and the Lodge of Research. He is a Past Master of Broadway Circle #546 and Edmond #37.

Professionally, Brother Babb received a Juris Doctor with Honors degree from the University of Tulsa College of Law and enjoyed both private and public service. He retired from full time employment from the Regional University System of Oklahoma where he served as General Counsel. He is currently employed part time as Legal Advisor to Southwestern Oklahoma State University. During his career he served as an Assistant Attorney General, a Special Judge for the City of Oklahoma City, and worked in the private sector.

In his personal life he has been married to Jennifer for 20 years and has three adult children and three grandchildren.

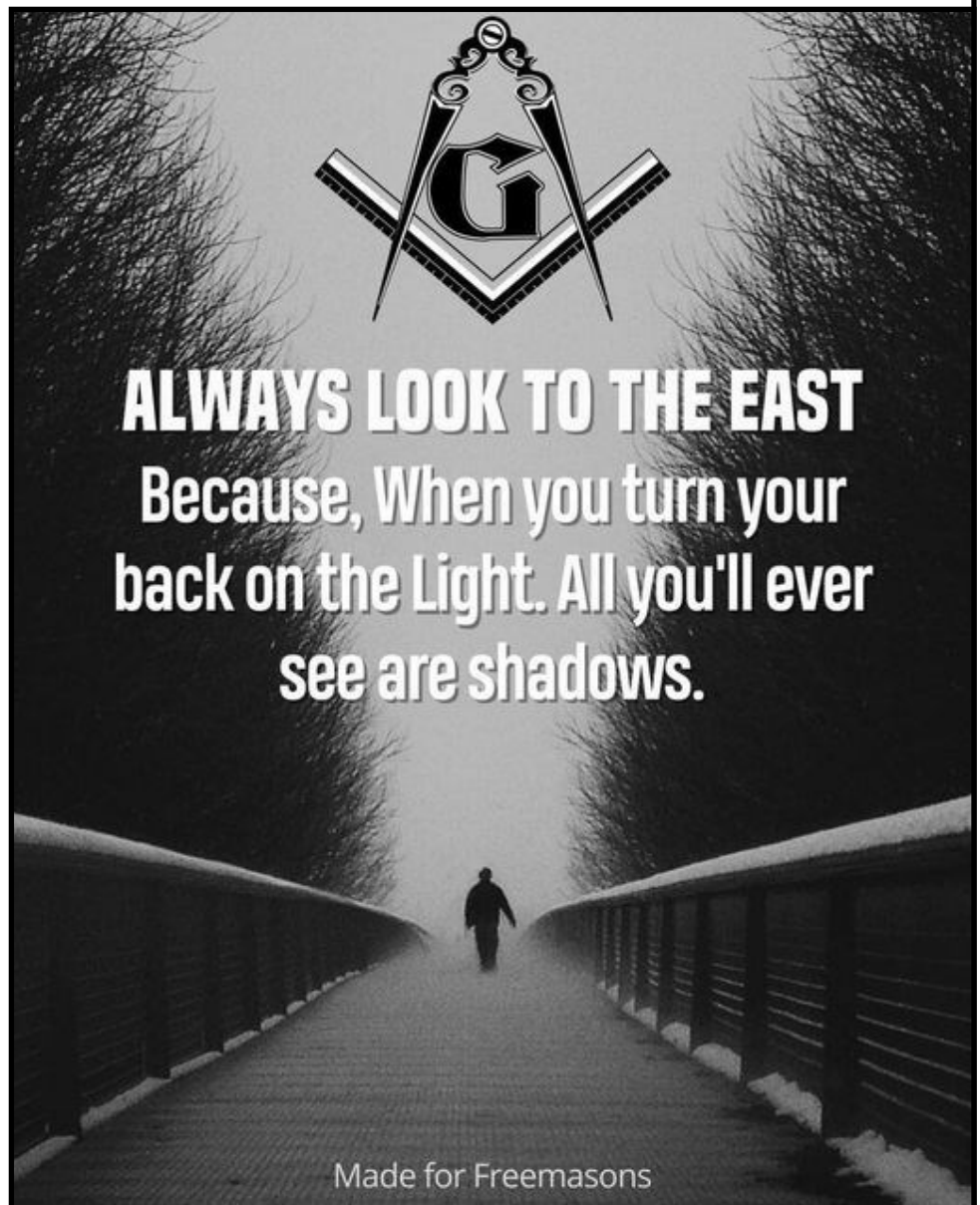
In filing his application for the office of Grand Lecture he was asked:

1. Why do you seek this Office?

Our Ritual is what sets us apart from other fraternal organizations. But our Ritual is more than talking the talk and walking the walk. It is the bedrock, the very foundation of what makes us who we are as Masons. To serve the Craft by being a small part of preserving and maintaining our Ritual would be a humble privilege.

2. What goals would you like to attain as a Grand Lodge Officer?

Continue to encourage individual understanding and appreciation for our Ritual; to continue and maintain the lessons of our predecessors; to support excellence and proficiency; and to have fun while doing it.



Stigler Elementary Cornerstone



Candidates for Junior Grand Warden

Alphabetic Order

Michael D. Ray

Raised: 03/15/2008

Time Missed: 0.0

Memberships: Perpetual Member, Siloam No. 276; India No. 551; Nicoma Park No. 541; Sand Springs No. 475; Albert Pike No. 162

Offices: Junior Warden, Albert Pike No. 162; Senior Warden, Albert Pike No. 162; Worshipful Master, Albert Pike No. 162; Treasurer, Albert Pike No. 162; Junior Steward, Nicoma Park (2 Terms)

Grand Lodge Offices: Grand Pursuivant & Grand Bible Bearer

Grand Lodge Committee: Transportation Committee

Candidate's Statement:

Michael D. Ray-W. Brother Ray and his wife Becky have been together for 25 years and have 5 children and 13 grandchildren and live in Choctaw, Oklahoma.

Brother Ray holds a Bachelor's in Business Management and Human Resource Management Degree, from Southern Nazarene University in Bethany, Oklahoma, and numerous college hours from Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma and Rose State College in Midwest City, Oklahoma.

Brother Ray started his career with the fire department in Louisville, Kentucky and transferred to Tinker Air Force Base in 1982 where he advanced through the ranks from Firefighter, Driver, Captain, District Chief, Assistant Chief and retired as the Director of Special Operations, holding the Air Force Accreditation Level Fire Officer IV. He was an integral part of the man-



Michael D. Ray

ning, budgeting, and strategic planning for the department. After retirement Brother Ray went to work for the Office of Homeland Security where he assisted in managing the multi-million-dollar training budget and taught classes across the state of Oklahoma and in the countries of Spain and Italy. Presently, Brother Ray works for the Oklahoma County Sheriff's Department as a Deputy Sheriff and holds a Law Enforcement Certification and Commission and is Certified by the Oklahoma Council on Law Enforcement Education Training (CLEET), Brother Ray owns an Armed Private Security company in Oklahoma City.

Brother Ray is a member of Albert Pike Masonic Lodge #162 in Guthrie, Oklahoma, where he was Master of the Lodge in 2012, he holds a Perpetual membership at Siloam Lodge #276 and membership at Nicoma Park Masonic Lodge#541 in Nicoma Park, Oklahoma, and India Lodge #551 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Brother Ray served as the Grand Bible Bearer for 2023 and now serves as the Grand Pursuivant for 2024 and has served on the Transportation Committee.

Brother Ray is a member of the Guthrie Scottish Rite and has been a part of the 13th & 28th degrees. Brother Ray is also a member of the York Rite College #75, Cyris Chapter #7, Alpha Council #18, Oklahoma Commandery #3 and Knight Masons #66. He is a member of the National Sojourners, Tinker Chapter, Midwest City, Oklahoma.

Brother Ray is a member of the Order of The Eastern Star Chapter 506 in Nicoma Park, Oklahoma and is a liaison to the Shreveport Board of Governors for Eastern Star.

Brother Ray is a Past Potentate at India Shrine for 2022 where he completed a 10-year line. Overseeing the Shrine finances with various types of funding including but limited to endowments, frozen funds, transportation, building maintenance, insurance, and strategic planning. Brother Ray was Membership Chairman for 5 years during this time.

Brother Ray is a member of the Board of Governors for Shriners Hospital for Children in Shreveport, LA. Brother Ray is on the Medical Committee and the Human Resource Committee.

Brother Ray served as the Chaplin for India Shrine Temple in 2023 and will be the Chief of Staff for India Shrine Temple in 2024.

In response to the question "Why do you seek this Office?" Brother Ray wrote I believe that once again our Fraternity is taking yet another turn for a revitalization. It is my desire to continue to work with other Grand Lodge Officers and provide support to the programs already in place to further our goals of membership, knowledge of the craft and encouraging existing members. I have a responsibility to the Craft to ensure they have all the necessary tools needed to increase their knowledge and support their endeavors in Masonry. I believe my experience in Leadership and my ability to listen to the needs of others throughout my career will be a great asset to the Grand Lodge.

In response to the question “What goals would you like to attain as a Grand Lodge Officer? Brother Ray wrote: It should be our primary focus to obtain new members and retain existing members. When we reach out to new members, we must make sure they receive the necessary education in the craft, utilizing the existing programs but geared more towards their individual learning abilities. We should ensure they are assigned a mentor that can adapt to their learning style, so they don’t become frustrated, feel left out, or quit. With our changing cultural environment, it is extremely important to renew the trust and bond between the Grand Lodge and the Craft. We must work hand in hand with all masonic bodies towards that goal.

Another goal would be to address the budgeting issues facing the Grand Lodge. While additional revenue from new members is helpful, additional avenues of income or fundraising must be found and used. My experience both in the federal workforce and at India Shrine in budgeting and financial management brings a better understanding of how those issues may be addressed.

In response to the question “If you have ever been suspended or expelled from a lodge or from Free Masonry” Brother Ray responded that he has never been suspended or expelled from a lodge or from Free Masonry.



James R. Taylor, Jr.

Raised: 01/27/2007

Time Missed: 0.0

Memberships: Perpetual Member, Owasso No. 545 Perpetual Member, Oklahoma Lodge of Research No. 1999

Offices: Senior Deacon, Owasso No. 545; Senior Deacon, Oklahoma Lodge of Research No. 1999; Junior Warden, Oklahoma Lodge of Research No. 1999; Worshipful Master, Owasso No. 545; Treasurer, Owasso No. 545 (12 Terms); Tyler, Oklahoma Lodge of Research No. 1999; Secretary ProTem, Owasso No. 545 (3 Terms).

Grand Lodge Offices: Grand Bible Bearer and Grand Sword Bearer.

Grand Lodge Committee: Unity Committee (5 Terms); Strategic Planning Committee (2 Terms); Finance & Appropriations (3 Terms); Grand Master's VIP Committee.

Candidate's Statement:

Worshipful Brother James Roy Taylor, Jr. was born in Tulsa to Brother James Roy Taylor and Diana Hunt. He attended Skiatook Public Schools and graduated in 1989. He attended Bethel College in Newton, Kansas on a football scholarship and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and Accounting in 1993. He was a four-year letter winner and three-year starter for the Bethel College Threshers football team. He served as Captain of the football team his Senior year and was All-Conference and All-Region during his Junior and Senior years. He earned his Master of Accountancy degree from Gardner-Webb University in 2009. He is a member of the Kappa Chi Chapter of the Delta Mu Delta Honor Society. In 2009, James married Gage L. Schulz, and they are the parents of two boys: Tyler and Hunter.

He has worked in the Oil and Gas, Family Office, and Real Estate Industries in various finance positions for the past 30 years. James has worked in finance for several Oil and Gas Companies assisting in analyzing, financing, and due diligence of a number of acquisitions/divestitures totaling approximately \$1.5 billion dollars. He was employed by a Family Office as the Chief Financial Officer with approximately \$150 million dollars in assets under management. Currently, he is Chief Financial Officer of the Criterion Fund, a real estate investment



James R. Taylor, Jr.

company with assets under management exceeding \$150 million dollars. He has been a member of the Petroleum Accountant Society of Oklahoma (PASO) for several years.

His Masonic career began as a member of Skiatook Lodge No. 416 A.F. & A.M., Skiatook, Oklahoma where he was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason in January 2007. James affiliated with Owasso Lodge No. 545 A.F. & A. M, Owasso, Oklahoma in August 2008 and served as Worshipful Master in 2011. Currently, he has served Owasso Lodge No. 545 as Treasurer since 2012. He is active in the degree work and investment advisory committee of the Lodge. Also, he provides oversight to the Lodge's charitable, membership, and building activities. He is a member of the Oklahoma Lodge of Research and served as Worshipful Master in 2013.

James was appointed Grand Bible Bearer for the 2020-21 term and Grand Sword Bearer for the 2023-24 term of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge Ancient Free & Accepted Masons of the State of Oklahoma and he served as Chairman of the Finance and Appropriations Committee during the 2022-23 term and has served on many other Grand Lodge committees.

In Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, he is a member and served in the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite, S. J. of the U.S.A., the Valley of Tulsa, Orient of Oklahoma. He served the Valley as Wise Master in the Chapter of Rose Croix. Currently, he is serving the Valley as an officer in the Lodge of Perfection. James received the decoration of Knight Commander of the Court of Honour.

In York Rite, he is a member of the Tulsa York Rite Bodies having served in the East of Chapter, Council, and Commandery and is currently serving as Treasurer. James is serving on the Investment Advisory and Finance committees. He has served the Grand York Rite of Oklahoma as Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter, Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery and is currently serving as Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council.

He is a member of many invitational masonic organizations such as York Rite College, Knight Masons, Allied Masonic Degrees, Red Cross of Constantine, Masonic Order of Athelstan, Knight York Cross of Honour, Societas Rosicruciana in Civitatibus Foederatis, Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests, Holy Order of High Priesthood, Council of Thrice Illustrious Masters, Past Commanders Association, and Royal Order of Scotland. He has served in the East and serves as the Secretary and/or Treasurer for many of these organizations.

Why am I seeking the office of Junior Grand Warden? Even though I am active in several Masonic organizations continuing my journey to seek more Masonic Light, my heart is and always will be Craft Masonry. I am active in my Lodge serving as Treasurer, on degree teams,

and many committees. As I am part of the Craft, I believe it is the Grand Lodge Trustees' duty to serve the Craft to the best of his abilities and keep the Craft's best interest at heart in his decisions. I will do my best to work, serve and be a good steward of the Craft of this Great State of ours. My education, professional experience, and stewardship to the Craft in the various leadership positions held has helped prepare me to be a servant leader, communicator, and effective administrator in the affairs of our great Fraternity.

The Brethren

Edgar Alan Guest

The world is needing you and me,
In places where we ought to be
Somewhere today it's needing you
To stand for what you know is true.
And needing me somewhere today.
To keep the faith, let come what may.

The world needs honest men today
To lead its youth along the way,
Men who will write in all their deeds
The beauty of their spoken creeds,
And spurn advantage here and gain,
On which deceit must leave its stain.

The world needs men who will not brag,
Men who will honor Freedom's Flag,
Men, who although the way is hard,
Against the lure of shame will guard,
The world needs gentle men and true
And calls aloud to me and you.

The world needs men of lofty aim,
Not merely men of skill and fame,
Not merely leaders wise and grave,
Or learned men or soldiers brave,
But men whose lives are fair to see,
Such men as you and I can be.

RT Jackson/Midwest City Table Lodge





Candidates for Grand Lodge Museum & Library Board of Directors

Alphabetic Order - All Unopposed

Bryan J. Pumphrey

Raised: 07/19/1997

Time Missed: 0.0

Memberships: Perpetual Member, Nicoma Park No. 541;
Member, Oklahoma Lodge of Research

Offices: Junior Steward, Nicoma Park No. 541 (3 Terms);
Senior Steward, Nicoma Park No. 541 (3 Terms); Junior
Warden, Nicoma Park No. 541; Senior Warden, Nicoma
Park No. 541(4 Terms); Worshipful Master, Nicoma Park No.
541; Junior Deacon, Oklahoma Lodge of Research; Junior
Warden, Oklahoma Lodge of Research; Worshipful Master,
Oklahoma Lodge of Research; Secretary, Nicoma Park No.
541 (6 Terms); Tyler, Oklahoma Lodge of Research;

Grand Lodge Offices: None

Grand Lodge Committee: None

Candidate's Statement: Worshipful Pumphrey is married to Alain. They have one child. Worshipful Pumphrey served in the United States Marine Corp Reserve from June 1995 through January 1999. He is a civilian employee of the Department of Defense at Tinker Air Force Base, as an Equipment Specialist & Records Manager (KC-10 Extender) and is currently a Logistics Manager (Kc-135 Stratotanker). His job duties included editing, updating, and managing technical content for the KC-10 Extender program office, which involves inventorying and managing both digital and physical media for logistics and engineering to be able to store and access in a secure fashion with varying levels of privilege. Additionally, he works with engineering and fellow logisticians on many subcommittees that focus on increasing mission availability, parts procurement, and sustainability.

His professional achievements include:

USAF Legacy Tanker Division's Large Team Award, (01, 2022); later recognized by AFLCMC with the USAF Civilian Achievement Medal for CENTCOM base relocation effort.



Bryan J. Pumphrey

Logistics Technical Specialist Award, USAF Legacy Tankers Division - Civilian Tier I (03, 2021)

USAF Legacy Tanker Division Large Team of 03 Award (2021, later recognized and awarded at AFLCMC/MATAC level)

Legacy Tanker Large Team winner for Aircraft Availability, Q3 (2021)

Southside OKC Chamber of Commerce Teacher of the Year nominee (2017)

Selected as mentor for college seniors doing student teaching (2016)

Certificate of Commendation, USMC (1995)

Though not specifically a museum, Worshipful Pumphrey served as the McAlester Scottish Rite's librarian. Their library holds a significant amount of irreplaceable historical books and documents. We are currently working on plans for further organizing our inventory and keeping especially rare and/or irreplaceable items safely preserved and archived accordingly.

Other charitable/non-profit organization experience outside the Fraternity.

Current middle/high school youth ministry sponsor at Cornerstone Church in Midwest City

Junior Force Council member, Tinker AFB Chapter

Longtime PTO member (as a teacher) at multiple schools in OKC Public Schools

Coordinated multiple fundraisers for students while teaching

Toys for Tots (USMC Reserves)

My undergraduate degree is in social studies education, which outside of the prescribed professional teaching coursework is focused on history and geography. I have already worked with several past and present committee members from my time with the Oklahoma Lodge of Research (PM, 2019) and the McAlester Scottish Rite Library committee. I also have experience as the previous primary records manager for the KC-10A program office at Tinker AFB for all of our digital and physical media. Also, I hold a master's degree in aerospace administration and logistics which has many relevant applications from an organizational perspective.

For myself, this position would not serve as a launching point in which to advance to other Masonic honors nor pad my resume. Being able to work alongside the sitting board members is far more rewarding than collecting a title or elevated position could ever provide.

The Museum and Library Board best serves the Fraternity in such a capacity to organize and safeguard the irreplaceable artifacts and works which define our state's unique and precious Masonic history. Done with fidelity, such service will serve to educate present and future generations of Oklahoma Freemasons.

Jim L. Seeger

Raised: 09/10/2010

Time Missed: 0.0

Memberships: Perpetual Member, Guildhall No. 553; Perpetual Member, Oklahoma Lodge of Research; Member, Veritas No. 556; Member, Vitruvian No. 557; Perpetual Member, Albert Pike No. 162

Offices: Junior Steward, Albert Pike No. 162; Senior Deacon, Guildhall No. 553; Junior Deacon, Albert Pike No. 162; Junior Warden, Guildhall No. 553; Senior Deacon, Albert Pike No. 162 (2 Terms); Senior Warden, Guildhall No. 553; Worshipful Master, Guildhall No. 553; Secretary, Guildhall No. 553; Senior Warden, Albert Pike No. 162; Worshipful Master, Albert Pike No. 162; Senior Steward, Veritas No. 556; Junior Warden, Veritas No. 556; Senior Steward, Guildhall No. 553; Junior Warden, Veritas No. 556

Grand Lodge Offices: Grand Historian (3 Terms); Grand Flag Bearer

Grand Lodge Committee: Masonic Education Committee (5 Terms)

Candidate's Statement:

Worshipful Seeger lives in Edmond with his wife Linda. They have three adult children. Jim was the Co-Founder of Newby-Vance Mobility, retiring after 27 years with the company.

Worshipful Seeger lists his professional achievements as service to children and youth with disabilities and their families. He also served as Secretary-Treasurer of the Oklahoma Grand Lodge Museum and Library Board of Directors. He has worked with the United Way; New Mexico and & Oklahoma Parents Reaching Out; 4-H and Oklahoma Disability Law Center

Worshipful Seeger lists his strengths for this position as having historical knowledge of the recreation of the Grand Lodge Museum and Library and its Board of Directors. His strengths in-



Jim L. Seeger

clude leadership and organization systems management.

He feels the Museum and Library Board must listen to the Craft. The Board's most major responsibility is the preservation and protection of Oklahoma's Masonic History.

David A. Tennison

Raised: 04/29/2003

Time Missed: 0.0

Memberships: Perpetual Member, Albert Pike No. 162; Perpetual Member, Guthrie No. 35; Perpetual Member, Guildhall No. 553; Member, Edmond No. 37; Member, Oklahoma Lodge of Research

Offices: Junior Deacon, Albert Pike No. 162; Junior Deacon, Guthrie No. 35; Senior Deacon, Guthrie No. 35 (2 Terms); Senior Steward, Guthrie No. 35; Senior Warden, Guthrie No. 35; Worshipful Master, Guildhall No. 553; Senior Deacon, Albert Pike No. 162 (2 Terms); Senior Warden, Albert Pike No. 162 (2 Terms); Worshipful Master, Albert Pike No. 162; Junior Warden, Albert Pike No. 162; Chaplain, Guildhall No. 553; Treasurer, Guthrie No. 35 (3 Terms); Junior Deacon, Guildhall No. 553; Junior Warden, Oklahoma Lodge of Research

Grand Lodge Offices: Junior Grand Steward; Senior Grand Steward; Junior Deacon; Senior Grand Deacon

Grand Lodge Committee: None

Candidate's Statement:

I was raised in Guthrie Lodge #35 in April 2003 and currently serve as Treasurer. I was elected Worshipful Master of Guildhall #553 (2017) and Albert Pike #162 (2020). I was elected to a 3-year term on the Grand Lodge Museum and Library Board of Directors serving as Secretary (2022) and Treasurer (2024). I have served the craft as Junior Grand Steward (2018), Senior Grand Steward (2019), Junior Grand Deacon (2020) and Senior Grand Deacon (2021) under MW Robert G. Davis PGM. I am currently the Senior Warden of Oklahoma Lodge of Research.

I retired in July 2016 after 40 years in manufacturing as a Machinist and Quality Control Inspector. My wife and I are lifelong residents of Guthrie.

My wife Barbara and I have three adult children. I was elected to the Museum and Library Board in 2021 and have served as the Board Secretary and on the Board's Strategic Planning Committee. Additionally, I volunteer at the Grand Lodge building doing light maintenance. I



David A. Tennison

have volunteer experience with other non-profit organizations, including the Guthrie Scottish Rite, where I give tours of the building. I also help with vision screenings and have given twenty-five gallons of platelets at the Oklahoma Blood Institute.

In addition to the Guthrie and McAlester Scottish Rite Valleys, I am an active member of the Guthrie York Rite Bodies having served in leadership positions of all three bodies.

Breakfast at Myrtle Lodge #145



Westmoore High Pom Squad

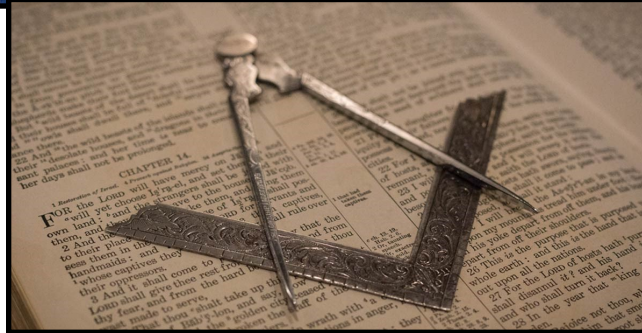


Brink Jr. High Cheer



**Westmoore High
Swim Team**

Haskel County Courthouse Cornerstone



Candidates for Oklahoma Masonic Charity Foundation Board of Directors

Alphabetic Order - 4 Positions, 9 Candidates

John D. Church

Raised: 06/24/1991

Time Missed: 0.0

Memberships: Altus Lodge No. 62, Cordell Lodge No. 127, Oklahoma Lodge of Research, Perkins Lodge No. 92, India Lodge No. 551, Guildhall Lodge No. 553, Frederick Lodge No. 249

Offices: Senior Steward, Altus Lodge No. 62; Junior Steward Altus Lodge No. 62; Senior Deacon, Altus Lodge No. 62; Junior Deacon, Yeldell Lodge No. 196 (Meged); Junior Warden, Altus Lodge No. 62; Senior Steward, Yeldell Lodge No. 193 (2 Terms); Senior Warden, Altus Lodge No. 62; Secretary, Frederick Lodge No. 249; Worshipful Master, Altus Lodge No. 62; Secretary, Altus Lodge No. 62 (2 Terms); Senior Steward, Cordell Lodge No. 127; Senior Deacon Yeldell Lodge No. 196; Senior Steward, Perkins Lodge No. 92; Junior Warden, Perkins Lodge No. 92; Worshipful Master, Perkins Lodge No. 92; Tyler, Perkins Lodge No. 92 (2 Terms)

Grand Lodge Offices: District Deputy Grand Master, Grand Musician, Junior Grand Steward, Senior Grand Seward.

Grand Lodge Committee: Transportation Committee (2 Terms), Prevention of Blindness (2 Terms), Unity Committee (6 Terms)

Oher Masonic Organizations: Order of the Silver Trowel, Royal Order of Scotland, Order of High Priest Hood of Oklahoma, Allied Masonic Degrees, SRICF, Red Cross of Constantine, Shrine, Knights of the York of Honor, York Rite Sovereign College, Knight Masons, National Sojourners, Scottish Rite (33rd Degree), York Rite Chapter, Council and Commandery.

Candidate's Statement: Worshipful Church is retired from the U.S. Air Force at the rank of Senior Master Sergeant and married to Margaret Schroeder. Worshipful Church has to adult children. In addition to his twenty-two years military service, he had an added fourteen years of Civil Service. Worshipful Church was a member of the Southwest Technology Center Board of Directors for five years. Worshipful Church was the General Secretary of the Guthrie Scottish Rite Valley for seven years. Worshipful Church served as an elected member of the

Oklahoma Masonic Charity Foundation since 2019. Worshipful Church lists his strengths as the administrative and leadership skills he acquired over his professional career, which give him the tools to assist the Board in the decisions of the Foundation. He feels he can best serve the Oklahoma Masonic Charity Foundation and the Masonic Fraternity by putting Masonry in a positive light in the communities through the Foundation's educational and charitable grants.

Treavor Neel Dean

Raised: 06/11/2022

Time Missed: 0.0

Memberships: Pontotoc Lodge No. 136; Tishomingo Lodge No. 91; Wapanucka Lodge No. 200

Offices: Junior Warden, Wapanucka Lodge No. 200; Junior Deacon, Tishomingo Lodge No. 91; Junior Steward, Pontotoc Lodge No. 136; Worshipful Master, Wapanucka Lodge No. 200

Grand Lodge Offices: None

Grand Lodge Committee: None

Candidate's Statement: Trevor Neel Dean Captain / Investigator with the Atoka County Sheriff's Department. He is a graduate of the Criminal Investigations Academy. Worshipful Dean lists his strengths as having eighteen years' experience in leadership positions along with his experience in government budgeting. Worshipful Dean says he can best serve the Masonic Fraternity by working to establish a better solution to the "equitable" distribution of funding and more support in the rural communities.

Robert J. Ellison

Raised: 05/12/2012

Time Missed: 0.0

Memberships: Perpetual Member, Yukon Lodge No. 90

Offices: Senior Deacon, El Reno Lodge No. 50; Junior Warden, El Reno Lodge No. 50; Senior Warden, El Reno Lodge No. 50; Worshipful Master, El Reno Lodge No. 50; Secretary, El Reno Lodge No. 50 (3 Terms); Secretary, Yukon Lodge No. 90 (4 Terms); Prospect Manager, Yukon Lodge No. 90 (2 Terms)

Grand Lodge Offices: District Deputy Grand Master (2 Terms)

Grand Lodge Committee: Child ID Committee (6 Terms); FFA Committee

Other Masonic Organizations: National Sojourners; York Rite; Scottish Rite

Candidate's Statement: Worshipful Ellison retired from the Oklahoma Army National Guard

as a Sergeant. He served in Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq for three years and another five years in Operation Enduring Freedom with one tour in Egypt and a tour in Afghanistan.

Worshipful Ellison states he has other non-profit experience with the DAV and VFW. Worshipful Ellison has served as an office volunteer in the Grand Lodge officer for two years.

Worshipful Ellison lists his strengths in that he brings the view of a Lodge secretary to the Oklahoma Masonic Charity Foundation, and he can best serve the Foundation and Masonry by continuing his service.

John M. Manning

Raised: 08/08/1992

Time Missed: 0.0

Memberships: Perpetual Member, Broken Bow Lodge No. 441; Wright Lodge No. 483

Offices: Chaplain, Valliant Lodge No. 301; Junior Warden, Valliant Lodge No. 301; Chaplain, Wright Lodge No. 483; Senior Warden, Valliant Lodge No. 483; Worshipful Master, Valliant Lodge No. 301; Chaplain, Wright Lodge No. 483 (2 Terms); Worshipful Master, Valliant Lodge No. 301 (2 Terms); Treasurer, Valliant Lodge No. 301; Junior Deacon, Broken Bow Lodge No. 441; Senior Deacon, Broken Bow Lodge No. 441; Junior Warden, Broken Bow Lodge No. 441; Senior Warden, Broken Bow Lodge No. 441; Worshipful Maser, Broken Bow Lodge No. 441; Trustee, Broken Bow Lodge No. 441 (2 Terms); Junior Steward, Wright Lodge No 483

Grand Lodge Offices: None

Grand Lodge Committee: None

Oher Masonic Organizations: None Listed

Candidate's Statement: Worshipful Manning is married to Kelli and has four adult children. He is the owner / operator of Riverman Trail Rides, LLC and has run the business for sixteen years.

Worshipful Manning's professional experience includes being the owner of the largest horse trail riding business in Oklahoma, he is a certified welder, has worked as a professional truck driver, served as a hospital Chaplain and is a Baptist Minister. He has been serving on the Oklahoma Masonic Chairty Foundation since February 2024 in an appointed position filling a vacant term.

Worshipful Manning says his strengths are in his business leadership, he is conservative with money and is creative.

Billy R. "Bubba" Pingleton, III

Raised: 02/21/2012

Time Missed: 0.0

Memberships: Caddo Lodge No. 3

Offices: Senior Steward, Caddo Lodge No. 3 (3 Terms); Junior Steward, Caddo No. 3; Senior Deacon, Caddo Lodge No. 3; Junior Warden, Caddo Lodge No. 3; Senior Warden, Caddo Lodge No. 3; Worshipful Master, Caddo Lodge No. 3 (2 Terms); Treasurer, Caddo Lodge No. 3 (2 Terms)

Grand Lodge Offices: None

Grand Lodge Committee: None

Candidate's Statement: Worshipful Pingleton has been employed with Choctaw Nation for 22 years. Worshipful Pingleton is a Technical Engineer working with the Choctaw Travel Plaza's Point of Sale Systems. He has Philanthropy experience with his college fraternity. Worshipful Pingleton lists his strengths as bringing a perspective from smaller communities. He also has experience of working with large amounts of money through his experience with the Choctaw Nation. His goals would be to bring financial aid to the communities and worthy people that need it the most.

Brent L. Smith

Raised: 03/15/2019

Time Missed: 0.0

Memberships: Goodwater Lodge No. 148; Oklahoma Lodge of Research

Offices: Junior Warden, Goodwater Lodge No. 148; Senior Warden Goodwater Lodge No. 148; Trustee, Goodwater Lodge No. 148; Worshipful Master, Goodwater Lodge No. 148 (2 Terms); Trustee, Goodwater Lodge No. 148; Treasurer, Goodwater Lodge No. 148

Grand Lodge Offices: None

Grand Lodge Committee: None

Candidate's Statement: Worshipful Smith is married to Rachel, and they live in Haworth. Worshipful Smith is the Principal of Hayworth school, a position he has held for the past seven years. He has a total of fourteen years in public education.

Worshipful Smith lists his professional achievements as being the recipient of the Oklahoma Education Technology Trust Grant in 2021 and 2022. As an FFA advisor he has had numerous students win many awards on the state and national levels. He is an Honorary State FFA Degree recipient and other school grants and awards for his school.

Worshipful Smith states he has participated in and organized numerous fundraisers with different Lodges. Additionally, he served as an FFA Advisor for seven years, seven years as a school principal. He has served the Cooperative Council of Oklahoma School Administrators Executive Committee and as the Secretary/Treasurer of the Idabel Kiwanis. He is a member of the McCurtain County Cattleman's Association, the American Farmers and Ranchers Cooperative Legislative Policy Committee and Vice-President of the Oklahoma Farmers Union Local 59.

Worshipful Smith lists his strengths as the experience of a brother who has served on diverse group boards and committees. He has held leadership roles in many of these boards and committees. He has extensive experience in participating and organizing numerous lodge fundraisers. He also has a "servants heart and a passion for helping my community and the citizens of my state."

Worshipful Smith states he can best serve the Oklahoma Masonic Charity Foundation and the Masonic Fraternity by his "ability to foster the foundation of the Fraternity. The Masonic Charity Foundation is a key component of brotherly love, relief and of course charity. However, the Masonic Fraternity is much more than just a charitable organization. The Fraternity and the Foundation work hand in hand on a multitude of noble causes. Over the years, the Charity Foundation has done a great job of being involved in many great causes and being the forefront of exemplifying the tenants of Freemasonry to the public."

Dudley R. Smith

Raised: 12/04/1986

Time Missed: 0.0

Memberships: M.W. Smith is a Perpetual Member of the following Lodges. Watonga Lodge No. 176; Wynnewood Lodge No. 40; Yukon Lodge No. 90; Oklahoma Lodge of Research; Comanche Lodge No. 41; Perry Lodge No. 78; Mustang Lodge No. 407; India Lodge No. 551; Hiram Lodge No. 494; Lawton Lodge No. 183; Altus Lodge No. 62; Tyre Lodge No. 42; Kingfisher Lodge No. 52; El Reno Lodge No. 50; Siloam Lodge No. 276 and Valley Lodge No. 6.

Offices: Junior Steward, Yukon Lodge No. 90; Junior Deacon, Yukon Lodge No. 90; Senior Deacon, Yukon Lodge No. 90; Junior Warden, Yukon Lodge No. 90; Senior Warden, Yukon Lodge No. 90; Worshipful Master, Yukon Lodge No. 90; Secretary, Yukon Lodge 90; Treasurer, Yukon Lodge No. (23 Terms); Secretary, ProTem, Yukon Lodge No. 90 (8 Terms)

Grand Lodge Offices: Junior Grand Steward, Senior Grand Steward, Junior Grand Deacon, Senior Grand Deacon, Junior Grand Warden, Senior Grand Warden, Deputy Grand Master, and Grand Master

Grand Lodge Committee: Award of Excellence Committee (3 Terms), Unity Committee (2Terms), District Instructor, Publicity and Public Relations (4 Terms), Publications Committee, and Appeals and Grievances Committee (2 Terms).

Oher Masonic Organizations: The Order of the Eastern Star (Past Grand Patron), Order of the Amaranth, Allied Masonic Degrees, Guthrie Scottish Rite (33rd Degree), All three York Rite bodies, India Shrine, National Sojourners, Heros' of 76, Royal Order of Scotland, The Philalethes Society, and the SRCIF.

Candidate's Statement: Born in Yukon, Oklahoma. Attended elementary and secondary school in Yukon. Graduated in 1963. Currently living on the farm where he was raised.

Joined the U.S. Army in 1966. Served two combat tours in Vietnam, one as a paratrooper and one as a helicopter pilot. Wounded in action while flying a rescue mission near the Cambodian border. Awarded the Air Medal with "V" device and two oak leaf clusters, Purple Heart, and other service medals. Served one tour in Germany. Retired from the Army in 1980 as a Captain.

Taught at Yukon High School from 1980 to 1995 and Yokosuka High School, Yokosuka, Japan, 1995-1997. Adjunct Professor, Oklahoma State University, 1989-1999.

Employed by the Federal Aviation Administration as a Forensic Chemist, Toxicology Laboratory, 1998-2001; and Instructional Systems Designer, Aerospace Medical Education Division, 2001-2008. Retired from the FAA in 2008.

Bachelor's degree in chemistry from Cameron University, 1977. Master's Degree in School Administration, Summa Cum Laude, from Central State University, 1985. Master's Degree in Instructional Technology from University of Oklahoma, 1995.

Have been married to Carol for 55 years on June 28, 2024. Two children: Daughter: Dr. Valerie Hatley of Yukon. Son: Brother Brian Smith of Edmond. Son-in-Law: Brother Edward G. Hatley III of Yukon. Grandsons: Joseph Hatley, Thomas Hatley and Noah Hatley.

Raised in Yukon Lodge #90 in 1986. Worshipful Master of Yukon Lodge #90, 1992. Served in every office except Chaplain and Tiler. Presently serving as Treasurer. Perpetual member of Valley #6, Wynnewood #40, Comanche #41, Tyre #42, El Reno #50, Kingfisher #52, Altus #62, Perry #78, Yukon #90, Watonga #176, Lawton #183, Siloam #276, Mustang #407, Hiram #494, India #551, and Oklahoma Lodge of Research. Also, perpetual member of Tranquility Lodge 2000 on the moon – actually meets in Texas.

Member of Yukon Chapter #245, Order of the Eastern Star. Served as Worthy Patron thirteen times. Currently Worthy Patron. Served as Worthy Grand Patron of the Grand Chapter of Oklahoma, 2008-2009. Dual member with Kingfisher Chapter #40, currently serving as Associate Patron. General Grand Chapter Committee Member 2012-2015, 2021-2024.

Member of Guthrie Scottish Rite. Invested Knight Commander of the Court of Honor, 2005; Coroneted Inspector General Honorary 33rd Degree, 2015; Currently Director of the 23rd Degree Team for Guthrie Scottish Rite. Member of Capitol Hill Chapter, Council and Commandery, York Rite; Awarded York Rite Adult Leadership Award 2016; Member of India Shrine Tem-

ple A.A.O.N.M.S; Past President and current member of India Shrine Masonic Degree Team. Board Member of Masonic Charity Foundation since 2014. Member of National Sojourners, Tinker Chapter #43, currently serving as Chapter President. Member of Heroes of '76, Nathaniel Green Camp. At Large Member of Tall Cedars of Lebanon. Member of Oklahoma Lodge of Research. Member of the Royal Order of Scotland. Member Oklahoma College, S.R.I.C.F. Member Allied Masonic Degrees. Member of The Order of the Sacred White Buffalo. Member of The White Shrine of Jerusalem, Tulsa Court #8.

Elected Junior Grand Warden (2012), Senior Grand Warden (2013), Deputy Grand Master (2014), and Grand Master (2015). Served as Grand Master 2015-2016.

"A" Certificate Lecturer since 1989. Awarded Lifetime "A" Certificate 2014.

Patrick S. (Shawn) Springer

Raised: 02/20/2015

Time Missed: 0.0

Memberships: Perpetual Member, Rising Star Lodge No. 129; Perpetual Member, Durant Lodge No. 45. Perpetual Member, Oklahoma Lodge of Research

Offices: Junior Deacon, Rising Star Lodge No. 129; Senior Steward, Durant Lodge No. 45; Junior Warden, Rising Star Lodge No. 129; Senior Deacon, Durant Lodge No. 45; Junior Warden, Durant Lodge No. 45; Senior Warden, Rising Star Lodge No.129; Worshipful Master, Rising Star No. 129; Senior Warden, Durant Lodge No. 45; Worshipful Master, Durant Lodge No. 45 (2 Terms); Treasurer, Rising Star Lodge No. 129; Secretary ProTem, Durant Lodge No. 45; Secretary, Durant Lodge No. 45 (2 Terms); Treasurer ProTem, Durant Lodge No. 45; Tyler, Durant Lodge No. 45 (2 Terms); Tyler, Rising Star Lodge No. 129

Lodge Committees: Chairman, Building Committee (2 Terms), Rising Star Lodge No. 129; Charity and Community Outreach, Durant Lodge No. 45

Grand Lodge Offices: District Deputy Grand Master (2 Terms)

Grand Lodge Committee: None

Oher Masonic Organizations: Scottish Rite

Candidate's Statement: Worshipful Springer and his wife Kayla have three adult children. He is retired from the retail business in Durant and now owns and runs a pool construction company in the Durant area.

Worshipful Springer lists his strengths as navigating the trials of small business ownership, common sense, a strong business acumen and his love of the fraternity. He feels he can best serve the Oklahoma Masonic Charity Foundation and Masonry by a public display of the ten-

ets of Masonry, especially Charity.

Worshipful Springer provided the following statement:

I am pleased to put my name in the ring to serve as a member of the board for the Masonic Charity Foundation. I joined the Masonic Fraternity in 2014 and have been active in my two blue lodges, my district and Scottish Rite at both McAlester and Guthrie Valleys since being raised. I served proudly in the United States Army National Guard as an infantryman, and I have always tried to serve my country and my community in my life. I spent 22 years running a small retail business in Durant and after selling that business in 2019 I have attempted to slow down and run a pool construction company during my "first retirement". I have served both my blue lodges as an officer practically every year since my raising in some capacity and look very forward to serving the MCF and the Masons of Oklahoma as a member of the board. I appreciate your consideration!

Michael S. Wright

Raised: 12/152/2005

Lost Time: 0.0

Memberships: Wynnewood Lodge No. 40, Veritas Lodge No. 556 Valley Lodge No. 6, and Tyre Lodge No. 42.

Offices: Senior Deacon, Elmore Lodge No. 533 (Merged); Senior Warden, Elmore Lodge No. 553; Senior Deacon, Valley Lodge No. 6; Worshipful Master, Valley Lodge No. 6; Junior Deacon, Wynnewood Lodge No. 40 (2 Terms); Worshipful Master, Wynnewood Lodge No. 40; Senior Warden, Valley Lodge No. 6; Chaplain, Valley Lodge No. 6 (3 Terms); Junior Steward, Valley Lodge No. 6; Senior Warden, Wynnewood Lodge No. 40; Senior Deacon, Wynnewood Lodge No. 40 (2 Terms); and Junior Deacon Veritas Lodge No. 556

Grand Lodge Offices: District Deputy Grand Master (2 Terms), Grand Sward Bearer, Grand Pursuivant, Grand Marshal.

Grand Lodge Committee: None

Other Masonic Organizations: Red Cross of Constantine, Allied Masonic Degrees, The Philalethes Society, Scottish Rite, All three York Rite Bodies, Grand College of Rites, USA, York Rite College, Knight Masons, and the Order of the Silver Trowell.

Candidate's Statement: Worshipful Wright and his wife Kimberly have three adult children. Worshipful Wright is retired from Sunoco-Energy Transfer. Worshipful Wright is a veteran of the U.S. Army, having served as an Infantry Company Commander, a Battalion Staff Officer in Training and Operations. Additionally, he has had experience as a production manager, Corporate Safety Officer, Regional Automation Supervisor and Pipeline Manager supervising contract crews doing Pipeline Inspection.

Worshipful Wright has been a Deacon for the Southern Baptist Church for 32 years. He has worked with the Food Pantry organization and has had experience working with the American Red Cross.

Worshipful Wright lists his strengths as having fourteen years military service and forty years' experience in the oil and gas industry. He has held numerous leadership positions, has experience in accounting and managerial skills to accomplish long and short-term goals within different organizations.

He says he can best serve the Charity Foundation by establishing guidelines to help the individual Mason, their Lodges, and the Grand Lodge in assisting the individual, their lodges and communities within the State.

Traveling Gavels



Grand Master's @ Wright Lodge #483

Altus Gave @ Britton Lodge #434

Hooker Gavel @ Alva Lodge #105

Myrtle Gavel – Boaz @ Vici Lodge #465

Myrtle Gavel – Jachin @ Siloam Lodge #276

Porum Gavel @ Porum Lodge #351

The full list of gavels, locations, availability, and rules of capture can be found at this link

[GAVELS](#)

Myrtle Lodge #145

Table Lodge



2024 RESOLUTIONS

The following is an abbreviated version of the Resolutions and may not adequately capture the author's intent and message. For a complete copy of the Resolutions, click on the following link

[RESOLUTIONS](#)

Resolution 1 – Section 805 – Once a Brother has been raised to the Degree of Master Mason, he must wait either six months or test proficient on his Master Mason Categorical Lecture before he can petition any Concordant or Androgynous Body (Like Scottish or York Rites or the Shrine) – This Resolution would remove that restriction.

Resolution 2 - Section 214 – The Grand Lodge creates printed versions of the annual proceedings (Like the Grand Master's Address, committee reports, and so on). This resolution removes the mandate that these items be prepared in PRINTED form.

Resolution 3a & b – Section U 805 & 806 – Section 805 currently addresses the use of intoxicating liquors. Section 806 addresses the use of 3.2 beer. Resolution 3a strengthens the current language of U 805 by adding the additional wording of “beverages” (intoxicating liquors and beverages). Resolution 3b removes the outdated U 806 from the code.

Resolution 4a & b – Section 202 & 211 – One of the Grand Master's powers is to appoint Grand Representatives to other Grand Jurisdictions to aid in better communications. With the advent of more readily available communication methods, the position of Grand Representative has become obsolete. These two resolutions remove the position of Grand Representative from the code.

Resolution 5 – Section 215 – This resolution would allow former District Deputy Grand Masters to carry the designation “Past” preceding their titles (as in, “May I introduce Past District Deputy Grand Master John Smith”).

Resolution 6 – Section 502 – Currently, there is an assessment of \$17.00 for each candidate initiated as an Entered Apprentice. This resolution would raise that assessment by \$4.00 to \$21.00. Twenty dollars of the new assessment amount would be earmarked to the Grand Lodge Endowed Building Fund.

Resolution 7 – Section 706 – This resolution would allow for a simple majority recall vote of any member of the Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma. Any recalled member could not apply for re-election during their unfinished term.

Resolution 8 – Section 901 – Currently, for a resolution to pass and come into effect, it requires a two-thirds majority of all the votes **CAST**. This proposed resolution changes the wording so that future resolutions must receive two-thirds of all the votes **REGISTERED** for the resolution to pass.



Tishomingo American Legion Post Cornerstone







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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