

AGENDA
GRAND COUNCIL OF CRYPTIC MASONS OF OKLAHOMA GRAND ASSEMBLY 2023
FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2024 - 1:00 P.M.

APPOINTMENTS TO FILL VACANCIES	
PRELIMINARY CREDENTIALS REPORT	
OPENING OF THE GRAND COUNCIL OF CRYPTIC MASONS OF OKLAHOMA - M.:I.: GRAND MASTER	
RECEPTION OF DISTINGUISHED VISITORS	
ROLL CALL OF GRAND OFFICERS	
ROLL CALL OF DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS	
ROLL CALL AND RECEPTION OF PAST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTERS	
ROLL CALL OF CONSTITUENT COUNCILS	
MOTION TO APPROVE PROCEEDINGS OF THE 129TH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY	
ADDRESS OF THE MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTER, ROBERT G. DAVIS.....	5
REPORT OF THE RIGHT ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND TREASURER, KENTON M. ISRAEL	12
REPORT OF THE RIGHT ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND RECORDER, JON B. GREENE.....	14
REPORT FROM THE JURISPRUDENCE COMMITTEE	
FINAL CREDENTIALS REPORT	
MOTION TO ACCEPT M.:I.: GRAND MASTER'S ADDRESS AND ALL COMMITTEE REPORTS	
APPOINT TELLERS COMMITTEE	
PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS AND REFERRALS	
RESOLUTION NO. 1a	19
RESOLUTION NO. 1b	19
RESOLUTION NO. 2	20
RESOLUTION NO. 3	20
CUSTODIANS OF THE WORK RESOLUTION NO. 1	21
CUSTODIANS OF THE WORK RESOLUTION NO. 2	22
STANDING RESOLUTION	23
ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2024-2025	
REMARKS OF THE MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTER-ELECT	
COMPLETION OF ANY UNFINISHED BUSINESS - M.:I.: GRAND MASTER	
CLOSING - M.:I.: GRAND MASTER	
END OF 2024 GRAND SESSION	
OPEN INSTALLATION OF GRAND COUNCIL OFFICERS FOR 2024-2025 IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING.	
INSTALLING OFFICER	M.:I.:C.: LARRY D. WHITE, P.:I.:G.:M.:
INSTALLING MARSHALL	M.:I.:C.: JOHN D. CHURCH, P.:I.:G.:M.:
INSTALLING CHAPLAIN	M.:I.:C.: TIMOTHY P. ISRAEL, P.:I.:G.:M.:.
INSTALLING RECORDER	R.:I.:C.: JON B. GREENE, GRAND RECORDER

**GRAND COUNCIL OF CRYPTIC MASONS OF OKLAHOMA
GRAND OFFICERS FOR THE 2023-2024 CRYPTIC YEAR**

Robert G. Davis [50]	Sharon	Most Illustrious Grand Master
James R. Taylor, Jr. [22]	Gage	Right Illustrious Deputy Grand Master
Brian M. Ragain [21]		Right Illustrious Grand Principal Conductor of the Work
Kenton M. Israel [18, 25]	Dana	Right Illustrious Grand Treasurer
Elwood M. "Ike" Isaacs [22, 41] P.:I.:G.:M.:		Right Illustrious Grand Treasurer Emeritus
Jon B. Greene [22]	Renee	Right Illustrious Grand Recorder
Gary A. Davis [22] H.:P.:I.:G.:M.:	Nellie	Right Illustrious Grand Recorder Emeritus
Michael S. Wright [11, 61]	Kim	Right Illustrious Grand Captain of the Guard
Matthew D. McGee [43, 50]		Illustrious Grand Conductor of the Council
Ryan R. Frederick [50]	Linda	Illustrious Grand Marshal
James D. Nobles [18]	Debbie	Illustrious Grand Steward
David D. Shore [33]	Nancy	Illustrious Grand Sentinel
Lavern Ragain [21]		Illustrious Grand Chaplain

**GRAND COUNCIL OF CRYPTIC MASONS OF OKLAHOMA
DISTRICT DEPUTIES FOR THE 2023-2024 CRYPTIC YEAR**

DISTRICT NO. 1	John R. Cooper, Jr. [2, 61]	Muskogee Council No. 2 Union Council No. 3
DISTRICT NO. 2	Charles L. Cook [11]	Ardmore Council No. 11 Mysterious Nine Council No. 61
DISTRICT NO. 3	James D. Nobles [18]	Alpha Council No. 18 Guthrie Council No. 48
DISTRICT NO. 4	James Oats III [21]	Lawton Council No. 21 Altus Council No. 33
DISTRICT NO. 5	Michael D. Maxey [22]	Tulsa Council No. 22 Bartlesville Council No. 41
DISTRICT NO. 6	Glenn H. Kinsley [52]	Elk City Council No. 25 Woodward Council No. 52
DISTRICT NO. 7	Frank J. Belluardo, Jr. [59, 61]	Norman Council No. 27 Capitol Hill Council No. 59
DISTRICT NO. 8	Justin M. McGee [43]	Bernard Council No. 43 Stillwater Council No. 50

**GRAND COUNCIL CRYPTIC MASONS OF OKLAHOMA
STANDING & SPECIAL COMMITTEES FOR 2023-2024 CAPITULAR YEAR**

STANDING COMMITTEES

[Established by Constitution, Law, or Resolution]

JURISPRUDENCE

Clyde H Schoolfield, Jr [18] - Chairman
Tim Israel, [25, 33] - Recorder
All Past Grand Illustrious Masters

WORK AND RETURNS

Jon B. Greene [22] - Chairman
Timothy P. Israel [25, 33]
James R. Taylor, Jr. [22]
Brian M. Ragain [21]

CUSTODIANS OF THE WORK

Clyde H. Schoolfield, Jr. [18] - Chairman
John L. Logan [48, 52]
James R. Taylor, Jr. [22]

MEMBERSHIP

Mark K. McFadden [2] - Chairman
Central - John R. Christopher [48]
N. Central - Justin M. McGee [43]
Northeast – Jim L. Parham [22]
Northwest - Troy L. Collier [52]
S. Central - Mathew A. Turner [18, 27]
Southeast - Donnie G. Higginbotham [3]
Southwest - James Oates III [21]

YORK RITE COORDINATION

Robert G. Davis [50] - Chairman
James R. Taylor, Jr. [22]
Brian M. Ragain [21]
Michael S. Wright [11, 61]

CHARTERS AND DISPENSATIONS

John L. Logan [48, 52] - Chairman
John D. Church [33, 48, 59]
Robert G. Davis [50]

CREDENTIALS

Robert D. Cundiff, Jr. [59] - Chairman
Steven E. Cox [2, 61]
Bryan C. Shackelford [48]
James R. Taylor, Sr. [22]
Jon B. Greene [22] Ex Officio

FINANCE

James R. Taylor, Jr. [22] - Chairman
Brian M. Ragain [21]
Michael S. Wright [11, 61]

INVESTMENTS

2022-25 (CM) Charles L. Stuckey [43]
2023-26 (RAM) John L. Logan [48, 52]
2021-24 (KT) Mathew A. Turner [18, 27]

TRIENNIAL

John L. Logan [48, 52] Chairman
William J. Cloud [59]
Clyde H. Schoolfield, Jr. [18]

FRATERNAL CORRESPONDENCE

B. F. Rowland, Jr. [33]

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

MEMBERSHIP ENHANCEMENT

Robert G. Davis [50]
James R. Taylor, Jr. [22]
Glen A. Chaney [21]
Daniel D. Hanttula [27,61]
Blaine C. McKnight [3]
Jon B. Greene [22] ad hoc

REGIONAL DEGREE FESTIVALS

Michael S. Wright [11, 61] - Chairman
Central – [vanant]
N. Central - Ryan R. Frederick [50]
Northeast - Mark McFadden [22]
Northwest - Troy L. Collier [52]
S. Central - Michael S. Wright [11,61]
Southeast - Blaine C. Mcknight [3]
Southwest - Brian M. Ragain [21]

EDUCATION

Clyde H. Schoolfield, Jr. [18]
Robert G. Davis [50]
Timothy P. Israel [25, 33]
Brian M. Ragain [21]

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

Jon B. Greene [22] Chairman
John R. Christopher [48]
Daniel D. Hanttula [27]

CRYPTIC MASON MEDICAL RESEARCH

Brian M. Ragain [21] Chairman
John D. Church [33,48,59]
John L. Logan [48, 52]
Larry D. White [22]

YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD

Robert G. Davis [50] - Chairman
James R. Taylor, Jr. [22]
Jon B. Greene [22]

ALL YOUTH COMMITTEE

D. Ridge Smith [59]
Jon B. Greene [22]
Donnie G. Higginbotham [3]
Kenton M. Israel [18,25]
Timothy P. Israel [25, 33]
Bryan C. Shackelford [48]

NECROLOGY

Lavern Ragain [21]

GRAND MASTER'S FESTIVAL

Brian M Ragain [21]
Frank Belluardo [59,61]
John Turner [27, 50]

ASSISTANT CUSTODIANS OF THE WORK

Donnie G. Higginbotham [3]
Timothy P. Israel [25, 33]
Brian M. Ragain [21]
Robert R. Rolseth [22]
Michael S. Wright [11,61]

REGIONAL & DEPARTMENT CONFERENCES

Robert G. Davis [50]
William J. "Jim" Cloud [59]
John E. King [25, 33]

COMMITTEE ON TIME AND PLACE

Jay A. Wall [48]
Brian A. Buswell [18]

MASONIC CHARITY FOUNDATION

2022-25 [CM] Johnny D. Allford [3]
2023-26 [KT] Timothy P. Israel [25, 33]
2021-24 [RAM] David A. Ray [27]

CRYPTIC MASON OF THE YEAR AWARD

Robert G. Davis [50] Chairman
James R. Taylor, Jr. [22]
Jon B. Greene [22]
Timothy P. Israel [25, 33]

DEMOLAY

Kenton M. Israel [18,25]
Michael L. Branson [50]
Jon B. Greene [22]
Timothy P. Israel [25, 33]

COMMITTEE ON APPRECIATION

Brian M. Ragain [21]

ADDRESS OF THE MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTER, ROBERT G. DAVIS

To the officers and companions of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Oklahoma. It has been a pleasure to serve our Grand Council this year. I was honored to be elected to the position of Most Illustrious Grand Master; and thankful to all of you for seeing to it that I could attain to the offices of presiding officer for all three of our Grand York Rite Bodies. My participation in the American Rite has truly been one of the highlights of my life of service to our great fraternity. I welcome you to the 130th Annual Assembly of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Oklahoma! I am also most pleased to welcome our out-of-State visitors to our Grand Session. I have known several of you for many years, and am delighted you are with us. To Right Eminent John King, thank you for bringing greetings on behalf of the York Rite to other Bodies when I was unable to be present. To Most Excellent Jim Cloud, thank you for the teamwork we, by necessity, have experienced together in promoting your membership incentive program for the good of our York Rite Bodies this past year.

To our Most Worshipful Grand Master, John Carter, it is such a pleasure to have you as our leader in Masonry this year. And, of course, we are all the more proud because you chose a number of years ago to include the York Rite as part of your active Masonic service. I am well aware of the demands placed on the office of Grand Master, and thank you for sharing this day with us. You have our utmost respect, Sir.

To my Companions of Stillwater Chapter #41, Council #50, and St. John's Commandery #8, it was you who elected me to serve the local Bodies of the York Rite. I have always been impressed with your attention to the work of the Rite, the regular communication and care you give to its membership, and your commitment to its educational and fraternal value to Freemasonry in general. You understand that the York Rite creates its sense of place at home. It has always been a part of the Stillwater Masonic community; and may it ever continue to be so.

Visitations

- April 28 I was installed to the office of Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Oklahoma. My installation team was composed of Most Illustrious Charles Stuckey Installing Officer; John Logan, Installing Marshal; Tim Israel, Installing Chaplain; Jon Greene, Installing Recorder.
- May 13 I attended the All Masonic Day held in Edmond Lodge #37, and was recognized as the Presiding Officer of Cryptic Masonry in Oklahoma.
- May 20 I attended the meeting of the Knight York Cross of Honor held in Frontier Lodge #48 in Stillwater and was introduced as the MIGM of the Grand Cryptic Council.
- May 28 I attended the Grand Annual Assembly of the Order of Rainbow for Girls held on campus at the University of Oklahoma and brought greetings on behalf of the Grand Council.
- June 9 I attended the Annual Assembly of the Order of the Jobs Daughters International held at the Wyndam Suites in Oklahoma City and brought greetings on behalf of the Grand Council.
- July 17 In accordance with Article 10, Section 2 of the Grand Laws of the Grand Council, I issued a dispensation to Guthrie Council No. 48 to allow Guthrie Council to hold a special election to elect the Principal Conductor of the Work at their Stated Communication on Thursday, September 14, 2023.
- July 22 I attended the Grand Master's York Rite Festival held at Oklahoma City #36, opened and closed the host Council for the event, Alpha Council #19, in ample form.
- Aug 13-16 I attended the General Grand Chapter and General Grand Council Triennial Session in Branson, Missouri. At the General Grand Chapter Session, I was given the privilege from Grand High Priest Jim Cloud to present the Oklahoma flag at the opening ceremonies of the General Grand Chapter. As a PGHP, I had the honor of being asked to nominate 3 distinguished companions for offices: Right Excellent Dick Browning to the office of General Grand Secretary/Recorder, Clyde Schoolfield, and John Logan as General Grand Chapter Trustees. All three passed the ballot. I was re-appointed as the General Grand Council Orator for the 2023-26 Triennium. I was proud to learn that Clyde Schoolfield was re-appointed as General Grand Council Lecturer.
- Aug 18 I visited Capitol Hill Council #59 and was received as MIGM. I was delighted to participate in a York Rite study group prior to the Stated Communication. Two young companions who joined during the Grand Master's festival were in attendance, and took part in the opening of the Council.
- Aug 19 I attended the Chair Degrees of the Grand Chapter and Grand Council, held in Stillwater. I was given the privilege of conferring the Order of High Priesthood as a Past Grand High Priest. I was introduced as the MIGM during the Order of Thrice Illustrious Masters, and was given the privilege of installing the 2023-24 officers.
- Aug 21 I visited Tulsa Council #22, who received both myself and Jim Cloud, ME Grand High Priest on the same evening. Both Bodies were individually opened in due form, and closed in ample form. Each of us was conducted to the East at the appropriate time, gave a presentation, and closed our respective Bodies.

Aug 26 I attended the annual Red Cross of Constantine Triad held at the Wyndam Garden in OKC, and was introduced as the MIGM of the Grand Cryptic Council.

Sept. 1 I attended the 2023 session of Convent General, which was held at the Embassy Suites in Downtown Oklahoma City. Joe R. Manning, Most Illustrious Grand Master of Convent General, invited the three Presiding York Rite officers in Oklahoma to be formally received during the opening session. The companions of the Oklahoma Priory No. 9 did a wonderful job hosting this national body. It was a proud day for the York Rite of Freemasonry.

Sept. 11 I visited Ardmore Council #11. The Council opened in due form, and invited the Grand Council officers to retire for formal introduction. After I was formally received, I invited ME Jim Cloud, Grand High Priest, to address the companions. I then talked about the future of the York Rite, and closed the Council in ample form.

Sept. 13 I visited Alpha Council #18. The Council opened in due form, and invited the Grand Council officers to retire for formal introduction. After taking the East, I gave an education program on the Secret Tradition, and discussed the future of the York Rite. I closed in ample form.

Sept. 15-16 I attended the 66th Annual South Central York Rite Conference in Branson, Mo. I was asked to give a report on behalf of the Oklahoma Grand Council, and outlined the strategies that we are now employing to address our immediate decline in numbers and to establish sustainability going forward.

Sept 20 I visited Altus Council #33. The Grand High Priest and I were treated to a nice buffet at a local eating establishment before journeying to our reception. The Council and Chapter opened in due form and I was invited to take the East. I introduced our Grand High Priest for his remarks, and then followed up with my own. Both the Chapter and the Council were closed in ample form.

Sept 27 The first quarterly Grand Officers meeting of the three York Rite Bodies was held by zoom.

Sept 30 I attended the opening ceremonies of the Guthrie Scottish Rite Reunion and was formally introduced as the MIGM by Illustrious Joe R. Manning, Jr., SGIG in the Orient of Oklahoma.

Oct 6-7 I journeyed to Junction City, Kansas, at the invitation of MIGM of Kansas to attend a Masonic event which included the conferral of the Knight Mason Degrees, along with four of the Allied Masonic Degrees. I was invited to deliver a lecture at the close of the proceedings, and was introduced as the MIGM of Oklahoma. It was a well-organized event, and the labors of the participants were very much appreciated.

Oct 10 The Grand Master of Masons in Oklahoma invited the presiding officers and deputies of the concurrent and appendant Bodies to a Unity meeting held at the Grand Lodge building in Guthrie. This event is annually held to promote unity and harmony across the family of Freemasonry in our State. The Masonic calendar of all organizations was announced for 2024, and a good discussion was held concerning the state of Masonry in Oklahoma.

Oct 11 I visited my home Council, Stillwater Council #50, as part of a joint visitation and reception of the Grand Chapter and Grand Council officers. Their work was done in a proficient manner. I was formally received, invited to the East, and presided over the meeting. After remarks, the Council was closed in ample form.

Oct 12 I visited Guthrie Council # 48. After a sumptuous dinner, both the Chapter and Council were opened in ample form; and, after remarks, were closed in the same way. It is always nice to visit the Bodies from whom I originally received my York Rite Degrees.

Oct 14 I attended the bi-annual All Masonic Day, and was introduced and recognized as the MIGM by the Governor of Oklahoma York Rite Sovereign College. This event has been held in the spring and fall for decades, and remains one of the best Masonic days on the Oklahoma calendar!

Oct 15 I attended the public ceremonies at the opening of the 115th Annual Session of the Oklahoma Grand Chapter of Eastern Star, was introduced as the MIGM of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons, and brought greetings in behalf of the Council.

Nov 7 I visited Bartlesville Council #41. A nice meal was provided, but a quorum was not present to meet. We shared meaningful conversation and the local leadership pledged to work toward generating interest in the coming year.

Nov 11 I attended the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma, and was recognized by the Grand Master, along with the other presiding officers of the Concordant Bodies of Freemasonry.

Nov 14 I visited Bernard Council #43 in Ponca City. The officers were present and they performed the Opening on the Select Degree from memory and with excellent proficiency. It was such a pleasing evening.

Nov 27 I visited Union Council #3 in McAlester. They opened on the Select Master, with their officers present; and conducted their annual election of officers.

Dec 12 I visited Woodward Council #52. They opened on the Select Masters' Degree and conducted their annual election of officers.

- Dec 13 I visited Muskogee Council#2. In addition to opening and closing on both the Chapter and Council, the annual installation of the officers of both bodies was conducted. I had the privilege of installing the 2023-2024 Council officers.
- Dec 27 The second quarterly Grand Officers meeting was held by zoom at 7 pm. The emphasis of this session was in reviewing the details of implementing the Grand High Priest's program of offering and conferring the first two Chapter Degrees at no charge at as many as 7 special conferrals scheduled during the month of January.
- Jan 8 I attended the special conferral of the MM and PM degrees hosted by the Ardmore Chapter, was introduced as MIGM, and presented an education program regarding the Chapter and Council to the Master Masons present.
- Jan 9 I visited Edmond Masonic Lodge #37, and gave a presentation on the history and value of the York Rite of Freemasonry.
- Jan 11 I visited Norman Council #27, was received as MIGM and gave an education talk on the origins of the York Rite degrees in the British Isles.
- Jan 13 Attended the special conferral of the MM and PM degrees hosted by the Muskogee Chapter, was introduced as MIGM, and presented an education program to the Master Masons in attendance regarding the Chapter and Council Degrees.
- Jan 20 I journeyed to Junction City, KS on behalf of the Sovereign Grand Master of the Grand Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees to constitute a new Council, and install its officers. The brothers were kind enough to recognize me as the sitting MIGM in Oklahoma.
- Jan 25 I attended the special conferral of the MM and PM degrees hosting by the Lawton Chapter, and gave an education talk on the Chapter and Council Degrees of the York Rite.
- Jan 28 The Committee on Time and Place called a zoom meeting for the purpose of event scheduling, food, hospitality, etc. in regard to the York Rite Grand Sessions to be held on April 25-27, 2024.
- Feb 3 Attended the Chapter/Council Regional Festival in Norman. I opened Norman Council #21 in ample form. The Royal and Select Master Degrees were conferred on 17 companions; with 23 Cryptic Masons participating as candidates in the Super Excellent Master Degree.
- Feb 16-17 Attended the annual Masonic Week activities in Alexandria, VA; and at the session held by the Grand Council of Knight Masons, USA, I had the honor of being introduced as the MIGM of Cryptic Masonry in Oklahoma.
- Feb 17-19 Attended the Grand Masters' Conference of North America held in Seattle WA; and was invited to a meeting with the Most Puissant General Grand Master, William G. Snyder, to discuss an education initiative he has asked me to be a participant in creating over this Triennium.
- Feb 27 Attended a joint Chapter/Council meeting at Lawton Council #21, and discussed the business pending before the Grand Sessions and encouraged the voting delegates and/or proxies to be in attendance.
- Mar 2 Attended the Central Oklahoma conferral of the Commandery Orders on those who enrolled in the free Chapter degree program and completed their Chapter and Council work during the month of February.
- Mar 9 I was invited to attend the quarterly Stated Communication of the Mysterious Nine Council #61 in Norman. The Illustrious Master conducted a good question/answer session on the meaning of Wisdom; after which I added an interpretation of why the Kabbalistic tree associates wisdom with knowledge and understanding as representing the highest trinity of virtues.
- Mar 19 Visited Elk City Council #25. Because of mechanical problems related to the elevator, a quorum was not present. A meaningful discussion was held with those present regarding the future of the York Rite Bodies in Elk City.
- Apr 5 Attended the Guthrie Scottish Rite Spring Reunion and had the honor of being introduced as the MIGM at the opening ceremonies. In addition, I gave a member education program that afternoon on the Royal Arch and Select Master Traditions in Freemasonry.
- April 14 The last quarterly Grand Officers meeting was held via Zoom at 7 pm. The emphasis of this session was in reviewing the details of the upcoming Grand Sessions, which will be held on April 25-27, 2024, at the Embassy Suites NW in Oklahoma City.

Decision No. 1

Mysterious Nine Council 61 has scheduled a special fundraising activity as a Council function on Saturday, September 9 in Norman to support the Cryptic Masonry Medical Research Foundation. I am aware that, on several past occasions, this Council has conducted a fundraising program benefiting CMMRF. To add to the potential success of their program, the Mysterious Nine Council has incorporated a ceremonial conferral of a historical side degree or order that is no longer extant, or presently conferred under no specific authority.

The planned program for this year includes two ceremonies. One is styled the "Order of the Knights of the Round Table;" the other, the "Order of Knights of the Garter and St. George." The Knights of the Round Table ritual may date back to the early 1800's. It appears in a notebook of Moses Holbrook, who was the Southern Jurisdiction Scottish Rite's fourth Grand Commander. It is known to have been conferred in 1811 by Thomas Lownds, a travelling lecturer, and Grand Prelate of Columbian Council of Royal Master Masons, New York. The Knights of the Garter and St. George ritual is an adaptation from a 1672 publication authored by Elias Ashmole, which related to the institution, laws, and ceremonies of the Most Noble Order of the Garter.

I made an inquiry as to where these rituals were currently being performed. Mysterious Nine Council 61 received them from Enoch Council of Research, UD in Indiana. The Grand Council of Indiana has an adopted Concordant permitting the Enoch Council UD to confer these Orders for educational purposes only, and as a fundraiser for the CMMRF.

I asked the Enoch Council to forward me the rituals for review. They graciously complied with my request. Upon receipt of the rituals, it was clearly stated on the frontispiece that these Orders can only be conferred in Indiana by the Enoch Council of Research UD on Royal and Select Masters by permission of the Most Illustrious Grand Master and the Grand Council of Indiana. I informed the Recorder of Mysterious Nine Council that Oklahoma has not received permission to bring these Orders to our State, and that permission requires a decision from the Most Illustrious Grand Master of Indiana to permit the same to be conferred beyond its own boundaries. I contacted the MIGM of Indiana and he has provided a written letter to me authorizing these two ceremonies to be exemplified on September 9 by the Mysterious Nine Council 61.

The other concern that came to my attention is the legal ramification of using the term "Order of the Garter" in any Masonic ceremony since this is an extant Order of heraldry in England that can only be conferred on English Nobility. I contacted a brother in London who holds Grand Rank in England. He informed me the Order of the Garter is not conferred anywhere under English Masonic Law to preserve the positive relationship the Grand Lodge has with the English Monarchy.

I informed the Secretary of Mysterious Nine Council 61 of the following decision in this matter:

1. The two ceremonies can be exemplified on September 9, 2023 by the Mysterious Nine Council only under the rubric of education with the sole purpose of raising funds for the CMMRF.
2. Further, as the two Orders do not legally exist with a sanctioned Charter authorizing them by the Oklahoma Grand Council, they cannot have members. A certificate of membership cannot be authorized by a local Council or by the Grand Council of Oklahoma.
3. Further, to preserve the history and provenance of the name of the "Order of the Knights of the Garter," it cannot be used in Oklahoma. The sash, cordon, and jewel of the Order of the Garter cannot be worn.
4. Further, since one cannot be a member of these two Orders, no regalia is required of those who participate in this educational exemplification.
5. Further, a certificate of membership cannot be distributed to anyone who participates in this exemplification. A certificate of appreciation can be given to the participants thanking them for making a donation to the CMMRF.

This decision shall remain in effect during the 2023-24 Grand Council year; or until rescinded by authority of our Grand Council.

Dispensation 1

In accordance with Article 11, Section 1.b., I approved a request for a waiver of Jurisdiction to Brother Daren Parks, a member of Miami Lodge #140, who requested a waiver of Jurisdiction to join a York Rite Body in Missouri and receive his Degrees and Orders from that Body. His reason is that it is much closer to his home than Tulsa. Nothing in the Grand Chapter, Council, and Grand Commandery General Laws prevents a waiver of jurisdiction for cause. It was determined that Tulsa would have to take a vote to release Brother Parks from their jurisdiction before we could release him from the jurisdiction of Oklahoma. On Monday, May 15, 2023, Tulsa Chapter 52 and Tulsa Council 22 voted to release Brother Parks from their jurisdiction. On Monday, May 22, 2023, Trinity Commandery also voted to release Brother Parks. I approved this action on May 23, 2023.

Dispensation 2

In accordance with Article 10, Section 2, of the General Laws of the Grand Council of Oklahoma, I issued a dispensation to Guthrie Council No. 48 to allow Guthrie Council to hold a special election to elect the Principal Conductor of the Work at their Stated Communication on Thursday, September 14, 2023. I approved this action on July 17, 2023.

Dispensation 3

In accordance with Article 10, Section 2, of the General Laws of the Grand Council, I issued a dispensation to Muskogee Council #2 to allow the Council to hold its annual election of Officers on Wednesday, Nov 8, 2023.

Dispensation 4

In accordance with Article 10, Section 2, of the General Laws of the Grand Council, I issued a dispensation to Tulsa Council #22 to allow them to hold their annual election of officers on Monday, Nov 20, 2023.

Dispensation 5

Jan 7, 2024: In accordance with Article 2, Section 1 (m) of the General Laws of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Oklahoma, I issued a special dispensation to Tulsa Council No. 22, for James R. Taylor, Jr., Deputy Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Oklahoma, to open and close The Tulsa Council in ample form on Saturday, February 10, 2024 in conjunction with the regional Council festival held in Tulsa on that date.

Other Actions:

On August 23, at the request of the Custodians of the Work, I reviewed the language differences between the 2022 ritual draft of the Grand Council of Oklahoma and the current adopted ritual of the General Grand Council. The differences were superfluous in regard to ritual context and meaning; and primarily related to grammatical and style differences which, in each case, made one version flow better than the other. I forwarded to the Committee my recommendation of which ritual represents the most grammatically correct for each printed document. Out of a total of 34 differences in language, 20 were more grammatically correct in the Oklahoma working; with 14 being more correct in the General Grand working. The Committee reviewed the two rituals, and recommended that only 5 changes be made in a republishing of the Oklahoma Grand Council ritual. They also presented a recommendation for a new cover to distinguish the newly adopted work from previous versions. With the Grand Council approval of the Custodians of the Work report at our April, 2024 Grand Session, we will affirm the 2022 draft with the 2024 revisions published by the Custodians. The 2024 ritual book will become the adopted ritual for the Grand Council of Oklahoma.

Condition of the Craft

With only 16 Cryptic Councils in Oklahoma, the York Rite has a presence in less than 3% of the municipalities in our State, and only 7% of our Masonic Lodges. The reality of this situation, along with our declining numbers, has triggered our Grand York Rite Bodies to implement three strategic decisions in recent years; all aimed at future sustainability.

First, the annual Statewide York Rite one-day conferral honoring the Grand Master of Masons in Oklahoma has proven successful as the venue that secures over 80% of our annual gains of new companions and knights. It is a festival promoted by the York Rite, the Scottish Rite, and our Grand Lodge leadership.

Second, we have focused on the recruitment of Scottish Rite Masons equally with Blue Lodge Masons for the reason that Scottish Rite men have already had a Masonic experience beyond the Blue Lodge; and, from that experience, they understand Masonry as a progressive system of instruction beyond three degrees. In fact, of the member gains received from our Statewide York Rite Festivals over the past decade, 98% have come from brothers who were already Scottish Rite Masons; again, they were Masons who have an understanding that worthy Masonic teachings exist beyond the Symbolic Lodge. And they joined the York Rite as a result of that insight and awareness. It simply can no longer be argued that the York Rite and the Scottish Rite are competing Bodies in any way. We are, and always have been, heirs of a mutual heritage in our State. We are defined as Concordant Bodies of Masonry, meaning we are same in structure and form and purpose; engaged together in the pursuit of further Masonic Light through the conferral of Masonic Degrees.

Third, to mitigate the rate of decline, we have, by necessity, brought Master Masons and Scottish Rite Masons into our Order almost entirely through the venue of regional and statewide York Rite festivals, utilizing proficient ritualists from across the State. We are pleased that Lawton has developed the ritual proficiency to create regional festivals serving Southwest Oklahoma during this Grand Council year. With the help of the York Rite Bodies in Muskogee, Ardmore, and Texoma, we are hopeful that McAlester can establish regional conferral capability in the coming year. This will give us 4 strategic locations for regional festivals.

We also continue to promote the establishment of newly chartered York Rite Chapters in active Oklahoma Lodges, knowing that these Capitular programs will lead to Cryptic Councils, and can be feeder lodges to our regional festival program. We have not yet been successful in creating additional Chapters; but have also not made this a central focus of our labors. Suffice it to state that it remains a strategic goal.

The York Rite membership in Oklahoma now stands at 1256. The good news is that our jurisdiction is experiencing the smallest rate of annual decline in the South-Central Region. We continue to be on the edge of seeing a net annual gain in membership each year; and our regional festivals have proven that new degree teams are a natural result of conducting regional festivals.

The largest structural challenge that we face is that 64% of our members are currently over 70 years of age. Our impending mortality rate will likely see the loss of 25% of our members by the end of the current decade. Without a goals-based, organized, and systemic membership recruitment campaign that is implemented every year through the current decade, we could lose 7 of our Chapters and Councils in this period of time. Going forward, unless there is a positive turn around in Masonic membership at the Blue Lodge level, it will be necessary that we strive to maintain a minimum of 12 highly functioning York Rite Chapters and Councils that are strategically located across the State. If the ritual work is good, and the York Rite experience meaningful and enjoyable, men will travel some distance to participate.

Recommendations

1. Make the day of the week your local Bodies meet and the number of meetings you hold throughout the year a strategic decision.

Given the condition of our York Rite Bodies across the State; the decline we are experiencing in the regular attendance of our members; and the declining fraternal activity of our Symbolic Lodges; particularly in the rural areas of Oklahoma; it is important that we evaluate our future from a standpoint of sustainability, rather than in trying to maintain the status quo of past generations. What seemed to work in Freemasonry up until the 1970's was driven only by a larger membership base, with the visibility of more Lodges in every County. The Baby Boomers did not follow the WWII era men in joining the organizations of their fathers. This created the first generational gap in American Freemasonry, and we have yet to overcome it. The result was that we became a fraternity that was no longer familiar to the outside world. This lack of organizational interest has only been exacerbated by the isolation in occupations and relationships of the GenXers, Millennials, and GenZers. Men believe they have precious little time to participate in any extra-curricular activity that takes away from their work, home, and family life.

Yet, the majority of our Blue Lodges (and York Rite Bodies) continue to meet twice monthly; and even weekly, if they are conferring degrees. This is a model that has not resulted in increasing member participation for decades.

If we are going to sustain the number of York Rite Bodies that we have, we must make every meeting worth a companion's time. It would be better to have one evening a month that was filled with ritual, education, fraternalizing, socializing, and feasting; than to have multiple meetings where nothing of interest occurs, and we read what little ritual we have in opening and closing our Bodies. At least in our rural Bodies, it is recommended that we create a culture and an experience that incentivizes men in the region to participate in York Rite activities once a month. The incentive is that we, as their York Rite Body, will assure them monthly of the best Masonic experience they can receive in their area of the State.

Secondly, to sustain our York Rite Bodies in rural areas, we must draw our membership from an increasingly wider regional area; in some areas consisting of multiple counties. It is recommended that we avoid holding our monthly meetings on a night that conflicts with the Stated Communications of any lodge in the region. We want their members to know that, when they join the York Rite, they can attend York Rite activities that will not conflict with the lodges in which they belong.

2. A Targeted Lodge Membership Recruitment Strategy for York Rite Conferrals

Until such time as we can develop local Bodies that are proficient in conferring the York Rite Council Degrees at home, we will continue to utilize regional degree team programs. It is recommended that we strive to develop a plan of holding these festivals in targeted lodges across the State. If the York Rite is going to be a success, its best path is to be attached to successful lodges. We need to think about directing our focus toward lodges that have already demonstrated a sustained record of success. We need to collectively define what is meant by a target lodge. For instance, we may want to define targeted lodges to be lodges that have raised 3 or more Master Masons each year over the last 4 years. Targeted lodges are also lodges that have a strong history of member participation in the Scottish Rite and/or the Shrine. Targeted lodges are lodges that are the most active lodges in a multi county geographic area. Targeted Lodges are often in communities with more than 7,000 population. As time goes by, our fraternity will become more urbanized. We need to insure we are a part of this reality.

Our member recruitment program promoting regional festival dates has not had the same energy as the Statewide Grand Master's festival. Our regional conferrals should be similar to the recruitment program now utilized for the annual festival in honor of the Grand Master; including a prospect friends night hosted by the targeted lodge; prospect files obtained from the Grand Recorder's office; introduction flyers sent to prospects residing in the region; YR members making follow up calls and/or mailings to prospects; and a created incentives program (coin, patent, medallion, etc.) that will be promoted and given only to those who petition and join the YR via a regional festival. It is also important to note that the oldest of the Generation Zers (those born between 1997 and 2012) are now 27 years old. They receive all of their information digitally, using primarily YouTube, followed by TicToc, Snapchat, and Instagram. Facebook usage among this group has dropped from 77% to 33% since 2015. We should add our digital Masonic marketing information to the above-mentioned platforms.

Success in any endeavor is always complemented by goals. Perhaps a goal should be established and circulated giving the number of York Rite Masons to be exalted and greeted for each regional festival. Participating lodges that provide a candidate for these festivals should receive a "Unity Certificate of Appreciation" signed by the Grand High Priest and the Grand Illustrious Master.

Companions, we already have the tools to be successful. What we need is a leadership team that is committed to success. It is a great opportunity for our new and enthusiastic companions to take up the gap in leadership here, and literally recreate the York Rite in Oklahoma.

3. A Program to Enhance Ritual Proficiency of Officers and Members of Constituent Councils

I have asked the Custodians of Work of the Grand Council to design a "Progressive Ritualist Proficiency Program" for the Council Degrees for your consideration of adoption at this Grand Session. I consider this a high priority based on two observations:

1. In visiting the 16 local Councils this year, there were only 3 who opened on the Degree of Select Master without referring to the ritual book. It is a long tradition in Masonry that its rituals are conferred by rote memorization. This conveys to our new initiates a sincere intent to observe the solemnity of our instruction at every level of our progressive art. It sets Masonry apart from all other community activities, and communicates that Masonry requires effort because it is an agency for our own personal improvement as men.
2. It is important to understand that the first impression a new member has of his local Council is almost always the most lasting impression. His experience as a Master Mason has already impressed upon him that ritual proficiency is the hallmark of Freemasonry. He has more likely than not received the Degrees of the York Rite at a Statewide or Regional festival, where ritual proficiency is evident and clearly demonstrated. Imagine his disappointment when he comes to his local Chapter or Council meeting for the first time and discovers that his companions have no regard for, or priority in upholding the same level of proficiency in the work that impressed him the most when he joined the Blue Lodge.

I sincerely believe the Council has the best opportunity to resolve this problem. We have only two obligatory Degrees. They are short in length, and they are not as difficult to learn as any of the three Blue Lodge Degrees, or three of the four Chapter Degrees.

To this end, a ritual proficiency program similar to what we are accustomed to in the graded system of Blue Lodge proficiency has been created. It is a four-level progressive ritual proficiency program, with recognitions given to those who achieve the ritual requirements of each level. I will defer to the Custodians of the Work to explain the elements of the program, and will be happy to answer any questions you may have when they make their report. Of course, it is a voluntary program for any Council; but those who become engaged in it will certainly benefit from it; and, more importantly, your Council will provide an incentive for your new Companions to continue the traditional path of learning to improve themselves in Masonry. Perhaps one day we will get back to conferring the Degrees of the York Rite at home.

Concluding Remarks

Again, I have enjoyed my term as your Grand Illustrious Master and pray that I have performed my duties to your satisfaction. Freemasonry has been a great journey for me. It has worked its magic on me; and I am a better man today than I was 55 years ago when I crossed the threshold of initiation for the first time. I'm very thankful to my wife, Sharon, who, for 55 years has been loving me and supporting me in my Masonic work. She, and my two daughters, Karina and Lindsey, are truly the greatest gifts I have received in my life.

It is now time to put down the gavel and again pick up the trowel. It is such a pleasure to know each of you. Thank you for what you do for our wonderful fraternity! I look forward to the continued servant leadership we share together as we strive to improve ourselves in our way of life as fraternal men in the vast Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God.

Finally, brethren be ye all of one mind; live in peace; and may the God of Love and Peace delight to dwell with and bless you!

Fraternally submitted,
 Robert G. Davis
 Grand Illustrious Master

REPORT OF THE RIGHT ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND TREASURER, KENTON M. ISRAEL

Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Oklahoma

For the period ending December 31, 2023

These accounts are all held at Morgan Stanley

Grand Council Investment Account	
General Fund	
Beginning Balance, January 1, 2023	\$78,324.32
Deposits	0.00
Withdrawals	-1,800.00
Dividend/Interest Earned	2,420.46
Appreciation	<u>6,294.50</u>
Ending Balance, December 31, 2023	\$85,239.28

Grand Council Investment Account	
Perpetual Membership	
Beginning Balance, January 1, 2023	\$118,261.32
Deposits	3,592.50
Withdrawals	-4,780.16
Dividend/Interest Earned	3,543.40
Appreciation	<u>6,283.12</u>
Ending Balance, December 31, 2023	\$126,900.18

Grand Council 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 Council Investments	<u>1/1/2023</u>	<u>12/31/2023</u>		
General Fund	\$78,324.32	\$85,239.28	\$6,914.96	8.83%
Perpetual Membership	\$118,261.32	\$126,900.18	\$8,638.86	7.30%
Joint Account-Membership Development	\$65,836.16	\$73,217.48	\$7,381.32	11.21%
Grand Total of Grand Council Investments	<u>\$262,421.80</u>	<u>\$285,356.94</u>		

As of 12/31/2023		Total Perpetual Members Grand Council, CM of Oklahoma												
3/30/2024 10:36	New						Total	* To Grand	To Grand	Total to	* To Local	To Local	Total to	
	Members	Total			Total	Total	Interest	Council	Council	Grand	* Council	Council	Local	
Name	in 2023	Members	Dead	Living	Investment	Dues	Distributed	Deceased	Living	Council	Deceased	Living	Councils	
Altus No. 33		35	13	22	7,965.00	531.00	168.06	* 57.95	25.16	83.11	* 35.92	49.03	84.95	168.06
Alpha (OKC), No. 18	1	50	22	28	8,965.00	597.00	183.62	* 26.82	63.55	90.37	* 42.07	51.18	93.25	183.62
Ardmore, No. 11		26	14	12	5,410.00	352.70	114.15	* 19.40	29.38	48.77	* 34.51	30.86	65.38	114.1
Bartlesville, No. 41		42	31	11	5012.75	334.00	105.77	* 29.30	17.85	47.16	* 43.34	15.27	58.61	105.77
Bernard (Ponca City), No. 43		39	15	24	4,637.00	306.60	153.88	* 14.93	78.30	93.23	* 15.62	45.02	60.65	153.88
Capitol Hill (OKC), No. 59		143	78	65	18,836.50	1209.40	785.06	* 87.81	279.09	366.90	* 115.33	302.83	418.16	785.06
Elk City, No. 25		45	20	25	5,895.00	393.00	190.53	* 17.41	74.61	92.02	* 25.64	72.87	98.51	190.53
Guthrie, No. 48		33	14	19	5,826.00	388.00	122.93	* 15.51	45.85	61.36	* 24.37	37.20	61.57	122.93
Lawton, No. 21		56	37	19	7,875.00	517.00	166.16	* 32.58	37.24	69.82	* 55.09	41.26	96.34	166.16
Muskogee, No. 2		84	41	43	13,800.00	790.00	272.19	* 62.42	109.01	171.43	* 51.21	49.55	100.76	272.19
Mysterious Nine No. 61		1		1	210.00	14.00	4.43	*	2.61	2.61	*	1.82	1.82	4.43
Norman, No. 27		70	46	24	8,509.41	561.15	179.55	* 43.50	42.33	85.84	* 59.49	34.23	93.71	179.55
Stillwater, No. 50		47	28	19	6,886.20	457.08	230.75	* 26.51	76.56	103.07	* 40.91	86.78	127.68	230.75
Tulsa, No. 22	3	124	50	74	28,006.73	1,759.50	550.43	* 55.07	193.81	248.88	* 90.11	211.44	301.55	550.43
Union (McAlester), No. 3		60	25	35	7008.75	467.25	236.57	* 26.43	124.24	150.67	* 21.49	64.41	85.90	236.57
Woodward, No. 52		<u>44</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>3,417.50</u>	<u>227.00</u>	<u>72.11</u>	* <u>22.95</u>	<u>30.04</u>	<u>52.99</u>	* <u>10.92</u>	<u>8.20</u>	<u>19.12</u>	<u>72.11</u>
16	4	899	461	438	138,260.84	8,904.68	3,536.20	* 538.58	1,229.65	1,768.23	* 666.02	1101.95	1767.96	3536.20

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. 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. If we would have lost more last year, the gains this year would show a higher percentage even if we just got to where we ended 2023.

Perpetual Membership Account Information

899 Total Members at 12/31/2023

9 New Members in 2023

438 Living Members

461 Deceased Members

Interest/Dividends earned in 2023: \$3,543.40

Div/Int distributed to Grand Council in 2024 for Div/Int earned in 2023: \$1,768.23

Div/Int distributed to Local Councils in 2024 for Div/Int earned in 2023: \$1,767.96

We added 9 new members to our Perpetual Members list in 2023. In the middle of 2023 after one 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 in held during that time, we expect much larger returns in Div & int in 2024.

Thank you all for the opportunity to serve as Grand Treasurer this year, it has been an honor. I am very thankful for the Investment Advisory Committee and their experience and encouragement.

Respectfully submitted,

Kent Israel [18,25]

Grand Treasurer

REPORT OF THE RIGHT ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND RECORDER, JON B. GREENE

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

General Grand Council of Cryptic Masonry

Grand Council of Oklahoma

Located at Tulsa, OK

Total Working Councils = 17

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

Total number members on last return = 1,205

Total number GREETED = 67

Total number AFFILIATED = 5

Total number REINSTATED = 4

Total number ADD ADJUSTMENT = 0

Total Gain (+) 76

Total number DEMITTED = 6

Total number SUSPENDED = 33

Total number DECEASED = 37

Total number EXPELLED = 0

Total number DELETE ADJUSTMENT = 0

Total Loss (-) 76

Net Gain (Net Loss) = 0

Total number of members
(including Dual and Plural)
= 1,205

GRAND COUNCIL RETURNS FOR 2023

RETURNS OF CONSTITUENT COUNCILS FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023

No.	Name	2022 Members End Of Year	Greeted	Admitted/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. Council Life Members	No.	Name	Dues	Fees	DeMolay	Grand Council Per Capita	General Grand Council Per Capita	CMRRF	Net Amount	Perpetual Member Per Capita Return	TOTAL
2	Muskogee	120	13	1	3	0	0	6	7	0	0	4	124	39	0	41	2	Muskogee	\$25.00	\$50.00	\$21.25	\$850.00	\$207.50	\$85.00	\$1,163.75	\$171.43	\$1,335.18
3	Union	94	7	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	2	96	35	0	35	3	Union	\$15.00	\$50.00	\$15.25	\$610.00	\$152.50	\$61.00	\$838.75	\$150.67	\$989.42
11	Ardmore	56	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	57	12	0	13	11	Ardmore	\$22.00	\$45.00	\$11.25	\$450.00	\$110.00	\$45.00	\$616.25	\$48.77	\$665.02
18	Alpha	116	11	1	0	1	5	0	1	0	0	5	121	30	3	33	18	Alpha	\$20.00	\$45.00	\$22.00	\$880.00	\$220.00	\$88.00	\$1,210.00	\$90.37	\$1,300.37
21	Lawton	89	13	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	12	101	17	0	18	21	Lawton	\$22.50	\$50.00	\$21.00	\$840.00	\$207.50	\$84.00	\$1,152.50	\$69.82	\$1,222.32
22	Tulsa	180	13	0	0	1	11	6	0	0	0	(5)	175	74	6	79	22	Tulsa	\$34.00	\$40.00	\$23.75	\$950.00	\$240.00	\$95.00	\$1,308.75	\$248.88	\$1,557.63
25	Elk City	51	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	(1)	50	24	0	40	25	Elk City	\$30.00	\$40.00	\$6.50	\$260.00	\$25.00	\$26.00	\$317.50	\$92.02	\$409.52
27	Norman	84	3	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	87	22	0	24	27	Norman	\$28.00	\$40.00	\$16.25	\$650.00	\$157.50	\$65.00	\$888.75	\$65.84	\$974.59
33	Altus	44	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	(1)	43	19	0	21	33	Altus	\$20.00	\$50.00	\$6.00	\$240.00	\$55.00	\$24.00	\$325.00	\$63.11	\$408.11
41	Bartlesville	40	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	41	11	0	26	41	Bartlesville	\$16.50	\$40.00	\$7.50	\$300.00	\$37.50	\$30.00	\$375.00	\$47.16	\$422.16
43	Bernard	50	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	50	25	0	25	43	Bernard	\$14.00	\$35.00	\$6.25	\$250.00	\$62.50	\$25.00	\$343.75	\$93.23	\$436.98
48	Guthrie	73	1	0	0	1	3	3	0	0	0	(6)	67	18	1	19	48	Guthrie	\$21.00	\$50.00	\$12.00	\$480.00	\$120.00	\$48.00	\$660.00	\$61.36	\$721.36
50	Stillwater	52	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	(2)	50	18	0	20	50	Stillwater	\$20.00	\$35.00	\$8.00	\$320.00	\$75.00	\$32.00	\$435.00	\$103.07	\$538.07
52	Woodward	37	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	(5)	32	17	0	17	52	Woodward	\$20.50	\$45.00	\$3.75	\$150.00	\$37.50	\$15.00	\$206.25	\$52.99	\$259.24
59	Capitol Hill	101	2	0	1	0	7	3	0	0	0	(7)	94	60	3	62	59	Capitol Hill	\$19.00	\$40.00	\$7.75	\$310.00	\$80.00	\$31.00	\$428.75	\$366.90	\$795.65
61	Mysterious Nine	18	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	(1)	17	1	0	1	61	Mysterious Nine	\$75.00	\$250.00	\$4.00	\$160.00	\$40.00	\$16.00	\$220.00	\$2.61	\$222.61
	Totals	1205	67	5	4	0	6	33	37	0	0	0	1205	422	13	474		Totals			\$192.50	\$7,700.00	\$1,827.50	\$770.00	\$10,490.00	\$1,768.23	\$12,258.23

2023 BUDGET VS ACTUAL

Income			
4000 · ANNUAL RETURNS			
4010 · Oklahoma Per Capita	7,500.00	7,500.00	0.00
4020 · G. G. Council Assessment	1,785.00	1,785.00	0.00
4030 · CMMRF Assessment	750.00	750.00	0.00
4050 · DeMolay Donation	187.50	187.50	0.00
Total 4000 · ANNUAL RETURNS	<u>10,222.50</u>	<u>10,222.50</u>	<u>0.00</u>
4100 · INTEREST / INVESTMENT INCOME			
4110 · Perpetual Membership Dividend	2,528.80	2,528.80	0.00
4120 · Interest Income-Other	0.00	2,459.00	-2,459.00
Total 4100 · INTEREST / INVESTMENT INCOME	<u>2,528.80</u>	<u>4,987.80</u>	<u>-2,459.00</u>
4200 · FEES			
4210 · Degree Fees	645.00	500.00	145.00
4220 · Dispensation Fee	10.00	10.00	0.00
4230 · Reinstatement Fee	20.00	10.00	10.00
Total 4200 · FEES	<u>675.00</u>	<u>520.00</u>	<u>155.00</u>
4300 · RESALE			
4310 · Ritual Resale	0.00	200.00	-200.00
Total 4300 · RESALE	<u>0.00</u>	<u>200.00</u>	<u>-200.00</u>
4600 · MISC INCOME			
4630 · MISC Income	0.00	150.00	-150.00
Total 4600 · MISC INCOME	<u>0.00</u>	<u>150.00</u>	<u>-150.00</u>
4700 · GRAND SESSIONS			
23-4710 · 2023-Grand Sessions Income	12,146.85	8,500.00	3,646.85
Total 4700 · GRAND SESSIONS	<u>12,146.85</u>	<u>8,500.00</u>	<u>3,646.85</u>
Total Income	<u>25,573.15</u>	<u>24,580.30</u>	<u>992.85</u>
Gross Profit	25,573.15	24,580.30	992.85
Expense			
5000 · STAFF			
5010 · Grand Recorder 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	<u>5,427.72</u>	<u>5,900.00</u>	<u>-472.28</u>
5100 · ASSESSMENTS			
5110 · Per Capita - Gen Grand Council	1,785.00	1,785.00	0.00
5120 · CMMRF Donation	750.00	750.00	0.00
5130 · DeMolay Donation	0.00	300.00	-300.00
Total 5100 · ASSESSMENTS	<u>2,535.00</u>	<u>2,835.00</u>	<u>-300.00</u>
5500 · YOUTH EXPENSES			
5510 · Youth Ads	0.00	100.00	-100.00
Total 5500 · YOUTH EXPENSES	<u>0.00</u>	<u>100.00</u>	<u>-100.00</u>
6000 · CONFERENCE/TRAVEL			
6010-23 · M.I.G.M. TRAVEL - ISRAEL	1,250.00	1,250.00	0.00
6010-24 · M.I.G.M. TRAVEL - DAVIS	0.00	1,250.00	-1,250.00
6011 · Grand Recorders Travel	90.54	200.00	-109.46
6020 · M.I.G.M. Grand Session Expense	0.00	250.00	-250.00
6025-23 · 2023 Grand Sessions Expense	12,751.76	8,500.00	4,251.76
6030 · Grand Sessions Host Expense	276.00	250.00	26.00
6040 · Grand Sessions-Headquarters	755.40	1,100.00	-344.60
6050 · Grand Sessions-Awards	0.00	125.00	-125.00
6060 · Past Gr. Illust Master's Jewel	629.00	629.00	0.00
6080 · Triennial	0.00	742.00	-742.00
6110 · Grand Session Refund	501.16		
Total 6000 · CONFERENCE/TRAVEL	<u>16,253.86</u>	<u>14,296.00</u>	<u>1,957.86</u>

2023 BUDGET VS ACTUAL - Continued

7000 · OFFICE EXPENSE			
7100 · Rent			
7110 · Muskogee Storage Rent	0.00	33.00	-33.00
7130 · Quarterly Meeting Rent	0.00	0.00	0.00
7140 · G.M. Festival Rent	<u>200.00</u>	<u>100.00</u>	<u>100.00</u>
Total 7100 · Rent	200.00	133.00	67.00
7200 · Telecommunications			
7210 · Phone and Internet	0.00	400.00	-400.00
7220 · Website	<u>0.00</u>	<u>75.00</u>	<u>-75.00</u>
Total 7200 · Telecommunications	0.00	475.00	-475.00
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	0.00	0.00	0.00
7350 · MMS Online Database	<u>223.16</u>	<u>223.16</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total 7300 · Office Supplies	432.65	673.16	-240.51
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	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total 7400 · Printing and Reproduction	84.77	270.00	-185.23
7500 · Postage and Delivery			
7510 · PO Box Rental	64.66	61.00	3.66
7520 · Stamps	<u>0.00</u>	<u>63.00</u>	<u>-63.00</u>
Total 7500 · Postage and Delivery	64.66	124.00	-59.34
7600 · Insurance			
7610 · Bond Premium	<u>0.00</u>	<u>131.00</u>	<u>-131.00</u>
Total 7600 · Insurance	0.00	131.00	-131.00
7700 · Repairs			
7720 · Equipment Repairs	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total 7700 · Repairs	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total 7000 · OFFICE EXPENSE	782.08	1,806.16	-1,024.08
8000 · MISC			
8010 · Rituals	0.00	250.00	-250.00
8020 · Regalia	0.00	0.00	0.00
8030 · Bank Service Charges	0.00	0.00	0.00
8040 · Due Other Bodies	0.00	0.00	0.00
8050 · Digitize Proceedings	0.00	1,200.00	-1,200.00
8070 · Misc - Other	<u>0.00</u>	<u>250.00</u>	<u>-250.00</u>
Total 8000 · MISC	0.00	1,700.00	-1,700.00
8500 · EDUCATION			
8510 · Education Course	<u>0.00</u>	<u>150.00</u>	<u>-150.00</u>
Total 8500 · EDUCATION	<u>0.00</u>	<u>150.00</u>	<u>-150.00</u>
Total Expense	<u>24,998.66</u>	<u>26,787.16</u>	<u>-1,788.50</u>
Net Income	<u>574.49</u>	<u>-2,206.86</u>	<u>2,781.35</u>

We didn't have a gain or a loss of membership in 2023. We Greeted sixty-seven compared to fifty-six last year. We had five affiliations and four reinstatements in 2023, compared to three affiliations and four reinstatements in 2022.

Thirty-three Companions were suspended for non-payment of dues in 2023, compared to forty-eight in 2022. We had six Companions withdrawals as compared to twelve the previous year. The only thing we cannot control is death. We had thirty-seven deceased Companions in 2023 as compared to forty-six deceased Companions in 2022. We had thirteen members reported on the Annual Reports who were unable to pay their dues compared to twenty last year.

Respectfully submitted:

Jon B. Greene [22]

Grand Recorder

RESOLUTION NO. 1a

TO THE MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTER AND MEMBERS OF THE GRAND COUNCIL OF CRYPTIC MASONS OF OKLAHOMA:

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

WHEREAS: The Grand Recorder 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 Guard as ex-officio member.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Jon B. Greene (22)

RESOLUTION NO. 1b

TO THE MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTER AND MEMBERS OF THE GRAND COUNCIL OF CRYPTIC MASONS OF OKLAHOMA:

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

WHEREAS: The Grand Recorder 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 Councils 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 FOLLOWING COMMITTEES BE RE-LETTERED.

Respectfully submitted,
Jon B. Greene (22)

RESOLUTION NO. 2

WHEREAS: The date of the Annual Communications is set by the Constitution and General Laws of the Grand Council of Cryptic 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 contact to the vote of assembled.

Respectfully Submitted
Bradley S Rickelman [50]

RESOLUTION NO. 3

TO THE MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTER AND MEMBERS OF THE GRAND COUNCIL OF CRYPTIC MASONS OF OKLAHOMA:

WHEREAS: Some of the duties of this committee are already assigned to other committees, 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 Councils, whether chartered or under dispensation, together with the reports of the Grand Illustrious Master and Grand Recorder thereon, and report its findings and recommendations.

Be amended to read as follows:

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

Respectfully submitted,
Jon B. Greene [22]
John L. Logan [52, 48]

CUSTODIANS OF THE WORK RESOLUTION NO. 1

WHEREAS: It must never be forgotten that the first impression a new member has of his local Council is almost always the most lasting impression; and

WHEREAS: A new member's experience as a Master Mason has already impressed upon him that ritual proficiency is the hallmark of Freemasonry; and

WHEREAS: It is essential that every Council, at a minimum, can demonstrate proficiency in both the language and floorwork of the opening and closing ceremonies by means of the traditional Masonic practice of memorization; and

WHEREAS: It would be very beneficial for this Grand Council to have a ritual certification program similar to that of the Grand Lodge;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That Article 3, Section 2(i) of the General Laws of this Grand Council which now reads,
The Committee on Custodians of the Work.

They shall generally assume such duties as are usually assigned to the office of Grand Lecturer in Masonic Organizations. The Custodians of the Work shall be qualified Companions, who shall have a general supervision of the ritualistic work of the Councils and are charged with the duty to at all times preserve and maintain the immemorial usages and customs. They shall report to the Grand Illustrious Master, every alleged willful neglect of any Illustrious Master or Council to conform to the authorized rituals, with such recommendations as they shall deem necessary.

They shall render such assistance and instruction as each Council may require. The Committee shall conduct at least one local School of Instruction every two years for every constituent Council in this Grand Jurisdiction. The purpose of said school shall be to oversee work in the opening and closing of a Council, full form, reception of visitors, and at least one pre-selected degree of the local Council's option.

The Custodians of the Work shall be allowed as compensation in full for all services performed such sums as may be recommended by the Finance Committee annually and approved by the Grand Illustrious Master before payment.

Be amended to read:

The Committee on Custodians of the Work.

They shall generally assume such duties as are usually assigned to the office of Grand Lecturer in Masonic Organizations. The Custodians of the Work shall be qualified Companions, who shall have a general supervision of the ritualistic work of the Councils and are charged with the duty to at all times preserve and maintain the immemorial usages and customs. They shall report to the Grand Illustrious Master, every alleged willful neglect of any Illustrious Master or Council to conform to the authorized rituals, with such recommendations as they shall deem necessary.

They shall render such assistance and instruction as each Council may require. The Committee shall conduct at least one local School of Instruction every two years for every constituent Council in this Grand Jurisdiction. The purpose of said school shall be to oversee work in the opening and closing of a Council, full form, reception of visitors, and at least one pre-selected degree of the local Council's option.

The Custodians of the Work or their designated examiners may, during Schools of Instruction or at any place and time mutually agreed upon by the examiner and the examinee, hold examinations for proficiency in the ritual and floorwork of the opening and closing ceremonies of a Council of Select Masters, excluding the duties of officers, but including the reception of the Grand Illustrious Master and other distinguished visitors. Those taking these examinations and found to be proficient shall be designated a "Certified Ritualist of the Council" and shall be reported to the Grand Illustrious Master who shall issue them a certificate of proficiency which shall be good for three (3) years from the date of their examination.

The Custodians of the Work shall be allowed as compensation in full for all services performed such sums as may be recommended by the Finance Committee annually and approved by the Grand Illustrious Master before payment.

Respectfully Submitted,

Clyde H. Schoolfield, Jr. [18], John L. Logan [48. 52], James R. Taylor, Jr. [22]

CUSTODIANS OF THE WORK RESOLUTION NO. 2

WHEREAS: While our ritual is often thought of as the defining characteristic of Freemasonry, we must unfortunately acknowledge that ritual proficiency is slowly becoming a lost art; and

WHEREAS: Thankfully there are a few Companions among us who for many years have labored diligently in the quarries masterfully conferring our degrees upon Royal Arch Masons seeking further Masonic Light; and

WHEREAS: The establishment of a ritual award would serve as a way to acknowledge and celebrate the exemplary achievements and contributions of these dedicated Companions; and

WHEREAS: The introduction of a ritual award would additionally provide an opportunity to inspire and motivate other Companions to strive for excellence in ritual proficiency;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That Article 7 of the General Laws of this Grand Council be appended by an additional Section 6 to read:

Ritual Award.

The purpose of this award is to recognize Companions who have excelled in the ritualistic presentation of the Cryptic degrees. Any Companion who has been designated a "Certified Ritualist of the Council" as defined in Article 3, Section 2(i) is eligible to receive this award. Potential awardees must demonstrate their proficiency in various aspects of the ritual and floorwork of the Royal Master and/or Select Master degrees. Awardees may receive tangible forms of recognition (e.g., certificates, lapel pins, breast jewels, etc.) depending upon the degree of difficulty of the ritual and floorwork for which they have been declared proficient. Companions who have mastered the entire ritual and floorwork of either of the degrees, will be designated a "Master Adept of the Council" for that degree so mastered. Further aspects of this award and its method of implementation shall be set forth in a standing resolution.

Respectfully Submitted,

Clyde H. Schoolfield, Jr. [18], John L. Logan [48. 52], James R. Taylor, Jr. [22]

STANDING RESOLUTION

This Standing Resolution shall be used for the implementation of the Ritual Award, as called for in Article 7, Section 6, of the General Laws of this Grand Council.

Only Companions who have previously been designated a “Certified Ritualist of the Council” as defined in Article 3, Section 2(i) are eligible to receive this award.

For the purpose of examining potential awardees, the various ritualistic parts of the Royal Master and Select Master degrees have been divided into four levels as follows:

ROYAL MASTER LEVELS

LEVEL 1 – Meet the requirements as defined in Article 3, Section 2(i) of the General Laws of this Grand Council.

LEVEL 2 – The completion of the second Level requires the applicant to be a LEVEL 1 Certificate Ritualist, and be proficient in both the language and floorwork of the offices of Deputy Master, Captain of the Guard, and Conductor of the Council in the Royal Master degree.

LEVEL 3 – The completion of the third Level requires the applicant to be a LEVEL 2 “Royal Certificate Ritualist of the Council” and be proficient in both the language and floorwork in any one of the following offices and/or parts: the Illustrious Master, or the Principal Conductor of the Work, or the Historical Lecture in the Royal Master degree.

LEVEL 4 – The completion of the fourth Level requires the applicant to have attained all of the requirements of LEVELS 1, 2, and 3, and be proficient in one more of the following three offices and/or parts: the Illustrious Master, or the Principal Conductor of the Work, or the Historical Lecture in the Royal Master degree.

SELECT MASTER LEVELS

LEVEL 1 – Meet the requirements as defined in Article 3, Section 2(i) of the General Laws of this Grand Council, and be proficient in both the language and floorwork of the offices of Deputy Master, Principal Conductor of the Work, and Conductor of the Council in the Select Master degree.

LEVEL 2 – The completion of the second Level requires the applicant to be a LEVEL 1 Certificate Ritualist, and be proficient in both the language and the floorwork of the office of Captain of the Guard and the Apron Lecture and Charge of the Select Master degree.

LEVEL 3 – The completion of the third Level requires the applicant to be a LEVEL 2 “Royal Certificate Ritualist of the Council” and be proficient in both the language and floorwork of the Illustrious Master in the Select Master degree.

LEVEL 4 – The completion of the fourth Level requires the applicant to have attained all of the requirements of LEVELS 1, 2, and 3, and be proficient in the language of the Lecture in the Select Master degree.

The examinations for all four Levels shall be conducted by the Custodians of the Work or their designated examiners.

Any eligible Companion must demonstrate his proficiency in the ritual and floorwork of all the parts listed above in the level for which he is being examined.

Awardees will receive a certificate of recognition or wallet card for each Level in which they have achieved proficiency. In addition, the completion of Level 1 will entitle the “Certified Ritualist of the Council” to receive a lapel pin identifying him as such. The certificate is good for three calendar years.

Awardees who have achieved proficiency in Level 2 will be designated as a “Royal Certificate Ritualist of the Council”, and will receive a wallet card and lapel pin identifying him as such. The recognition is good for three calendar years.

Awardees who have achieved proficiency in Levels 1, 2, and 3 in either the Royal Master, Select Master, or both will receive a breast jewel, with a Royal and/or Select Master bar attached to the jewel.

Awardees who have achieved proficiency in all four Levels of a particular degree will be designated as a “Master Adept of the Council” for that degree and will receive a Master Adept certificate and lapel pin.

Respectfully Submitted,
Clyde H. Schoolfield, Jr. [18], John L. Logan [48. 52], James R. Taylor, Jr. [22]

JURISPRUDENCE

To be presented during the Annual Assembly

CREDENTIALS

To be presented during the Annual Assembly

FINANCE

The Finance Committee met via Zoom on February 18, 2024, and reviewed the statement of revenue and expenses provided by the Grand Recorder for the Grand Council Operating Account and find it to be in order and agreement with the statements provided by the financial institution holding the assets of this account.

The Committee reviewed the investment reports provided by the financial institution holding the assets for the Grand Council General Fund, Grand Council Perpetual Membership Fund, and Joint York Rite Membership Development Fund and find them to be in order and in agreement with the information provided by the Grand Treasurer.

The Grand Council’s budget is a fiscal year budget based on the calendar year, while Grand Council Officers term of office is from the fourth weekend in April to the next April. Due to the confusion this creates in creating and approving the budget, both the outgoing and incoming Grand Master’s Travel expenses are included in this year’s budget to fix the discrepancy.

The Committee commends the Grand Recorder and Grand Treasurer for their diligence in accounting and safeguarding the funds and investments of the Grand Council.

Also accompanying this report is the 2024 proposed budget for the Grand Council, Membership Development, and South-Central Conference which will be hosted by Oklahoma in September 2024. We recommend their approval by the Grand Council.

Fraternally submitted,

James R. Taylor, Jr. [22] – Chairman, Brian M. Ragain [21], Michael S. Wright [11]

COUNCIL BUDGET 2024

Estimated Income	BUDGET 2024
Oklahoma Per Capita	7,690.00
G. G. Council Assessment	1,825.00
CMMRF Assessment	769.00
DeMolay Donation	192.25
Perpetual Membership Dividend	1,768.23
Interest Income-Other	2,420.46
Degree Fees	500.00
Dispensation Fee	10.00
Reinstatement Fee	20.00
Ritual Resale	250.00
MISC Income	150.00
Grand Sessions Income	13,000.00
South Central Conference	450.00
Total Estimated Income	<u>29,044.94</u>

Estimated Expenditures

Grand Recorder Salary	5,250.00
Payroll Taxes	450.00
Grand Treasurer's Allowance	200.00
Per Capita - Gen Grand Council	1,825.00
CMMRF Donation	769.00
DeMolay Donation	300.00
24 - M.I.G.M. TRAVEL - DAVIS*	1,250.00
25 - M.I.G.M. TRAVEL - TAYLOR*	1,250.00
Grand Recorders Travel	0.00
M.I.G.M. Grand Session Expense	250.00
Grand Sessions Expense	13,000.00
Grand Sessions Host Expense	250.00
Grand Sessions-Headquarters	1,140.00
Grand Sessions-Awards	125.00
Triennial 2024	903.00
G.M. Festival Rent	100.00
Phone and Internet	100.00
Website	75.00
General Office Supplies	40.00
Ink	60.00
Computer Software	250.00
MMS Online Database	494.55
Pre-Print	75.00
Proceedings	32.65
PO Box Rental	67.00
Stamps	68.00
Bond Premium	250.00
Equipment Repairs	0.00
Rituals	250.00
Digitize Proceedings	200.00
Total Estimated Expenditures	<u>29,024.20</u>
Net Income/ (Loss)	<u>20.74</u>

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Estimated Income	
Membership Development Interest	1,513.00
Membership Development Other	0.00
Total Estimated Income - Membership Development	<u>1,513.00</u>
Estimated Expenditures	
Promotional Expense	305.00
DeMolay Sword	208.00
Council Ritual Award	1,000.00
Total Estimated Expenditures - Membership Development	<u>1,513.00</u>
Net Income/ (Loss)	<u>0.00</u>

SOUTH CENTRAL CONFERENCE

Estimated Income	
SC Conf - Loan	4,500.00
SC Conf - Registration	7,200.00
SC Conf - Meals	
SC Conf - Friday Lunch	4,000.00
SC Conf - Grand Banquet	7,200.00
SC Conf - Saturday Lunch	4,800.00
SC Conf - Ladies Tour	300.00
Total Estimated Income - South Central Conference	<u>28,000.00</u>
Estimated Expenditures	
SC Conf - Loan	4,500.00
SC Conf - Registration	1,200.00
SC Conf - Meals	
SC Conf - Friday Lunch	4,000.00
SC Conf - Grand Banquet	7,200.00
SC Conf - Saturday Lunch	4,800.00
SC Conf - Hotel A/V Rental	1,500.00
SC Conf - Hotel Down Payment	3,750.00
SC Conf - Meeting Room Rental	300.00
SC Conf - Ladies Tour	300.00
Total Estimated Expenditures - South Central Conference	<u>27,550.00</u>
Net Income/ (Loss)	<u>450.00</u>

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

INVESTMENTS

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,
Charles L. Stuckey, Council 2022-2025 [43] – Chairman,
John L. Logan, Chapter 2024-2026 [48, 52]
Mathew Turner, Commandery 2021-2024 [18, 27]

CHARTERS AND DISPENSATIONS

The Committee on Charters and Dispensations consists of three members and the Grand Principal Conductor of the Work as an ex-officio member. They shall review all returns and reports on the condition of Councils, whether chartered or under dispensation, together with the reports of the Grand Illustrious Master and Grand Recorder thereon, and report its findings and recommendations.

There were no charters surrendered or consolidations in the past year. There were no dispensations for new charters, nor were new charters granted.

Regarding the condition of Councils, I defer to the report of the Committee on Work and Return.

Regarding the address of the Grand Illustrious Master, I defer to the report of the Jurisprudence Committee.

Fraternally,

John L. Logan, PGIM [52, 48] Chairman, John D. Church, PGIM [33, 48, 59], Robert G. Davis, [50], Brian Ragain [21]

WORK AND RETURNS

A dialog has occurred between the Grand Recorder and the Grand Council dais officers regarding whether this Committee is relevant in today's digital world. The Grand Recorder has instant access to the Constituent Council'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 Recorder takes those statistics and invoices the local Councils.

Respectfully submitted,

Jon B. Greene [22] – Chairman, Timothy P. Israel [25, 33], James R. Taylor, Jr. [22], Brian Ragain [21]

TRIENNIAL

The Committee on Triennial consists of three Past Grand Illustrious Masters appointed by the Grand Illustrious Master at the first Stated Assembly following the Triennial Assembly and shall serve the Triennial term. They shall serve from one Triennial until the next.

The duties of the Committee on Triennial are to advise the Grand Council of matters pertaining to the Triennial and make all arrangements for attendance at the Triennial Assembly. They shall perform duties as required by customs and usage.

ARTICLE 6. Section 1. Financial Revenues. Section 5. Triennial Fund. a. The Grand Recorder and Grand Treasurer shall accumulate the Triennial Fund in an amount equal to twenty (20) cents per member on the rolls of the Grand Council as of December 31 of each year in the Triennial Fund. These accumulated figures will be included in the annual budget for the Triennial year. This fund will be used to pay the expenses of the Grand Illustrious Master, Grand Deputy Master, and Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, not to exceed twenty (20) cents per mile, one way, by direct route and twenty-five (\$25) dollars per diem while in actual attendance at the Triennial Assembly of the General Grand Council. b. Any balance remaining shall be distributed equally among the Past Grand Illustrious Masters and Grand Recorder attending the Triennial Assembly, provided that none shall receive an amount in excess of the largest allowance to a Grand Officer or more than he would receive if computed on the same basis as the Grand Officer's allowance. c. Further, if a Grand or Past Grand Officer is eligible to receive an allowance from the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Oklahoma, the total amount to be received shall be subject to the maximum as outlined herein. The allowance to the member from each of the respective Grand Bodies shall be determined by agreement of the Triennial Committee Chairmen. d. Any balance remaining in the Triennial fund after the close of the General Grand Council shall be returned to the General Fund of this Grand Council."

The 48th Triennial Assembly of the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons was held in Branson, Missouri, on August 12-17, 2023, at the Chateau on the Lake Resort Spa & Convention Center. Over 400 companions attended the event and enjoyed the information, fellowship, and entertainment from the assembly.

The elected officers of the General Grand Assembly of Cryptic Masons, International for the 49th Triennial are as follows:

General Grand Master	William G. Snyder
Deputy General Grand Master	G. Thomas Taylor
General Grand P.C.W.	W. Keith Powell
General Grand Treasurer	Charles A. McCollum
General Grand Recorder	Mark E. Irwin

Appointed Officers:

Assist Gen Gr Treasurer	Mark McGee
Assist Gen Gr Recorder	Sean Gardiner
Gen Gr Chaplin	Jeffery Craig
Assist Gen Gr Chaplin	Charles Roberts
Assist Gen Gr Chaplin	Jeffery York
Gen Gr Capt of the Guard	David Dewitt
Gen Gr Conductor of the Council	Corey Curtiss
Gen Gr Steward	Brian Diamatteo
Gen Gr Orator	Robert G. Davis
Gen Gr Lecturer	Clyde H. Schoolfield, Jr.
Gen Gr. Lecturer-Europe	Michel Sabatier
Gen Gr Marshal-East	John Bridegroom
Gen Gr Marshal-West	Aaron Schoemaker
Gen Gr Regional Deputy-S.C.	Camille J. "Buddy" Guidry
Ambassador-Oklahoma	William James Cloud

The 49th Triennial details are not available, but it is expected to be in the Washington, D.C., area.

Fraternally submitted:

John L. Logan, PGIM [48, 52], William J. Cloud, PGIM [59], Clyde H. Schoolfield, Jr. [18]

YORK RITE COORDINATION

The Committee on York Rite Coordination was instituted to coordinate the activities of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Oklahoma, the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Oklahoma, and the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Oklahoma with the Concordant and Appendant Bodies of Freemasonry in Oklahoma. Currently, a Statewide Unity Calendar is prepared each year, which lists the scheduled Masonic activities of all Bodies across the State. The Committee is vigilant in checking the Unity Calendar and responds on behalf of the York Rite Bodies when requested to do so. No actions have come before the Committee this year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert G. Davis [50] – Chairman, James R. Taylor, Jr., [22], Brian M. Ragain [21], Michael S. Wright [11,61]

CUSTODIANS OF THE WORK

To the Most Illustrious Grand Master and Companions of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Oklahoma,

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

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 Councils. At these Schools, we have concentrated our instruction on the ritual for the opening and closing of a Council and the reception of visitors. In a few of the Councils, the Companions have requested that we also provide instruction in the ritual of one or more of the Council degrees.

We wish to remind our constituent Councils that they should be regularly opening their Assemblies in ritualistic form as called for in Article 10, Section 16 of the General Laws of this Grand Council. The Custodians and Assistant Custodians of the Work are prepared to assist our Councils 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 Council at least once every two years.

In an effort to further encourage our Councils to regularly open their Assemblies in ritualistic form, the Custodians of the Work are proposing that a certification program be established in which a member could be designated a "Certified Ritualist of the Council" by demonstrating his proficiency in the ritual and floorwork of the opening and closing ceremonies of a Council of Select Masters, excluding the duties of officers, but including the reception of the Grand Illustrious Master and other distinguished visitors. We have submitted a Resolution that would establish this program.

To further encourage excellence in our degree conferrals, and acting upon the recommendation of the Grand Illustrious Master, the Custodians of the Work are proposing the establishment of a "Ritual Award" to recognize Companions who have excelled in the ritualistic presentation of the Cryptic degrees. We have submitted a Resolution that would establish this award and a Standing Resolution to govern its implementation.

A “plain English” version of our adopted ritual was authorized by our Grand Council at its Annual Assembly in 2003. Two years ago the Grand Council, acting upon the recommendation of the Grand Illustrious Master, directed the Custodians of the Work to prepare a manuscript of our ritual in “plain English,” with limited encoding where appropriate (e.g., passwords, signs, obligations, etc.), suitable for publication and general distribution to our membership. While preparing this manuscript, we kept in mind the following excerpt from the report of the Special Committee on Ritual to the Annual Assembly in 1975:

“The adopted ritual of the Grand Council of Oklahoma differs from the ritual of the General Grand Council principally by making certain wording in opening, closing, reception of candidates, etc. uniform with the adopted work of the Grand Lodge of the State of Oklahoma. There has been some confusion as to the proper word meant by certain abbreviations in our ritual. We would call to attention that in the General Grand Council ritual everything but the penalties of the obligations and the passwords seem to be written out in full. Any confusion on wording can usually be resolved by referring to the General Grand Council ritual.”

The manuscript of our ritual in “plain English” has been completed and is ready for publication.

Fraternally submitted,

Clyde H. Schoolfield, Jr. [18]– Chairman, John L. Logan [48, 52], James R. Taylor, Jr. [22]

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 each and every one of us to consider ourselves as a member of the membership committee. It takes effort from each and 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 33 Companions during the time span of 01/01/2023 to 12/31/2023 due to suspension for non-payment of dues. While we still need to continue to work on bringing this number down. I was happy to see it down from 41 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 Greeted 67, had 5 affiliations and 4 reinstatements.

Sadly we also continue to see our numbers decline due to deaths. We lost 37 Companions this past year. May we All keep these Companions and their families in our prayers.

It is vital that we all 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 Illustrious Robert G. Davis 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 McFadden [3] - Chairman

FRATERNAL CORRESPONDENCE

No report was submitted due to the untimely death of our good friend, Brother, and chairman, Bedford F. Rowland, Jr.

Fraternally Submitted

Jon B. Greene [22] – Grand Recorder

EDUCATION

To the Most Illustrious Grand Master and Companions of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Oklahoma,

The Committee on Education continues to encourage our Councils to make education an integral part of their Stated Assemblies and, in an effort to foster this endeavor, has in recent years produced and made available Cryptic educational resources to both our Councils and members.

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

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 Councils and members to utilize these plentiful resources and make Cryptic education an integral part of their Masonic experience.

Fraternally submitted,

Clyde H. Schoolfield, Jr. [18] – Chairman, Robert G. Davis [50], Timothy P. Israel [25, 33], Brian M. Ragain [21]

GRAND MASTER'S FESTIVAL

The Grand Master's Festival was held in Oklahoma City on July 22, 2023. At the festival, 54 Companions were greeted as Select Masters. We would like to thank Alpha Council No. 18 for hosting the festival and for all their hard work. The Committee extends appreciation to the Royal Master degree team from Lawton Council #21 and the Select Master degree team consisting of members from the Central Oklahoma Councils. They are to be commended for the excellent work exemplified at the festival.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian M. Ragain [21], Frank Belluardo [59,61], John Turner [27, 50]

REGIONAL DEGREE FESTIVALS

The Regional Degree Festival Committee has once again accomplished its mission with assisting local regions with hosting Degree festivals.

The Central Oklahoma Region held a Festival on February 3, 2024, greeting 13 Select Masters. We thank Norman Council No 27 for hosting the festival and for all the hard work to make it successful.

The Northeast Oklahoma Region held a Festival on February 10, 2024 greeting 3 Select Masters. We thank Tulsa Council No. 22 for hosting the festival and for all the hard work to make sure it was a success.

As an added bonus, during the February 3rd, 2024 Central Oklahoma Regional Festival, the Super Excellent Master degree was conferred. Teams from all four regions came together and each performed a portion of the degree. 13 Select Masters received the degree. It was great to make this degree available for those who had never received it.

The committee extends appreciation to all Councils who participated, and the degree teams are to be commended for the excellent work exemplified at the regional festivals. It is the hope of the Committee that more regions will participate in the regional degree festival program.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael S. Wright [11, 61] – Chairman, Ryan R. Frederick [50], Mark McFadden [22], Troy L. Collier [52]

Blaine C. McKnight [3], Brian M. Ragain [21]

SOUTH-CENTRAL CONFERENCE

My Companions all,

The members of the Committee on the South-Central Regional Conference met in Branson, MO on September 14 and 15, 2023. The states of Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Kansas, and Oklahoma met and related the good and the bad of the things going on in each state. The purpose is for the other states to learn and hopefully find the ideas that would help each state in the future.

Some of the reports were of the success of the Special Degree of the Mark Master. Missouri, Kansas, and Arkansas informed the Conference of their successes. We of Oklahoma. listened to these reports carefully, trying to gather all the information we could with the intent of copying the good points and implementing them in Oklahoma.

We enjoyed getting together with our Companions from other states to learn of other ideas for use in our Grand Chapter.

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

Fraternally Submitted,

William J. “Jim” Cloud [59] – Chairman, Robert G. Davis [50], John E. King [25, 33]

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 Recorder has started putting some forms on the site for the constituent Recorders to use. These include the Perpetual applications and applications for membership, both plural and demit. The Grand Recorder has also updated the calendar with all Council Assembly dates and times. If you see any errors in the calendar, please email the Grand Recorder as soon as possible for correction.

We want to thank M.: I.: C.: Bob Davis, the Most Illustrious Grand Master, for his confidence and allowing us to serve on this Committee.

Fraternally and Respectfully submitted,

Jon B. Greene [22] Chairman, John R. Christopher [48], Robert W. [Bob] McLeod [2, 22]

MEMBERSHIP ENHANCEMENT

The Membership Enhancement Committee is a Special Committee of the Grand Council of Oklahoma whose purpose is to assist the Membership Committee as requested to improve the York Rite experience for new companions and members in general. The Membership Committee has not asked for assistance in this regard during this Cryptic Council year. However, the Most Excellent Grand High Priest created a special path to York Rite membership by offering the first two Chapter degrees to Master Masons at no charge. Regional Chapter and Council Conferral teams were organized and dates placed on the calendar to facilitate a timely progression for these new companions in completing the journey through Cryptic Masonry and Templarism.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert G. Davis [50] – Chairman, James R. Taylor, Jr. [22], Glen A. Chaney [21], Daniel D. Hanttula [27, 61],

Blaine C. McKnight [3], Jon B. Greene [22]

DEMOLAY

It has been an honor to serve on the DeMolay Committee for the Grand Council 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 really 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 [18] - Chmn., Michael L. Branson [50], Timothy Israel [25], and Jon B. Greene [22]

ALL YOUTH

This past year has been a generally successful year for the three Masonic Youth groups. Although the pandemic of 2020-2021 had a negative impact on the orders, things have gotten better throughout the state.

York Rite members throughout the state have supported their local youth groups with their time and money.

Oklahoma DeMolay has been very active this year. We have a total of 672 active members in Oklahoma which makes us the largest Jurisdiction in the United States and 3rd in the world. We currently are 1 member above where we last year at this time (671). We will be losing 94 members to majority at the end of the year. Last year we inducted 104 new members and are pace to hit 80 for the year. Our Open House program has been a vital success for the state and our last one that we had in Norman brought in 32 new members in one day. We plan to have at least to more before the end of this year which will push us way past the projected 80. Another program that has helped Oklahoma DeMolay is the ad campaign that we have been running on both Facebook and Instagram which has raised awareness of DeMolay and provided many leads from parents who are interested in a program like ours. One major focus shift we have applied to our Ad Campaign and Opens houses is to "sell" DeMolay to the parents by presenting the Scholarship opportunities and high moral values we provide. Activities of note through the year have been the Winterfest in Tulsa in January where the York Rite Officers presented a sword to the DeMolay of the year, DeMolay month during the month of March when many fun activities were enjoyed. Frank Marshal ritual competition in Arlington, Texas, where Oklahoma DeMolay members excelled, and Conclave 2023 which was held in Norman with over 180 attendees.

Oklahoma Rainbow has returned to our previous activity level. The Grand Worthy Advisor's theme has been "She Needed a Hero; So She Became One." Appropriately, her mascots are The Avengers Wonder Woman, and others. Her Service Project is the Autism Foundation of Oklahoma with a fundraising goal of \$11,000.00. She traveled with Grand Representatives to New Mexico, Arkansas, Kansas, and Texas Grand Assemblies. She also traveled within Oklahoma to visit with individual assemblies and Districts. She attended and brought greetings for the Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star; Grand Court, Order of the Amaranth; and the Grand Master's Banquet for the Oklahoma Grand Lodge, and also attended the Job's Daughters Grand Bethel Rally, and the Oklahoma DeMolay Conclave and Winterfest 2024. Membership for Oklahoma finished the calendar year of 2023 at 285 active members, with 53 girls having been initiated during the first half of the term (June 1 to December 31, 2023); and 18 initiated since January 1, 2024, to date. They have held District Weekends in 4 of the 5 Districts so far, and besides conducting initiations we have attended the Akdar Shrine Circus, the OKC Zoo, attended a symphony, and supported a service project. The Grand Assembly Session will be held at the University of Oklahoma Catlett Music Center, in Norman, OK on May 25-27, 2024.

Oklahoma Job's Daughters: There are currently four active Bethels with 28 members in Oklahoma. Job's Daughters events in the State of Oklahoma are: Go-to-Church Sundays, University of Tulsa Concession Stands, Sleep Overs, Lock-ins, Prospect Parties, Honoring Night for Masons, Mother Mick Ceremony, Christmas Parties, Initiations, Promotional/Educational Projects, Installations, Official Visits for Supreme Deputy, Halloween Parties, Working the India Shrine Circus, Selling Dippin Dots at the Oklahoma State Fairgrounds, Chili Cook offs, Food Bank volunteer hours, Dinners serving Masons and Appendant Bodies, Community Egg Hunt, Lake clean up days, Open House events at the Masonic Lodge for new members, Welcome Ceremony for new members, Tri Youth Holiday Dance, Community Christmas Parades, Supreme Session attendance, Honor Youth Reception, Miss Oklahoma Pageant, and State JDI Rally. The Daughters are always willing and ready to help the York Rite and any Masonic Body in Oklahoma, as well as to do exemplifications of their work. We are in need of Adult Volunteers at all Bethels. The Oklahoma Job's Daughters appreciate all the support and thank the York Rite and all Masonic bodies for their help and support.

I wish to express my thanks to Rory Glendenning of DeMolay, Brian Pierson of Rainbow, and Linda Luttrell of Job's Daughters for their help in compiling this information.

Fraternally,

D. Ridge Smith [59] – Chairman, Jon B. Greene [22], Donnie G. Higginbotham [3], Kenton M. Israel [18,25], Timothy P. Israel [25, 33], Bryan C. Shackelford [48]

NECROLOGY

Companions, the allotted time on earth came to a close for many of our companions this last year. We now pause in mourning and remembrance of them and drop our heads in prayer and gratitude that we have been so humbled with their

presence and friendship. Friends are hard to find, and good friends are even harder. We thank the Almighty Creator of Heaven and Earth for allowing us to be blessed by them in their short allotted time on earth.

Tribute To A Mason

Author Unknown- Borrowed from B F Rowland Jr.
“Why wear the apron?” the young mason said,
As mourners so silently bowed every head.
The prayer was perfection, -ceremony profound,
Not one single person uttered a sound.
The minister spoke, all telling with love,
That our brother had passed to the lodge up above.
That his life here below was not easy for sure
And many the sorrow he'd had to endure.
This man dedicated to helping his race,
Unconscious of background or color of face.
With a life dedicated to sharing of time
While supporting a friend with a comforting rhyme.
Who brought out in others the “best” of the best,
Without criticizing, or putting to test.
That the life he had lived, as a mason and friend,
Was a lifetime of sharing, right up to the end.
The lambskin was placed with all loving care
A release from the labor on earth he did bear
The evergreen sprig shows the faith we all hold
That the Soul is immortal and none can control
It's reign o'er the grave, so that death has no power
For ever and ever or even this hour.
We commit to the ground, these earthly remains
And cherish the memory, suffer the pains.
While we trust his spirit to God who did give it
This was his life and the way he did live it.
And so we account for our time here on earth
That our tasks ever after may be of Thy worth.
Now go with the Father in his gracious keeping,
And leave him to be, our brother-just sleeping.
So you see there's a reason that all men are born
That's the reason I guess that the apron is worn.

Fraternally,

T. Lavern Ragain, Jr. [21] - Grand Chaplain

CRYPTIC MASON MEDICAL RESEARCH

The Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation (CMMRF) was incorporated on March 6, 1986, through the efforts of the General Grand Master Ben Mandelbaum (OK). Under Dr. Michael Murphy's direction, the CMMRF funds research at the Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis through the Indiana Center for Vascular Biology and Medicine (ICVBM) and the Richard Roudebush Veteran's Administration Medical Center. The CMMRF Executive Director since 2012 is Gary G. Wyne, PMIGM of Indiana.

The ICVBM is committed to being a leader in basic and applied research in understanding vascular wellness and disease and developing leading-edge medical therapies to improve the care of patients with vascular problems. Through your continued donations, CMMRF has funded and continues to fund research and treatment through stem cell therapy, which has resulted in medical breakthroughs in the treatment of Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm, Type 1 Diabetes, Cancer, Peripheral Artery Disease, Heart Disease, Stroke, and many other associated illnesses and diseases. CMMRF focuses explicitly on the regeneration and repair of blood vessels through stem cells, especially in the areas of Peripheral Artery Disease and Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm. By repurposing the body's stem cells or using stem cells from an adult donor, CMMRF is proving that these disease processes can begin to reverse in as little as one treatment.

Nationally, donations to CMMRF in 2023 totaled \$1,448,218.73, an increase of \$995,967.28 over the previous year, with the significant increase being credited to wills and bequests. Oklahoma's giving of \$11,602 was an increase of \$6,887 from a year earlier. Donations made by Oklahoma's Companions ranked 12th in 2023 compared to other jurisdictions.

"The Bernard F. Mandelbaum Award recognizes the local Council credited with the largest dollar contribution in the preceding calendar year. Most Puissant Companion Mandelbaum was Grand Illustrious Master of the Grand Council of Oklahoma from 1962-1963. He served as General Grand Master of the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons, International from 1984-1987." Woodward Council #52's total donations of \$2,185 were the largest dollar contribution in 2023.

"The Robert W. Hill Award recognizes the local Council, credited for the largest average contribution per member in the preceding calendar year. Most Illustrious Companion Hill was the first Grand Illustrious Master of Indian Territory, serving from 1895-1896. He was a member of Oklahoma Council No. 1, Atoka, Indian Territory." Mysterious Nine Council #61 raised \$89.71 per member contribution was the largest in 2022, with a majority of the contributions coming from a special conferral of the Order of the Knights of the Round Table and the Order of Knights of the Garter and St. George, which was held on September 9, 2023.

Each Oklahoma Council is urged to hold at least one fundraising event each year to benefit this worthy philanthropy and to participate in CMMRF Month during March. We are asking for a \$5 donation for each member of their Council. More information can be found at CMMRF.org or CrypticMasons.org. Alpha #18, Lawton #21, Tulsa #22, Norman #27, Bernard #43, Woodward #52, and Mysterious Nine #61 have met these requirements in 2023. Thank you!

In addition to monetary donations, committee members volunteered time and travel expenses to attend Indiana University School of Medicine's CMMRF Medical Update, which was held on October 7, 2023. They also participated at the South Central and the Southwest/Northwest Department Conferences to give presentations on behalf of CMMRF.

CMMRF 2023 Annual Report on Oklahoma Council Contributions

No.	Council	2023 Members	CMMRF Contribution by Council	Additional Contribution (Members)	Total Contribution	Ave. Per Member Donation
2	Muskogee	124	\$	\$25	\$25	\$0.20
3	Union	96	\$	\$25	\$25	\$0.26
11	Ardmore	57	\$	\$	\$	\$0.00
18	Alpha	121	\$	\$1,275	\$1,275	\$10.54
21	Lawton	101	\$	\$1,350	\$1,350	\$13.37
22	Tulsa	175	\$	\$120	\$120	\$6.22
25	Elk City	50	\$	\$	\$	\$0.00
27	Norman	87	\$	\$465	\$465	\$6.74
33	Altus	43	\$	\$	\$	\$0.00
41	Bartlesville	41	\$	\$	\$	\$0.00
43	Bernard	50	\$	\$1,050	\$1,050	\$21.00
48	Guthrie	66	\$50	\$	\$50	\$0.76
50	Stillwater	50	\$	\$125	\$125	\$2.50
52	Woodward	32	\$185	\$2,000	\$2,185	\$68.28
59	Capitol Hill	94	\$	\$25	\$25	\$0.27
61	Mysterious Nine	17	\$	\$1,525	\$1,525	\$89.71
	Grand Council	\$	\$	\$50	\$3,332	\$2.81
Totals		1,204	\$235	\$8,035	\$11,602	\$9.64

Fraternally submitted,
 Brian Ragain [21] – Chairman, John Church [33,48,59], John L. Logan [52, 48], Larry White [22]

REPORT OF THE MASONIC CHARITY FOUNDATION

To the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Oklahoma:

Most Illustrious Grand Master and Companions,

The Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma is an Oklahoma not-for-profit corporation formed on July 9, 1930, to encourage charity, benevolence, education, and philanthropy. It was created so Oklahoma Freemasonry's institutional giving could be better focused and coordinated. The activities of the Foundation do not replace those of the individual Masons; they merely serve to supplement them.

MANAGEMENT

The Foundation is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of twenty-two members. The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the State of Oklahoma elects fifteen directors, three each year, for a five-year term. There are also three Directors representing the Scottish Rite, one from each Valley, three Directors representing the York Rite, one from each Grand Body, and one Director from the Order of the Eastern Star. Board members receive no monetary compensation of any kind. The Foundation has full-time staff working in the Edmond office under John L. Logan, Executive Director. The following officers were elected to serve in 2024:

- | | |
|------------|--------------------|
| President | Neil A. Stitt |
| 1st VP | Jack L. Painter |
| 2nd VP | Gene McKelvey |
| Treasurer | Ronald J. Chambers |
| Secretary | Robert G. Davis |
| Ass't Sec. | John L. Logan |

FINANCIAL

A review of the preliminary financial statements ending December 31, 2023, was presented to the members. The preliminary combined balance sheet reflects total assets of \$101,477,446.33, an increase of \$3,841,357.27 from one year ago. Endowments total \$91,592,482.82, an increase of \$553,122 from one year ago. The General Fund total is \$9885,096.76, an increase of \$3,503,972.08 over the 2022 year-end.

The preliminary combined income statement for 2023 reflects a Total Revenue of \$10,827,701.46, including \$5,215,484.71 of unrealized investment gains. Expenditures for 2023 total \$5,945,799.95, a decrease of \$36,558.94 from the 2022 expenditures of \$5,982,358.89.

LODGE MATCHING FUNDS

2023 PROGRAM REVIEW

The Foundation staff gave an update on the following Masonic Charity Foundation programs:

- MATCHING FUNDS
 - Total Matching Funds Program use as of December 31, 2023, = \$1,408,382.54
 - Community Matching = \$1,287,791.04
 - Promises Matter Matching = \$120,591.50
 - # of Lodges using the program in 2023 = 195
 - # of Lodges using the program in 2022 = 192
 - Matching Funds applications processed = 1,449
 - Applications denied = 64

Matching Funds disbursed since inception = \$37,556,101.88 (x2=\$75,112,202.56)

PROMISES MATTER

- Grants issued to Master Masons or their minor children or widows = 15
- Emergency grants issued = 12
- Average grant amount = \$1,811.10
- The average age of grant recipients = 57
- Total Promises Matter Grants issued during 2022 = \$33,153.15

MASONRY IN ACTION AWARD

The Masonry in Action Award was first presented in 2013 to recognize lodges that impact their communities by utilizing Foundation programs. In 2023, Cache Lodge 391 was recognized as the small lodge Masonry In Action Winner, and Owasso Lodge 545 was recognized as the large lodge Masonry In Action Winner. Both lodges were presented with trophies at the Grand Lodge Session.

Regarding future Masonry In Action Awards, Foundation Staff proposed eliminating the application and scoring based on program data the Foundation already collects and maintains. The board discussed this proposal and approved the change.

PUBLIC PARTNERSHIPS

The Foundation works with other organizations to achieve worthwhile goals and make Masonic charity more visible across Oklahoma.

Partners in Prevention is a partnership with Vizavance. Lodges statewide sponsor vision and glaucoma screenings, targeting the young and the elderly. The Foundation granted \$300,000 to support the ongoing costs of the program. Over 140,000 students were screened in the first semester of the 2022-2023 school year. The Foundation has provided over \$5 million to support this important mission, One Goal, One Vision, and One Mission Advancing Children's Education Through Better Vision!

Food Bank support has been an annual program since 2011. In 2022, the Fight Childhood Hunger Campaign resulted in \$69,000 donated to the Regional Food Bank and \$31,000 to the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma. The 2022 Masonic Food for Kids campaign ran from August 1 through October 15. This statewide effort combines the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma, the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma, the Masonic Fraternity of Oklahoma, and Griffin Communications (Channel 5 in OKC and Channel 6 in Tulsa). Food Bank is one of three projects with statewide visibility that attempt to enhance the image of the Fraternity while supporting a significant charitable or educational purpose.

Education - Our support for public education was demonstrated in nine statewide programs.

1. **The Oklahoma State Teacher of the Year** program honors teachers who make outstanding contributions to the public education of our youth. The State Teacher of the Year is awarded a check for \$5,000, and each of the eleven finalists receives \$1,000. Each local Teacher of the Year receives a certificate of appreciation.
2. **STUDENT OF TODAY & TEACHER OF TODAY**
 - Total # of certificates issued for Student of Today = 1,894
 - Total # of certificates issued for Teacher of Today = 660
 - Participating schools = 587
 - 141 of 204 Lodges participated
3. **Oklahoma Alliance for Arts Education** honors the fifty top high school seniors in our state's visual and performing arts. Also, the leading school administrators and board members are honored during a prestigious formal reception at the Guthrie Scottish Rite Temple. The students are presented medals by the Grand Master and members of the leadership of the Alliance. The next event will be held at the Guthrie Scottish Rite on April 23, 2024.
4. **The Payne Education Center** is a nonprofit organization established in 1984. Since 1996, the Foundation has supported the Payne Education Center's Reading Readiness program, designed to train kindergarten and transitional 1st-grade teachers by providing scholarships for enhanced reading techniques. In 2023, \$115,000 was provided, half allocated for teacher scholarships and the other to support their Digital Phonics Program.
5. **The Youth Scholarship Program** funding is through the Education Endowment. The scholarship program is open to DeMolay, Job's Daughters, and Rainbow members. This year, sixty scholarships of \$3,000 each were budgeted, and forty-three were awarded: DeMolay 9, Job's Daughters 2, and Rainbow 32.
6. **The Senior Essay Contest** was launched in 1966 in support of education. Writing teaches critical thinking skills. The essay contest is open to all seniors in Oklahoma public schools. The Masonic Fraternity in Oklahoma sponsors it as part of its continuing commitment to education. Cash prizes in the Men's and Women's divisions range from \$2,000 for 1st place to \$200 for 10th place. Also, a \$5,000 grant will be made to each of the 1st place winners in high school. For the 2022 – 2023 contests, 529 seniors entered the contest. A total of \$13,700 was awarded to the 20 statewide winners of the contest, and \$5,000 grants to the schools of each of the statewide first-place winners. Certificates for presentation to the local division winners of 62 high schools sponsored by 54 Lodges will be provided to the local Lodge.

Senior Assistance Program- Through an agreement with the Oklahoma Area Agencies on Aging, a Department of Human Services division, \$798,146 was given in November 2022 to assist needy Oklahomans aged 55 and over with services not covered by existing government programs during the calendar year 2023. Since the inception of this program in 2007, the Foundation has donated \$11,660,930 in the name of the Masonic Fraternity of Oklahoma to enhance the lives of seniors in our communities. These eleven agencies can be accessed by calling 1-800-211-2116 or at www.okdhs.org.

CHARITABLE GRANTS

In addition to partnerships with other charitable organizations or agencies, the Masonic Charity Foundation makes several grants yearly to support Public Education, Public Wellness, and Public Charities. Some highlights of 2023 grantmaking are:

- A \$1,000,000 gift will be disbursed in \$500,000 over two years to the Mercy Women's Health Center, which is currently finalizing construction. Due to the tremendous growth in the need for women's healthcare, there is an urgent need to increase the amount of physical space and quality of healing. The new center will offer comprehensive, collaborative care. An essential priority is providing services to the economically disadvantaged.
- Hearts for Hearing provides audiology and speech pathology services in a unique one-stop setting for children with hearing loss. Charitable services for young children ensure they can learn to speak, connect with the world, and become self-sufficient members of their families and communities. A \$200,000 grant from the Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma will benefit hearing-loss families. In addition to providing the first set of hearing aids to children ten years of age and under at no cost to families, Hearts for Hearing also offers financial assistance for specialized speech therapy and audiology services.
- The Cavett Kids Foundation helps children with terminal or chronic illnesses thrive by using camp experiences to build character, coping skills, and connection. Camps are provided for kids of every age who may be dealing with heart issues, cancer, or other disorders. Masonic charity's \$25,000 camp funding in 2023 will provide two of Cavett's highest-level camp experiences throughout the year.
- The YMCA Military Welcome Center at Will Rogers International Airport provides a safe location for military personnel to rest, access mail and telephone services, find refreshments, and prepare for the journey onward. The Masonic Charity Foundation provided \$18,000 to support the operation of this facility in 2023.

SUPPORT OF MASONIC GROUPS

- Each year, the Masonic Charity Foundation supports a charitable or educational cause or project of the Grand Master's choice. In 2022, a \$12,000 grant for equipment was provided to the Arnett High School Science Department STEM program.
- Masonic Charity supports Masonic youth orders! In addition, \$64,449 in Matching Funds will be provided to local DeMolay, Rainbow, and Jobs Daughters in 2022. Scholarships of \$3,000 to youth order members and \$10,000 to each youth order's state-level trust to support ongoing programming and scholarships.
- The Supreme Assembly, IORG, also received a \$200,000 donation to renovate the Supreme Assembly building in McAlester.
- Each year, the Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma contributes to the programming of several national Masonic organizations:
 - Gifts totaling \$1 per Oklahoma member are made by the Masonic Charity Foundation every year to support the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia.
 - An annual gift of \$1,500 is made to the Masonic Information Center, an organization operating under the Masonic Service Association of North America that publicly provides information on Freemasons and responds to Freemasonry's critics.
 - The Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma supports every Masonic Services Association of North America plea for disaster support with a \$1,000 donation.
 - Masonic Charity Foundation also provides annual contributions of \$4,000 to the Masonic Service Association of North America's Hospital Visitation Program, making Oklahoma's support of this program competitive nationally.

Foundation Activities

Additional information can also be found at the Foundation's website, www.mcfok.org. We also try to share positive stories regarding Masonic activities on Facebook.

It has been a great honor to serve as a Masonic Charity Foundation board member, and I thank the members for the opportunity to do this important work.

Respectfully submitted,
John D. Allford, PGIM [3]

COMMITTEE ON TIME AND PLACE

To be given verbally

COMMITTEE ON APPRECIATION

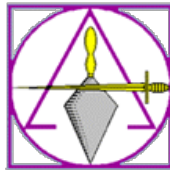
We are very pleased with the arrangements for our Annual Sessions, and we especially want to thank the Time and Place Committee, the Grand Recorder, and all who helped with their hard work and planning to make this a successful meeting.

To those hosting the hospitality room and providing the refreshments, we certainly thank you. We truly could not do this without the loving support of our families.

To our Most Illustrious Grand Master, whose responsibility it is to plan this Grand Sessions, and in cooperation with the other presiding Grand Council Officers, we commend you on a job well done.

Fraternally Submitted,
Brian Ragain [21] - Chairman

Council of Thrice Illustrious Masters of Oklahoma



**Minutes of the 78th Annual Assembly held at Stillwater, Oklahoma
August 19, 2023**

Thrice Illustrious Master Mathew A. Turner opened the 78th Annual Assembly of the Council of Thrice Illustrious Masters of Oklahoma at 10:29 a.m. with twenty-nine members and eleven candidates present.

Officers present were:

Thrice Illustrious Master	Mathew A. Turner
Thrice Illustrious Senior Warden	John R. Christopher
Thrice Illustrious Junior Warden	Robert R. Rolseth
Thrice Illustrious Registrar-Treasurer	James R. Taylor, Jr., PTIM
Thrice Illustrious Steward	Kenton M. Israel
Thrice Illustrious Sentinel	Mark K. McFadden

The petitions of the following eleven candidates were read. It was moved, seconded, and approved that the candidates be elected to receive the Degree of Thrice Illustrious Master.

Rick Alan Moore	Muskogee No. 2
Chris A. Botts	Union No. 3
Stephen D. Gragg	Union No. 3
William David Hardin	Ardmore No. 11
Mark L. Cantrell	Alpha No. 18
Ryan C. Shady	Lawton No. 21
Carroll D. McBride	Tulsa No. 22
John Robert Guinn	Norman No. 27
Robert Lee Sprott	Stillwater No. 50
David D. Shore	Woodward No. 52
Steven Edward Cox	Mysterious Nine No. 61

All the candidates were received, duly anointed, and acknowledged recipients of the Degree of Thrice Illustrious Master, making them members of the Council of Thrice Illustrious Masters of Oklahoma.

The Degree was conferred by the following degree team:

Thrice Illustrious Master (King David)	Donnie G. Higginbotham
Thrice Illustrious Senior Warden	Brian M. Ragain
Thrice Illustrious Junior Warden	Mathew A. Turner (Pro-Tem)
Thrice Illustrious Steward	Timothy P. Israel
Thrice Illustrious Sentinel	Mark K. McFadden

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

The Past Thrice Illustrious Masters of the Council of Thrice Illustrious Masters of Oklahoma present were introduced: Robert G. Davis (2009-10), Donnie G. Higginbotham (2011-12), Timothy P. Israel (2013-14), Matthew D. McGee (2014-15), James R. Taylor, Jr. (2016-17), William J. Cloud (2017-18), Clyde H. Schoolfield, Jr. (2019-20), and James D. Nobles (2021-22)

A memorial service for the following Thrice Illustrious Masters was held: John D. Miller, Jr. PTIM, and Robert C. Shady.

The minutes of the August 20, 2022, Annual Assembly 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 Registrar-Treasurer to pay all necessary expenses of the Council that may occur before the next Annual Assembly.

It was moved, seconded, and approved to allocate \$50.00 for the purchase of 3 lighted candles for the altar.

It was moved, seconded, and approved to increase the petition fee for the Degree of Thrice Illustrious Master to \$40.00 from \$30.00.

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 Registrar-Treasurer be retained, and that Michael S. Wright be elected Sentinel.

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

M.: I.: Companion Robert G. Davis, Grand Master of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Oklahoma, was introduced and afforded the public grand honors. M.: I.: Companion Davis introduced the Grand Council Officers and Past Illustrious Grand Masters present.

M.: I.: Companion Davis then installed the officers of the Council of Thrice Illustrious Masters of Oklahoma.

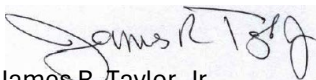
Officers for the 2023-2024 year are as follows:


Thrice Illustrious Master	John R. Christopher
Thrice Illustrious Senior Warden	Robert R. Rolseth
Thrice Illustrious Junior Warden	Kenton M. Israel
Thrice Illustrious Registrar-Treasurer	James R. Taylor, Jr., PTIM
Thrice Illustrious Steward	Mark K. McFadden
Thrice Illustrious Sentinel	Michael S. Wright

Thrice Illustrious Master John R. Christopher presented a Past Thrice Illustrious Master jewel to outgoing Thrice Illustrious Master Mathew A. Turner.

It was announced that the next Annual Assembly is scheduled for August 17, 2024, with the location to be announced later.

Thrice Illustrious Master Christopher made closing comments and there being no further business to come before the Assembly, it was closed in due form at 11:32 a.m.


 James R. Taylor, Jr.
 Registrar-Treasurer


 Mathew A. Turner
 Thrice Illustrious Master

Council of Thrice Illustrious Masters of Oklahoma
Treasurer Report - 08-19-23

Cash on Deposit, Arvest Bank
Checking Account Balance 07/20/22 \$2,381.00

Deposits:

Candidate Fees	\$370.00	
OST Jewel Sales	<u>\$ 10.00</u>	
TOTAL		\$ 380.00

Disbursements:

Oklahoma City Lodge No. 36 (Facility Use)	\$50.00	
Jim Taylor (Degree Supplies)	\$10.84	
Simpson Jewelry & Uniform, Inc. (TIM Jewels)	<u>\$64.55</u>	
TOTAL		<u>\$ 125.39</u>

Checking Account Balance 07/20/23 \$2,635.61

**Council of Thrice Illustrious Masters of Oklahoma
Past Thrice Illustrious Masters**

1944-1949	Clarence Brain*	2012-2013	Troy E. Shipman*
1949-1963	W. King Larrimore*	2013-2014	Timothy P. Israel
1963-1964	William H. Powell*	2014-2015	Matthew D. McGee
1964-1965	Hayward H. Skaggs*	2015-2016	Andrew B. Palmer
1965-1966	John C. Barnard*	2016-2017	James R. Taylor, Jr.
1966-1967	Ansel M. Crowder*	2017-2018	William J. Cloud
1967-1968	Lewis H. Wheeler*	2018-2019	William H. Pearce
1968-1969	Wilbert B. Boggs*	2019-2020	Clyde H. Schoolfield, Jr.
1969-1970	Cleo A. Walton*	2020-2021	Larry D. White
1970-1971	Oscar W. Swanson*	2021-2022	James D. Nobles
1971-1973	Kenneth M. Blakley*	2022-2023	Mathew A. Turner
1973-1976	Robert E. Fielden*		
1976-1979	John W. Steward*		
1979-1982	Herbert O. Nelson*		
1982-1985	Carl R. Burrows*		
1985-1986	James C. Taylor*		
1986-1987	John C. Shanklin*		
1987-1988	Barry C. Spradling*		
1988-1989	Eugene Smith*		
1989-1990	Donald M. Keiser*		
1990-1991	O. Ray Harrington*		
1991-1992	Ralph L. Tucker*		
1992-1993	Don L. Turley*		
1993-1994	Donald W. Rimmer*		
1994-1995	Donald H. Haralson*		
1995-1996	Rex L. Bowen*		
1996-1997	Glenn Tuttle*		
1997-1998	Elwood M. Isaacs		
1998-1999	Jack L. Sterett*		
1999-2000	David A. Ray		
2000-2001	Earl L. Berryman, Jr.*		
2001-2002	Paul G. Watkins*		
2002-2003	Monte G. Hendrix*		
2003-2004	Gary D. Rodriguez*		
2004-2005	Willis L. Emerson*		
2005-2006	Bobby L. Carter*		
2006-2007	John D. Miller, Jr.*		
2007-2008	James E. Smyrl*		
2008-2009	William D. Williams		
2009-2010	Robert G. Davis		
2010-2011	James W. Mahan*		
2011-2012	Donnie G. Higginbotham		

* Deceased