

AGENDA

GRAND CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF OKLAHOMA GRAND CONVOCATION
FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2024 - 8:00 A.M.

APPOINTMENTS TO FILL VACANCIES
PRELIMINARY CREDENTIALS REPORT
OPENING OF THE GRAND CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF OKLAHOMA - M.: E.: GRAND HIGH PRIEST
RECEPTION OF DISTINGUISHED GUESTS
ROLL CALL OF GRAND OFFICERS
ROLL CALL OF DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND HIGH PRIESTS
ROLL CALL AND RECEPTION OF PAST GRAND HIGH PRIESTS
ROLL CALL OF CONSTITUENT CHAPTERS
GRAND REPRESENTATIVES WHO WISH TO REPORT. ATTENDANCE VERIFIED BY CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE
MOTION TO APPROVE 2023 PROCEEDINGS OF THE 135TH ANNUAL CONVOCATION
ADDRESS OF MOST EXCELLENT GRAND HIGH PRIEST, WILLIAM J. "JIM" CLOUD 6
REPORT OF THE RIGHT EXCELLENT GRAND TREASURER, KENTON M. ISRAEL..... 12
REPORT OF THE RIGHT EXCELLENT GRAND SECRETARY, JON B. GREENE 14
REPORT FROM THE JURISPRUDENCE COMMITTEE
FINAL CREDENTIALS REPORT
MOTION TO ACCEPT MOST EXCELLENT GRAND HIGH PRIEST ADDRESS AND ALL COMMITTEE REPORTS
APPOINT TELLERS COMMITTEE
ELECTION FOR GRAND CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVE ON THE MASONIC CHARITY FOUNDATION
PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS AND REFERRALS
 RESOLUTION NO. 1a 18
 RESOLUTION NO. 1b 18
 RESOLUTION NO. 2 19
 RESOLUTION NO. 3 19
ELECTION OF GRAND CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF OKLAHOMA OFFICERS FOR 2024-2025
REMARKS BY THE MOST EXCELLENT GRAND HIGH PRIEST-ELECT
REMARKS FROM VISITING DIGNITARIES
COMPLETION OF ANY UNFINISHED BUSINESS: M.: E.: GRAND HIGH PRIEST
CLOSING GRAND CHAPTER ROYAL ARCH MASONS: M.: E.: GRAND HIGH PRIEST
OPEN INSTALLATION OF GRAND CHAPTER OFFICERS 2024-2025 IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING.
 INSTALLING OFFICER M.:E.:C.: JOHN F. CARTER, P.:G.:H.:P.:
 INSTALLING MARSHALL M.:E.:C.: MATHEW A. TURNER, P.:G.:H.:P.:
 INSTALLING CHAPLAIN M.:E.:C.: TIMOTHY P. ISRAEL, P.:G.:H.:P.:
 INSTALLING RECORDER R.:E.:C.: JON B. GREENE, GRAND SECRETARY

**Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Oklahoma
Grand Officers for the 2023-2024 Capitular Year**

William J. "Jim" Cloud [59]		Most Excellent Grand High Priest
Blaine C. McKnight [28]		Right Excellent Grand King
Frank J. Belluardo, Jr. [101, 103]	Beth	Right Excellent Grand Scribe
Kenton M. Israel [7, 50, 104] P.:G.:H.:P.:	Dana	Right Excellent Grand Treasurer
Elwood M. "Ike" Isaacs [52, 55] P.:G.:H.:P.:		Right Excellent Grand Treasurer Emeritus
Jon B. Greene [52, 104]	Renee	Right Excellent Grand Secretary
Gary A. Davis [52] P.:G.:H.:P.:	Nellie	Right Excellent Grand Secretary Emeritus
Matthew D. McGee [25]		Right Excellent Grand Captain of the Host
Michael S. Wright [11, 103]	Kim	Excellent Grand Principal Sojourner
Charles L. Cook [11]	Molly	Excellent Grand Royal Arch Captain
Justin M. McGee [25]		Excellent Grand Master of the 3rd Veil
Roberto "Tony" A. DeLeon, Jr. [24]		Excellent Grand Master of the 2nd Veil
Robert D. Cundiff, Jr. [101]		Excellent Grand Master of the 1st Veil
Robert W. "Bob" McLeod [52, 3]	Pam	Excellent Grand Sentinel
Truman "Lavern" L. Ragain, Jr. [44]		Excellent Grand Chaplain

**Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Oklahoma
District Deputy Grand High Priests and Districts
For The 2023 – 2024 Capitular Year**

DISTRICT 1	David D. Clayton [3]	Indian Chapter No. 1 Muskogee Chapter No. 3
DISTRICT 2	Brian A. Buswell [7]	Guthrie Chapter No. 6 Cyrus Chapter No. 7
DISTRICT 3	Michael S. Wright [11,103]	Ardmore Chapter No. 11 Texoma Chapter No. 28
DISTRICT 4	Justin M. McGee [25]	Stillwater Chapter No. 14 Olivet Chapter No. 25
DISTRICT 5	John T. Turner [24]	Norman Chapter No. 24 Capitol Hill Chapter No. 101 Veritas Chapter No. 103
DISTRICT 6	Brian M. Ragain [44]	Lawton Chapter No. 44 Altus Chapter No. 60
DISTRICT 7	David D. Shore [72]	Elk City Chapter No. 50 Woodward Chapter No. 72
DISTRICT 8	George W. Ratliff [52,104]	Tulsa Chapter No. 52 Bartlesville Chapter No. 55 James E. Smyrl Chapter No. 104

**GRAND CHAPTER ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF OKLAHOMA
STANDING & SPECIAL COMMITTEES FOR 2023-2024 CAPITULAR YEAR**

STANDING COMMITTEES

[Established by Constitution, Law, or Resolution]

JURISPRUDENCE

John F. Carter [11] – Chairman
Mathew Turner [7, 24] - Secretary
All Past Grand High Priests

CREDENTIALS

Bradley S. Rickelman [14]
James Oates III [44]
John M. Espen, III [101]
James R. Taylor, Sr. [52, 104]
Jon B. Greene [52, 104] - ex officio

FINANCE

Blaine McKnight [1, 28] - Chairman
Frank J. Belluardo, Jr. [101, 103]
Matthew D. McGee [83]
Mark K. McFadden [3]
R.: E.: Grand Scribe ex officio

INVESTMENTS

2023-26 [RAM] John L. Logan [6, 72]
2022-25 [CM] Charles Stuckey [22, 41]
2021-24 [KT] Mathew A. Turner [7, 24]

CHARTERS AND DISPENSATIONS

Timothy P. Israel [50, 60, 104] - Chairman
John L. Logan [6, 72]
Bradley S. Rickelman [14]
Grand Captain of the Host ex officio -

WORK AND RETURNS

Jon B. Greene [52, 104] - Chairman
John R. Christopher [6]
Blaine McKnight [1, 28]
Grand Captain of the Host ex officio

FRATERNAL CORRESPONDENCE

Clyde H. Schoolfield, Jr. [7]

TRIENNIAL

Clyde H. Schoolfield, Jr. [7] -
Chairman
John R. Christopher [6]
Timothy P. Israel [50, 60, 104]

YORK RITE COORDINATION

William J. Cloud [101]
Blaine McKnight [1, 28]
Frank J. Belluardo, Jr. [101, 103]
R.:E.: Grand Captain of the Host

CUSTODIANS OF THE WORK

Clyde H. Schoolfield, Jr. [7] -
Chairman
Timothy P. Israel [50, 60, 104]
James R. Taylor, Jr. [52, 104]

MEMBERSHIP

Mark K. McFadden [3] - Chairman
Central - David A. Tennison [6]
N. Central - Bradley S. Rickelman [14]
Northeast – Jim L. Parham [52]
Northwest - John L. Logan [6, 72]
S. Central - Brian M. Ragain [44]
Southeast - John E. King, Jr. [1, 28]
Southwest - James Oates III [44]

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON PLACE

Jay A. Wall [6] - Chairman
Brian A. Buswell [7]
Robert W. McLeod [3, 52]
Bradley S. Rickelman [14]
Ivan M. DeTevis [14, 52]
M.:E.: Grand High Priest ex officio

GRAND MASTER'S FESTIVAL

Frank J. Belluardo, Jr. [101, 103] - RAM
Brian M. Ragain [44] - CM
John T. Turner [14] - KT

NECROLOGY

Lavern Ragain, Jr. [44]

ASSISTANT CUSTODIANS OF THE WORK

Brian M. Ragain [44]
Michael S. Wright [11, 103]
John L. Logan [6, 72]
Blaine C. McKnight [1, 28]
Robert R. Rolseth [52, 104]

CLARENCE BRAIN

CHAPTER AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

William J. Cloud [101] - Chairman
Blaine McKnight [1, 28]
Frank J. Belluardo, Jr. [101, 103]
Jon B. Greene [52, 104]

BRONZE MEDAL – MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

William J. Cloud [101] - Chairman
Blaine McKnight [1, 28]
Frank J. Belluardo, Jr. [101, 103]
Jon B. Greene [52, 104]

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES COMMITTEE

Jon B. Greene [52, 104] - Chairman
Robert W. McLeod [52]
John R. Christopher [6]

MASONIC CHARITY FOUNDATION

2021-24 [RAM] David A. Ray [24]
2022-25 [CM] Johnny D. Allford [1]
2023-26 [KT] Timothy P. Israel [50, 60, 104]

EDUCATION

Clyde H. Schoolfield, Jr. [7] - Chairman
Timothy P. Israel [50, 60, 104]
Robert G. Davis [14]

SOUTH-CENTRAL CONFERENCE

Mathew Turner [7, 24] - Chairman
Timothy P. Israel [50, 60, 104]
James R. Taylor, Jr. [52, 104]

REGIONAL DEGREE FESTIVALS

Frank J. Belluardo, Jr. [101, 103] - Chairman
Central - James D. Nobles [7]
N. Central – Robert L. Sprott [14]
Northeast - George W. Ratliff [52, 104]
Northwest - Timothy P. Israel [50, 60, 104]
S. Central - Michael S. Wright [11, 103]
Southeast - John E. King, Jr. [1, 28]
Southwest - James Oates III [44]

MURROW AWARD

William J. Cloud [101] - Chairman
Blaine McKnight [1, 28]
Frank J. Belluardo, Jr. [101, 103]
Jon B. Greene [52, 104]

DEMOLAY COMMITTEE

Kenton M. Israel [7, 50, 104] - Chairman
Michael L. Branson [14]
Jon B. Greene [52, 104]
Timothy P. Israel [50, 60, 104]
Bo Ross [24]
D. Ridge Smith [101]

ROYAL ARCH RESEARCH ASSISTANCE

Kenton M. Israel [7, 50, 104] - Chairman
William J. “Jim” Cloud [101]
Donnie G. Higginbotham [1, 28]

APPRECIATION

John R. Cooper, Jr. [3]

OTHER

PAST GRAND HIGH PRIESTS ASSOCIATION

Donnie G. Higginbotham [1] - President

James R. Taylor, Jr. [52, 104] - 1st V.P.

Kenton M. Israel [7, 50, 104] - 2nd V.P.

Charles L. Stuckey [25] - Sec.

ADDRESS OF MOST EXCELLENT GRAND HIGH PRIEST, WILLIAM J. "JIM" CLOUD

Most of you know that I get very emotional when I talk about my family and close friends. So, today, I am not going to read some of the parts of this address that I really should because you don't want to see me crying like a baby. I am going to read some parts that I do not want to, so it will make us even.

To the Officers, Members, and visitors of the 135th Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Oklahoma: Greetings and welcome to our Grand Session. I want to express my gratitude for your attendance. Hopefully, you will enjoy your experience with us this weekend.

To our visitors: We extend a warm and hearty welcome to every one of you. We hope your stay with us is to your liking and you find many new Companion friends. Thank you for attending, and we hope you enjoy your experience with us. We Oklahomans have pride in welcoming our visitors and hope you will join us again.

Most Illustrious Robert and Right Eminent John: I have enjoyed working with the two of you for the last several years. Thank you for your advice and counsel. Hopefully, I have served you well. It has been a pleasure serving with both of you.

Grand Master

My Masonic traveling started in 1981, and by 2016, I had already been in 250 different Lodges in Oklahoma. I was appointed Senior Grand Steward in 1986 and advanced up the appointed Grand line. What that means is that I have known all the Grand Masters well since 1982. I knew many Grand Masters before that but was not a Mason when they served in that office. What can I say about Most Worshipful Glen Chaney? I have heard him speak many times. Take my word for it; he has been one of the best. I would like to thank him for supporting York Rite Masonry. He has mentioned the York Rite in many of his talks at non-York Rite events. I was very pleased to support and honor him with this year's Grand Master Festival.

Most Worshipful John Carter: We have been friends for many years. Although we have only served together for a few months, I thank you for your counsel. It has been a pleasure serving with you.

Capitol Hill Chapter #101

On January 18, 1989, I became associated with Capitol Hill York Rite Bodies as I became a Charter Member of Capitol Hill Commandery. In 2005, my mother York Rite Bodies consolidated with Capitol Hill. They have accepted me as a member in every way, and I thank them for all the support they have given me over the years. They are a great bunch of guys, and I enjoy being with them. Here is upward and onward with Capitol Hill York Rite Bodies.

Blanchard Masonic Lodge #395

To my beloved Brothers of Blanchard Masonic Lodge #395: You guys are the heart and soul of my Masonic life. It has now been over forty-two years since I knocked on that first door to gain admission to the most wonderful Masonic Lodge possible. Your love and friendship mean everything to me. I hope I have represented you and our lodge with the utmost dignity. Thank you for letting me be absent at times when I should have been keeping up my responsibilities that you have given me. I promise to make up in the future for my time away.

Necrology

When you have had as long a Masonic career and traveled the Masonic miles as much as I have, you have the opportunity to meet so many friends and Brothers. A friend once told me that one of the problems a person has is that the older you get, the more funerals you will attend. He is correct. I have lost countless friends and Brothers over the years. As some of you know, I am a "pack rat" and have kept most of the funeral programs that I have attended. From time to time, I look through the stack and remember those who have been friends that I would not have met except for our love of Masonry. As of this writing, we have lost forty-four (47) friends and Companions in this Royal Arch year. They are gone from our midst but not from our hearts and minds. I still miss them all.

Grand Officers

I want to thank those Companions who agreed to serve with me as Grand Officers. Their confidence and faith in me have kept me on the straight and narrow. A few have driven me to Chapter events over the year. Without their help, we would not have accomplished as much as we did. I was very happy by the attendance of these Officers at the Chapter

receptions this term. Their faith and support have helped me immensely.

Right Excellent Jon B. Green has been a Godsend. He has provided everything I have asked for with a smile. I would have been lost without him. The Craft has chosen wisely in electing him to the Grand Secretary position and I hope they continue to have him as our Grand Secretary.

Dispensations

On Monday, May 15, 2023, Tulsa Chapter No. 52 voted to wave jurisdiction over Brother Darren Parks, a member of Miami Lodge #140. Brother Parks has stated that a York Rite Body in Missouri is much closer to his home than Tulsa. Nothing in the General Laws prevents a Waiver of Jurisdiction. Therefore, in accordance with Article 11, Section 1.b., I do hereby issue a Special Dispensation to Darren Parks of Miami, Oklahoma, to take his York Rite Degrees in Missouri and be able to join the Missouri York Rite Bodies.

In accordance with Article 10, Section 2 of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Oklahoma General Law, I issued a letter of Dispensation to Tulsa Chapter #52 to change their election of Officers to November 20, 2023.

In accordance with Article 10, Section 2 of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Oklahoma General Law, I issued a letter of Dispensation to Muskogee Chapter 52 to change their election of Officers to November 8, 2023.

In accordance with Article 2, Section 1 (m) of the General Laws of the Grand Chapter of Oklahoma, I issued a letter of Dispensation to Lawton Chapter No. 44 for M.:E.:C.: Robert G. "Bob" Davis, Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Oklahoma, to open and close Lawton Chapter No. 44 in Ample Form on Thursday, January 25, 2024.

Decisions

Decision No. 1: For many years, several Grand Chapters throughout the country have offered the Mark Master degree to Master Masons at no charge. Recently, several Grand Chapters in our region, namely Arkansas, Kansas, and Missouri, have initiated this practice. They have reported that this program has been very successful, and, more importantly, a substantial number of participants in these conferrals have continued to petition for the remaining Chapter degrees (as well as the Council degrees and Commandery orders). I would like us to adopt a similar program here in Oklahoma.

I am therefore encouraging our constituent Chapters to hold special conferrals of the Mark Master and Past Master degrees in early 2024. To maximize the availability of these conferrals to Master Masons, I am suggesting that our Chapters decide, if possible, to hold these conferrals at a Lodge on that Lodge's regular meeting night. I have directed the Grand Secretary to prepare a special petition for the Mark Master and Past Master degrees only to be submitted by candidates for these conferrals.

Furthermore, for these special conferrals, I am waiving the requirements of Article 11, Section 9 of the General Laws of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Oklahoma, which states: "No constituent Chapter shall accept a petition for the degrees for a less sum than (\$40.00) forty dollars, which may be paid in installments, (\$20.00) twenty dollars with the petition and (\$20.00) twenty dollars before the Mark Master Degree is conferred; provided that this shall not be construed to prevent a constituent Chapter from charging a sum greater than (\$40.00) forty dollars for the four degrees."

Specifically, constituent Chapters may elect to refrain from collecting any fee from petitioners for these special conferrals. However, should a recipient of the Mark Master and Past Master from one of these special conferrals subsequently choose to petition for the Most Excellent and Royal Arch degrees, he will be required to submit the standard petition for the Chapter degrees to a constituent Chapter and may be required by that Chapter to pay the total fees for the Chapter degrees enumerated in the by-laws of the Chapter.

Appointment of Committees

I appointed committees, and they are listed on the Grand York Rite web site. I want to thank each one of them for their service to our Grand Chapter.

Grand Master's Festival

The annual Festival which honored our Grand Master, Glen A Chaney, Most Worshipful Grand Master of Oklahoma. We thank the men who tirelessly performed the Degrees and Orders, took care of our props and regalia, and cleaned up after us. We thank Oklahoma City Lodge No. 36 for letting us use their building for this wonderful event. Without all of

you, it could not have happened. Most of all, we thank our new Companions for taking a look at Royal Arch Masonry and joining us in that search for further Masonic Light. The Grand Master's Festival was held on July 22, 2024, at Oklahoma City Lodge #36. All the degrees were performed with 54 candidates participating. It was a very long day but rewarding.

Regional Degree Festivals

I believe the lifeblood of the York Rite lies in the hands of our Regional Degree Festivals. Since this concept has been formed and put into action, we have had many new companions join with us instead of the Grand Master's Festival. Before these Festivals, men had only one opportunity to join the York Rite every year. Now, several dates are offered. I believe that we now get men to join who would not before because of the travel to Oklahoma City. They are much more prone to join in their local region. Another benefit is that we now have more Degree Teams to perform the Degrees. WE MUST CONTINUE to make these Festivals happen....and in fact....we should expand the Festival to more regions....which I believe means more candidates and more Degree Teams.

When the District Deputy Grand Masters were appointed, I asked each of them to become involved in the Regional Degree Festivals. It should not be just the responsibility of the hosting Chapter to make these Festivals happen. They should not have to do it all by themselves. After all, all Chapters in that region receive the benefit of bringing their candidates. The DDGMs should help with scheduling, planning, Degree Teams, and feeding the troops. This new challenge to the DDGMs should take a little pressure away from the hosting Chapter.

South Central Regional Conference

The Oklahoma Delegation represented our Grand York Rite Bodies at the South-Central Regional Conference. It was held in Branson, MO, on September 14 and 15. The morning session had each state give the "Good, Bad, and Ugly." A lot of information was given by the Missouri Grand High Priest on their program of the free Mark Master Degree and the success it has presented.

The Chapter members broke out into a separate group for the afternoon session. We received information on other ideas that might be helpful to our own Grand Chapter. Another section on the "Good, Bad, and Ugly" from each state was then held. A presentation was given on the RARA Foundation.

I urge all who can to attend the Conference, especially all Grand Officers.

Custodians of the Work

I am starting to see the results from the Custodians of the Work coming to fruition. Visiting the Chapters as I have, I see improvement in the ritual. These men have held Chapter Schools in every Chapter...every year. I thank you, Most Excellent Companion Schoolfield and your Committee, for the hard work and travel that you have performed for the benefit of the Oklahoma Grand Chapter.

Visitation and Travel

Official Visits and those that were not official

6/10/23	Veritas	1	Norman
6/14/23	Cyrus	7	Oklahoma City
7/15/23	DeMoley Conclave		Norman
7/22/23	GM Festival		Oklahoma City
8/1/23	James E. Smyrl	104	Owasso
8/1/14/23	General Grand Chapter		Branson, MO
8/18/23	Capitol Hill	101	MW City
8/19/23	Chair Degrees		Stillwater
8/21/23	Tulsa	52	Tulsa
8/28/23	Indian	1	McAlester
9/2/23	Convent General		Ok City
9/11/23	Ardmore		11 Ardmore
9/14-15/23	South Central Y.R.		Branson
9/20/23	Altus	60	Altus
9/27/23	Quarterly Meeting		Zoom
9/28/23	Texoma	28	Colbert

9/30/23	Guthrie Scottish Rite	SR	Guthrie
10/7/23	Tulsa Scottish Rite	SR	Tulsa
10/10/23	GM Common Goals	GL	Guthrie
10/11/23	Stillwater		14 Stillwater
10/12/23	Guthrie	6	Guthrie
10/14/23	York Rite College		Edmond
10/15/23	Grand Chapter OES		Guthrie
10/15/23	JP Meeting		Zoom
10/21/23	McAlester	SR	McAlester
11/7/23	Bartlesville	55	Bartlesville
11/14/23	Olivet	25	Ponca City
11/17/23	White Shrine		Tulsa
11/27/23	Indian	1	McAlester
12/12/23	Woodward	81	Woodward
12/13/23	Muskogee	3	Muskogee
12/14/23	Norman	24	Norman
12/27/23	Quarterly Meeting		Zoom
1/8/23	Special Conferral		Ardmore
1/13/23	Special Conferral		Muskogee
1/20/23	GC Retreat		Oklahoma City
1/25/23	Special Conferral		Midwest City
1/25/23	Special Conferral		Lawton
1/28/23	Winterfest		Tulsa
1/28/24	Pre-Grand Session Meeting		Zoom
1/29/24	Special Conferral		Tulsa
2/3/24	Regional Conferral		Norman
2/10/24	Regional Conferral		Tulsa
2/26/24	Special Conferral		McAlester
2/27/24	Lawton	44	Lawton
3/19/24	Elk City	50	Elk City
3/23/24	Tulsa	SR	Tulsa
4/5/24	Guthrie	SR	Guthrie
4/13/24	McAlester	SR	McAlester
4/14/24	Quarterly Meeting		Zoom

General Grand Chapter

I attended the General Grand Chapter in Branson, MO, in August. Again, we learned about the Special Conferrals from other states. Please see the Triennial Committee Report for information.

Scottish Rite

At the time of this writing, I attended 5 Scottish Rite Reunions with 1 more to go and was introduced at each one I attended. I am grateful for the support of the Scottish Rite has for the York Rite in Oklahoma.

Special Conferrals

In October, I met with the Grand Chapter Jurisprudence Committee to visit about adopting the Special Conferral Program. After much discussion, it was agreed that I could press on with the program if I held each YR Chapter as independent in the financial area and make their own decisions. Piggy-backing on those states who have already used this program, we have mirrored their successes. I scheduled seven regional "Special Conferrals" where the Mark Master and Past Master Degrees were performed. All the hosting Bodies agreed to accept these candidates and let them take the degrees at no charge. The dates are listed with the Official Visits. My hope was that these events would be scheduled on a Blue Lodge evening to get the most "bang for the buck." The Conferrals were at Ardmore, Tulsa, Muskogee, Lawton, Midwest City, and McAlester. 38 Candidates took the free degrees, 19 advanced to be Select Masters, and 16 became Knights Templar. I am told that several of these candidates have expressed their desire to attend the Grand Master's Festival in July.

State of the Craft and Recommendations

Over the last several years, Oklahoma York Rite has seen a gradual increase in membership. The Grand Master's Festival new candidate numbers were average, but our regional Festival candidates were up a little. Part of this is because the raisings of new Master Masons is down. But I believe most of this is because we did not pursue the Master Masons that we already had. There are large numbers of men who ought to be our Companions. We need to make those contacts and bring them into the fold. I take the blame, and I apologize for letting you down.

Follow up....Follow up....Follow up. There are approximately 19,000 Oklahoma Masons...but only 1,200 Oklahoma York Rite Masons. Why is that? Although we feel that some success is achieved by the annual Grand Master's Festival mailing, there is more to be done. The Grand Chapter can mail information to prospective Candidates, but without personal contacts, most of these invitations go unused. Every one of us knows Blue Lodge Masons who are not York Rite Masons. That is our fault. Only we can solve that.

We face a dilemma concerning Candidates joining us at our Festivals. If the petition arrives at the local York Rite Body in time, those petitions are voted on at that time, and the petitioner joins us at the festival. The problem happens when the petition and petitioner arrive at our Festival without being voted on by the local Bodies. We are having men join without a vote. Without going into details, this is a concern. Our Law does not address this. This Grand Body needs to find a solution to this problem. I suggest that a committee is appointed to investigate this matter and hopefully come up with a solution. I suggested this at the 2018 Grand Sessions. Nothing has happened to change this situation. We are still accepting new members who have never been voted on. Again, this needs to change.

After attending the six Special Conferrals, I want to relate the "opportunities" we had. Bad weather caused a few problems, and several of the events had to be rescheduled. One was canceled altogether. Having these original dates so close to the Regional Festival date was barely met. I suggest either the Regional Festival be scheduled a little later or having the conferrals a little earlier. Another option is to have these conferrals closer to the Grand Master's Festival. Weather in February will always be a concern.

Special Thanks

I would like to acknowledge and thank a few Companions. Most Excellent Clyde H. Schoolfield, Jr. has helped me a lot. I met Clyde in 1989 at Oklahoma City Chapter #91 and followed him through the York Rite officer lines. He has been a friend and mentor ever since. Clyde helped me write the Decision for having the Special Conferrals. I thank him for his continued support.

Most Worshipful Joe R. Manning, Jr. has long been a confidant to me in Masonic Law. His guidance keeping me from screwing up deserves recognition. Special thanks go out to Most Excellent John L. Logan for all the help, time, and advice he has given to me freely. John is a great sounding board. I am grateful for him being in my brain. Most of all, Most Excellent Robert G. Davis has been my guide in the program I have chosen for this year. He has driven me to many locations where I needed to be, as well as helping me promote the Special Conferrals.

I met Worshipful Kenneth Ray House in 1983. He has been my traveling partner for over forty years. I would wager that we have traveled over a half million miles together. We have studied together, learned together, traveled together, and argued together. He has been the one who has tried to keep me grounded and tried to keep me from getting "big-headed." I thank him most of all for being my friend.

Masonic Mentors

As I have stated before, most of us have had a Masonic Mentor to help us along the Masonic trail. I am luckier than most. It took three men to pound what little knowledge I have into this idiot's brain. My father, Most Excellent William J. "Bill" Cloud, was number one. He guided, tutored, and helped me in those early years. Most Worshipful Ray Keith Babb, Jr. was an inspiration in a confusing world. He taught me so much about Masonry, but more especially about life. Worshipful Raymond Henry Brown taught me much of my Blue Lodge work. To these three loving men do I owe for what is good in me. I miss them.

Conclusion

Masonry is not only my hobby. but my life. In my 40+ years of membership, the goal in all my Masonic endeavors has been to try and make the organization a little better than where I found it. I have not always been successful but it has not been for the lack of trying. I hope the craft will forgive me for failing more often than I should have and thank those men who helped me move forward.

Companions, this York Rite Mason has had the most fun traveling along the Grand Chapter trail these last several years. To those of you who have pushed me forward, I say thank you for your good counsel. Without your help, this year would not have been the great year that I had. To the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Oklahoma, I thank you for your patience, your good counsel, your tolerance, your much-appreciated help, your kindness, and most importantly, your friendship.

As most of you know, I had some health problems during our Grand Sessions last year. I was to the point of resigning because I did not want to punish the Grand Chapter for electing me to this very high office under those conditions. Consulting with a few Companions, I was told my resignation would not be accepted. As it turned out, my health got better, and I am very thankful that I continued to serve. Thank you so much.

Please let me leave you with this quote from Johnna Kaye's book, "Token (The Casdan Chronicles Introduction)":

"Many people come and go through one's lifetime; friends, lovers, acquaintances, teachers, bosses... Many leave their fingerprints, many leave a mess, but there are some who leave a lasting impression. Those who stay are the ones who make life worth leaving."

While I will not mention the ones who have left a mess, I would like to thank those who have helped make a difference in my life", and more appropriately, on my travels through the Masonic world.

William J. "Jim" Cloud [101]
Grand High Priest 2023-2024

REPORT OF THE RIGHT EXCELLENT GRAND TREASURER, KENTON M. ISRAEL
Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Oklahoma
For the period ending December 31, 2023
These Accounts are all held at Morgan Stanley

Grand Chapter Investment Account	
General Fund	
Beginning Balance, January 1, 2023	\$245,787.78
Deposits	0.00
Withdrawals	-1,800.00
Dividend/Interest Earned	7,640.43
Appreciation	<u>20,024.75</u>
Ending Balance, December 31, 2023	\$271,652.96

Grand Chapter Investment Account	
Perpetual Membership	
Beginning Balance, January 1, 2023	\$153,146.86
Deposits	3,585.00
Withdrawals	-6,431.56
Dividend/Interest Earned	4,568.17
Appreciation	<u>8,204.17</u>
Ending Balance, December 31, 2023	\$163,072.64

Grand Chapter Investment Account	
Joint Account-Membership Development	
Beginning Balance, January 1, 2023	\$65,836.16
Deposits	0.00
Withdrawals	0.00
Dividend/Interest Earned	2,053.58
Appreciation	<u>5,327.74</u>
Ending Balance, December 31, 2023	\$73,217.48

Grand Total of Grand Chapter Investments	1/1/2023	12/31/2023		
General Fund	\$245,787.78	\$271,652.96	\$25,865.18	10.52%
Perpetual Membership	\$153,146.86	\$163,072.64	\$9,925.78	6.48%
Joint Account-Membership Development	\$65,836.16	\$73,217.48	\$7,381.32	11.21%
Grand Total of Grand Chapter Investments	\$464,770.80	\$507,943.08		

As of 12/31/2023 4/2/2024 12:52	Total Perpetual Members Grand Chapter, RAM of Oklahoma										Total to Grand Chapter Living	Total to Local Chapter Deceased	Total to Local Chapter Living	Total to Local Chapter Deceased			
	New Members in 2023	Total Members	Dead	Living	Investment	Total	Dues	Div/Interest	Total	To Grand Chapter Deceased							
Name																	
Altus No. 60		37	14	23	8,490.00	566.00	217.34	*	32.26	73.42	105.68	*	49.15	62.52	111.67		
Ardmore, No. 11		26	13	13	5,884.00	384.60	150.63	*	21.21	40.84	62.05	*	41.48	47.10	88.58		
Bartlesville, No. 55		42	31	11	5,116.50	341.10	130.98	*	40.32	20.58	60.90	*	50.23	19.85	70.08		
Capitol Hill, No. 101	1	148	82	66	26,561.75	1,677.45	672.68	*	128.19	131.96	260.15	*	236.89	175.65	412.54		
Cyrus (OKC), No. 7	1	51	20	31	8,830.00	587.00	219.52	*	30.83	82.81	113.64	*	38.16	67.71	105.88		
Elk City No. 50		45	19	26	6,540.41	429.00	167.43	*	23.92	58.44	82.37	*	33.30	51.76	85.07		
Guthrie, No. 6		33	13	20	5,961.00	397.00	152.60	*	19.58	55.72	75.30	*	27.26	50.04	77.30		
Indian (McAlester), No. 1	1	63	27	36	8,236.50	548.90	205.09	*	36.15	88.82	124.97	*	36.01	44.12	80.13		
James E. Smyrl, No. 104		12	1	11	6,555.00	433.00	153.60	*	0.00	46.36	46.36	*	0.00	107.24	107.24		
Lawton, No. 44		55	36	19	9,405.00	617.00	509.57	*	44.93	133.90	178.83	*	91.39	239.35	330.74		
Muskogee, No. 3	2	84	42	42	14,355.00	827.00	344.45	*	82.94	127.88	210.82	*	68.74	64.89	133.63		
Norman, No. 24		68	45	23	10,130.91	673.15	259.35	*	58.69	48.83	107.52	*	97.56	54.27	151.83		
Olivet (Ponca City), No. 25		39	14	25	5,184.00	343.40	132.71	*	18.43	63.12	81.55	*	19.89	31.27	51.16		
Stillwater, No. 14		46	27	19	7,622.70	508.18	371.78	*	35.71	117.31	153.02	*	61.06	157.70	218.76		
Texhoma, No.		1	0	1	330.00	22.00	8.45	*		4.32	4.32	*		4.13	4.13		
Tulsa, No. 52	4	123	49	74	31,378.00	2,084.00	754.12	*	68.08	183.24	251.31	*	156.26	346.55	502.81		
Woodward, No. 72		44	27	17	4,016.50	260.50	102.82	*	33.59	36.99	70.58	*	20.15	12.09	32.24		

After a dismal 2022 and a decent yet very volatile spring of 2023, a majority of economists were expecting a full recession in 2023, not just in the US, but the World Bank was predicting a global recession in 2023. With these dire warnings, and the recommendation from our Investment Advisors at Morgan Stanley, we went very conservative. These predictions not becoming true and the economy not moving as expected did not allow us to fully take advantage of the run-up of the stock market. If we did have a recession, I do believe we would have been sitting well to be protected from a major downturn. We did see growth of a little over 10% still left us comparable to the Dow Jones, but not the Nasdaq or S&P 500. With this conservative position, we did not lose as much as the market did last year, and then we didn't gain as much this year, but we didn't have as low of a bottom to recover from.

Perpetual Membership Account Information

917 Total Members at 12/31/2023

9 New Members in 2023

457 Living Members

460 Deceased Members

Interest/Dividends earned in 2023: \$4,568.17

Div/Int distributed to Grand Chapter in 2024 for Div/Int earned in 2023: \$1,989.37

Div/Int distributed to Local Chapters in 2024 for Div/Int earned in 2023: \$2,563.77

We added 9 new members to our Perpetual Members list in 2023. In the middle of 2023 after one of my meetings with Morgan Stanley, our Perpetual Accounts got moved from a High Income Dividend Yield to a Conservative Growth, which was not my intention. I did not notice the change for a few months, this caused us to receive less Dividends and Interest than in years past. This has been corrected, and with the added growth in value to the positions held during that time, we expect much larger returns in Div & int in 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Kenton M. Israel [7, 50, 104]
Grand Treasurer

REPORT OF THE RIGHT EXCELLENT GRAND SECRETARY, JON B. GREENE

Annual Statistical Report - Start: 1/1/2023 End: 12/31/2023

General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masonry

Grand Chapter of Oklahoma

Located at Tulsa, OK

Total Working Chapters = 19

The following is a recapitulation of membership activity during the specified reporting period.

Total number members on last return = 1,250

Total number EXALTED = 67

Total number AFFILIATED = 7

Total number REINSTATED = 5

Total number ADD ADJUSTMENT = 0

Total Gain (+) 79

Total number DEMITTED = 8

Total number SUSPENDED = 34

Total number DECEASED = 39

Total number EXPELLED = 0

Total number DELETE ADJUSTMENT = 0

Total Loss (-) 81

Net Gain (Net Loss) = (2)

Total number of members
(including Dual and Plural)
= 1,248

GRAND CHAPTER RETURNS FOR 2023

No.	Name	2022 Members End of Year	Exalted	Affiliated	Reinstated	ADD Adjustment	Demitted	Suspended	Deceased	Expelled/Withdrew	DELETE Adjusted	Net Gain or (Loss)	2023 Members End of Year	Perpetual Members	Unable to Pay	G. G. Chapter Life Members	Dues	Fees	DeMolay	Grand Chapter Per Capita	General GrandChapter Per Capita	RARA	Net Amount	Perpetual Member Per Capita Return	TOTAL	
1	Indian	88	7	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	2	90	35	0	48	\$15.00	\$50.00	\$13.75	\$550.00	\$126.00	\$55.00	\$744.75	\$124.97	\$869.72
3	Muskogee	120	13	1	4	0	0	6	7	0	0	5	125	39	0	68	\$25.00	\$50.00	\$21.50	\$860.00	\$171.00	\$86.00	\$1,136.50	\$210.82	\$1,349.32	
6	Guthrie	72	1	0	0	1	3	3	3	0	0	(6)	66	21	1	30	\$22.00	\$50.00	\$11.00	\$440.00	\$105.00	\$44.00	\$600.00	\$75.30	\$675.30	
7	Cyrus	115	11	1	0	0	1	5	0	0	0	5	120	30	3	45	\$20.00	\$55.00	\$21.75	\$870.00	\$216.00	\$87.00	\$1,194.75	\$113.64	\$1,308.39	
11	Ardmore	55	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	56	13	0	22	\$24.00	\$55.00	\$10.75	\$430.00	\$102.00	\$43.00	\$585.75	\$62.05	\$647.80	
14	Stillwater	52	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	(2)	50	18	0	31	\$20.00	\$65.00	\$8.00	\$320.00	\$57.00	\$32.00	\$417.00	\$153.02	\$570.02	
24	Norman	86	3	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	89	24	0	41	\$29.00	\$60.00	\$16.25	\$650.00	\$144.00	\$65.00	\$875.25	\$107.52	\$982.77	
25	Olivet	50	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	50	26	0	32	\$14.00	\$35.00	\$6.00	\$240.00	\$54.00	\$24.00	\$324.00	\$81.55	\$405.55	
28	Texoma	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	(1)	26	1	0	1	\$26.00	\$50.00	\$6.25	\$250.00	\$75.00	\$25.00	\$356.25	\$4.32	\$360.57	
44	Lawton	89	13	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	12	101	19	0	33	\$22.50	\$50.00	\$20.50	\$820.00	\$204.00	\$82.00	\$1,126.50	\$178.83	\$1,305.33	
50	Elk City	51	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	(1)	50	28	0	56	\$30.00	\$60.00	\$5.50	\$220.00	\$0.00	\$22.00	\$247.50	\$82.37	\$329.87	
52	Tulsa	180	11	0	0	2	10	7	0	0	0	(8)	172	76	6	101	\$35.00	\$50.00	\$22.50	\$900.00	\$195.00	\$90.00	\$1,207.50	\$251.31	\$1,458.81	
55	Bartlesville	40	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	41	11	0	49	\$16.50	\$50.00	\$7.50	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$337.50	\$60.90	\$398.40	
60	Altus	44	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	(1)	43	23	0	37	\$20.00	\$75.00	\$5.00	\$200.00	\$18.00	\$20.00	\$243.00	\$105.68	\$348.68	
72	Woodward	37	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	(5)	32	17	0	25	\$25.50	\$50.00	\$3.75	\$150.00	\$21.00	\$15.00	\$189.75	\$70.58	\$260.33	
101	Capitol Hill	103	2	0	1	0	0	7	3	0	0	(7)	96	63	3	94	\$19.00	\$50.00	\$7.50	\$300.00	-\$3.00	\$30.00	\$334.50	\$260.15	\$594.65	
103	Veritas	13	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	(1)	12	0	0	0	\$50.00	\$200.00	\$3.00	\$120.00	\$36.00	\$12.00	\$171.00	\$0.00	\$171.00	
104	James E. Smyrl	28	2	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	29	11	0	12	\$40.00	\$75.00	\$4.50	\$180.00	\$51.00	\$18.00	\$253.50	\$46.36	\$299.86	
	Totals	1250	67	7	5	0	8	34	39	0	0	(2)	1248	455	13	725			\$195.00	\$7,800.00	\$1,572.00	\$780.00	\$10,347.00	\$1,989.37	\$12,336.37	

2023 BUDGET - ACTUAL VS BUDGET

Ordinary Income/Expense	Jan - Dec 23	Budget	\$ Over Budg
Income			
4000 · ANNUAL RETURNS			
4010 · Oklahoma Per Capita	7,770.00	7,770.00	0.00
4020 · G. G. Chapter Per Capita	1,569.00	1,569.00	0.00
4030 · RARA Donation	777.00	770.00	7.00
4050 · DeMolay Donation	194.25	194.25	0.00
Total 4000 · ANNUAL RETURNS	10,310.25	10,303.25	7.00
4100 · Interest/Investmen Inc.			
4110 · PEM Dividend from investment	2,981.10	2,618.36	362.74
4120 · Interest Income	0.00	9,287.08	-9,287.08
Total 4100 · Interest/Investmen Inc.	2,981.10	11,905.44	-8,924.34
4200 · FEES			
4210 · Degree Fees	1,056.00	800.00	256.00
4220 · Dispensation Fee	10.00	10.00	0.00
4230 · Reinstatement Fee	20.00	10.00	10.00
4240 · Festival Meal Fees	647.00		
4245 · Festival Fees to other	1,780.00	3,000.00	-1,220.00
Total 4200 · FEES	3,513.00	3,820.00	-307.00
4300 · RESALE			
4310 · Ritual Resale	100.00	200.00	-100.00
Total 4300 · RESALE	100.00	200.00	-100.00
4600 · MISC INCOME			
4610 · MISC Income	0.00	600.00	-600.00
4630 · REIMBURSED INCOME	100.00		
Total 4600 · MISC INCOME	100.00	600.00	-500.00
Total Income	17,004.35	26,828.69	-9,824.34
Expense			
5000 · STAFF			
5010 · Grand Secretary's Salary	5,000.00	5,250.00	-250.00
5020 · Payroll Taxes	427.72	450.00	-22.28
5030 · Grand Treasurer's Allowance	0.00	200.00	-200.00
Total 5000 · STAFF	5,427.72	5,900.00	-472.28
5100 · ASSESSMENTS			
5110 · Per Capita - G.G. Chapter	1,503.00	1,569.00	-66.00
5120 · RARA Donation	777.00	777.00	0.00
5130 · DeMolay Donation	0.00	300.00	-300.00
5140 · General Grand Chapter Magazine	2,320.00	3,070.00	-750.00
Total 5100 · ASSESSMENTS	4,600.00	5,716.00	-1,116.00
5500 · YOUTH EXPENSES			
5510 · Youth Ads	0.00	100.00	-100.00
Total 5500 · YOUTH EXPENSES	0.00	100.00	-100.00
6000 · CONFERENCE/TRAVEL			
6010-23 · M.E.G.H.P. Travel-Turner	0.00	1,250.00	-1,250.00
6010-24 · M.E.G.H.P. Travel-Cloud	0.00	1,250.00	-1,250.00
6015 · Grand Secretary's Travel	90.54	200.00	-109.46
6020 · Grand High Priest Grand Session	0.00	250.00	-250.00
6030 · Grand Sessions Host Expense	0.00	250.00	-250.00
6040 · Grand Sessions-Headquarters	952.24	1,100.00	-147.76
6050 · Grand Sessions-Awards	204.02	200.00	4.02
6060 · Past Grand High Priest Jewel	0.00	65.00	-65.00
6080 · Triennial	0.00	770.00	-770.00
6110 · Festival Meal Catering	242.61	0.00	242.61
6111 · GM Festival Fee Reimburs	1,755.00	3,000.00	-1,245.00
Total 6000 · CONFERENCE/TRAVEL	3,244.41	8,335.00	-5,090.59

	Jan - Dec 23	Budget	\$ Over Budg
7000 · OFFICE EXPENSE			
7100 · Rent			
7110 · Muskogee Storage Rent	0.00	33.00	-33.00
7130 · GM Festival Rent	200.00	100.00	100.00
Total 7100 · Rent	<u>200.00</u>	<u>133.00</u>	<u>67.00</u>
7200 · Telecommunications			
7210 · Phone and Internet	0.00	400.00	-400.00
7220 · Website	0.00	75.00	-75.00
Total 7200 · Telecommunications	<u>0.00</u>	<u>475.00</u>	<u>-475.00</u>
7300 · Office Supplies			
7310 · General Office Supplies	0.00	40.00	-40.00
7320 · Ink	0.00	120.00	-120.00
7330 · Computer Software	209.49	290.00	-80.51
7340 · Office Equipment Acquisition	0.00	0.00	0.00
7350 · MMS Subscription	229.68	229.68	0.00
Total 7300 · Office Supplies	<u>439.17</u>	<u>679.68</u>	<u>-240.51</u>
7400 · Printing and Reproduction			
7410 · Pre Print	0.00	120.00	-120.00
7420 · Proceedings	84.77	150.00	-65.23
7430 · Publications	0.00	0.00	0.00
7440 · Check Order	0.00	0.00	0.00
7450 · Promotional Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total 7400 · Printing and Reproduction	<u>84.77</u>	<u>270.00</u>	<u>-185.23</u>
7500 · Postage and Delivery			
7510 · PO Box Rental	64.66	61.00	3.66
7520 · Stamps	0.00	63.00	-63.00
Total 7500 · Postage and Delivery	<u>64.66</u>	<u>124.00</u>	<u>-59.34</u>
7600 · Insurance			
7610 · Bond Premium	0.00	131.66	-131.66
Total 7600 · Insurance	<u>0.00</u>	<u>131.66</u>	<u>-131.66</u>
7700 · Repairs			
7710 · Computer Repairs	0.00	0.00	0.00
7720 · Equipment Repairs	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total 7700 · Repairs	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
7800 · Bank Service Charges	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total 7000 · OFFICE EXPENSE	<u>788.60</u>	<u>1,813.34</u>	<u>-1,024.74</u>
8000 · MISC			
8050 · Digitize Proceedings	0.00	1,200.00	-1,200.00
8070 · Misc - Other	0.00	250.00	-250.00
Total 8000 · MISC	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,450.00</u>	<u>-1,450.00</u>
8500 · EDUCATION			
8510 · Education Courses	0.00	180.00	-180.00
Total 8500 · EDUCATION	<u>0.00</u>	<u>180.00</u>	<u>-180.00</u>
Total Expense	<u>14,060.73</u>	<u>23,494.34</u>	<u>-9,433.61</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>2,943.62</u>	<u>3,334.35</u>	<u>-390.73</u>
Net Income	<u>2,943.62</u>	<u>3,334.35</u>	<u>-390.73</u>

Please see the attached statement of income and expenses for the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Oklahoma. In addition, the Grand Treasurer's report depicts the investment holdings and performance for the year.

We had a net loss of two Companions compared to forty-four Companions last year. We Exalted sixty-seven new Companions compared to fifty-eight the previous year. Suspensions were down in 2023, with thirty-four compared to fifty-one in 2022. Demits were also down in 2023, with eight compared to ten in 2022. Deaths were thirty-nine in 2023 compared to forty-nine in 2022. We had thirteen members reported on the Annual Reports who are unable to pay their dues compared to 20 last year.

Respectfully submitted:
Jon B. Greene [52, 104]
Grand Secretary

RESOLUTION NO. 1a

TO THE MOST EXCELLENT GRAND HIGH PRIEST AND MEMBERS OF THE GRAND CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF OKLAHOMA:

WHEREAS: the Grand Chapter transitioned into electronic record keeping, and Chapters have had access to update the electronic databases for several years, and;

WHEREAS: The Grand Secretary monitors all activity in the MMS database.

WHEREAS: the data in the electronic database negates the necessity for a Committee on Work and Returns, and this Committee has not met in years.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

ARTICLE 3, Section 1. Committees

f. Committee on Work and Returns.

Consisting of three members and the Grand Captain of the Host as an ex-officio member.

BE STRICKEN FROM THE LAW, AND ALL SUBSEQUENT COMMITTEES BE RE-LETTERED.

Respectfully submitted,
Jon B. Greene [52, 104]

RESOLUTION NO. 1b

TO THE MOST EXCELLENT GRAND HIGH PRIEST AND MEMBERS OF THE GRAND CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF OKLAHOMA:

WHEREAS: the Grand Chapter transitioned into electronic record keeping, and Chapters have had access to update the electronic databases for several years, and;

WHEREAS: The Grand Secretary monitors all activity in the MMS database.

WHEREAS: the data in the electronic database negates the necessity for a Committee on Work and Returns, and this Committee has not met in years.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

ARTICLE 3, Section 2. Duties of Committees

e. Committee on Work and Returns.

They shall examine the returns made by all constituent Chapters and report such errors, omissions, or irregularities, if any, as they may discover and may make such recommendations as may be pertinent.

BE STRICKEN FROM THE LAW, AND ALL SUBSEQUENT COMMITTEES BE RE-LETTERED.

Respectfully submitted,
Jon B. Greene [52, 104]

RESOLUTION NO. 2

WHEREAS: The date of the Annual Communications is set by the Constitution and General Laws of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Oklahoma

WHEREAS: This makes it difficult to negotiate the best market rate with hotels or conference facilities.

WHEREAS: Hotels and Conference facilities are becoming more and more expensive to rent for the time, requirements, and size of our Annual Communications.

WHEREAS: Multi-year contracts allow the organization to negotiate the best rates for the Annual Communications.

WHEREAS: Expenditures are restricted to the annual financial year for the organization.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That Article 6 Disbursements, Section 4

BE AMENDED TO ADD SECTION 4. c

The Time & Place Committee may submit to the vote of the Annual Communications a contract for the location of the annual communications binding for up to 3 years, subject to the proviso that in any given year the Time & Place Committee may submit a revised contract to the vote of assembled.

Respectfully Submitted
Bradley S Rickelman [15]

RESOLUTION NO. 3

TO THE MOST EXCELLENT GRAND HIGH PRIEST AND MEMBERS OF THE GRAND CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF OKLAHOMA:

WHEREAS: Some of the duties of this committee are already assigned to other committees, therefore making those duties for this committee redundant.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

ARTICLE 3, Section 2. Duties of Committees

d. The Committee on Charters and Dispensations. They shall review all returns and reports on the condition of Chapters, whether chartered or under dispensation, together with the reports of the Grand High Priest and Grand Secretary thereon, and report its findings and recommendations.

Be amended to read as follows:

d. The Committee on Charters and Dispensations. Its special duty shall be to examine and report upon all petitions for charters for new Chapters. It shall examine the petition, work, returns, records, and all books of all Chapters Under Dispensation and report to the Grand Chapter the character and merits of same, with such recommendations as the work, records, and returns may justify.

Respectfully submitted,
Jon B. Greene [52, 104]
John L. Logan [72, 6]

JURISPRUDENCE

October 15, 2023,

A special meeting of the Jurisprudence Committee was called by the Most Excellent Grand High Priest and convened at 6:30 PM via Zoom with the following members, along with Most Excellent Companion William J Cloud, Grand High Priest, and Right Excellent Companion Jon Greene, Grand Secretary in attendance:

John Carter – Chairman, Mathew Turner – Secretary, Charles Stuckey, David Ray, James Taylor, Jr., Clyde Schoolfield, Jr., Robert Davis, Tim Israel

Chairman John Carter introduced the Grand High Priest who presented a draft decision regarding the conferral of the Mark Master and Past Master Degrees without fee.

Various concerns and questions regarding this decision were expressed to include:

- The Grand Chapter has no authority to waive the bylaws of individual Chapters, which includes the fees collected for each degree.
- Chapters would need to be asked to vote to waive their fees.
- Will the Grand Chapter collect its \$4 fee for each degree conferred under this Decision?
- Can the General Law be changed through a decision or through a resolution only?
- Only the Grand Chapter Fees can be waived by the Grand High Priest through Decision.
- Can a decision allow the individual Chapters to waive fees if they vote to do so?
- Could individual Chapters not waiving the fees cause a problem?
- How much are the individual fees for each Chapter for individual degrees?
- How have other Jurisdictions handled this?
- A resolution in April could provide for the opportunity in the future.
- Local bodies need the fees for operations.
- Would these candidates continue and finish the Degrees?
- What is the proper procedure to waive the fees?
- Would this need a bylaws change or a regular vote?

The Committee came to a consensus that the Grand High Priest can waive the fees of the Grand Chapter for these special conferrals, and give the local Chapters the authority to waive their own fees on a one-time basis for these special conferrals should they decide to do so.

The Grand High Priest thanked the Committee for their time and advice. He will be rewriting the Decision with the recommendations of the Committee and resend to the Committee before sending it to the Local Chapters.

No further business appearing the meeting was concluded at 7:46 PM, Peace and Harmony prevailing.

Respectfully submitted,

John F. Carter [11] – Chairman, Mathew Turner [7, 24] – Secretary

Jurisprudence Committee Report of April 25, 2024, to be given verbally.

CREDENTIALS

To be given verbally

FINANCE

To the M.:E.: Grand High Priest and Members of the Grand Chapter:

Companions all, the Finance Committee met via Zoom on March 3rd, 2024, and discussed the upcoming Grand Chapter budget and recapitulation for the 2024-2025 Capitular year. The Grand Chapter budget and recapitulation are as follows.

	Budget 2024
Income	
ANNUAL RETURNS	
Oklahoma Per Capita	7,790.00
G. G. Chapter Per Capita	1,569.00
RARA Donation	779.00
DeMolay Donation	194.75
Total ANNUAL RETURNS	10,332.75
Interest/Investmen Inc.	
PEM Dividend from investment	1,989.37
Interest Income	7,640.43
Total Interest/Investmen Inc.	9,629.80
FEES	
Degree Fees	800.00
Dispensation Fee	10.00
Reinstatement Fee	10.00
Festival Meal Fees	0.00
Festival Fees to other	3,000.00
Total FEES	3,820.00
RESALE	
Ritual Resale	200.00
Total RESALE	200.00
MISC INCOME	
Total Income	24,582.55
Expense	
STAFF	
Grand Secretary's Salary	5,250.00
Payroll Taxes	450.00
Grand Treasurer's Allowance	200.00
Total STAFF	5,900.00
ASSESSMENTS	
Per Capita - G.G. Chapter	1,569.00
RARA Donation	779.00
DeMolay Donation	300.00
General Grand Chapter Magazine	3,070.00
Total ASSESSMENTS	5,718.00
CONFERENCE/TRAVEL	
24 - M.E.G.H.P. Travel-Cloud**	1,250.00
25 - M.E.G.H.P. Travel-McKnight**	1,250.00
Grand Secretary's Travel	0.00
Grand High Priest Grand Session	250.00
Grand Sessions Host Expense	200.00
Grand Sessions-Headquarters	1,140.00
Grand Sessions-Awards	200.00
Triennial	
Triennial 2024	935.25
Triennial 2025	0.00
Triennial 2026	0.00
Festival Meal Catering	150.00
GM Festival Fee Reimbursement	3,000.00
Total CONFERENCE/TRAVEL	8,375.25

OFFICE EXPENSE	
Rent	
GM Festival Rent	100.00
Total Rent	<u>100.00</u>
Telecommunications	
Phone and Internet	200.00
Website	75.00
Total Telecommunications	<u>275.00</u>
Office Supplies	
General Office Supplies	40.00
Ink	60.00
Computer Software	250.00
Office Equipment Acquisition	0.00
MMS Subscription	494.55
Total Office Supplies	<u>844.55</u>
Printing and Reproduction	
Pre Print	75.00
Proceedings	32.65
Publications	0.00
G.W. Memorial Digitized Proceedings	200.00
Total Printing and Reproduction	<u>307.65</u>
Postage and Delivery	
PO Box Rental	67.00
Stamps	68.00
Total Postage and Delivery	<u>135.00</u>
Insurance	
Bond Premium	250.00
Total Insurance	<u>250.00</u>
Repairs	
Equipment Repairs	0.00
Total Repairs	<u>0.00</u>
Total OFFICE EXPENSE	<u>1,912.20</u>
MISC	
Misc - Other	250.00
Total MISC	<u>250.00</u>
EDUCATION	
Education Courses	150.00
Total EDUCATION	<u>150.00</u>
Total Expense	<u>22,305.45</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>2,277.10</u>
Net Income	<u>2,277.10</u>
MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT	
Income	
Membership Development	
Membership Development Interest	513.00
Membership Development Other	0.00
Total - Membership Development	<u>513.00</u>
Total Income	<u>513.00</u>
Gross Profit	<u>513.00</u>
Expense	
MEMBERSHIP	
Promotional Expense	305.00
DeMolay Sword	208.00
Total - MEMBERSHIP	<u>513.00</u>
Total Expense	<u>513.00</u>
Net Income	<u>0.00</u>

NOTE: **Any funds budgeted for GHP's Travel - (2024-2025) not disbursed during 2024 will be carried over to the 2025 budget.

Fraternally submitted,
Blaine McKnight [1, 28] – Chairman, Frank J. Belluardo, Jr. [101, 103], Matt McGee [25]

INVESTMENTS

To the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Oklahoma:

The Investment Committee consists of three members, each appointed by the Grand High Priest, Grand Illustrious Master, and Grand Commander, respectively, serving staggered terms. The committee's purpose is to offer advice to the Grand Treasurer, who is responsible for the investments of the Grand York Bodies. The Investment Committee will meet at the request of the Grand Treasurer at places and times convenient to the committee members. The agendas for such meetings typically review the investment results for the nearest period ending and any other matters deemed appropriate by the Grand Treasurer.

The committee believes that the Grand Treasurer's actions are in accordance with the Investment Policy guidelines of the Grand York Rite Bodies.

Respectfully submitted,
John L. Logan, Chapter 2024-2026 [72, 6] - Chairman
Mathew Turner, Commandery 2021-2024 [38]
Charles L. Stuckey, Council 2022-2025 [43]

CHARTERS AND DISPENSATIONS

The Charters and Dispensations Committee did not meet this year, as there were no applications for Charters for new Chapters.

Timothy P. Israel [50, 60, 104] – Chairman, John L. Logan [6, 72], Bradley S. Rickelman [14]
Frank J. Belluardo, Jr. [101, 103] - R.:E.: Grand Captain of the Host ex officio

WORK AND RETURNS

A dialog has occurred between the Grand Secretary and the Grand Chapter dais officers regarding whether this Committee is relevant in today's digital world. The Grand Secretary has instant access to the Constituent Chapter's membership records and can edit and fix any errors. Additionally, the Annual Returns are automated with the Grand York Rite of Oklahoma subscribing to MMS, our online membership database. The Grand Secretary takes those statistics and invoices the local Chapters.

Respectfully submitted,
Jon B. Greene [52, 104] - Chairman

TRIENNIAL

To the Most Excellent Grand High Priest and Companions of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Oklahoma,

The 72nd Triennial Convocation of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, International was held August 13th-15th, 2023 in Branson, Missouri at the Chateau on the Lake Resort and Convention Center.

Two of our members were elected General Grand Trustees: Most Ex. Comp. John L. Logan (three-year term) and Most Ex. Comp. Clyde H. Schoolfield, Jr. (nine-year term). Most Ex. Comp. Michael A. Watts, Past Grand High Priest of Louisiana, was appointed Deputy General Grand High Priest for our region and Rt. Ex. Comp. Frank J. Belluardo, Jr. was appointed Ambassador to Oklahoma.

The 73rd Triennial Convocation of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, International is scheduled to be held on a yet-to-be-determined date in August or September 2026. The organizers are considering holding the event in Washington, D.C.

Fraternally submitted,
Clyde H. Schoolfield, Jr. [7], John R. Christopher [6], Timothy P. Israel [50, 60, 104]

YORK RITE COORDINATION

To the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Oklahoma

My Companions all,

We, your Committee on Coordination are pleased to report that Most Illustrious Robert G. Davis, Eminent Grand Commander John E. King, and I met on October 10, 2023, at the Grand Lodge Building with the heads of other Grand Bodies of Oklahoma for a meeting on common goals for our term of office. Most Worshipful Glen A. Chaney led the meeting. We relayed our important dates to not conflict with other important meetings in Oklahoma. The idea was to have our meetings free of any other obstacles as well as not conflict with their meetings.

We also related new ideas that we proposed to implement during our term of office. The Special Conferrals that we planned to implement were discussed with the brethren. All important dates were exchanged. A great conversation was held and we learned much.

Companions, we, the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to serve our Grand Chapter.

Fraternally Submitted

William J. "Jim" Cloud [101] – Chairman, Blaine C. McKnight [1, 28], Frank J. Belluardo, Jr. [101, 103]

CUSTODIANS OF THE WORK

To the Most Excellent Grand High Priest and Companions of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Oklahoma,

We, your Custodians of the Work, are pleased to make the following report to the Grand Convocation.

Over the past several years, Schools of Instruction, each under the direction of one of the Custodians or Assistant Custodians of the Work, have been held in most of our constituent Chapters. At these Schools, we have concentrated our instruction on the ritual for the opening and closing of a Chapter and the reception of visitors. In a few of the Chapters, the Companions have requested that we also provide instruction in the ritual of one or more of the Chapter degrees.

We wish to remind our constituent Chapters that they should be regularly opening their Convocations in ritualistic form as called for in Article 10, Section 16 of the General Laws of this Grand Chapter. The Custodians and Assistant Custodians of the Work are prepared to assist our Chapters in this effort in any way necessary. It is our hope that, in the future, we will be able to hold a School of Instruction in each constituent Chapter at least once every two years.

Fraternally submitted,

Clyde H. Schoolfield, Jr. [7] – Chairman, Timothy P. Israel [50, 60, 104], James R. Taylor, Jr. [52, 104]

COMMITTEE ON MEMBERSHIP

Greetings Companions, This past year has been a busy one. We were again able to host our regional festivals as well as our annual Grand Masters Festival. It is extremely important for every one of us to consider ourselves as a member of the membership committee. It takes effort from every one of us to get out and visit our local lodges and tell our brethren about all of the reasons they should be a York Rite Mason. Our future depends on it.

We have got to make an effort to get out and visit our area Lodges, visit with those brethren, and encourage them to continue their masonic journey for further light by experiencing the York Rite.

One thing that was worth noting in reviewing the annual report was seeing the loss of 34 Companions during the time span of 01/01/2023 to 12/31/2023 due to suspension for non-payment of dues. We still need to continue to work on bringing this number down. I was happy to see it down from 47 last year during the same time.

The question looms as to why these members decided to leave their Chapter. We need to be diligent in following up with these companions and find out why they are leaving. Only then can we start the process of making any necessary adjustments needed to retain our members and hopefully make membership a better experience for all.

On a positive note, during this time, we Exalted 67, had 7 affiliations, and 5 reinstatements. Sadly, we also continue to see our numbers decline due to deaths. We lost 39 Companions this past year. May we All keep these Companions

and their families in our prayers.

We all must work together to promote the York Rite to those who have not yet experienced it. At the same time, we need to reach out to members we have lost due to suspensions and encourage them to return.

In closing, I would like to thank our Most Excellent Grand High Priest William J. “Jim” Cloud for the privilege of serving as State Membership Chairman during his year, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

Fraternally submitted,
Mark K. McFadden [3] - Chairman

EDUCATION

To the Most Excellent Grand High Priest and Companions of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Oklahoma, The Committee on Education continues to encourage our Chapters to make education an integral part of their Stated Convocations and, in an effort to foster this endeavor, has in recent years produced and made available Capitular educational resources to both our Chapters and members.

The Capitular Masonry Education Course covers the history and symbolism of the four Chapter degrees and provides an excellent source of material for individual or group study. The Lessons on Capitular Masonry are thirty-five lessons which are drawn from the Capitular Masonry Education Course, the Ritual of the Grand Chapter, and the Bible and are specifically designed to enable presentation, participation, and discussion as a group during Chapter meetings. During 2021 and 2022, a copy of the Capitular Masonry Education Course and a copy of the Lessons on Capitular Masonry were distributed to each of our Chapters.

During 2021 and 2022, the Committee on Education published a monthly education e-newsletter, which drew heavily from the two publications mentioned above, along with additional material from Masonic monitors, encyclopedias, and periodicals. Also included were relevant video presentations and links to even more information about that month’s topic. After the release of the twenty-fourth and final edition of this monthly e-newsletter in January 2023, all of the previously released editions were assembled into a single website, with links to each of the twenty-four topics covered. This website may be found at: <https://okyorkrite.com/>

We urge our Chapters and members to utilize these plentiful resources and make Capitular education an integral part of their Masonic experience.

Fraternally submitted,
Clyde H. Schoolfield, Jr. [7] – Chairman, Robert G. Davis [14], Timothy P. Israel [50, 60, 104]

GRAND MASTER’S FESTIVAL

This Committee consists of the Grand Scribe Frank Belluardo, Grand Principal Conductor of the Work Brian Ragain, and Grand Generalissimo John Turner. All Committee members were actively involved in all aspects of the festival.

The Grand Master’s Festival was held on July 22, 2023, in Oklahoma City. At the festival, 54 Companions were Exalted to the Degree of Royal Arch Mason. We want to thank all the Chapters involved with the conferring of the degrees. We also want to thank all the Companions who assisted in the degree work as well as those Companions who attended this event to show their support of Capitular Masonry here in Oklahoma.

The committee extends appreciation to all the degree teams for their outstanding degree work and they are to be commended for making this Festival a great success.

Respectfully submitted,
Frank J. Belluardo, Jr. [24, 101, 103], Brian M. Ragain [44], John T. Turner [14, 24, 103]

REGIONAL DEGREE FESTIVALS

The Regional Degree Festival Committee has had a successful year by helping Chapters in their local regions with hosting their respective Degree Festivals.

The Central Oklahoma Regional Festival was held on February 4, 2024, at Norman Masonic Lodge. We exalted 13 new Royal Arch Masons at this event. We would like to thank the Companions of Norman Chapter No.24 for hosting the festival and all their hard work and dedication to ensuring a successful event.

The Northeast Oklahoma Regional Festival was held on February 10, 2024, at East Gate Masonic Center in Tulsa. We exalted 3 new Royal Arch Masons at this event. We would like to thank the Companions of Tulsa Chapter No.52 for hosting the festival and all their hard work and dedication to ensuring a successful event.

The committee would like to give our thanks and appreciation to all the Oklahoma Chapters who participated in these festivals and for their excellent degree work. We would also like to thank the Chapters who conferred the Special Event Degrees of Mark Master and Past Master locally. The committee commends all the Companions who dedicated their time and effort to help promote Capitular Masonry in Oklahoma both locally and statewide.

The Regional Chapter Degree Festival Committee is always ready to assist the local Chapters in any way possible to ensure a successful & educational event for our newest Royal Arch Masons of Oklahoma.

Respectfully Submitted,

Frank J. Belluardo, Jr [101,103] - Chairman, James D. Nobles [7],

Robert L. Sprott [14], George W. Ratliff [52,104], Timothy P. Israel [50, 60, 104], Michael S. Wright [11, 103],

John E. King, Jr. [1,28], James Oats III [44]

SOUTH-CENTRAL CONFERENCE

The 66th Annual South-Central Regional York Rite Conference was held September 15th-16th, 2023, in Branson, Missouri. The Conference was well attended by Companions from the six-state region (Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas.) Additionally, several Officers from the General Grand Chapter were in attendance.

Presentations were given by the representatives of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons International, The General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons International, and the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America. Leadership training was also made available through the “York Rite Leadership Training Program.”

We are scheduled to host the 67th Annual South-Central York Rite Conference on September 20th-21st 2024 in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Fraternally submitted,

Mathew A. Turner [7, 24] – Chairman

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES COMMITTEE

The Digital Technologies Committee has been hard at work this year, doing our best to keep the information on the website as current as possible. The Grand Secretary has started putting some forms on the site for the constituent Secretaries to use. These include the Perpetual applications and applications for membership, both plural and demit. The Grand Secretary has also updated the calendar with all Chapter Convocation dates and times. If you see any errors in the calendar, please email the Grand Secretary as soon as possible for correction.

We want to thank M.: E.: C.: Jim Cloud, the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, for his confidence and for allowing us to serve on this Committee.

Fraternally and Respectfully submitted,

Jon B. Greene [52, 104] - Chairman, Robert W. McLeod [52], John R. Christopher [6]

DEMOLAY

It has been an honor to serve on the DeMolay Committee for the Grand Chapter this year. It appeared to be a good year for the DeMolays of Oklahoma, as they have continued to work hard and accomplish many things. We were sent one great candidate from the Executive Officer of DeMolay for the York Rite Outstanding DeMolay of the Year Award. It is always nice to see more than one candidate however we were all impressed with the accomplishments of the one candidate we received. Colton Condit from the Stillwater Chapter of DeMolay was selected and awarded the sword at their Winterfest in February. He has worked diligently in his Chapter to help it grow and show great leadership even at the State level. We hope that he and many others will join the York Rite when the time comes and become active with us.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenton M. Israel [7, 50, 104] – Chairman, Michael L. Branson [14], Jon B. Greene [52, 104],
Timothy P. Israel [50, 60, 104], Bo Ross [24], & D. Ridge Smith [101]

NECROLOGY

Companions,

Once more the hand of time has made its great sweep through Heaven and several companions have laid down the working tools of life and went on to that great final reward. Although our hearts are heavy for the loss, our Spirits rejoice for them and we find comfort in knowing that someday we will see them again. They are not gone; just gone on ahead. An old Johnny Cash song sums it up.

By the way, the land is layin'
I think I'd be safe in sayin'
That over the next hill, we'll be home
It's a straight and narrow highway
No detours and no byways
And over the next hill, we'll be home
From the prophets I've been hearin'
I would say the end is nearin'
For I see familiar landmarks all along
By the dreams that I've been dreamin'
There will come a great redeemin'
And over the next hill we'll be home
By the turn, the tide is takin'
I would say there's no mistakin'
That over the next hill, we'll be home
There's a place that we are nearin'
That so many have been fearin'
And over the next, hill we'll be home
When we get there, we're all hopin'
That we'll find the gate is open
And there'll be a refuge from the comin' storm
For the way is been long and weary
But at last the end is nearin'
And over the next hill, we'll be home

Respectfully

Truman "Lavern" L. Ragain [44] - Grand Chaplain

ROYAL ARCH RESEARCH ASSISTANCE

Royal Arch Research Assistance (R.A.R.A.) is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt foundation incorporated in the State of Kentucky in 1974. The organization's purpose is to research and promote solutions to Central Auditory Processing Disorder or CAPD.

The first page that comes up when you search R.A.R.A. is a page that still lists the program of the last General Grand High Priest and his program for the 2020-2023 Triennium. However, the tab on the General Grand Chapter website does list what appears to be more current. Currently, there are "Pin Awards" for gifts given, ranging from \$100 to gifts up to \$5,000. There is very little information about the programs or current research coming from the grants on the current website.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenton M. Israel [7, 50, 104] – Chairman, William J. Cloud [101], & Donnie G. Higgenbotham [1, 28]

REPORT OF THE MASONIC CHARITY FOUNDATION

Companions:

The Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma officers are beginning the last year of three-year terms. Leading the Foundation is Neil Stitt from Ardmore. He will serve in this capacity until 2025. The foundation board looks forward to working with Brother Stitt's leadership and identifying the future needs of our fraternity through our charities.

Masons across Oklahoma should be very proud of its charity foundation. The programs that are sponsored directly and indirectly benefit a wide variety of recognized needs across the state. Two outstanding programs are Promises Matter and Matching Funds. Promises Matter directly benefits fraternity members as well as members of the Eastern Star. Matching funds that had some major revisions approved this year can be used to benefit programs identified by the local Lodges and applications made for those qualifying matching funds.

The Masonic Fraternity needs to identify Masons that need assistance through the various programs that the Charity Foundation sponsors. Brothers and Lodges sometimes are reluctant to report the needs of brothers and members of the Eastern Star to the Lodge and Chapter, respectively, and the appropriate action taken. These organizations need to take a more active role in identifying needy Masons, wives, widows, Members of the Eastern Star, etc. Our great Fraternity was founded on helping those members of the Masonic Family.

In conclusion, I would like to express my appreciation to the members of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Oklahoma for allowing me to represent them on the Masonic Charity Foundation Board of Directors for the past 25 years. I continue to serve the foundation with membership on the executive and matching funds committees.

Fraternity

David A. Ray [24] - Grand Chapter Representative

COMMITTEE ON PLACE

To be given verbally

COMMITTEE ON APPRECIATION

I echo the sentiments of the others that we appreciate the work that went into arranging these Grand Sessions.

We commend the time and place committee, our Grand Secretary, and all who have taken part in putting together this annual convocation.

To those hosting the hospitality room and providing the refreshments, we certainly thank you.

To our Most Excellent Grand High Priest, whose responsibility is to plan our Grand Sessions, in cooperation with the other presiding Grand Officers, we commend you on a job well done. We thank you for this Grand Session.

Fraternally Submitted,
John R. Cooper, Jr. [3]

**PAST GRAND HIGH PRIEST'S ASSOCIATION
OF THE GRAND CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF OKLAHOMA
ASSETS AND FUND EQUITY
AS OF JANUARY 1, 2024**

CASH:

RCB-Pioneer, Ponca City, January 1, 2024
Account No. 55-1192 \$6,316.59

INVESTMENTS:

Wells Fargo, Ponca City, Account No. 4995-7445
Cash \$ 8,079.96

	Quantity	Cost	NAV	Yield
ABBVIE Inc.	250	\$22,225.89	38,742.50	4.00%
ARES Capital Corp.	707	12,271.79	14,161.21	9.58%
Columbia Banking	433	10,054.00	11,552.44	5.39%
Helmerich & Payne, Inc.	590	10,070.62	21,369.80	2.76%
I Shares Mortgage ETF Real Estate	158	6,765.60	3,727.22	9.45%
ONEOK Inc New	300	17,382.00	21,066.00	5.44%
IVY FDS Inc. High Income ED	1,165	10,169.89	7,068.75	6.78%
Eaton Vance Tax Managed Global	1,928	14,768.73	14,884.16	8.60%
First Trust Specialty	1,235	11,763.58	4,421.30	9.21%
Total Equities		\$115,489.31	\$136,988.38	
Total Assets with Wells Fargo				\$145,059.34

Estimated Income for 2024 - \$7,914.00; after following changes - \$6,981.00

Notes:

1. UMPQUA Holdings – now Columbia Banking System
2. 1/10/2024 – Sold: Delaware Ivy High Income \$7,045.10
 Eaton Vance Tax Management Global 14,892.92
 First Trust Specialty 4,408.66
 I Shares Mortgage 3,667.56
 Used Cash: 7,000.00

Bought: Iron Mountain Inc. 163 shares
 OneOK Inc. new 210 shares
 Stag Industrial 281 shares

**PAST GRAND HIGH PRIEST'S ASSOCIATION
CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
JANUARY 1, 2023 TO DECEMBER 31, 2023**

Cash on deposit, RCB Pioneer Account No. 55-1192 Ponca City, OK – January 1, 2023		\$ 2,709.58
DEPOSITS:		
Checking Account Interest	\$0.55	
Wells Fargo	\$8,189.17	
Settlement Ivy Funds	<u>\$27.30</u>	
Total		\$8,217.02
DISBURSEMENTS:		
Oklahoma Rainbow	\$2,000.00	
Oklahoma DeMolay	\$2,000.00	
RARA	\$500.00	
Charles L. Stuckey	<u>\$110.00</u>	
Total Disbursements	4,610.00	
Cash on Deposit, RCB Pioneer Ponca City, OK – December 31, 2023		\$6,316.58

The Grand Council of Anointed High Priests of Oklahoma



**Minutes of the 131st Annual Convention held at Stillwater, Oklahoma
August 19, 2023**

Most Excellent President Bradley S. Rickelman opened the 131st Annual Convention of the Grand Council of Anointed High Priests of Oklahoma at 9:00 AM with thirty members and eleven candidates present.

Officers present were:

Most Excellent President	Bradley S. Rickelman
Excellent Vice President	Brian A. Buswell
Excellent Chaplain	Brian M. Ragain
Excellent Recorder/Treasurer	James R. Taylor, Jr., PMEP
Excellent Master of Ceremonies	George W. Ratliff
Excellent Conductor	Blaine C. McKnight
Excellent Herald	William J. Cloud
Excellent Steward	Matthew D. McGee
Excellent Sentinel	Michael S. Wright

The petitions of the following eleven candidates were read. It was moved, seconded, and approved that the candidates be elected to receive the Order of High Priesthood.

Stephen D. Gragg	Indian No. 1
Chris A. Botts	Indian No. 1
Rick Alan Moore	Muskogee No. 3
Mark L. Cantrell	Cyrus No. 7
William David Hardin	Ardmore No. 11
Robert Lee Sprott	Stillwater No. 14
John Robert Guinn	Norman No. 24
Ryan C. Shady	Lawton No. 44
David D. Shore	Woodward No. 72
Jason R. Smith	Veritas No. 103
Thomas M. Keenze	James E. Smyrl No. 104

All candidates were received, duly anointed, and acknowledged recipients of the Order of High Priesthood, making them members of the Grand Council of Anointed High Priests of Oklahoma.

The following degree team conferred the Order:

Most Excellent President	Robert G. Davis
Excellent Vice President	Clyde H. Schoolfield, Jr.
Excellent Chaplain	Timothy P. Israel
Excellent Master of Ceremonies	Robert R. Rolseth
Excellent Conductor	James R. Taylor, Jr.

The new members were presented with their bibles, jewels, certificates, and wallet cards.

The following Past Most Excellent Presidents of the Grand Council of Anointed High Priests of Oklahoma present were introduced: Robert G. Davis (2005-06), Timothy P. Israel (2011-12), Donnie G. Higginbotham (2013-14), Robert R. Rolseth (2015-16), Kenton M. Israel (2017-18), James R. Taylor, Jr. (2019-20), Clyde H. Schoolfield, Jr. (2020-21), and John F. Carter (2021-22)

The following Past Grand Masters of the M.: W.: Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of the State of Oklahoma were introduced: M.: W.: Brother Bradley S. Rickelman and M.: W.: Brother Robert G. Davis

A memorial service for the following Anointed High Priests was held: John D. Miller, Jr., Harold R. Anders, and Robert C. Shady.

The minutes of the August 20, 2022, Annual Convention and Treasurer’s report were approved as distributed with the meeting summons.

It was moved, seconded, and approved to donate \$50.00 to Frontier Lodge No. 48 A.F. & A.M., for the use of the building.

It was moved, seconded, and approved to allow the Recorder-Treasurer to pay all necessary expenses of the Council that may occur before the next Annual Convention.

It was moved, seconded, and approved to raise the petition fee for the Order of High Priesthood to \$85.00 from \$50.00.

The annual election of officers for the 2023-2024 year was then held.

The nominating committee recommended that all 2022-2023 officers be advanced one station, with the exception that the Recorder-Treasurer be retained and that Mark K. McFadden be elected Sentinel.

It was moved, seconded, and approved to accept the report of the nominating committee, with no further nominations.

M.: E.: Companion William J. Cloud, Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Oklahoma, was introduced and afforded the public grand honors. M.: E.: Companion Cloud introduced the Grand Chapter Officers and Past Grand High Priests present.

M.: E.: Companion Cloud then installed the officers of the Grand Council of Anointed High Priests of Oklahoma.

The Officers for the year 2023-2024 are:

Most Excellent President	Brian A. Buswell
Excellent Vice President	Brian M. Ragain
Excellent Chaplain	George W. Ratliff
Excellent Recorder-Treasurer	James R. Taylor, Jr., PMEP
Excellent Master of Ceremonies	Blaine C. McKnight
Excellent Conductor	William J. Cloud
Excellent Herald	Matthew D. McGee
Excellent Steward	Michael S. Wright
Excellent Sentinel	Mark K. McFadden

Most Excellent President Brian A. Buswell presented a Past Presidents jewel to outgoing President Bradley S. Rickelman.

It was announced that the next Annual Convention is scheduled for August 17, 2024, Location TBA.

Most Excellent President Buswell made closing comments and there being no further business, the Convention was closed in due form at 10:05 AM.

James R. Taylor, Jr.
Recorder/Treasurer

Bradley S. Rickelman
Most Excellent President

*Grand Council of Anointed High Priests of Oklahoma
Treasurer Report - 08-19-23*

Cash on Deposit, Arvest Bank		
Checking Account Balance 07/31/22		\$1,830.25
Deposits:		
Candidate Fees	\$600.00	
AHP Jewel Sales	<u>10.00</u>	
TOTAL		610.00
Disbursements:		
Oklahoma City Lodge No. 36 (Facility Use)	\$ 50.00	
Jim Taylor (Degree Supplies)	39.06	
Simpson Jewelry & Uniform, Inc. (AHP Jewels)	77.45	
Heirloom Bible Publishing (AHP Bibles)	<u>522.51</u>	
TOTAL		<u>689.02</u>
Checking Account Balance 07/31/23		<u>\$1,751.23</u>

**Grand Council of Anointed High Priests of Oklahoma
Past Most Excellent Presidents**

1891-1901	Robert W. Hill*
1901-1912	Edmond H. Doyle*
1912-1920	Isham H. G. Hulme*
1920-1948	William H. Essex*
1948-1969	Richard E. Newhouse*
1969-1975	Wilbert B. Boggs*
1975-1989	James C. Abernathy*
1989-1995	Kenneth D. Buckley*
1995-1996	James O. Rust, Jr.*
1996-1997	Paul G. Watkins*
1997-1998	Elwood M. Isaacs
1998-1999	Charles L. Stuckey
1999-2000	Rex L. Bowen*
2000-2001	Glenn H. Kinsley
2001-2002	David A. Ray
2002-2003	Newell K. Barker
2003-2004	Earl L. Berryman, Jr.*
2004-2005	Jimmie R. Dooley*
2005-2006	Robert G. Davis
2006-2007	I. Dwayne Dixon*
2007-2008	O. Ray Harrington*
2008-2009	Raymond J. Lutomski, Jr.**
2009-2010	Hollis O. Edgar*
2010-2011	Mark A. Critchfield**
2011-2012	Timothy P. Israel
2012-2013	James E. Smyrl*
2013-2014	Donnie G. Higginbotham
2014-2015	Ronald L. Carr
2015-2016	Robert R. Rolseth
2016-2017	Troy E. Shipman*
2017-2018	Kenton M. Israel
2018-2019	Daniel D. Hanttula
2019-2020	James R. Taylor, Jr.
2020-2021	Clyde H. Schoolfield, Jr.
2021-2022	John F. Carter
2022-2023	Bradley S. Rickelman

* Deceased

** Inactive