

THE



OKLAHOMA

MASON

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

December 2024



James Roderick

Grand Master

First, let me say how blessed and privileged I am to be allowed the honor of being your Grand Master for 2025. I am also very privileged to have one of the most talented and competent line of men that anyone could ask for. We are a well-blended and cohesive team.

**"When the Roots are Deep,
There is No Reason to Fear
the Wind"**

This ancient proverb still stands true to this day. It stands firmly in truth and describes and depicts the state of Oklahoma Masonry in the United States. We have all experienced our battles in membership and growth, yet we stand firm and alive.

In its simplest definition, the tree supports all life forms by converting pollutants with its leaves into the oxygen we breathe. With their roots, trees prevent the erosion of our soils. Trees provide two of the most critical aspects of human survival.

Consider how that applies to our lodges, communities, and personal relationships. When practiced in its original and intended manner, Masonry converts our thoughts, actions, and deeds to benefit all of humanity.



The Grand Lodge
of
OKLAHOMA

When we circumscribe our passions and actions as those of civility and compassion, we are cleaning the prevalent toxic behaviors in society. With our roots, we are preventing the erosion of the very community we live in. With those actions, there is no room for "what's in it for me" and it becomes "What is in it for Us...What is in it for Humanity". That, my brothers, is the core of WHO WE ARE.

We are Masons to make us better men, husbands, fathers, and citizens and to experience the true reason for mankind's existence.

Think it through and ask yourself, what benefit is it to the hive? The bee cannot exist on its own. If it does not benefit the hive (community), the bee and the hive are in peril and will likely perish in time.

NO ONE MAN changes the world all by himself. Remember, Bee + Hive = survival and production.

Differences are what make the world go 'round. It is what creates new ideas and new ways. How differences are handled determines if the change is positive, neutral, or destructive.

Civility and compassion are what determine which actions or words are chosen. That can begin with something as simple as a handshake greeting. Commonly, we shake a stranger's hand when we are first introduced. That handshake doesn't mean, "You are my new best friend". It means I am being polite, following the rules of a polite society, and acknowledging your existence. Now, when we refuse to shake a hand, that makes a loud and clear statement. A thunderous and negative statement. It sets the tone.

At Collinsville Lodge and many others I attend, when a brother walks in, he walks around the room, shaking everyone's hand or saying hello and, yes, shaking hands even with those who did not vote for his idea or even spoke against it.

Your 2025 leadership is and will continue to work to improve the "hive" mentality. It must be done to "have no reason to fear the wind".

Your administration will continue to take steps to stabilize and improve the Grand Lodge's foundation. You elected the Trustees to work for the benefit of Oklahoma Masonry, and we are diligently trying to do just that. This effort will require the support of the Craft to make things happen.

As your Grand Master, I have signed the necessary decisions to waive the waiting period for joining an appendant body. During the 2025 Administration's time frame, I have also made

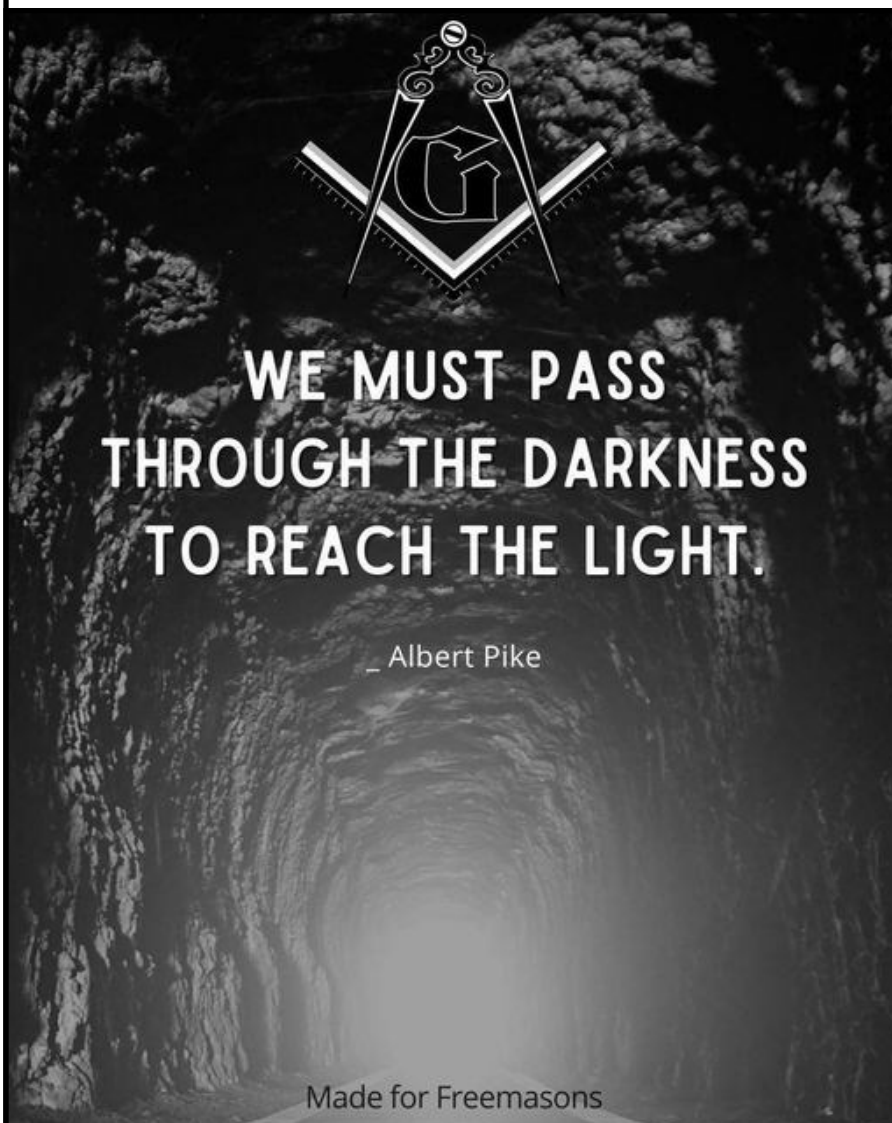
changes regarding the Perpetual Path Program. In case you are not aware, the Perpetual Path Program combines a constitutionally available perpetual membership and the program opportunity "Chance to Advance" or "All in a Day", as they are commonly referred to. This change relates to the program portion.

The ability to receive the degrees in one day will still be available but will not include the perpetual membership requirement. The perpetual membership purchase is still available at any time to those who qualify, but the program will be fee-based at a much lower cost, and those fees will be divided between that member's lodge and the Grand Lodge. This change affects the program participant, who must pay his annual lodge dues and per capita to his lodge in place of a lifetime membership.

The reasoning behind this is twofold. One is that a perpetual membership requirement may create a financial burden on the brother when required to pay 15 times the amount of his dues as the fee for the program and a lifetime membership. The other reason is that, as we

all know, most lodges survive on the dues paid by the members, and the perpetual membership annual payout is much less than most lodge's yearly dues. It is a matter of financial survival since when a lodge raises its dues, it only affects a few members and generates minimal benefit to the lodge itself. Brothers, even with a perpetual membership, please consider paying the lodge's annual dues. Let's admit it. We spend more money on coffee, eating out, or other things than on what is the least expensive membership in Oklahoma.

Many appendant body dues are more costly than your Home Lodge dues, and you cannot be in an appendant body without being



a mason. **You must feed the roots for the tree to bear fruit.**

Brothers, I have assembled a very competent team of District Deputies and provided them with Senior DDGMs to help guide and assist the lodges in areas that may require assistance. These men have taken extensive training and have my full support in improving Oklahoma Masonry. They will be working diligently to assist in compliance with the Constitution and Code that the Craft has voted into law, and in doing so, they have tasked the Grand Lodge with seeing it is followed.

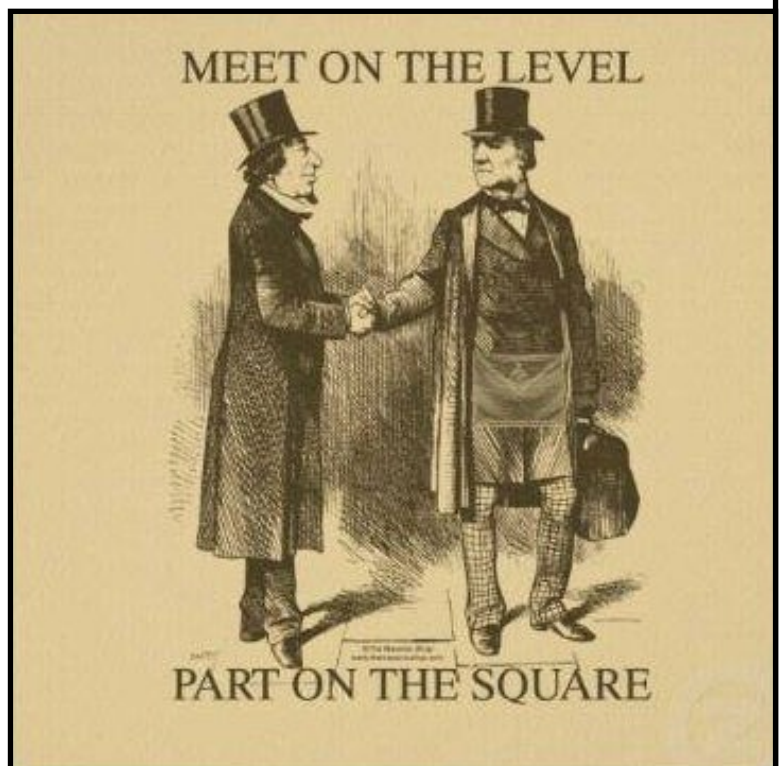
Brothers, **WE CAN DO THIS. LET'S DO THIS. WE ARE MASONS.** We are carrying on a beautiful tradition and that way of life, and we shall continue to do this for centuries to come.

Our roots are deep—our commitment is ancient. The results are centuries old.

We have shown the world that our tenants are proven. We DO benefit our communities by setting the standard for servant leadership in our day-to-day actions, in our relationships and how we treat others, in goodwill, in being role models, in helping others we may have never met, in improving ourselves and thereby improving the "air" that we and others breathe by converting toxins and toxic behavior, by having deep roots that help prevent the "erosion" in our communities and by being a productive bee in this hive we call community and human-kind.

Why do we do this? Because it is our calling, our mission given to us by our Maker to serve his children and those who are to come and be our future.

In closing, let me say that being able to be Grand Master of Oklahoma, a place where top-notch Masons LIVE and not just reside, is one of the greatest honors a man could ever receive. To lead a fraternity of men with great hearts, integrity, and faithful servant passion for his fellow man, family, and community is beyond description. I may very well be the luckiest man in the world. Thank you, my brothers.





Conundrum

As we begin a new Masonic year, I find myself with two competing needs of our fraternity. The first is to be the chief fundraiser. This role takes a massive amount of time and effort to gather funds to run our Grand Lodge. The second is to develop a system to promote our Craft to the public. While both are undoubtedly worthwhile endeavors, the first need feels very self-serving. The latter sets in motion a process that could last for years.



Don Stanton

Deputy Grand Master

For centuries, Masonic groups have quietly played a vital role in strengthening communities, fostering personal growth, and upholding timeless values like charity, integrity, and brotherhood. Despite this legacy, misconceptions and a lack of awareness about Freemasonry persist. It is time to shine a light on the positive impact these organizations have had—and continue to have—in our communities. In an age of digital connections, men yearn for authentic human interaction. Masonic groups offer a space for men to form deep, meaningful friendships rooted in shared values and mutual respect. This spirit of fraternity fosters a sense of belonging and purpose, which can be especially powerful in combating feelings of isolation or disconnection. We need to join the digital age while keeping the lights on. Both require our attention and our resources. Over the past five years, we have raffled, auctioned, and sold everything imaginable. Where do we go from here? Is it possible to create a digital connection and raise funds for a broader base of new non-Masons?

The goal is the following:

- Expand our fundraising base to non-Masons.
- Create a positive perception of Masonry.
- Utilize technology to expedite transactions.

I want your honest feedback. Each of you has great ideas. Please share your thoughts and remember—**IRON SHARPENS IRON**



Lessons Learned

What I Have Learned This Year and My Honor to Serve Another Year

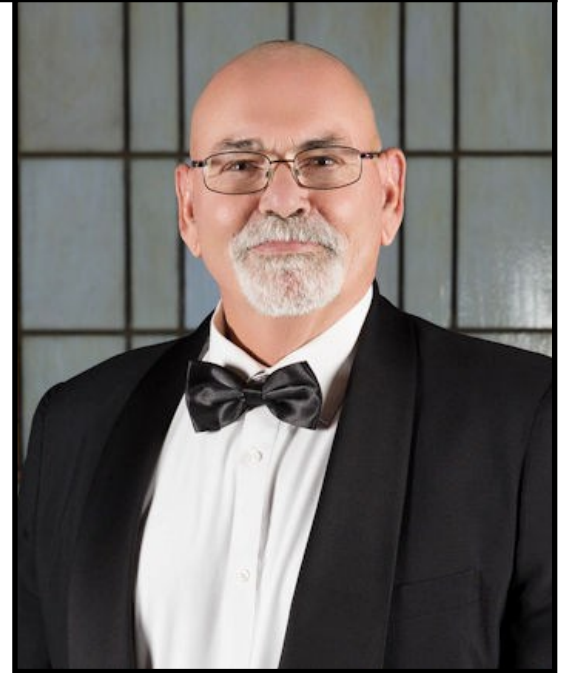
Reflecting on the past year, I am grateful for the lessons learned and the opportunities that have shaped my personal and Masonic growth. I greatly appreciate the value of service, the importance of collaboration, and the power of perseverance. It is with great honor that I look forward to serving another year, eager to continue my development and contribute meaningfully to our Craft.

One of the most significant lessons I have learned this past year is how to listen, learn, and work with the other Trustees. I have again been blessed to learn from MW John Carter. His leadership and counsel were outstanding. I congratulate MW James Roderick and this year's Board of Trustees, which has three new men who are also a magnificent group of Masons.

I look forward to working under our new Grand Master and his leadership as well. Every action considered and taken by these men is for the betterment of the Fraternity. Having spent a bit of time with the Past Grand Masters of the Jurisprudence Committee, they also care about supporting and counseling the Grand Master for the good of our Jurisdiction.

There are many great Masons across our State, and it has been a joy to see some old friends and meet new ones on this journey. I am perpetually encouraged by the fellowship, generosity, and support I have experienced. My understanding of leadership has deepened, and what it means to serve others has expanded. Being in a position of service has taught me the importance of listening, empathy, and humility. The trust placed in me by our Craft has reinforced my belief in the value of integrity and the need for transparency in all my actions.

The Trustees are working on several projects. We are non-stop focused on financials and how to make prudent improvements in that area. There is some movement in recruiting (for lack of a better word). Some incredible statistics regarding the success of mentorship programs are available in other jurisdictions. A "Chance To Advance" one-day program presents

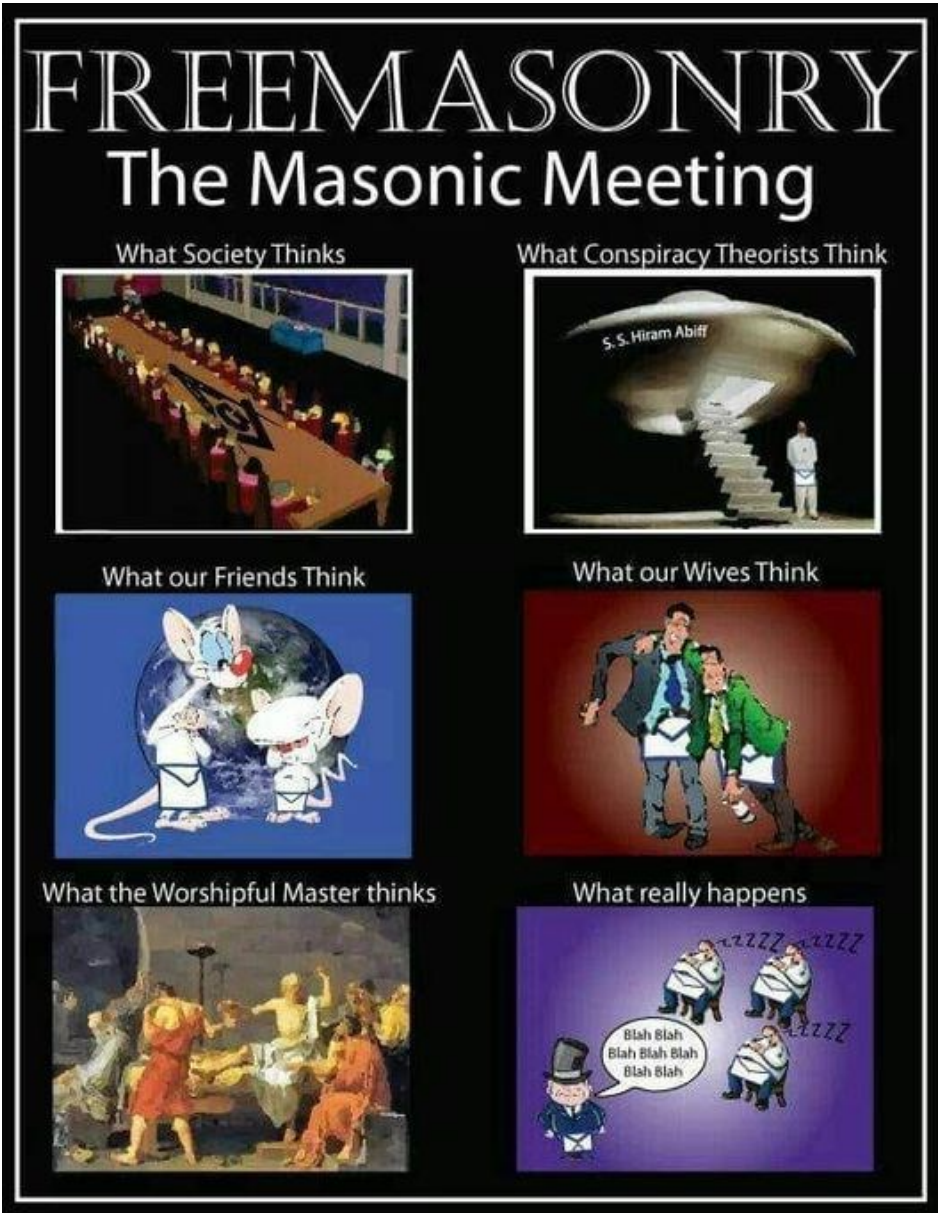


James Oates III

Senior Grand Warden

several advantages over the Perpetual Pathway Program. The “Basic Blue” Program from several years ago was an excellent program to support lodges in our Ritual work. Individual contributions are essential; collective effort often leads to the most impactful results. Success is rarely a solitary endeavor; working together, supporting one another, and celebrating shared achievements creates a sense of fulfillment and belonging.

If we are good Stewards of our Ritual, our Brothers, and our lodges, both physical and spiritual, there is very little that we cannot accomplish. I recognize how much I still have to learn, and every day presents a new opportunity for growth. It is with great humility and gratitude that I look forward to serving another year. Please reach out to me and let me know if there is any way that I can support what you are doing. I want to hear from you regarding things good, bad, or indifferent. Today is a great time to be a Mason!





Greetings

I bring greetings to all the brothers of the Craft. I would be remiss if I didn't start this without saying how deeply touched I am by your allowing me to serve as Junior Grand Warden of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Oklahoma. I am honored by your trust in me, and I pledge to do my best to represent all the Craft.

In my journey toward being your Junior Grand Warden, I had the privilege of visiting approximately eighty-three lodges across the state of Oklahoma, meeting brothers from all walks of life, those I have met in the past, and new brothers I came to know. I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and hospitality during my journey.

A special thank you to M. W. Glen Chaney for allowing me to serve as his Grand Bible Bearer and to M. W. John Carter for seeing something in me and appointing me as his Grand Pursuivant. I offer a special thank you to M. W. Corky Grigsby, W. Jack Painter, W. Gene McKelvey, M.W. Ron Chambers, M.W. Mike Dixon, M.W. Ronnie Coppedge, M. W. Keith Lyles, and a host of others for giving me their advice, counsel, and guidance. The mentorship of these fine gentlemen is a prime example of how mentorship can shape a man, his journey, and his life.

Lastly, thank you to the Craft for understanding my message and allowing me to serve in this new capacity.

I desire to continue to learn to enable me to serve the Craft to the best of my abilities. I am excited to continue working with the other Trustees as we endeavor to lead the Craft forward in the upcoming years.

Again, it is my honor and privilege to serve you, the Craft, on this incredible journey we call Freemasonry.



Michael Ray

Junior Grand Warden



Grateful

Grateful for the Opportunity to Serve as Grand Treasurer

Brethren, I am deeply honored and humbled by your trust and confidence in electing me as Grand Treasurer. This position carries significant responsibility, and I pledge to uphold the values of our fraternity and serve with diligence, transparency, and dedication. Together, we can ensure the financial health and prosperity of our Grand Lodge and the individual lodges across Oklahoma.

In my new role, I aim to focus not only on maintaining the financial systems of Grand Lodge but also on exploring ways to empower lodges throughout the state to thrive financially. The strength of our Craft lies in the success and vitality of our local lodges, and by improving their financial situation, we secure the future of Freemasonry in Oklahoma.

Here are a few options I believe we can explore together:

1. Financial Education and Training for Lodge Officers

Providing workshops and resources on budgeting, financial planning, and fundraising can equip lodge leaders with the tools they need to manage resources effectively. This training could include best practices for managing dues, investments, and expenses.

2. Establishing Lodge Endowment Funds

Encouraging lodges to create or grow endowment funds can provide long-term financial stability. A well-managed endowment can offer a steady income stream to support lodge activities, maintenance, and charitable endeavors.

3. Strengthening Fundraising Initiatives

Many lodges rely on fundraisers to support their operations. Sharing innovative fundraising



Craig Simon
Grand Treasurer

ideas, pooling resources for statewide efforts, or organizing regional events can amplify success and reduce the financial strain on individual lodges.

4. Collaborating for Cost Efficiency

Encouraging lodges to collaborate on shared expenses—such as joint events or shared facilities—can reduce costs while fostering greater unity among brethren.

5. Digital Transformation and Efficiency

Adopting modern financial management tools and processes can save time and resources. Digital dues collection, event registrations, and communication platforms can streamline operations.

Brethren, these are only a few ideas to inspire discussion and action. I welcome your input and suggestions as we embark on this journey together. By sharing knowledge and working in harmony, we can ensure the financial well-being of every lodge in Oklahoma. You may contact me at simon.okgl@gmail.com.

Thank you once again for entrusting me with this responsibility. Together, we can build a brighter future for Oklahoma Freemasonry.



**DON'T BE IMPRESSED BY
MONEY, FOLLOWERS,
DEGREES AND TITLES.
BE IMPRESSED BY HUMILITY,
INTEGRITY, GENEROSITY
AND KINDNESS.**

Fundraising Breakfasts at Myrtle Lodge #145



Moore
West Jr.
National
Honor Society
(Above)



Highland
East
Cheer
Squad
(Below)

From the Secretary's Desk

My Brethren, I am deeply honored and grateful for your trust in re-electing me as your Grand Secretary for a third term. Your unwavering support inspires me to continue dedicating myself to our Masonic principles. Serving you has been a profound privilege, and I am committed to upholding this role with integrity and enthusiasm. Together, we have achieved significant milestones, and I look forward to fostering brotherhood, growing our membership, and ensuring our fraternity's financial stability. Thank you for this incredible opportunity. I am excited about what we will accomplish together in the coming term.

Please join me in welcoming our new Grand Lodge officers to the Board of Trustees: Michael Ray, Junior Grand Warden; Craig Simon, Grand Treasurer; and Charles Babb, Grand Lecturer. Our Grand Master James Roderick, Deputy Grand Master Don Stanton, Senior Grand Warden

James Oates, and I are thrilled to have you join us. Your dedication to Freemasonry is a testament to your commitment to our fraternity's growth and success.

As trustees, you are now part of a legacy rooted in brotherhood, relief, and truth. The Grand Lodge of Oklahoma has a rich history of fostering community and supporting charitable endeavors. Your role is pivotal in continuing this tradition and ensuring that Oklahoma Freemasonry remains a beacon of light and hope.

Your responsibilities will be both challenging and rewarding. You will make crucial decisions affecting our fraternity's operations, financial health, and strategic direction. Your insights and expertise will guide us toward a prosperous future. We encourage you to approach these responsibilities with the same passion and dedication that brought you here.

Upholding the values of Freemasonry, promoting fellowship, supporting charitable activities, and ensuring our lodges are welcoming and inclusive are critical aspects of your role. Your leadership will foster a positive environment where every member can thrive.

We hope you will build strong, collaborative relationships with your fellow trustees. The strength of our board lies in its diversity and collective wisdom. By working together, we can



Mike Dixon PGM

Grand Secretary

achieve remarkable things and make a lasting impact on our fraternity and the broader community.

We also encourage your active participation in Grand Lodge and local Lodge events. Your involvement will strengthen the bonds of brotherhood and enhance the overall experience for all members. Your presence is vital to our fraternity's vibrancy and success.

As you embark on this new journey, know that you have the full support of your fellow trustees and the entire Grand Lodge of Oklahoma membership. We are here to assist and work alongside you to achieve our shared goals.

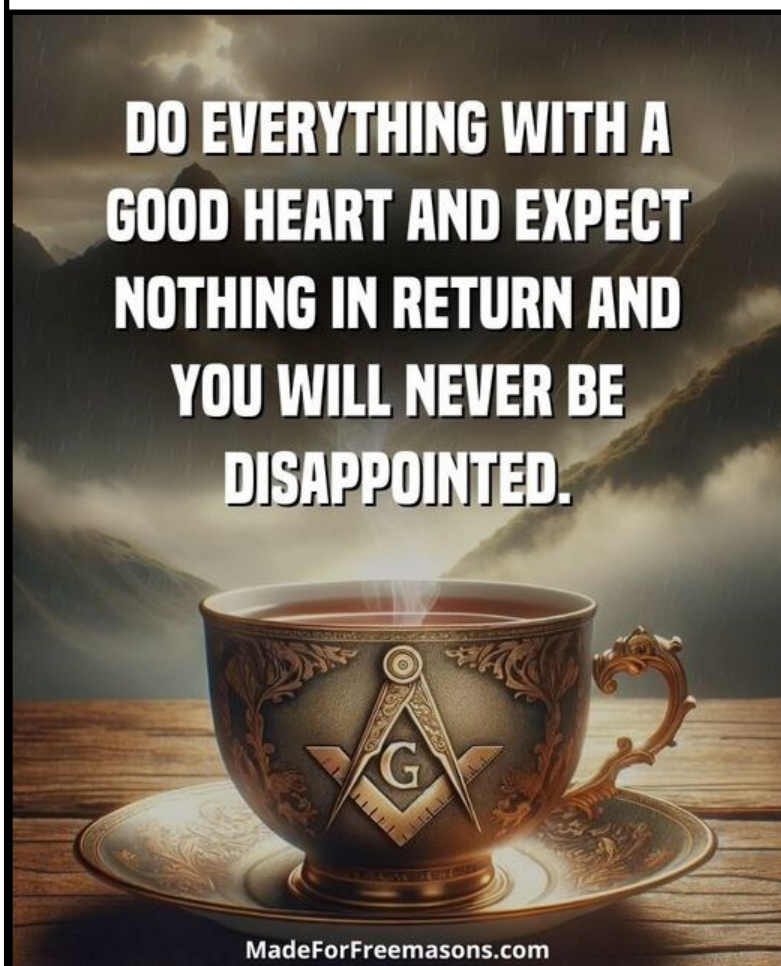
As you begin this new journey, know that you have the full support of your fellow trustees and the entire Grand Lodge of Oklahoma membership. We are here to assist, guide, and work alongside you to achieve our shared goals. Your contributions are highly valued, and we are confident that significant achievements and progress will mark your tenure.

Welcome to the Grand Lodge Board of Trustees. We look forward to your active participation, innovative ideas, and unwavering commitment to Freemasonry's principles. Together, we will build a strong, vibrant, and inclusive fraternity that is a pillar of our community.

While we welcome our new Trustees, we bid farewell to Grand Master John Carter, Grand Treasurer David G. David, and Grand Lecturer, Most Worshipful Bob Peters. We extend our heartfelt gratitude for their dedicated service and commitment to Oklahoma Masonry. Their leadership has guided our fraternity through significant milestones, ensuring financial stability and educational excellence.

Grand Master Carter's leadership and wise counsel have been a guiding light. The Grand Treasurer's meticulous stewardship has safeguarded our resources, and the Grand Lecturer's teachings have enriched our Masonic knowledge and strengthened our bonds of brotherhood. Their efforts have left an indelible mark on our fraternity. We celebrate their achievements and look forward to their continued involvement in our Masonic journey. Their legacy will inspire future leaders to uphold our beloved fraternity's values and traditions.

**DO EVERYTHING WITH A
GOOD HEART AND EXPECT
NOTHING IN RETURN AND
YOU WILL NEVER BE
DISAPPOINTED.**



MadeForFreemasons.com

Yukon Lodge #90 continues to give



Donation
To local
Fire
Dept.
For Toy
Drive



Donation
To
Little
Light
Academy

The Importance of Ritual

The Masonic Fraternity has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. I was proud to become a part of the Fraternity when I was initiated into DeMolay and have enjoyed participating in various Masonic bodies. It is axiomatic that our Ritual 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. I am humbled by the privilege of serving you and our Craft by being a small part of preserving and maintaining our Ritual.

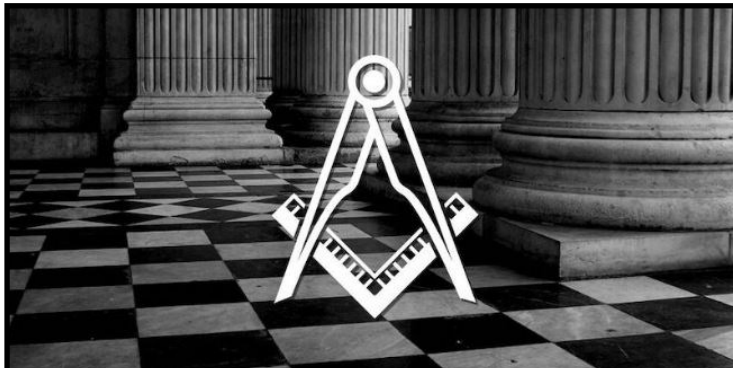
We are all concerned with the state of membership in our local lodges and all concordant, androgynous, and appendant bodies. One sure way to increase membership in our local lodges is by Initiating, Passing, and Raising new members, which in turn creates a pool of potential members for our other bodies. They cannot have new members if we do not raise Master Masons. We do this by giving men the tools to raise Master Masons through our Ritual. Without our Ritual, we have fewer Masons. Challenge yourself to learn one new part this year and, at the same time, teach your replacement.

You may not be aware of this, but there are districts in Oklahoma with no Certificate Lecturers. Not an A, B, or C Lecturer to be found within the district. We must reverse this trend. As a beginning point, what if we had at least one C Certificate Lecturer in every lodge? Is that you?

I look forward to serving as your Grand Lecturer this coming year.



Charlie Babb
Grand Lecturer





The Grand Lodge *of* OKLAHOMA

Look inside yourself
You'll see the world
a whole new way.



NOT JUST A MAN. A MASON.™

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