

THE

OKLAHOMA



MASON

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

June 2024



**John Carter
Grand Master**

Building A Civil Brotherhood

As the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Oklahoma begins our 116th year, I am humbled and honored to serve as Grand Master. My first and most engaging goal is to help Lodges achieve success in our jurisdiction. We can accomplish great things for Oklahoma Masons and Masonry by working together.

I hope you have had the opportunity to observe and examine the Grand Master's pin for 2024. That pin displays the theme for our year – ***Building A Civil Brotherhood***. That theme

has been selected in the hope that our fraternity may display, model, and teach a moral characteristic that is vitally important, yet sadly, too often missing in today's society – civility.

Webster defines civility as "formal politeness and courtesy in behavior or speech." We, as Masons, are familiar with extending formal politeness and courtesies in the Lodge. The primary focus of those Masonic courtesies and procedures is to foster peace and harmony in the Lodge.

The following is taken from the following web post— [WEBLINK](#)

By age sixteen, George Washington had copied 110 rules of Civility & Decent Behavior in Company and Conversation by hand. They are based on a set of rules by French Jesuits in 1595. Presumably, they were copied out as part of an exercise in penmanship assigned by young Washington's schoolmaster. The first English translations of the French rules



The Grand Lodge
of
OKLAHOMA

appeared in 1640 and are ascribed to Francis Hawkins, the twelve-year-old son of a doctor.

Richard Brookhiser, in his book on Washington, wrote, "All modern manners in the Western world were originally aristocratic. Courtesy meant behavior appropriate to a court; chivalry comes from chevalier -a knight. Yet Washington was to dedicate himself to freeing America from a court's control. Could manners survive the operation? Without realizing it, the Jesuits who wrote them and the young man who copied them were outlining and absorbing a system of courtesy appropriate to equals and near equals. When the company for whom the decent behavior was to be performed expanded to the nation, Washington was ready. Parson Weems got this right when he wrote that it was 'no wonder everybody honored him who honored everybody.'"

Here are a few of Washington's rules of civility (including his original numbering):

4. In the presence of others, sing not to yourself with a humming noise, nor drum with your fingers or feet.
5. If you cough, sneeze, sigh, or yawn, do it not loud but privately; speak not in your yawning, but put your handkerchief or hand before your face and turn aside.
6. Sleep not when others speak, sit not when others stand, speak not when you should hold your peace, walk not on when others stop.
12. Shake not the head, feet, or legs, roll not the eyes, lift not one eyebrow higher than the other wry, not the mouth, and bedew no man's face with your spittle, by approaching too near him when you speak.
19. Let your countenance be pleasant but, in serious matters, somewhat grave.
22. Show not yourself glad at the misfortune of another though he were your enemy.
23. When you see a crime punished, you may be inwardly pleased; but always show pity to the suffering offender.
28. If anyone comes to speak to you while you are sitting, stand up though he be your inferior, and when you present seats, let it be to everyone according to his degree.
42. Let thy ceremonies in courtesy be proper to the dignity of his place with whom thou converses, for it is absurd to act the same with a clown and a prince.
45. Being to advise or reprehend anyone, consider whether it ought to be in public or in private; presently, or at some other time in what terms to do it and in reproving show no sign of choler but do it with all sweetness and mildness.
46. Take all admonitions thankfully in what time or place soever given but afterward not being culpable take a time & place convenient to let him know it that gave them.

48. Wherein you reprove another, be unblameable yourself; for example is more prevalent than precepts.

"Civility is more than just politeness. It is about disagreeing without disrespect, seeking common ground as a starting point for dialogue about differences..."

I sincerely hope we may exemplify those lessons taught in our ritual: control our passions, treat others as we would be treated, disagree agreeably, treat all with respect, and meet on the level, part on the square.

Empty Chair Degree



On May 28th of this year, Myrtle Lodge #145 conducted an Empty Chair Degree to honor our Brethren who gave the ultimate gift in service to our country, protection of our families, and the

preservation of the American dream. Thank you to all the men and women who serve and have served this great country.



Take a Book - Leave a Book

Britton Lodge #434 has established a Community Library just outside their Lodge. Individuals are encouraged to drop off their old books so that others may take a book and unlock the possibilities that lie within.



**THE BEST TEACHERS ARE THOSE
WHO SHOW YOU WHERE TO
LOOK, BUT DON'T TELL YOU
WHAT TO SEE.**



Made for Freemasons

Grand Lodge Fundraiser

Brethren, it is that time of year again when we must start our annual fundraiser for the budget shortfall we have each year at Grand Lodge.

While your officers are, and have been, working diligently to correct this issue, the bottom line is that it costs more to maintain the services and building than Grand Lodge brings in from per capita, investments, new members, and courses. Thus, we have an annual fundraiser to make ends meet.

As I explained in my video posted on Facebook on the “Thoughts from a Masonic Brother in Oklahoma” page, titled **“How did we get here?”**, the shortfall is nothing new.

I would appreciate each of you watching the video as it explains many misunderstood things and gives some insight into what we need to do to start turning this issue around.

This edition will show this year’s fundraiser: custom, unique belt buckles and coins to commemorate our 150th anniversary.

It is a rather unique fundraiser, a once-in-a-lifetime occasion based on our 150th anniversary of a Grand Lodge in Oklahoma.

Yes, the items are expensive, but they are one-of-a-kind individually numbered items, never to be reproduced.

Using the amount of 150 individual items, it commemorates our 150 years. The sale of these items will cover our shortfall.

I chose this method of raising funds as there is no financial risk to the Grand Lodge funds like there is by having a raffle. With a raffle, it is a white-knuckle risk worrying about it not being successful. In many years, it is a nerve-racking process up to the cut-off date before sufficient funds are received.



James Roderick
Deputy Grand Master

If it is unsuccessful, the Grand Lodge must provide the funds to pay. We don't have the funds to risk.

Brothers, these fundraisers will be necessary until we adjust our building overhead expenses in the long term.

As you will see in the video, we need to live within our means.

We can do this. It will just require a solid business strategy to make it all happen.

Masonry in Oklahoma will be here forever. We are not going anywhere.

We must stop the financial band-aid approach, make some tough, solid business decisions, and get things on a LEVEL basis.

There will be more to discuss on this issue, and I hope that the Craft will be well informed on what needs to be done by ALL to make us a financially healthier organization in the coming years.

May your travels be safe, your family well, and your blessings many.

Celebrating
150 Years
of
Grand Lodges
in Oklahoma

2024 marks 150 years of Oklahoma Grand Lodges.

From 1874 as Grand Lodge of Indian Territory to the current Grand Lodge of Oklahoma, we brothers have a lot to celebrate.

In commemoration of this grand occasion, a limited number of custom belt buckles and coins have been produced

ONLY 150 of these coins and buckles were produced

Each buckle and coin type are individually numbered and never to be reproduced.

Numbers 001/150 and 150/150 of each will be held for special auction. All others are on a first come, first served basis.

Buckles are \$500. Your choice of Vintage Bronze or Silver / gold color. Coins are \$150.


A numbers matching set of both coins and buckles are available on a first come basis so order early.

This unique offering is the fundraiser for the Grand Lodge budget shortfall that must be filled every year.

The offer begins July 1, 2024 and will end October 1st

If you would like more information or to place an order click the follow link— [WEBLINK](#)





**ONLY 150 of these
coins and buckles
were produced.**

**Each buckle and
coin type are indi-
vidually numbered
and never to be re-
produced.**

Gavel Capture

**Myrtle Lodge #145 cap-
tured the Altus Lodge Trav-
eling Gavel from the Breth-
ren of Western Star Lodge
#138 on June 20th.**

**You can capture a gavel too.
For details, click below**

[GAVEL RULES](#)



Ardmore #31 - 50 Year Pin



Social Media Guidelines



Don Stanton
Senior Grand Warden

Brethren, guidelines are developed by
The Grand Lodge of Oklahoma
Publicity and Public Relations Committee

Members of the committee:

- Don H Stanton – Chair
- Logan Bryant
- Mike Wright
- Jack Painter

The following guidelines have been presented to the Grand Lodge Trustees.

Grand Lodge of Oklahoma Social Media Guidelines

Introduction

Our fraternity values the reputation, privacy, and integrity of our brotherhood. To ensure we maintain a positive image and respect the confidentiality of our internal affairs, we have established the following social media guidelines. These guidelines apply to all members and govern their use of personal and fraternity-affiliated social media accounts.

General Principles

1. **Respect, Professionalism, and Honesty:** Members should always conduct themselves with respect and professionalism on social media. Members should be honest about who they are and mind their manners, treating all past and present Brothers with respect. Avoid posting materials or comments that may be seen as offensive, demeaning, inappropriate, threatening, or abusive. Acknowledge differences of opinion, and respectfully withdraw from discussions that go off topic or become profane.
2. **Ownership:** Members should always remain clear that the opinions expressed are their own, and not representative of the fraternity in part or as a whole. If your content relates to

Masonry or the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma, you should identify yourself and clearly state that the opinion is yours and may not be that of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma. Members are always encouraged to speak for themselves, but your actions reflect those of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma.

3. **Confidentiality:** Preserve the confidentiality of fraternity rituals, internal discussions, and private events. Avoid sharing any information that is meant to remain within the fraternity, using good judgment in sharing only public information and avoiding anything that can be construed as esoteric work.
4. **Positive Representation:** Aim to represent the fraternity in a positive light. Avoid posting content that could damage our reputation or reflect poorly on our values.
5. **Public Facing Content:** The internet is a public space, and many eyes may fall upon your words. Assume that everyone will be reading every post. Aim to represent the fraternity that can relate to the general public. Encourage more social posting showing Masons being Men and Brothers not in traditional Masonic settings.
6. **Permanence:** Members should be aware that any content posted online or in social media should be considered permanent content, regardless if it has been deleted later.

Specific Guidelines

1. Disparaging Content:

- Refrain from posting content that is defamatory, derogatory, or disrespectful towards individuals, organizations, or other fraternities.
- Avoid engaging in or promoting online harassment, bullying, or inflammatory discussions.

2. Untasteful Content:

- Avoid posting or sharing content that includes obscene, vulgar, or offensive language, images, or videos.
- Do not share or endorse content that could be considered discriminatory or prejudiced against any race, gender, religion, nationality, or sexual orientation.

3. Confidential Information:

- Do not disclose details about fraternity rituals, private meetings, member information, or any other sensitive topics.
- Avoid posting pictures or videos from private fraternity events that are not meant for public viewing.

4. Alcohol and Substance Use:

- Avoid posting images, videos, or comments that promote irresponsible or illegal use of alcohol or substances.
- Steer clear of content that could imply endorsement of excessive partying or reckless behavior.

5. Event Promotion:

- When promoting fraternity events, ensure that the content is respectful and aligns with our values. Use official channels whenever possible and obtain approval for any public-facing communications.
- Ensure that promotional materials do not reveal details that should remain within the fraternity.

6. Personal Social Media Use:

- Be mindful of your association with the fraternity when posting on personal accounts.
- Include disclaimers when necessary to clarify that personal opinions do not reflect the views of the fraternity.

7. Handling Issues:

- If you come across any content that you believe violates these guidelines, gently remind the member about our shared standards or inform the Board of Trustees if necessary.
- Approach any concerns with a spirit of brotherhood and support, aiming to uphold our values together.

Monitoring and Encouragement

- The executive board may periodically review social media activity related to the fraternity to ensure adherence to these guidelines.
- Members are encouraged to self-monitor and remind each other of the importance of following these guidelines.

Conclusion

By following these guidelines, we can ensure that our social media presence reflects the dignity and respect that our fraternity embodies. Let us all commit to maintaining a positive and respectful online environment that upholds the values of our brotherhood.

These guidelines should be reviewed regularly and updated as needed to reflect changes in social media trends and fraternity values. Members will be notified of any updates or changes to the guidelines.

Tour Opportunity

Grand Lodge is trying to determine how many Masonic couples would be interested in attending a Deputy Grand Master's tour of Masonic England and Scotland.

Tentatively, we would depart May 8, 2025, and return May 20, 2025. This would be a guided tour of London and Edinburgh. A few highlights of such a London



tour may include the United Grand Lodge of England, Canterbury Cathedral, and the British Museum. While in Edinburgh, we could see Edinburgh Castle, The Grand Lodge of Scotland, Cannongate-Kilwinning Lodge, and Rosslyn Chapel.

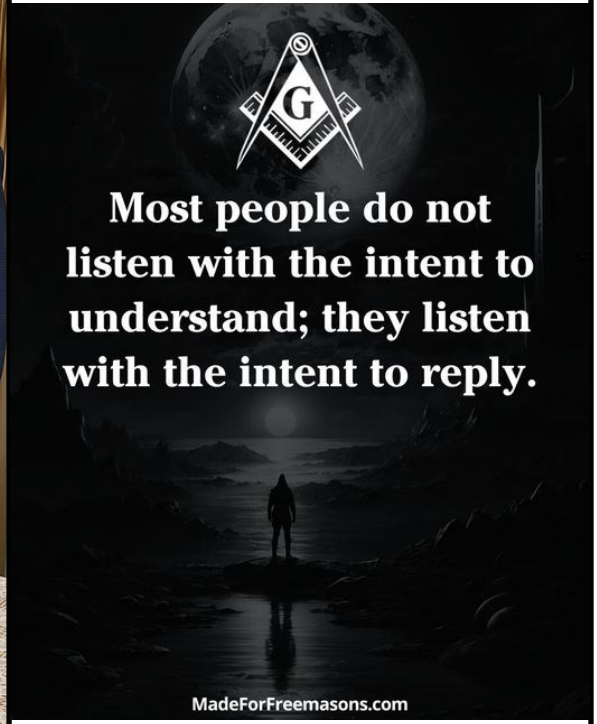
If interested in such a tour, email me, Don H Stanton at Rokpaper@gmail.com.



We hope to determine the level of interest and number of people who would like to participate. This will help us build the itinerary and costing.

Bokchito Lodge #253

65 Year Pin



Broken Bow Lodge #441 District 28 Picnic



What do you choose?

A thank you card, a pencil, and a question mark...
Okay, you may be thinking...what do those items have to do with our Fraternity?

For your consideration, I submit that it may pertain to all aspects of life, including Freemasonry.

Every Freemason in the United States has probably heard and understands that we have experienced a decline in membership since 1959. Numerous studies, workshops, leadership seminars, and joint sessions have rightly addressed the issue and identified possible solutions to ameliorate that downward trend. There are no "secret" issues that we have missed in our many assessments. We know what is occurring. If this trend were "fixable", we would have fixed it by now. Am I saying we should forget about it? Not exactly...and perhaps a little.

I am reminded of an interview I saw several years ago on "60 Minutes" where Morgan Freeman was asked how we can eliminate racism. His reply is, "Stop talking about it". Enter - the thank you card. I appreciate you. I appreciate every Freemason who continues working in the quarry faithfully, and I want to ensure that you know that when I have the opportunity. I have no interest in possibly causing you to think that you are not enough by talking about the members that we do not have.

I recently spoke with an esteemed Brother in our Jurisdiction, whom I think the World of (I did not ask his permission to use his name). He relayed a story from years ago when he was working with a small group of Jobs Daughters (3), so they just focused on what they could do with three and appreciated and acknowledged them, and they had fun with each other. In about a year, they grew to twelve. As one politician said a handful of years ago – "What do you have to lose"?

In a world often bustling with chaos and uncertainty, the notion of manifesting appreciation might sound too simplistic or even esoteric to some. Yet, beneath its seemingly gentle fa-



James Oates
Junior Grand Warden

cade lies a profound truth that cultures and philosophies have recognized across epochs: the energy we emanate through gratitude and appreciation has the power to shape our reality.

At its core, showing appreciation is more than a fleeting feeling of gratitude; it is a profound acknowledgment of the abundance surrounding us. When we genuinely appreciate the blessings, opportunities, and even challenges in our lives, we align ourselves with the flow of abundance. Instead of fixating on scarcity or lack, we cultivate a mindset of abundance, thereby inviting more abundance into our lives.

One of the most transformative aspects of manifesting through appreciation is its ability to shift our focus from what is absent to what is present. Rather than dwelling on what we lack, we redirect our attention to the myriad blessings that enrich our lives daily. In doing so, we create a ripple effect of positivity that not only elevates our own experiences but also influences the energy of the collective consciousness.

Furthermore, appreciation serves as a powerful tool for reframing our perspectives. We can extract valuable lessons from even the most challenging circumstances through conscious appreciation. Every setback becomes an opportunity for growth, and every failure is a stepping stone toward success. By viewing life through the lens of appreciation, we empower ourselves to transcend limitations and embrace the infinite possibilities that lie ahead.

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



MadeForFreemasons.com

Enter - a pencil. None of us can do what we wish to accomplish alone. We need mentors, accomplices, supporters, cohorts, and teams. The idea of the pencil can remind us to write things down, communicate with others, coordinate, and respond to. Communicate upward, sideways, and downward, for lack of a better visual. My experience is that far too many of us fail to communicate with each other. I am grateful for my friends and Brothers who respond to texts, emails, and phone calls that can help build a Brotherhood and facilitate understanding so we can build together.

Enter - a question mark. This item comes from a Teacher of the Year, not a local one, not a State one, but a National one. The gist

is that we can generally teach better by asking questions than by telling someone something. By asking questions, I can better understand the other person's perspectives. If a Brother knows I understand him, I may have a better chance of building a more meaningful relationship with him. He may even hold a perspective I'm afraid I disagree with. I still need to understand him and we still can be Brothers. It can allow us to be nicer to each other and manifest "best can work and best agree".

In conclusion, the journey of manifestation through appreciation is a profound spiritual journey that invites us to align with the divine flow of life, recognizing that we are co-creators of our reality. By embracing appreciation as a guiding principle, building teams and consensus, and asking questions to understand each other better, we harness that transformative power to create the desired results.

What do you choose?



Fifty Year Pins



Durant Lodge #45

Myrtle Lodge #145



Tulledega Lodge
#201



Broken Arrow Lodge #243 Student & Teacher Awards







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

Presents

The Middle Chamber Program



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

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

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

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

Contact the Grand Secretary for enrollment details and payment information

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

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

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

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

COST: One-time purchase of a \$150 Middle Chamber Program Kit, which includes a personal journal, and a variety of study materials.
(Returning Students: \$50 attendance fee)

2024 Schedule

Introductory Class (Free to MMs)

May 21 6:00pm Siloam Lodge #276

Aug 20 6:00pm Delta Lodge #425

Entered Apprentice Session

June 8 10:00am Siloam #276

Sep 14 10:00 am Delta #425

Fellow Craft Session

July 6 10:00am Siloam #276

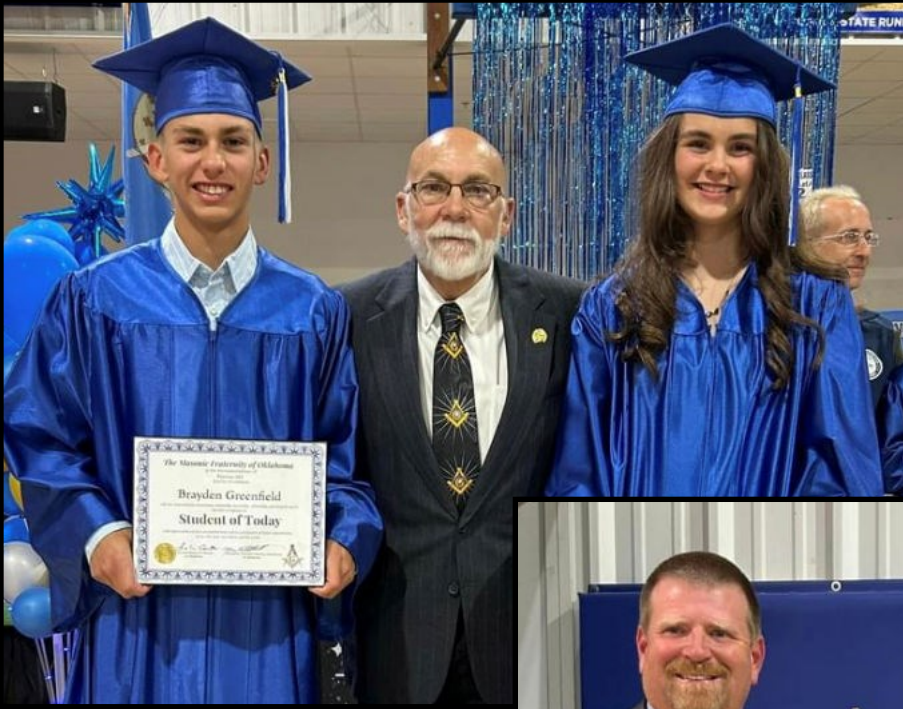
Sep 28 10:00am Delta #425

Master Mason Session

July 20 10:00am Siloam #276

Oct 19 10:00am Delta #425

Hebron Lodge #215 Student & Teacher Awards



The Pillars of Freemasonry: Civility and Brotherhood



Mike Dixon
Grand Secretary

Grand Master Carter's theme this year is Civility. Civility in both our public and our Masonic lives. We continually observe that today's society is not very civil or respectful towards each other, and far too often, we see it in the behavior of Oklahoma Masons. Today, much of our society believes that if you do not fully agree with my position or feelings about a particular matter, you are my enemy, and I will treat you as such. I will abandon all regard for your position or feelings, and I am entitled to be rude, disrespectful, and, in some cases, hurtful toward you and, as we sometimes see, violent. We see it on social media and the news, and I increasingly hear it firsthand. Such behavior is very disturbing to me as a Freemason. It goes against everything I was taught as a man growing up in this great country and, particularly, in Free-

masonry.

Within every Freemason's heart should lie a profound commitment to the principles of Civility and brotherhood. These are not mere words but the foundation upon which our great fraternity is built.

Civility: The Masonic Code of Conduct

Civility, in the context of Freemasonry, is more than just politeness. It is a code of conduct that should guide every Mason in his interactions, both within the fraternity and in the broader world. It is about treating others respectfully, regardless of their status or position. It is about listening with an open mind, speaking with kindness, and acting with integrity.

We, as Freemasons, are taught to be tolerant and respectful of others' beliefs and opinions, fostering an environment of open dialogue and mutual understanding. This commitment to Civility helps to bridge divides, promote harmony, and create a sense of unity within the fra-

ternity.

Brotherhood: The Masonic Bond

Brotherhood is another fundamental principle of Freemasonry. It signifies our strong bond as Freemasons, transcending differences in race, religion, and social status. This bond is not just symbolic; it is a viable and tangible connection that every fraternity member should feel.

We Freemasons refer to each other as 'brothers' as a reminder of this bond. We are taught to support and look out for each other, to offer help in times of need, and to celebrate each other's successes. This sense of brotherhood creates a strong community within the fraternity, where every member should feel valued and included.

The Impact of Civility and Brotherhood

The principles of Civility and brotherhood profoundly impact the fraternity and its members. They foster a positive and supportive environment where members can grow and thrive. They promote a sense of unity and camaraderie, strengthening the bonds between members.

Moreover, these principles extend beyond the walls of the lodge. We, as Freemasons, are taught to live these values in our daily lives, influencing our interactions with others and contributing to a more civil and harmonious society.

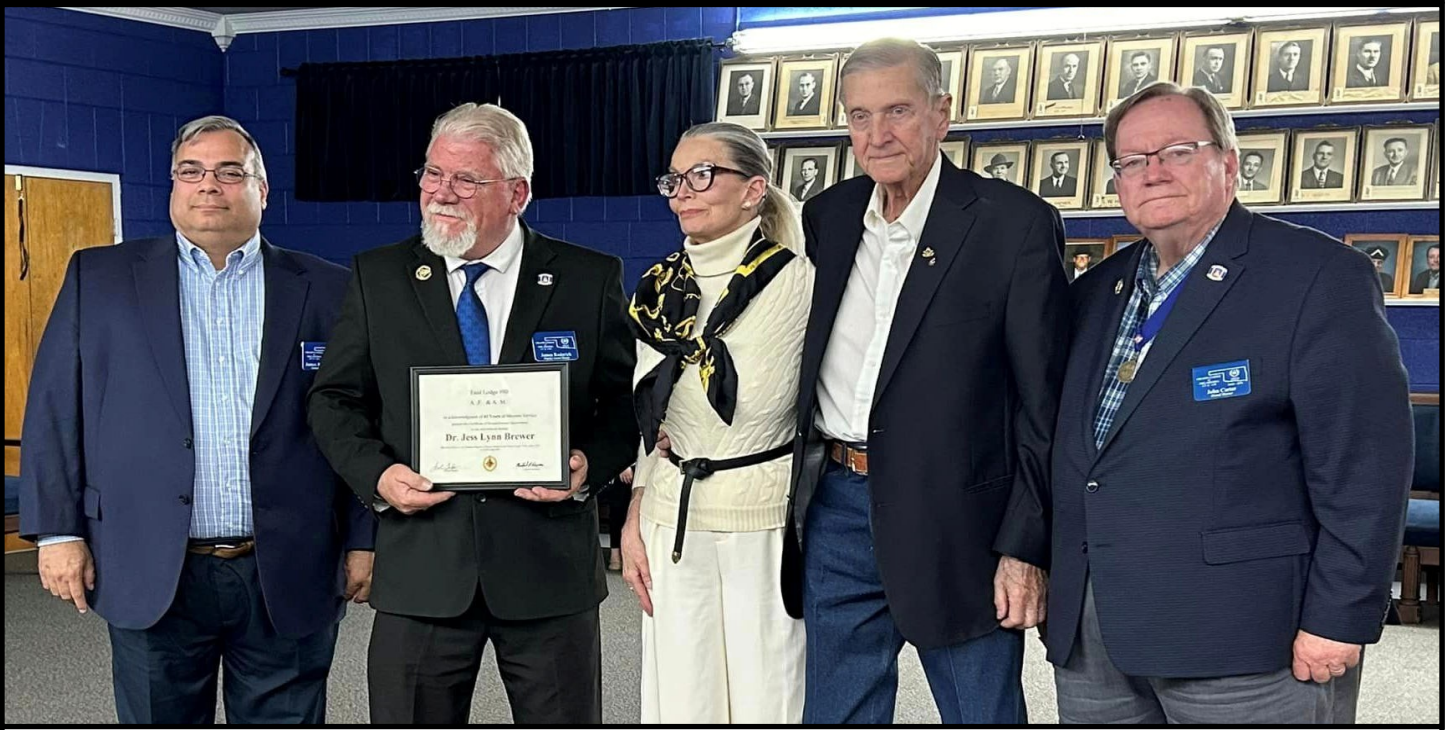
In conclusion, Civility and brotherhood are not just important to our great fraternity; **they are its very essence**. They are the pillars upon which Freemasonry stands, guiding its members

and shaping its impact on the world. As Freemasons, we must continue to uphold these principles and carry forward a legacy of unity, respect, and mutual support that is as relevant today as it was centuries ago. Let each of us take a few moments to reflect on our Masonic obligations; remember we are taught to subdue our passions and walk uprightly before God and man; let each of us live respected and die regretted!



Enid Lodge #80

65 & 75 Year Pins



Oklahoma City Lodge #36

55 & 60 Year Pins



How's Your Franchise?

All of us are familiar with franchises. Whether they be for fast food, hotels, or oil changes. An investor comes up with money (franchise fee) and applies to the franchise's Home Office on the contractual obligation that specific standards will be maintained so as not to harm the franchise's reputation. Perhaps the most famous franchise is McDonald's, which exists in over 100 countries and serves over 69,000,000 customers daily. Everyone has heard of the Big Mac, the Quarter Pounder, and those famous fries.

A Masonic Lodge is patterned similarly to a franchise. Per our Constitution and Code, 15 Master Masons in good standing (investors) may apply to start a new Lodge by paying a \$50 dispensation (franchise) fee to our Grand Lodge (Home Office). Among other things, before receiving a Charter (franchise), they must pass an examination by proving to the Grand Lecturer that they can confer the first sections of all three of our Degrees.

Imagine going to a McDonald's, ordering a Big Mac, and being told, "Oh, we don't serve those here". So, you ask for a Quarter Pounder and are told the same thing. You cannot even order fries. You are told, "We can make an appointment to take you to another McDonald's in another town, and you can get your Big Mac there," or "We can call around and make an appointment to bring some cooks in from other McDonald's, and they will cook your Big Mac here". What is the chance that the customer will ever return to that McDonald's? How long will that McDonald's remain open? Indeed, customers will look outside at the Golden Arches and think, "What right do they have to call themselves a McDonald's - they can't even cook a Big Mac!"

Sadly, we have Lodges unable to serve up an Entered Apprentice, a Fellowcraft, or a Master Mason Degree. Just like a McDonald's must know how to serve up a Big Mac in order to call itself a McDonald's, a lodge must know how to serve up

**THOU SHALT NOT CROSS
BETWEEN THE ALTAR AND
THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER**



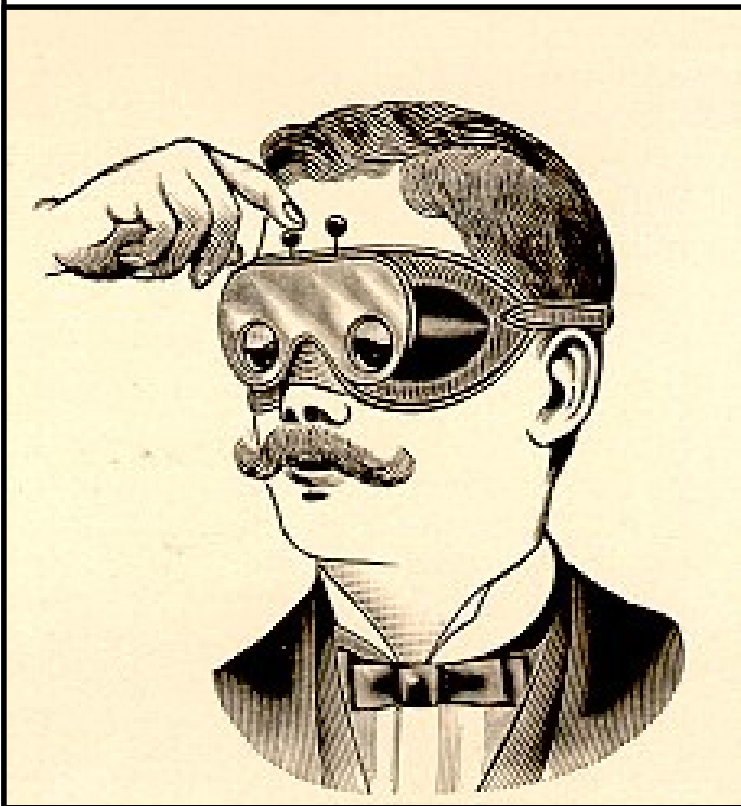
Masonic Degrees if it is going to call itself a Masonic Lodge.

This problem did not happen overnight and cannot be fixed overnight - but it can be fixed! Fortunately, there are many "... *well-informed brethren, who will be always as ready to give as you will be ready to receive instruction*" and get your Lodge cookin' again. They are called Certificate Lecturers, who have devoted themselves to learning our Work so that they can teach you our Work. Upon request, a Deputy Grand Lecturer will come to your Lodge and teach your members how to confer our Degrees correctly.

If you are an Officer of a Lodge that presently cannot serve up a Degree, help is only a phone call away. If you do not know the Deputy Grand Lecturer assigned to your Lodge, call the Grand Lodge or Grand Lecturer today. Don't let your Lodge close on your watch!

Fraternally,

Mike Dill, PM, Coweta #251



What in the world is a hoodwink, anyway?

Freemasonry is not the originator of the hoodwink.

Religious rites and initiations of civilizations and tribes dating back centuries before the believed or known origins of Freemasonry used blindfolds to represent going from darkness (ignorance) to light (knowledge).

Hood: The word "hood" in old German and Anglo-Saxon, refers to a head covering, as in a hat or helmet. A hood might also be of cloth. To "hood" is to cover. Hooded garments have been worn throughout history.

Wink: The word "wink" in old German and Anglo-Saxon refers to closing the eyes. "Wince" is similarly derived from the word "wink". The word "wink" pertains to the eye.

Therefore, a **hood** (to cover) **wink** (eyes) was a head covering designed to cover the eyes.

Perry Lodge #78 Fifty Year Pin



Seminole City Lodge #476

District 29 Meeting

Fifty Year Pin



NE MASON

♠ SUMMER 2024 ♠ VOL. XXXVIII NO. 1 ♠

Oklahoma Masonic Indian Degree Team

One hundred twenty-five Master Masons were on hand March 23 at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center in Omaha to witness the Oklahoma Masonic Indian Degree Team (OMIDT) confer a Master Mason degree. The OMIDT, based in Tulsa, Oklahoma, is composed entirely of Master Masons who are members of the Native American tribes in Oklahoma. Brother Dave Fulton from Waterloo Lodge #102 was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason during the event, which was hosted by Albert Pike Lodge #333.

Brother Fulton's raising was the culmination of a special day that began with a public exhibition from the degree team. Members of the OMIDT performed numerous dances and songs from the various tribes in Oklahoma, including the Apache, Cherokee, Choctaw, Creek, Pawnee and Seminole. During the public performance, the over 60 audience members were able to ask



questions of the OMIDT, and as a special treat, ladies in the audience were asked to join with the brothers from OMIDT to participate in a dance. After the public performance, the Scottish Rite theater was converted into a lodge. Brothers from over 40 lodges from six grand jurisdictions -- Nebraska, Iowa, Oklahoma, Texas, South Dakota, and Alaska -- attended the degree. M.W. John Ferguson, Grand Master of Masons of Nebraska, and M.W. Michael Wilcoxon, Grand Master, Prince Hall of Nebraska, were also in attendance.

Brother Fulton said the degree was "awesome" and an unforgettable experience.

As part of the degree, Brother Fulton was presented with an apron made by a member of a tribe and bearing the number 1122 under its flap -- representing the number of brothers who have experienced the degree. The team also presented the gavel used during the conferral to W.B. Gary Unger, who organized the event. The gavel is adorned with beautiful Native American beading and was hand beaded by a member of the OMIDT.

Between the first and second sections, attendees enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by the Culinary Masters of the Omaha Valley. Proceeds from the event will be shared between the Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children in Fremont and the Nebraska Masonic Home in Plattsmouth.

Washington Lodge #406 Fifty Year Pin



Yukon Lodge #90 Fifty Year Pin





The Grand Lodge *of* OKLAHOMA



**Who says you can't
choose your family?**



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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