

AGENDA
GRAND COUNCIL OF CRYPTIC MASONS OF OKLAHOMA GRAND ASSEMBLY 2025
FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2025 - 1:00 P.M.

1. APPOINTMENTS TO FILL VACANCIES
2. PRELIMINARY CREDENTIALS REPORT
3. OPENING OF THE GRAND COUNCIL OF CRYPTIC MASONS OF OKLAHOMA - M.:I.:G.:M.:
4. RECEPTION OF DISTINGUISHED VISITORS
5. ROLL CALL OF GRAND OFFICERS
6. ROLL CALL OF DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS
7. ROLL CALL OF CRYPTIC MASON OF THE YEAR RECIPIENTS
8. ROLL CALL AND RECEPTION OF PAST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTERS
9. ROLL CALL OF CONSTITUENT COUNCILS
10. MOTION TO APPROVE PROCEEDINGS OF THE 130TH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY – Jon Greene
11. ADDRESS OF THE M.:I.:G.:M.:
12. REPORT OF THE RIGHT ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND TREASURER
13. REPORT OF THE RIGHT ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND RECORDER
14. REPORT FROM THE JURISPRUDENCE COMMITTEE
15. REPORT FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE
16. FINAL CREDENTIALS REPORT
17. MOTION TO ACCEPT M.:I.:G.:M.: ADDRESS AND ALL COMMITTEE REPORTS – Jon Greene
18. APPOINT TELLERS COMMITTEE
19. ELECTION FOR GRAND COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE TO THE MASONIC CHARITY FOUNDATION
20. ELECTION FOR GRAND COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE TO THE INVESTMENT COMMITTEE
21. PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS AND REFERRALS
 - a. RESOLUTION NO. 1
 - b. RESOLUTION NO. 2A & 2B
 - c. RESOLUTION NO. 3A & 3B
22. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2025-2026
23. REMARKS OF THE M.:I.:G.:M.: ELECT
24. COMPLETION OF ANY UNFINISHED BUSINESS - M.:I.:G.:M.:
25. REMARKS FROM VISITING DIGNITARIES
26. CLOSING - M.:I.:G.:M.:

END OF 2025 GRAND SESSION

OPEN INSTALLATION OF GRAND COUNCIL OFFICERS FOR 2025-2026 IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING.

INSTALLING OFFICERM.:I.:C.: JAMES R. TAYLOR, JR., P.:I.:G.:M.:
INSTALLING MARSHALLM.:I.:C.: W. KEITH POWELL, R.:P.:D.:G.:G.:M.:
INSTALLING CHAPLAINM.:I.:C.: TIMOTHY P. ISRAEL, P.:I.:G.:M.:
INSTALLING RECORDERR.:I.:C.: JON B. GREENE, GRAND RECORDER

**GRAND COUNCIL OF CRYPTIC MASONS OF OKLAHOMA
GRAND OFFICERS FOR THE 2024-2025 CRYPTIC YEAR**

James R. Taylor, Jr. [22]	Gage	Most Illustrious Grand Master
Brian M. Ragain [21]		Right Illustrious Deputy Grand Master
Michael S. Wright [11]	Kim	Right Illustrious Grand Principal Conductor of the Work
Kenton M. Israel [18, 25]	Dana	Right Illustrious Grand Treasurer
Elwood M. "Ike" Isaacs [22, 41]		Most Illustrious Grand Treasurer Emeritus
P.:I.:G.:M.:		
Jon B. Greene [22]	Renee	Right Illustrious Grand Recorder
Gary A. Davis [22]		Right Illustrious Grand Recorder Emeritus
H.:P.:I.:G.:M.:		
Matthew D. McGee [43]		Right Illustrious Grand Captain of the Guard
Ryan R. Frederick [50]	Linda	Illustrious Grand Conductor of the Council
James D. Nobles, Jr. [18]	Debbie	Illustrious Grand Marshal
Rick A. Moore [2]	Donna	Illustrious Grand Steward
Michael D. Maxey [22]	Nancy	Illustrious Grand Sentinel
George W. Ratliff [22]	Ruth	Illustrious Grand Chaplain

**GRAND COUNCIL OF CRYPTIC MASONS OF OKLAHOMA
DISTRICT DEPUTIES FOR THE 2024-2025 CRYPTIC YEAR**

DISTRICT NO. 1	Rick A. Moore [2]	Muskogee Council No. 2 Union Council No. 3
DISTRICT NO. 2	Michael S. Wright [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 Oates 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	David D. Shore [52]	Elk City Council No. 25 Woodward Council No. 52
DISTRICT NO. 7	John R. Guinn [27]	Norman Council No. 27 Capitol Hill Council No. 59
DISTRICT NO. 8	Ryan R. Frederick [50]	Bernard Council No. 43 Stillwater Council No. 50

**GRAND COUNCIL CRYPTIC MASONS OF OKLAHOMA
STANDING & SPECIAL COMMITTEES FOR 2024-2025 CRYPTIC YEAR**

STANDING COMMITTEES

[Established by Constitution, Law, or Resolution]

JURISPRUDENCE

Timothy P. Israel [25, 33] - Chairman
Robert G. Davis [50] - Recorder
All Past Illustrious Grand Masters

CHARTERS AND DISPENSATIONS

Robert R. Rolseth [22] - Chairman
Stephen D. Gragg [3]
Roberto A. DeLeon, Jr. [27]
Michael S. Wright [11] – Ex Officio

CUSTODIANS OF THE WORK

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

CREDENTIALS

Bradley S. Rickelman [50] - Chairman
Steven E. Cox [2, 61]
James Oates III [21]
James R. Taylor, Sr. [22]
Jon B. Greene [22] – Ex Officio

MEMBERSHIP

Mark K. McFadden [2] - Chairman
Central – David A. Tennison [48]
N. Central - Justin M. McGee [43]
Northeast – Jim L. Parham [22]
Northwest – David D. Shore [52]
Southeast – John King, Jr. [3]
Southwest - James Oates III [21]

FINANCE

Brian M. Ragain [21] - Chairman
Matthew D. McGee [43]
Jon B. Greene [22]
Michael S. Wright [11] – Ex Officio

YORK RITE COORDINATION

James R. Taylor, Jr. [22] - Chairman
Brian M. Ragain [21]
Michael S. Wright [11]
Matthew D. McGee [43]

INVESTMENTS

2022-25 (CM) Charles L. Stuckey [43]
2023-26 (RAM) John L. Logan [48, 52]
2024-27 (KT) Mathew A. Turner [18, 27]

TRIENNIAL

John L. Logan [48, 52] Chairman
Robert G. Davis [50]
Clyde H. Schoolfield, Jr. [18]

FRATERNAL CORRESPONDENCE

David A. Tennison [48]

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

MEMBERSHIP ENHANCEMENT

Brian M. Ragain [21]

GRAND MASTER'S FESTIVAL

Michael S. Wright [11] - Chairman
Matthew D. McGee [43]
Mark K. McFadden [2]

REGIONAL DEGREE FESTIVALS

Matthew D. McGee [43] - Chairman
Central – Mathew A. Turner [18]
N. Central - Ryan R. Frederick [50]
Northeast – George W. Ratliff [22]
Northwest - Troy L. Collier [52]
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]

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

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

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

James R. Taylor, Jr. [22] - Chairman
Brian M. Ragain [21]
Michael S. Wright [11]
Jon B. Greene [22] – Ex Officio

NECROLOGY

George W. Ratliff [22]

ASSISTANT CUSTODIANS OF THE WORK

Blaine C. McKnight [3]
Timothy P. Israel [25, 33]
Brian M. Ragain [21]
Robert R. Rolseth [22]
Mathew A. Turner [18, 27]
Michael S. Wright [11]

SOUTH CENTRAL CONFERENCE

James R. Taylor, Jr. [22]
Blaine C. McKnight [3]
Glen A. Chaney [21]
Jon B. Greene [22]

COMMITTEE ON TIME AND PLACE

Bradley S. Rickelman [50] - Chairman
Brian A. Buswell [18]
Ivan M. De Tevis [22, 50]
Robert W. McLeod [22]
Jon B. Greene [22] Ex Officio

MASONIC CHARITY FOUNDATION

2022-25 [CM] Johnny D. Allford [3]
2023-26 [KT] Timothy P. Israel [25, 33]
2024-27 [RAM] David A. Ray [27]

CRYPTIC MASON OF THE YEAR AWARD

James R. Taylor, Jr. [22] - Chairman
Brian M. Ragain [21]
Michael S. Wright [11]
Jon B. Greene [22] – Ex Officio

COMMITTEE ON APPRECIATION

Michael D. Maxey [22]

**ADDRESS OF THE MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTER, JAMES R. TAYLOR, JR.
131st GRAND ASSEMBLY**

To the Grand Officers, Past and Present, Distinguished Guests and Members of this Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Oklahoma:

Through the loving kindness of the Supreme Architect of the Universe, we are permitted to assemble in this beautiful city on this the One Hundred Thirty First Annual Assembly of this Grand Council, to meet again, the Companions of this Grand Jurisdiction who have been coming to the meetings of the Grand bodies for many years, and to meet the new members, wherein lies our fond hopes for our return to further advancement of our beloved Cryptic Rite.

On behalf of the Grand Council, we extend to all of you a fraternal welcome; to the veteran attendees, you know you are welcome, and to those of you who are attending for the first time, please be assured that you are equally as welcome, for by our associations and the new friendships we form, the future of Masonry greatly depends. May you have a delightful experience here; may the occasion be a happy one, that you may leave this place with your heart filled with a deeper meaning of our wonderful Fraternity.

We want to extend to our distinguished guests from other jurisdictions that hearty welcome that will make them feel at home in our company and that they will want to be with us again. We are all traveling in the same direction; we are trying to make the best of life; we should all be trying to do the most we can for the benefit of mankind, and when we do this, we should be happy in well doing.

It is my distinct honor to extend a warm and fraternal welcome to Most Worshipful James Roderick, Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Oklahoma. Your presence here today graces our Annual Assembly with a sense of unity and purpose that transcends our individual endeavors. We are deeply grateful for the time you have taken to be with us and for the steadfast support you have shown the York Rite. Your leadership serves as a beacon, guiding us towards our common goals and reinforcing the bonds of brotherhood that are the cornerstone of our Masonic pursuit.

As we gather together, let us celebrate the unity and shared aspirations that define us. We can continue to uplift and inspire one another through our collective efforts and unwavering commitment to the principles of Masonry. Thank you, Most Worshipful Grand Master, for your unwavering dedication and invaluable contributions to our fraternity.

Companion Frank J. Belluardo, Jr., Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Oklahoma, and Sir Knight Glen A. Chaney, Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Oklahoma, I welcome you to our Grand Assembly. It is fitting that we end our Grand York Rite terms together. I have genuinely enjoyed our time together at various Masonic functions throughout our terms of office. We operated this year as a cohesive unit for the betterment of York Rite Masonry in Oklahoma. It has been my honor to serve with you during this year and be able to not only call you Brother but a Friend as well.

I would like to extend to the Illustrious Masters, Deputy Masters, Principal Conductors of the Work, and Companions of our various constituent Councils of Oklahoma a most hearty welcome and thank you for attending our Grand Assembly. You are the foundation of this Grand Council, and your presence is appreciated.

It is proper, and in accordance with a long-established custom, that I render to you at this time an account of my stewardship. I deeply appreciated the honor you bestowed and had a high sense of the responsibility it imposed. I accepted the office with the determination to do my best to merit your confidence, with a fervent desire to do nothing rash or ill-advised but to conduct the affairs of this Grand Body with justice and moderation.

Cryptic Dead

The official line of the Grand Council has remained intact, but may we pause to pay due respect to those worthy Companions who have answered the call since last we met in our Annual Assembly. We look for their familiar faces and miss them. Then comes the sad reminder that we shall see them here no more. The grim messenger has invaded countless homes and Councils and called loved ones away.

With the Companions of sister jurisdictions, we have suffered the loss of leaders and Companions and extend to them our sympathy. May we bow our heads in sorrow and mourn with them their passing.

Let us stand while our Grand Chaplain offers a prayer for our departed Companions.

Official Visits to Constituent Councils

The Grand Council made official visits to the following constituent Councils. The Councils were opened in ritualistic form, and the Grand Council Officers were officially received. We gave a presentation on the educational resources of the Grand Council, the Grand Council Awards, and CMMRF. Also presented were the requirements for the Council Ritual Certification Program and Master Adept of the Council Award. The Councils were closed in ample form.

The Grand Council visit to Bartlesville Council No. 41 was at a Commandery meeting. I attended the meeting along with the Grand High Priest, Grand Commander, and other Grand York Rite officers. Bartlesville Council No. 41 was opened for business purposes only, and I was introduced as Most Illustrious Grand Master. We discussed with the Council members the future of the York Rite in Bartlesville and the importance of the leadership being involved in the operations of their York Rite. The Grand Council offered its help and support as long as the Bartlesville leadership is engaged and the Council functions as it should. On November 19th, the Right Illustrious Grand Recorder, Illustrious Grand Sentinel, and I traveled to Bartlesville Council No. 41 to observe the Council and the election of 2025 officers.

During the Grand Council visit to Tulsa Council No. 22, my home Council, I was presented with my Past Most Illustrious Grand Master Apron. I will always be grateful to the Companions in Tulsa for this beautiful Apron, and will wear it proudly.

May 15	Stillwater Council No. 50
June 12	Muskogee Council No. 2
August 27	Lawton Council No. 21
September 10	Bernard Council No. 43
September 12	Norman Council No. 27
September 17	Bartlesville Council No. 41 (Commandery)
September 23	Union Council No. 3
October 14	Ardmore Council No. 11
October 21	Tulsa Council No. 22
November 13	Alpha Council No. 18
December 12	Guthrie Council No. 48 (Installed 2025 Council Officers)
December 14	Mysterious Nine Council No. 61 (Installed 2025 Council Officers)
February 11	Woodward Council No. 52 (canceled due to weather, not rescheduled)
March 18	Elk City Council No. 25

Other Visitations and Travel

April 25-27, 2024	Attended the Grand York Rite Annual Sessions and was installed as Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Oklahoma.
May 4	Attended the Summer Assembly of Prince of Peace Conclave in Claremore and was introduced as Most Illustrious Grand Master.
May 11	Attended All Masonic Day in Edmond and was introduced as Most Illustrious Grand Master during the Father Murrow Council No. 10 AMD and Oklahoma York Rite College No. 75 meetings.
May 18	Attended the meetings of Oklahoma Priory No. 9 K.Y.C.H. and Joseph of Arimathea Tabernacle No. IV H.R.A.K.T.P. in Stillwater and was introduced as Most Illustrious Grand Master.
May 26	Traveled to Norman to attend the Rainbow Girls Grand Assembly on the campus of the University of Oklahoma and was introduced as Most Illustrious Grand Master of Cryptic Masons of Oklahoma, brought greetings on behalf of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Oklahoma.

June 1 Attended the meeting of Plinth Court No. 91 Masonic Order of Athelstan in McAlester and was introduced as Most Illustrious Grand Master.

June 29 Traveled to Norman to attend the DeMolay State Conclave and was introduced as Most Illustrious Grand Master of Cryptic Masons of Oklahoma.

July 27 Traveled to Norman to attend the Grand Master's York Rite Festival and was introduced. Also, greeted fifty – one new Select Masters and encouraged them to become involved in their Council.

August 17 Traveled to Stillwater and attended the meetings of the Grand Council of Anointed High Priests of Oklahoma, Council of Thrice Illustrious Masters of Oklahoma, and Oklahoma Past Commanders Association. I was introduced as Most Illustrious Grand Master and had the privilege of installing the 2024-25 officers during the Council of Thrice Illustrious Masters of Oklahoma meeting.

August 24 Attended the Oklahoma Divisional Assembly, Red Cross of Constantine meeting in McAlester and was introduced as Most Illustrious Grand Master.

September 19-20 Attended the 67th South Central York Rite Conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma. I was honored to represent Oklahoma as President of the South-Central York Rite Conference.

October 2 Attended MacMillan Council No. 15 AMD meeting in Owasso and was introduced as Most Illustrious Grand Master.

October 5 Traveled to Tulsa to attend the opening ceremonies of the Scottish Rite Reunion and was introduced as Most Illustrious Grand Master.

October 12 Traveled to McAlester to attend the opening ceremonies of the Scottish Rite Reunion and was introduced as Most Illustrious Grand Master.

October 19 Attended All Masonic Day in Edmond and was introduced as Most Illustrious Grand Master during the Father Murrow Council No. 10 AMD and Oklahoma York Rite College No. 75 meetings.

October 26 Attended the Fall Assembly of Prince of Peace Conclave in Sulphur and was introduced as Most Illustrious Grand Master.

November 2 Traveled to Guthrie to attend the opening ceremonies of the Scottish Rite Reunion and was introduced as Most Illustrious Grand Master.

November 9 Traveled to Guthrie to attend the M.: W.: Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of the State of Oklahoma Annual Communication and was received, introduced, and offered a seat in the Grand East. Also, brought greetings on behalf of the Oklahoma York Rite.

November 23 Attended the meeting of Plinth Court No. 91 Masonic Order of Athelstan in McAlester and was introduced as Most Illustrious Grand Master.

December 7 Attended Tulsa York Rite Bodies 2025 officer installation and Christmas observance was introduced and installed Tulsa Council No. 22 officers.

December 17 Attended Bartlesville York Rite Bodies 2025 officer installation was introduced and installed Bartlesville Council No. 41 officers.

January 4, 2025 Attended McAlester York Rite Bodies 2025 officer installation was introduced and installed Union Council No. 3 officers.

February 8 Traveled to Tulsa Council No. 22 to attend the Northeast Oklahoma Regional Commandery Festival and was introduced as Most Illustrious Grand Master.

March 1	Attended the meeting of Plinth Court No. 91 Masonic Order of Athelstan in McAlester and was introduced as Most Illustrious Grand Master.
March 12	Attended MacMillan Council No. 15 AMD meeting in Owasso and was introduced as Most Illustrious Grand Master.
March 22	Traveled to Tulsa to attend the opening ceremonies of the Scottish Rite Reunion and was introduced as Most Illustrious Grand Master.
March 29	Attended the Spring Assembly of Prince of Peace Conclave at Roman Nose State Park in Watonga and was introduced as Most Illustrious Grand Master.
April 4	Traveled to Guthrie to attend the opening ceremonies of the Scottish Rite Reunion and was introduced as Most Illustrious Grand Master.
April 12	Traveled to McAlester to attend the opening ceremonies of the Scottish Rite Reunion and was introduced as Most Illustrious Grand Master.

Grand Council Administrative Meetings

I attended several administrative meetings on the dates noted. Each of these meetings was held electronically via ZOOM unless otherwise noted.

June 25, 2023	2024-25 Planning Session with incoming GHP and GC
December 17, 2023	2024-25 Planning Session with incoming GHP and GC
February 7, 2024	2024-25 Planning Session with incoming GHP and GC
May 5, 2024	Grand Master's Festival Planning
May 5, 2024	Grand Council Officer's Meeting
June 7, 2024	South Central Conference Planning
June 23, 2024	Grand Master's Festival Planning Follow-up
January 17, 2025	Grand York Rite Sessions Planning Conference Call

Grand York Rite Quarterly Meetings

July 14, 2024 – Attended the Grand York Rite Officers Quarterly meeting held via Zoom. The meeting was called to order. After the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation, the following reports were given: Grand Secretary-Recorder, Membership Committee, and Time and Place Committee. Additional topics discussed were the Grand Master's Festival, York Rite Chair Degrees, and South-Central Department Conference. The Illustrious Grand Master gave a report on the activities of the Grand Council and provided details of upcoming Grand Council events.

November 17, 2024 – Attended the Grand York Rite Officers Quarterly meeting held via Zoom. The meeting was called to order, and after the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation, the following reports were given: Grand Secretary-Recorder, Grand Treasurer, Time and Place Committee, and Regional Festivals Committee. Additional topics discussed the Super Excellent Master Degree conferral, constituent Chapter, Council, and Commandery Officer elections and installations, and discussion of the upcoming Senior Grand Warden's retreat for Grand Commandery. The Illustrious Grand Master gave a report on the activities of the Grand Council and detailed upcoming Grand Council events.

February 23, 2025 – Attended the Grand York Rite Officers Quarterly meeting held via Zoom. The meeting was called to order and after the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation, the following reports were given: Grand Secretary-Recorder, Time and Place Committee. The Illustrious Grand Master gave a report on the activities of the Grand Council and detailed upcoming Grand Council events

Dispensations, Actions, and Approval of Bylaws or Amendments

The following dispensations were issued:

- On July 18, 2024, in accordance with Article II, Section 1 (k) of the General Laws of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Oklahoma, I issued a dispensation to allow Union Council No. 3 to temporarily move its Charter to McAlester No. 9 located in McAlester, until such time as electricity is restored to the McAlester Scottish Rite Temple, the domicile of Union Council No. 3.

- On October 18, 2024, in accordance with Article X, Section 2 of the General Laws of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Oklahoma, I issued a dispensation to allow Bartlesville Council No. 41 to hold its annual election of Officers on Tuesday, November 19, 2024, in lieu of Tuesday, December 17, 2024.
- On November 12, 2024, in accordance with Article X, Section 2 of the General Laws of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Oklahoma, I issued a dispensation to allow Tulsa Council No. 22 to hold its annual election of Officers on Monday, November 18, 2024, in lieu of Monday, December 16, 2024.
- On November 18, 2024, in accordance with Article X, Section 2 of the General Laws of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Oklahoma, I issued a dispensation to allow Muskogee Council No. 2 to hold its annual election of Officers on Tuesday, November 26, 2024, in lieu of Tuesday, December 24, 2024.
- On November 18, 2024, in accordance with Article X, Section 2 of the General Laws of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Oklahoma, I issued a dispensation to allow Union Council No. 3 to hold its annual election of Officers on Monday, November 25, 2024, in lieu of Monday, December 23, 2024.

The following actions were taken:

- On May 10, 2024, in accordance with Article X, Section 12, paragraph 7 of the General Laws of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Oklahoma, I appointed Illustrious Companion James Oates III of Lawton Council No. 21, District Deputy Illustrious Grand Master District No. 4 as my official designated representative during the stated Assembly of Altus Council No. 33 on May 15, 2024.
- On July 15, 2024, in accordance with Article X, Section 12, paragraph 7 of the General Laws of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Oklahoma, I appointed Illustrious Companion Glen A. Chaney of Lawton Council No. 21 as my official designated representative during the stated Assembly of Capitol Hill Council No. 59 on July 19, 2024.

The following bylaws or amendments were approved:

- On September 30, 2024, approved a change to the bylaws of Bartlesville Council No. 41.
- On December 9, 2024, approved a change to the bylaws of Union Council No. 3.
- On January 30, 2025, approved a change to the bylaws of Stillwater Council No. 50.

Participation in the Special Assembly of the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons International

A Special Assembly (Session One of the 49th Triennial) of the General Grand Council was held on Saturday, August 17, 2024, by electronic means UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE GENERAL GRAND MASTER 2023-2026 at the Little America Hotel in Salt Lake City, Utah, by Order of the General Grand Master and the Deputy General Grand Master Pursuant to Article VIII of the Constitution of the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons, International. There was an option to attend the meeting via Zoom.

The only item for consideration by vote at the Special Assembly was the matter of the total Revision of the Constitution and Bylaws. The Revised Constitution and Bylaws passed overwhelmingly. It was a great way to manage additional items for the General Grand Council without having to travel. It was highly informative.

Council Consolidations

May 15, 2024 – Illustrious Companion James Oates III, acting under the authority granted to him on May 10, 2024, as my designated representative, attended a stated assembly of Altus Council No. 33, at which the Companions of Altus Council No. 33 in attendance voted to consolidate with Lawton Council No. 21 in Lawton, OK. On May 28, 2024, the Companions of Lawton Council No. 21 voted unanimously to accept the Companions of Altus Council No. 33. On June 3, 2024, the consolidation of Altus Council No. 33 to Lawton Council No. 21 was completed. All required constitutional criteria had been followed. The Council charter and seal were turned over to the Grand Recorder.

July 19, 2024 – Illustrious Companion Glen A. Chaney acting under the authority granted to him on July 15, 2024 as my designated representative, attended a stated assembly of Capitol Hill Council No. 59, at which the Companions of Capitol Hill Council No. 59 in attendance voted to consolidate with Alpha Council No. 18 in Oklahoma City, OK. On July 24, 2024, the Companions of Alpha Council No. 18 voted unanimously to accept the Companions of Capitol Hill Council No. 59. On July 27, 2024, the consolidation of Capitol Hill Council No. 59 to Alpha Council No. 18 was completed. All required constitutional criteria had been followed. The Council charter and seal were turned over to the Grand Recorder.

Grand Master's Festival

The annual Grand Master's Festival is still a great benefit to the York Rite. We greeted Fifty-One Select Masters into the Degrees of Cryptic Masonry at this year's festival. For some candidates, it is the only way that they can (or will) join the York Rite. The Royal Master Degree was conferred by the Tulsa Council No. 22 team, and the Select Master Degree was conferred by a combined team from Tulsa Council No. 22 and Stillwater Council No. 50. Both teams did an exemplary job at the conferral and are to be commended for their efforts.

For several years, the organizing committee of the Grand Master's Festival has been composed of the Grand Principal of the Work, along with the Grand Scribe (from the Grand Chapter) and the Grand Generalissimo (from the Grand Commandery).

This administrative structure has the added benefit that the three Grand Officers forming this administrative committee will only serve for one year and do not have to worry about being stuck with the administration of the Grand Master's Festival for many years. It is my hope that we continue this administrative structure in future years.

Special thanks should go to this year's committee Grand Principal Conductor of the Work Mike Wright (Ardmore No. 11), Matt McGee (Bernard No. 43), and Mark McFadden (Muskogee No. 2) for their hard work in making this year's Grand Master's Festival a success.

Regional Council Festival

On February 8th, Tulsa Council No. 22 hosted the Northeast Oklahoma Regional Council Festival. Two Royal Arch Masons were introduced to the mysteries of Cryptic Masonry and Greeted as Select Masters.

It is my recommendation we keep the statewide coordination a responsibility of the Grand Captain of the Guard, with assistance in the various regions by the regional chairman. I trust given the proper time and understanding of all involved this statewide coordination process will prove beneficial.

I would like to thank those Companions responsible for planning the Regional Festival; without your determination, dedication, organizational, and time management skills the festival would not have been successful. You are what makes Cryptic Masonry in Oklahoma a success. I am encouraged by the success of the Regional Festival and look forward to the day when all Regions in the State can host their own.

South Central York Rite Conference

The 67th Annual South Central York Rite Conference was held at the DoubleTree Warren Place Hotel in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on September 20 – 21, 2024.

On Friday, presentations from the General Grand Chapter and General Grand Council were given. I gave a report on our Grand Council activities for this year. The four elected officers of the Grand Council and the Grand Recorder attended the Department Conference. There was one appointed Grand Council Officer, five Past Illustrious Grand Masters from Oklahoma who also were in attendance, and numerous other Companions from across the State.

On Saturday, presentations from the Grand Encampment were given. The presentations were on Membership, KTEF, Commissioned Templar Chaplain and various other Grand Encampment Programs.

Our Grand Master, M.: W.: John F. Carter, attended the conference in its entirety and brought greetings on behalf of the Masons of Oklahoma.

The 68th Annual South Central York Rite Conference is scheduled to be held September 19 – 20, 2025, in League City, Texas. While the conference is primarily designed for Grand Officers, any Companion is welcome to attend. There will

be several interesting presentations and leadership training will be available through the “York Rite Leadership Training Program.”

Grand Session Hotel Contract

On August 4, 2024, the elected Grand Council officers met with the Jurisprudence Committee of this Grand Council to discuss one item: 1) Does the Grand Council Constitution and General Laws prohibit this Grand Council from committing to a multi-year contract with a hotel for our Grand Sessions? (Please refer to the Jurisprudence Committee Report included in the preprint).

On October 23, 2024, the Grand Council, along with the Grand Chapter and Grand Commandery, met in open session via Zoom with the Companions across the state to get their consent or dissent to extending our Grand Sessions contract with Embassy Suites through 2027. On October 23rd, the Companions gave their consent to extending the hotel contract with Embassy Suites through 2027. I asked the Time and Place Committee Chairman, as my representative, to sign a contract with Embassy Suites OKC Northwest for 2026 and 2027.

State of Cryptic Masonry

I have no desire to be pessimistic but rather to consider with optimism a way to greater possibilities. The splendid seed sown by our predecessors will not bring forth fruit without constant nourishment and cultivation. While our membership has decreased, we continue to solicit petitions, which is a laudable effort, but we need to concentrate on the importance of quality in membership and the proper rendition of our beautiful ritual. No business succeeds by adding new customers when the loss of the old ones is greater than the increase.

It is regrettable to observe the condition of a few of our Councils. Some of them habitually relapse into a state of lethargy or even coma, from which it is difficult to arouse them. I am convinced that a more heroic measure than a mere reminder from time to time will be necessary. Just what course to pursue is the problem of this Grand Council and I trust that the proper measure will be brought to light and adopted. One thing I am certain of is that the fundamental principles of Cryptic Masonry are right and needed today.

Recommendations

To foster greater engagement and participation among the members of our Cryptic Councils, your Grand Council has made available several resources. These include an education course, an education website with lesson plans for Council meetings (www.okyorkrite.com), a ritualist award, and a plain English version of our ritual. These tools are designed to enhance the overall experience of our Council members and ensure the perpetuation of our rich traditions and practices.

Education Course and Lesson Plans

The education course and lesson plans provided on the education website are invaluable tools for enhancing the knowledge of our members. To make the most of these resources, it is my recommendation:

- **Regular Implementation:** Councils should integrate the education course and lesson plans into their regular meetings, ensuring that all members have the opportunity to benefit from them.
- **Interactive Learning:** The education course and lesson plans are designed to be interactive. I would strongly recommend interactive learning sessions where members can engage in discussions, walkthroughs of the Royal and Select Master Degrees, and practical exercises based on the lesson plans and degree walkthroughs.
- **Feedback Mechanism:** Establish a feedback mechanism to gather input from members on the effectiveness of the lesson plans. Each Council learns differently, so be open to making necessary adjustments to improve the course and lesson plans relevance and impact.

Ritualist Award

The Certified Ritualist of the Council and Master Adept of the Council awards are an excellent initiative to recognize members who demonstrate proficiency in our ritual and floor work. As a Grand Council, we need to do better to

promote the awards to our members. This is an opportunity to preserve our traditions and enhance correct portrayal of our ritual.

I will not review the specifics of the awards as they are discussed in detail in the 2024 Grand Council Proceedings and are a part of our Grand Council General Laws.

Plain English Version Ritual

The plain English version of our ritual is a valuable resource for improving the accessibility and understanding of our work. To maximize its benefits:

- **Widespread Distribution:** The Grand Council needs to ensure and promote that all members have access to the plain English version of the ritual.
- **Schools of Instruction:** Conduct schools of instruction to familiarize members with the plain English version, discussing key differences and advantages over traditional cyphered versions.
- **Encouragement of Use:** We need to encourage our members to use the plain English version during practice sessions, schools of instructions, and personal study to enhance clarity and comprehension.

Enhancing Ritual Proficiency

As observed, the memorization of ritualistic parts by Council officers is crucial for maintaining the integrity and effectiveness of our rituals. To address this:

- **Memorization Expectations:** Set clear expectations for Council officers to memorize their ritualistic parts, like the expectations for Lodge officers.
- **Practice Sessions:** Organize regular practice sessions where officers can rehearse their parts.
- **Accountability Measures:** Implement accountability measures to ensure that officers are meeting the memorization expectations, such as periodic assessments or evaluations.

Addressing Council Challenges

It is important to acknowledge and address the challenges faced by some of our Councils, particularly those experiencing lethargy or inactivity. To revitalize these Councils, we as a Grand Council should consider the following:

- **Heroic Measures:** We, the Grand Council, should encourage and help implement innovative measures to awaken and engage our lethargic Councils, such as hosting special events, guest speakers, or collaborative projects with other Councils (i.e., joint degree teams and schools of instruction, and official joint visitations with our Grand Chapter Companions).
- **Regular DDIGM Visits:** Encourage our DDIGM's to conduct regular visits with Council leaders to monitor progress and provide support and guidance as needed. Stress the importance to our DDIGM's to make regular progress reports to the elected officers of the Grand Council of their respective Councils.
- **Allocation of Resources:** Allocate additional resources, such as educational materials, or experienced Companions, to mentor struggling Councils to help them regain momentum if the Council leadership wants help.
- **Success Stories:** We should encourage our successful Councils to share ideas and best practices to help inspire and motivate those facing challenges. We must work together to ensure our success.

Your Grand Council has put forth an effort to provide resources for enhancing the engagement and participation of our members. By optimizing the use of educational resources, enhancing ritual proficiency, and addressing Council challenges, we can ensure a more vibrant and dynamic Cryptic Masonic experience. Let us continue to build on the foundation laid by our predecessors and strive for excellence in all aspects of our Council activities.

Appreciation and Conclusion

I want to thank the Grand Officers and all Committee Members for taking the time to travel and collaborate with me to help promote Cryptic Masonry throughout this year. I want to thank Companion James Taylor, Sr., for traveling with me this year. I thank you for the conversations and company during our travels and any time spent with you is memorable and I will cherish our time spent together this past year.

I thank the Past Illustrious Grand Masters, who were always available to answer any questions and offer advice but never dictated how things should be done.

I thank Companion Jon Greene, Grand Recorder, for his constant attention to the business of this Grand Council, his counsel, and friendship, and Companion Kent Israel, Grand Treasurer, for his safekeeping, stewardship, and quick responses to my queries regarding the investments of this Grand Council.

I want to thank the Companions of Tulsa Council No. 22 for their support during my service to this Grand Council.

To my sons, Tyler and Hunter, and most importantly, my lovely wife, Gage, a heartfelt thanks for allowing me to be away from home so much these past four years. This job would have been difficult without your patience, unselfish understanding, and love. I especially want to thank my wife, Gage; it is hard to be the wife of an active Mason, and she chooses to share me with the fraternity. She is the love and light of my life, and I thank God for her every day.

Time flies so rapidly that I can hardly realize that sixteen Annual Assemblies of this Grand Council have passed since I first began to attend. The first few were not attended as a Representative to this Grand body, yet my attendance has not been interrupted. What a pleasure and satisfaction it has been as I have fraternized with my Companions! My heart is full of gratitude to the Masons of this Grand Jurisdiction for the honors and awards I have received at their hands, and all so undeserved. My attempts so frequently have been futile, yet I have always endeavored to advance the cause and, by kindness and brotherly love, make up for the shortcomings.

The honor you have conferred upon me is gratefully acknowledged, and I earnestly hope that the Companions will believe that anything I did during the year was to promote the best interests of Cryptic Masonry. Times are continuing to change, and we must work together to survive and accomplish our purposes in society and perpetuate Masonry. It is my belief that if the presiding officers of our Masonic Bodies continue to cooperate and work together, Masonry in Oklahoma will prosper and take its appropriate place in society.

Respectfully Submitted,
James R. Taylor, Jr.
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, 2024

These accounts are all held at Morgan Stanley

Grand Council Investment Account	
General Fund	
Beginning Balance, January 1, 2024	\$85,239.28
Deposits	0.00
Withdrawals	-3,316.89
Dividend/Interest Earned	2,910.58
Appreciation	<u>3,298.09</u>
Ending Balance, December 31, 2024	\$88,131.06

Grand Council Investment Account	
Perpetual Membership	
Beginning Balance, January 1, 2024	\$126,900.18
Deposits	1,387.50
Withdrawals	-3,449.42
Dividend/Interest Earned	4,261.55
Appreciation	<u>2,505.90</u>
Ending Balance, December 31, 2024	\$131,605.71

Grand Council Investment Account	
Joint Account-Membership Development	
Beginning Balance, January 1, 2024	\$73,217.48
Deposits	152.96
Withdrawals	-152.96
Dividend/Interest Earned	2,549.22
Appreciation	<u>2,803.53</u>
Ending Balance, December 31, 2024	\$78,570.23

Grand Total of Grand Council Investments	<u>1/1/2024</u>	<u>12/31/2024</u>		
General Fund	\$85,239.28	\$88,131.06	\$2,891.78	3.39%
Perpetual Membership	\$126,900.18	\$131,605.71	\$4,705.53	3.71%
Joint Account-Membership Development	<u>\$73,217.48</u>	<u>\$78,570.23</u>	\$5,352.75	7.31%
Grand Total of Grand Council Investments	<u>\$285,356.94</u>	<u>\$298,307.00</u>		

Total Perpetual Members Grand Council, CM of Oklahoma													
As of 12/31/2024	New Members in 2024	Total Members	Dead	Living	Total Investment	Total Dues	Total Interest Distributed*	To Grand Council		To Local Council		Total to Grand Council	Total to Local Council
								Deceased	Living	Deceased	Living		
3/28/2025 8:10		196	107	89	28,214.00	1,833.90	784.35	161.25	229.18	220.51	173.40	390.43	393.92
		26	14	12	5,410.00	352.70	150.40	25.56	38.71	45.47	40.66	64.26	86.14
		42	32	10	5,012.75	334.00	139.35	40.07	21.50	59.61	18.18	61.57	77.79
	Bernard (Ponca City), No. 43	39	15	24	4,637.00	306.60	202.75	19.67	103.17	20.59	59.32	122.84	79.91
	Elk City, No. 25	45	21	24	5,895.00	393.00	263.54	25.44	100.14	37.53	100.43	125.58	137.96
	Guthrie, No. 48	33	14	19	5,826.00	388.00	161.96	20.43	60.41	32.11	49.01	80.85	81.12
	Lawton, No. 21	90	51	39	15,615.00	1,033.00	434.10	77.12	120.37	121.79	114.82	197.49	236.61
	Muskogee, No. 2	84	41	43	13,800.00	790.00	358.62	82.24	143.63	67.47	65.29	225.86	132.76
	Mysterious Nine No. 61	1		1	210.00	14.00	5.84		3.44		2.40	3.44	2.40
	Norman, No. 27	69	49	20	8,434.41	556.15	234.48	63.36	46.60	86.35	38.16	109.96	124.51
	Stillwater, No. 50	2	49	28	7,486.20	497.08	304.03	34.93	100.87	53.90	114.33	135.80	168.23
	Tulsa, No. 22	1	125	51	28,486.73	1,791.50	778.59	74.01	272.10	122.48	310.00	346.11	432.48
	Union (McAlester), No. 3	59	29	30	6896.25	459.75	342.84	42.95	172.28	34.19	93.41	215.23	127.60
	Woodward, No. 52	44	27	17	3,417.50	227.00	95.01	30.23	39.58	14.39	10.81	69.81	25.19
	14	3	902	479	139,340.84	8,976.68	4,255.84	697.26	1,451.98	916.38	1190.23	2,149.23	2106.61
			53.1%	52.5%			3.05%			1.54%			15%
				953					2,149.23		2,106.61		4,255.84
As of 31 December 2024													
Percentage used in making calculations: 2.78%													
					Div/Int earned on 2024			\$4,261.55				Pd to Gd Council	\$2,149.23
					Distributed in 2025			4,255.84				Pd to Councils	\$2,106.61
					Retained in Fund			\$5.71					\$4,255.84

The stock market in 2024 was characterized by a mix of volatility and cautious optimism, as we navigated economic challenges, geopolitical risks, and shifting monetary policies. With inflation showing signs of moderation in some regions, central banks, particularly the Federal Reserve, took a more dovish approach. Interest rates remained elevated for much of the year, though some easing occurred toward the end of the period as inflation pressures eased.

Investor sentiment in 2024 was influenced by global economic conditions. In the U.S., the market saw moderate growth, with defensive sectors like utilities, healthcare, and consumer staples outperforming more cyclical or speculative industries. These sectors offered stability and solid dividend yields. High-growth sectors like technology and clean energy experienced significant volatility, as investors grappled with concerns about valuations and regulatory uncertainty.

International markets also faced challenges, with Europe struggling under economic stagnation and geopolitical tensions in Eastern Europe. However, emerging markets showed potential, particularly in regions focused on technology, green energy, and infrastructure development, though risks remained due to political instability and currency fluctuations.

In 2025, through Q1, our accounts are up 1.41% while the market is down 3.91% in that same time. I believe we have the right conservative portfolio. In 2024, we also received more dividends and interest than in years past. Morgan Stanley has been good to work with, and I appreciate Jon Greene and his work when he receives all the money that goes into these different accounts.

Perpetual Membership Account Information

902 Total Members at 12/31/2024

3 New Members in 2024

423 Living Members

479 Deceased Members

Interest/Dividends earned in 2024: \$4,261.55

Div/Int distributed to Grand Council in 2025 for Div/Int earned in 2024: \$2,149.23

Div/Int distributed to Local Councils in 2025 for Div/Int earned in 2024: \$2,106.61

Last year, for comparison

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 3 new members to our Perpetual Members list in 2024. We had much larger dividends and interest earned in 2024, that were able to be paid out in 2025. This is very good news.

Thank you all for the opportunity to serve as Grand Treasurer this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Kent Israel [18,25]

REPORT OF THE RIGHT ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND RECORDER, JON B. GREENE
Annual Statistical Report - Start: 1/1/2024 End: 12/31/2024
General Grand Council of Cryptic Masonry
Grand Council of Oklahoma
Located at Tulsa, OK

Total Working Councils = 15

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

Total number members on last return =		<u>1,205</u>
Total number GREETED =	<u>67</u>	
Total number AFFILIATED =	<u>153</u>	
Total number REINSTATED =	<u>5</u>	
Total number ADD ADJUSTMENT =	<u>0</u>	
Total Gain (+)	<u>225</u>	
Total number DEMITTED =	<u>161</u>	
Total number SUSPENDED =	<u>47</u>	
Total number DECEASED =	<u>37</u>	
Total number EXPELLED =	<u>0</u>	
Total number DELETE ADJUSTMENT =	<u>0</u>	
Total Loss (-)	<u>245</u>	
Net Gain (Net Loss) =		<u>(20)</u>
Total number of members (including Dual and Plural)		<u>= 1,185</u>

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 =		<u>1,205</u>
Total number GREETED =	<u>67</u>	
Total number AFFILIATED =	<u>5</u>	
Total number REINSTATED =	<u>4</u>	
Total number ADD ADJUSTMENT =	<u>0</u>	
Total Gain (+)	<u>76</u>	
Total number DEMITTED =	<u>6</u>	
Total number SUSPENDED =	<u>33</u>	
Total number DECEASED =	<u>37</u>	
Total number EXPELLED =	<u>0</u>	
Total number DELETE ADJUSTMENT =	<u>0</u>	
Total Loss (-)	<u>76</u>	
Net Gain (Net Loss) =		<u>0</u>
Total number of members (including Dual and Plural)		<u>= 1,205</u>

GRAND COUNCIL RETURNS FOR 2024

No.	Name	2023 Members End of Year	Greeted	Admitted/Affiliated	Reinstated	ADD Adjustment	Demitted	Suspended	Deceased	Expelled/Withdrew	DELETE Adjusted	Net Gain or (Loss)	2024 Members End of Year	Perpetual Members	Unable to Pay	G. G. Council Life Members
2	Muskogee	124	6	0	1	0	5	15	3	0	0	(16)	108	38	0	40
3	Union	96	1	1	0	0	2	0	5	0	0	(5)	91	30	0	30
11	Ardmore	57	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	61	11	0	12
18	Alpha	121	9	100	1	0	3	2	2	0	0	103	224	88	4	92
21	Lawton	101	4	41	1	0	1	13	4	0	0	28	129	35	0	37
22	Tulsa	175	10	1	0	0	4	4	6	0	0	(3)	172	74	6	79
25	Elk City	50	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	50	24	0	40
27	Norman	87	7	1	0	0	1	1	4	0	0	2	89	20	0	22
33	Altus	43	0	0	0	0	42	0	1	0	0	(43)	0	0	0	0
41	Bartlesville	41	6	1	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	3	44	10	0	22
43	Bernard	50	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	(3)	47	25	0	25
48	Guthrie	67	5	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	1	68	18	0	19
50	Stillwater	50	4	3	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	2	52	20	0	22
52	Woodward	32	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	33	18	0	18
59	Capitol Hill	94	7	0	2	0	100	0	2	0	1	(94)	0	0	0	0
61	Mysterious Nine	17	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	17	1	0	1
	Totals	1205	67	150	5	0	159	45	37	0	1	(20)	1185	412	10	460

No.2	Name2	Dues	Fees	DeMolay	Grand Council Per Capita	General Grand Council Per Capita	CMMRF	Net Amount	Perpetual Member Per Capita Return	TOTAL
2	Muskogee	\$25.00	\$50.00	\$17.50	\$700.00	\$170.00	\$70.00	\$957.50	\$225.86	\$1,183.36
3	Union	\$15.00	\$50.00	\$15.25	\$610.00	\$152.50	\$61.00	\$838.75	\$215.23	\$1,053.98
11	Ardmore	\$22.00	\$45.00	\$12.50	\$500.00	\$122.50	\$50.00	\$685.00	\$64.26	\$749.26
18	Alpha	\$20.00	\$45.00	\$33.00	\$1,320.00	\$330.00	\$132.00	\$1,815.00	\$390.43	\$2,205.43
21	Lawton	\$22.50	\$50.00	\$23.50	\$940.00	\$230.00	\$94.00	\$1,287.50	\$197.48	\$1,484.98
22	Tulsa	\$34.00	\$40.00	\$23.00	\$920.00	\$232.50	\$92.00	\$1,267.50	\$346.11	\$1,613.61
25	Elk City	\$30.00	\$40.00	\$6.50	\$260.00	\$25.00	\$26.00	\$317.50	\$125.58	\$443.08
27	Norman	\$28.00	\$40.00	\$17.25	\$690.00	\$167.50	\$69.00	\$943.75	\$109.96	\$1,053.71
33	Altus	\$20.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
41	Bartlesville	\$16.50	\$40.00	\$8.50	\$340.00	\$55.00	\$34.00	\$437.50	\$61.57	\$499.07
43	Bernard	\$14.00	\$35.00	\$5.50	\$220.00	\$55.00	\$22.00	\$302.50	\$122.84	\$425.34
48	Guthrie	\$21.00	\$50.00	\$12.50	\$500.00	\$122.50	\$50.00	\$685.00	\$80.85	\$765.85
50	Stillwater	\$20.00	\$35.00	\$8.00	\$320.00	\$75.00	\$32.00	\$435.00	\$346.11	\$781.11
52	Woodward	\$20.50	\$45.00	\$3.75	\$150.00	\$37.50	\$15.00	\$206.25	\$69.81	\$276.06
59	Capitol Hill	\$19.00	\$40.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
61	Mysterious Nine	\$75.00	\$250.00	\$4.00	\$160.00	\$40.00	\$16.00	\$220.00	\$3.44	\$223.44
	Totals			\$190.75	\$7,630.00	\$1,815.00	\$763.00	\$10,398.75	\$2,359.53	\$12,758.28

2024 BUDGET VS ACTUAL

	Jan - Dec 24	Budget	\$ Over Budget
Income			
4000 - ANNUAL RETURNS			
4010 - Oklahoma Per Capita	7,840.00	7,690.00	150.00
4020 - G. G. Council Assessment	1,867.50	1,825.00	42.50
4030 - CMMRF Assessment	784.00	769.00	15.00
4050 - DeMolay Donation	196.00	192.25	3.75
4000 - ANNUAL RETURNS - Other	438.75		
Total 4000 - ANNUAL RETURNS	11,126.25	10,476.25	650.00
4100 - INTEREST / INVESTMENT INCOME			
4110 - Perpetual Membership Dividend	1,768.23	1,768.23	0.00
4120 - Interest Income-Other	2,420.46	2,420.46	0.00
Total 4100 - INTEREST / INVESTMENT INCOME	4,188.69	4,188.69	0.00
4200 - FEES			
4210 - Degree Fees	595.00	500.00	95.00
4220 - Dispensation Fee	30.00	10.00	20.00
4230 - Reinstatement Fee	30.00	20.00	10.00
Total 4200 - FEES	655.00	530.00	125.00
4300 - RESALE			
4310 - Ritual Resale	200.00	250.00	-50.00
Total 4300 - RESALE	200.00	250.00	-50.00
4600 - MISC INCOME			
4600.1 - Reimbursement from Chapter	248.99		
4600.3 - Reimbursement from KT	249.00		
4630 - MISC Income	131.92	150.00	-18.08
Total 4600 - MISC INCOME	629.91	150.00	479.91
4700 - GRAND SESSIONS			
4710-24 - 2024 Grand Sessions Income	11,713.54	13,000.00	-1,286.46
Total 4700 - GRAND SESSIONS	11,713.54	13,000.00	-1,286.46
4800 - South Central York Rite Conf.			
4810 - LOAN from SCYRC	4,500.00	4,500.00	0.00
4820 - Registration Fee	7,620.00	7,200.00	420.00
4830 - Meals			
4830-1 - Friday Lunch	3,358.00	4,000.00	-642.00
4830-2 - Friday Grand Banquet	7,200.00	7,200.00	0.00
4830-3 - Saturday Lunch	3,450.00	4,800.00	-1,350.00
Total 4830 - Meals	14,008.00	16,000.00	-1,992.00
4840 - Ladies Tour	560.00	300.00	260.00
4800 - South Central York Rite Conf. - Other	300.00	0.00	300.00
Total 4800 - South Central York Rite Conf.	26,988.00	28,000.00	-1,012.00
Total Income	55,501.39	56,594.94	-1,093.55
Gross Profit	55,501.39	56,594.94	-1,093.55
Expense			
5000 - STAFF			
5010 - Grand Recorder Salary	5,250.00	5,250.00	0.00
5020 - Payroll Taxes	449.16	450.00	-0.84
5030 - Grand Treasurer's Allowance	0.00	200.00	-200.00
Total 5000 - STAFF	5,699.16	5,900.00	-200.84
5100 - ASSESSMENTS			
5110 - Per Capita - Gen Grand Council	1,827.50	1,825.00	2.50
5120 - CMMRF Donation	769.00	769.00	0.00
5130 - DeMolay Donation	300.00	300.00	0.00
Total 5100 - ASSESSMENTS	2,896.50	2,894.00	2.50
6000 - CONFERENCE/TRAVEL			
6010-24 - M.I.G.M. TRAVEL - DAVIS	0.00	1,250.00	-1,250.00
6010-25 - M.I.G.M. TRAVEL-TAYLOR	0.00	1,250.00	-1,250.00
6011 - Grand Recorders Travel	0.00	0.00	0.00
6020 - M.I.G.M. Grand Session Expense	0.00	250.00	-250.00
6025-24 - 2024 Grand Sessions Expense	13,440.79	13,000.00	440.79
6030 - Grand Sessions Host Expense	151.44	250.00	-98.56
6040 - Grand Sessions-Headquarters	588.92	1,140.00	-551.08
6050 - Grand Sessions-Awards	0.00	125.00	-125.00
6060 - Past Gr. Illust Master's Jewel	0.00	0.00	0.00
6070 - South Central Conference			
6071 - SCYRC Loan Repayment	4,500.00	4,500.00	0.00
6071.5 - Registration fee to SCYRC	1,260.00	1,200.00	60.00
6072 - Meals			
6072-1 - Friday Lunch	3,522.81	4,000.00	-477.19
6072-2 - Friday Grand Banquet	7,474.84	7,200.00	274.84
6072-3 - Saturday Lunch	3,385.56	4,800.00	-1,414.44
Total 6072 - Meals	14,383.21	16,000.00	-1,616.79
6073 - A/V Rental	900.00	1,500.00	-600.00
6074 - Hotel Down Payment	0.00	3,750.00	-3,750.00
6075 - Meeting Room Rental	3,857.97	300.00	3,557.97
6076 - Ladies Tour	1,089.05	300.00	789.05
6070 - South Central Conference - Other	359.22		
Total 6070 - South Central Conference	26,349.45	27,550.00	-1,200.55

2024 BUDGET VS ACTUAL - Continued

6080 - Triennial			
6080-24 - Triennial-2024	0.00	903.00	-903.00
6080 - Triennial - Other	<u>494.66</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>494.66</u>
Total 6080 - Triennial	494.66	903.00	-408.34
6110 - Grand Session Refund	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total 6000 - CONFERENCE/TRAVEL	41,025.26	45,718.00	-4,692.74
7000 - OFFICE EXPENSE			
7100 - Rent			
7140 - G.M. Festival Rent	<u>100.00</u>	<u>100.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total 7100 - Rent	100.00	100.00	0.00
7200 - Telecommunications			
7210 - Phone and Internet	0.00	100.00	-100.00
7220 - Website	<u>63.96</u>	<u>75.00</u>	<u>-11.04</u>
Total 7200 - Telecommunications	63.96	175.00	-111.04
7300 - Office Supplies			
7310 - General Office Supplies	0.00	40.00	-40.00
7320 - Ink	0.00	60.00	-60.00
7330 - Computer Software	216.33	250.00	-33.67
7340 - Office Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00
7350 - MMS Online Database	<u>494.55</u>	<u>494.55</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total 7300 - Office Supplies	710.88	844.55	-133.67
7400 - Printing and Reproduction			
7410 - Pre Print	0.00	75.00	-75.00
7420 - Proceedings	<u>32.66</u>	<u>32.65</u>	<u>0.01</u>
Total 7400 - Printing and Reproduction	32.66	107.65	-74.99
7500 - Postage and Delivery			
7510 - PO Box Rental	0.00	67.00	-67.00
7520 - Stamps	<u>0.00</u>	<u>68.00</u>	<u>-68.00</u>
Total 7500 - Postage and Delivery	0.00	135.00	-135.00
7600 - Insurance			
7610 - Bond Premium	<u>0.00</u>	<u>250.00</u>	<u>-250.00</u>
Total 7600 - Insurance	0.00	250.00	-250.00
Total 7000 - OFFICE EXPENSE	907.50	1,612.20	-704.70
8000 - MISC			
8010 - Rituals	390.05	250.00	140.05
8020 - Regalia	429.09	0.00	429.09
8070 - Misc - Other	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total 8000 - MISC	819.14	250.00	569.14
8500 - EDUCATION			
8510 - Education Course	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total 8500 - EDUCATION	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Expense	<u>51,347.56</u>	<u>56,374.20</u>	<u>-5,026.64</u>
Net Income	<u>4,153.83</u>	<u>220.74</u>	<u>3,933.09</u>
MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT			
	<u>Jan - Dec 24</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>
Income			
4550 - Membership Development	<u>385.01</u>	<u>1,513.00</u>	<u>(1,127.99)</u>
Total Income	385.01	1,513.00	(1,127.99)
Gross Profit	385.01	1,513.00	(1,127.99)
Expense			
9000 - MEMBERSHIP			
9010 - Promotional Expense	385.01	305.00	80.01
9020 - DeMolay Sword	0.00	208.00	(208.00)
9030 - GW Memorial (Dig Proceedings)			0.00
9040 - Council Ritual Award		<u>1,000.00</u>	<u>(1,000.00)</u>
Total 9000 - MEMBERSHIP	<u>385.01</u>	<u>513.00</u>	<u>(127.99)</u>
Total Expense	385.01	513.00	(127.99)
Net Income	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>	<u>(1,000.00)</u>

Please see the attached statement of income and expenses for the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Oklahoma. We, unfortunately lost two Councils this year, Altus Council No. 33 and Capitol Hill Council No. 59. Those members affiliated with Lawton Council 21 and Alpha Council 18, respectfully. That is the reason our affiliations in 2024 are much higher than normal. We had a net loss of 20 Companions in 2024 as compared to no loss or gain in 2023. We greeted 67 Companions in both 2023 and 2024.

47 Companions were suspended for non-payment of dues in 2024, as compared to 33 in 2023. The only thing we cannot control is death. We had 37 deceased Companions in 2024, the same number as in 2023

Respectfully submitted:
Jon B. Greene [22]

RESOLUTION NO. 1

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

WHEREAS: December is one of the busiest months in Masonry, and

WHEREAS: Our members are all Master Masons, many of whom belong to more than one Lodge, and

WHEREAS: Many of our members are also members of one or more appendant bodies, and

WHEREAS: The scheduling of these various bodies' elections and installations leaves very little time for our members to hold elections and installations of their local Councils, and

WHEREAS: Tulsa Council 22, Bartlesville Council 41, Union Council 3, Stillwater 50, and Lawton Council 21 all meet on the third or fourth week of the month of December, thus causing the above-mentioned Councils to potentially apply for and purchase a Dispensation to hold their Election of Officers out-of-time.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

ARTICLE 10, Chartered Councils

Section 1. Elections, Council Officers, and Members.

The officers of a Council shall be the Illustrious Master, Deputy Master, Principal Conductor of the Work, Treasurer, Recorder and Captain of the Guard who shall be elected at the first Stated Assembly in December of each year.

BE AMENDED TO READ:

ARTICLE 10, Chartered Councils

Section 1. Elections, Council Officers, and Members.

The officers of a Council shall be the Illustrious Master, Deputy Master, Principal Conductor of the Work, Treasurer, Recorder, and Captain of the Guard, who shall be elected at the first Stated Assembly in November of each year.

This change would make it much easier for our local Councils to schedule and hold their elections and plan quality installation programs.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark K. McFadden [2]

Jon B. Greene [22]

RESOLUTION NO. 2a

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

WHEREAS: modern technology allows for more cost-efficient communication. And

WHEREAS: the cost of printed materials has become substantial at a time of financial exigency for the Grand Chapter, and more cost-effective means of distribution exist.

WHEREAS: Article 2, Section 4 subsection i, paragraph 2 requires the printing of materials that can be communicated by other means.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

ARTICLE 2, GRAND OFFICERS DUTIES

Section 4. Grand Secretary: General Duties.

i. Proceedings.

2) The Grand Recorder shall distribute the annual printed proceedings as follows: one copy to the Illustrious Master and one copy to the Recorder of each Council in this Grand Jurisdiction; two copies to the General Grand Council, Cryptic Masons, International and two copies to each Grand Council with which this Grand Council is in fraternal correspondence; one copy to each officer of this Grand Council; one copy to each Past Grand Illustrious Master; one copy to the chairman of each Standing Committee; and one copy to each Masonic Library and Masonic periodical and to any person who, in the judgment of the Grand Recorder, may be a proper recipient thereof. He shall distribute such other printed matter as may be directed by this Grand Council or the Grand Illustrious Master.

BE AMENDED TO READ:

ARTICLE 2, GRAND OFFICERS DUTIES

Section 4. Grand Secretary: General Duties.

i. Proceedings.

2) The Grand Recorder shall distribute the annual printed proceedings as follows: one copy to the Grand Illustrious Master and one copy to the Recorder of each Council in this Grand Jurisdiction; two copies to the General Grand Council, Cryptic Masons, International and two copies to each Grand Council with which this Grand Council is in fraternal correspondence; one copy to each officer of this Grand Council; one copy to each Past Grand Illustrious Master; one copy to the chairman of each Standing Committee; and one copy to each Masonic Library and Masonic periodical and to any person who, in the judgment of the Grand Recorder, may be a proper recipient thereof, a copy kept in the Grand Recorders Office, and a copy sent to the George Washington Memorial online database. He shall distribute such other printed matter as may be directed by this Grand Council or the Grand Illustrious Master. An electronic copy shall be posted on the Grand York Rite website. Printed copies may be purchased from the Grand Recorders office for the cost of printing, shipping, and handling.

Respectfully submitted,
Jon B. Greene [22]

RESOLUTION NO. 2b

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

WHEREAS: modern technology allows for information to be had at our fingertips. And

WHEREAS: information in printed materials is often outdated. And

WHEREAS: a Grand Recorders contact information is readily available on their Grand Jurisdictions website.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

ARTICLE 2, GRAND OFFICERS DUTIES

Section 4. Grand Recorder: General Duties.

i. Proceedings.

1) The Grand Recorder shall cause to be printed the Proceedings of each Annual Assembly, in which shall be included: Alphabetical lists of active and demised Councils, a numerical list of Councils with the location, date for stated Assemblies, date of charter, a table showing elective officers of this Grand Council from its organization; the names and addresses of the representatives of other Grand Councils near this Grand Council and of this Grand Council near other Grand Councils; a list of Grand Recorders of other Grand Jurisdictions, with their addresses; memorial pages; the report of the Committee on Fraternal Correspondence; such other information and statistics as are customary or useful to the craft; a general index.

BE AMENDED TO READ:

ARTICLE 2, GRAND OFFICERS DUTIES

Section 4. Grand Recorder: General Duties.

i. Proceedings.

1) The Grand Recorder shall cause to be printed the Proceedings of each Annual Assembly, which shall be included: Alphabetical lists of active and demised Councils, a numerical list of Councils with the location, date for stated Assemblies, date of charter, a table showing elective officers of this Grand Council from its organization; the names and addresses of the representatives of other Grand Councils near this Grand Council and of this Grand Council near other Grand Councils; ~~a list of Grand Recorders of other Grand Jurisdictions, with their addresses;~~ memorial pages; the report of the Committee on Fraternal Correspondence; such other information and statistics as are customary or useful to the craft; a general index.

Respectfully submitted,
Jon B. Greene [22]

RESOLUTION NO. 3a

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

WHEREAS: while once a necessity for appointed Grand Representatives to report updates on the State of Masonry in foreign jurisdictions, the advent of technology has made the Grand Representative role effectively obsolete. And

WHEREAS: increasingly more Grand Jurisdictions are distributing, or making available via the internet, their annual proceedings in digital form. And

WHEREAS: many jurisdictions no longer appoint or recognize Grand Representatives. And

WHEREAS: the office of the Grand Recorder has not received any reports on Annual Communications of other Grand Jurisdictions from any Grand Representative.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

ARTICLE 5 Grand Representatives

The tenure of office of a Grand Representative from this Grand Council to another Grand Council shall continue until his resignation or death, or his official removal by the Grand Illustrious Master. Any Grand Representative in Oklahoma who shall fail to attend this Grand Council for three consecutive Annual Assemblies may be removed, and the Grand Illustrious Master shall recommend a successor in the usual manner.

BE AMENDED TO READ:

~~**ARTICLE 5 Grand Representatives**~~

~~Section 1. Grand Representatives~~

~~The tenure of office of a Grand Representative from this Grand Council to another Grand Council shall continue until his resignation or death, or his official removal by the Grand Illustrious Master. Any Grand Representative in Oklahoma who shall fail to attend this Grand Council for three consecutive Annual Assemblies may be removed, and the Grand Illustrious Master shall recommend a successor in the usual manner.~~

Respectfully submitted,
Jon B. Greene [22]

RESOLUTION NO. 3b

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

WHEREAS: while once a necessity for appointed Grand Representatives to report updates on the state of Masonry in foreign jurisdictions, the advent of technology has made the Grand Representative role effectively obsolete. And

WHEREAS: increasingly more Grand Jurisdictions are distributing, or making available via the internet, their annual proceedings in digital form. And

WHEREAS: many jurisdictions no longer appoint or recognize Grand Representatives. And

WHEREAS: the office of the Grand Recorder has not received any reports on Annual Communications of other Grand Jurisdictions from any Grand Representative.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

ARTICLE 2, GRAND OFFICERS DUTIES

Section 4. Grand Recorder: General Duties.

i. Proceedings.

1) The Grand Recorder shall cause to be printed the Proceedings of each Annual Assembly, in which shall be included: Alphabetical lists of active and demised Councils, a numerical list of Councils with the location, date for stated Assemblies, date of charter, a table showing elective officers of this Grand Council from its organization; the names and addresses of the representatives of other Grand Councils near this Grand Council and of this Grand Council near other Grand Councils; a list of Grand Recorders of other Grand Jurisdictions, with their addresses; memorial pages; the report of the Committee on Fraternal Correspondence; such other information and statistics as are customary or useful to the craft; a general index.

BE AMENDED TO READ:

ARTICLE 2, GRAND OFFICERS DUTIES

Section 4. Grand Recorder: General Duties.

i. Proceedings.

1) The Grand Recorder shall cause to be printed the Proceedings of each Annual Assembly, in which shall be included: Alphabetical lists of active and demised Councils, a numerical list of Councils with the location, date for stated Assemblies, date of charter, a table showing elective officers of this Grand Council from its organization; ~~the names and addresses of the representatives of other Grand Councils near this Grand Council and of this Grand Council near other Grand Councils;~~ a list of Grand Recorders of other Grand Jurisdictions, with their addresses; memorial pages; the report of the Committee on Fraternal Correspondence; such other information and statistics as are customary or useful to the craft; a general index.

Respectfully submitted,
Jon B. Greene [22]

JURISPRUDENCE

To the Most Illustrious Grand Master, Officers and Members of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Oklahoma, A special meeting of the Jurisprudence Committee of this Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Oklahoma was called by the Most Illustrious Grand Master James R. Taylor, Jr. and convened at 2:00 PM on August 4, 2024 via Zoom concurrent with the Jurisprudence Committees of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Oklahoma and the Grand Commandery of Oklahoma with the following Jurisprudence Committee members, Chairman Tim Israel, Larry White, Jim Cloud, Clyde Schoolfield, and Robert G. Davis, Others present included Most Illustrious James R. Taylor, Jr. and other Grand Council officers Brian M. Ragain, Right Illustrious Deputy Grand Master; Michael S. Wright, Right Illustrious Grand Principal Conductor of the Work; Jon B. Greene, Right Illustrious Grand Recorder; Matthew D. McGee. Right Illustrious Grand Captain of the Guard in attendance.

The Most Illustrious Grand Master asked for the special meeting to discuss any issues that might be had concerning the Grand Council signing a multi-year contract (for three years) with a hotel for our Grand Sessions.

The Jurisprudence Committee reviewed and discussed the questions asked by the Most Illustrious Grand Master:

- 1) Is there any issue with the Grand Council entering into a multi-year contract with a hotel for our Grand Sessions – The committee discussed and reviewed the Laws and Regulations of the Grand Council, specifically GENERAL LAWS, ARTICLE 6, Section 4. Host Expense, sub-section c, which allows a multi-year (up to 3 Year) contract with a hotel for our Grand Sessions pending the approval of the Companions.

ARTICLE 6, Section 4 Host Expense, sub-Section c:

c. The Time and 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 and Place Committee may submit a revised contact to the vote of assembled.

This issue was raised because, at our Grand Convocation, the details for a 3-year contract, although discussed, had not been finalized by the desired facility and the Time and Place Committee. Therefore, the Time and Place Committee was unable to submit a proposed 3-year contract to the Membership at large.

Authority of Grand Illustrious Master as set forth in the General Laws:

Article 2 Grand Officers Duties, Section 1 (General Duties), sub-Sections k - Other Duties & I. – Annual Report

k. Other Duties.

The Grand Illustrious Master shall perform such other duties as the nature of his office may require, or the ceremonies and rituals the Craft may impose, and to this end he may exercise all the rights, privileges and prerogatives of his office according to the customs and usages of Ancient Craft Masonry except as they may be found to be abridged, modified, or restricted by the Constitution, General Laws and Edicts of this Grand Council.

I. Annual Report.

The Grand Illustrious Master shall at each Annual Assembly present a written report to this Grand Council of his official acts during the recess of this Grand Council, and actions and such other matters as he may deem necessary for the consideration of this Grand Council, and make such recommendations as he may think proper.

As stated above, the Most Illustrious Grand Master has the right, privilege, and authority to make decisions on behalf of the Craft, with regard to the normal course of business of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons, subject to their review at Grand Sessions, when the craft is at recess.

The decision to approve a contract impacting the facility and location of our Grand Council, while said decision should be made during the Grand Session, is within the authority and purview of the Most Illustrious Grand Master when the craft is at recess.

NOTE: The Grand Commandery of Oklahoma has specifically included in its General Laws the authority of the Grand Commander to Call a Special Meeting of the Craft via ZOOM. The Chairman recommends that a provision granting that authority to the Most Illustrious Grand Master should be considered by the membership of this Grand Body.

Most Illustrious James R. Taylor, Jr. was introduced for comments. The Most Illustrious Grand Master thanked the committee and his officers for their attendance and advice on this matter.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Timothy P. Israel [25, 33] – Chairman

Report from April 24, 2025, to be given verbally

CREDENTIALS

We, the Credentials Committee, thank the Grand bodies for their support in organizing this annual meeting. If you have any questions about the event or have misplaced your credentials – please contact one of the members of the Credentials Committee.

Your badge should include your banquet meal tickets, as well as entry into the luncheon on Friday if you registered for it. We want to thank John Christopher for assisting with the website form and Jon Greene, who provides a Yeoman service as our Grand Recorder. We could do little without their assistance.

The tally of voters will be given verbally.

Fraternally
Brad Rickelman [50]

FINANCE

The Finance Committee met via Zoom on March 2, 2025, and reviewed the statement of revenue and expenses provided by the Grand Recorder for the Grand Council Operating Account and found it to be in order and in 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 found 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 the Grand Council Officer's 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 2025 proposed budget for the Grand Council and Membership Development. We recommend their approval by the Grand Council.

Fraternally submitted,
Brian M. Ragain [21] – Chairman, Matthew D. McGee [43], Jon B. Greene [22], Michael S. Wright [11] – Ex Officio

COUNCIL BUDGET 2025

Income	
4000 · ANNUAL RETURNS	
4010 · Oklahoma Per Capita	7,630.00
4020 · G. G. Council Assessment	1,815.00
4030 · CMMRF Assessment	763.00
4050 · DeMolay Donation	190.75
4000 · ANNUAL RETURNS - Other	0.00
Total 4000 · ANNUAL RETURNS	10,398.75
4100 · INTEREST / INVESTMENT INCOME	
4110 · Perpetual Membership Dividend	2,359.53
4120 · Interest Income-Other	2,910.58
Total 4100 · INTEREST / INVESTMENT INCOME	5,270.11
4200 · FEES	
4210 · Degree Fees	500.00
4220 · Dispensation Fee	10.00
4230 · Reinstatement Fee	20.00
4200 · FEES - Other	0.00
Total 4200 · FEES	530.00
4300 · RESALE	
4310 · Ritual Resale	300.00
4300 · RESALE - Other	0.00
Total 4300 · RESALE	300.00
4600 · MISC INCOME	
4600.1 · Reimbursement from Chapter	0.00
4600.3 · Reimbursement from KT	0.00
4630 · MISC Income	150.00
4600 · MISC INCOME - Other	731.93
Total 4600 · MISC INCOME	881.93
Total Income	17,380.79
Gross Profit	17,380.79
Expense	
5000 · STAFF	
5010 · Grand Recorder Salary	5,250.00
5020 · Payroll Taxes	450.00
5030 · Grand Treasurer's Allowance	200.00
Total 5000 · STAFF	5,900.00
5100 · ASSESSMENTS	
5110 · Per Capita - Gen Grand Council	1,812.50
5120 · CMMRF Donation	762.00
5130 · DeMolay Donation	300.00
Total 5100 · ASSESSMENTS	2,874.50
6000 · CONFERENCE/TRAVEL	
6010-24 · M.I.G.M. Travel - Taylor	1,250.00
6010-25 · M.I.G.M. Travel - Ragain	1,250.00
6010 · M.I. Grand Master's Travel	0.00
6011 · Grand Recorders Travel	200.00
6020 · M.I.G.M. Grand Session Expense	275.00
6030 · Grand Sessions Host Expense	75.00
6040 · Grand Sessions-GG Council	1,140.00
6045 · Grand Sessions-Grand Master	200.00
6050 · Grand Sessions-Awards	250.00
6080 · Triennial	
6080-24 · Triennial-2024	903.00
6080-25 · Triennial-2025	888.00
6080-26 · Triennial-2026	0.00
6080 · Triennial - Other	0.00
Total 6080 · Triennial	888.00
6100 · Other	0.00
6110 · Grand Session Refund	0.00
Total 6000 · CONFERENCE/TRAVEL	5,528.00

COUNCIL BUDGET 2025 - Continued

7000 · OFFICE EXPENSE	
7100 · Rent	
7140 · G.M. Festival Rent	100.00
Total 7100 · Rent	<u>100.00</u>
7200 · Telecommunications	
7210 · Phone and Internet	75.00
7220 · Website	75.00
Total 7200 · Telecommunications	<u>150.00</u>
7300 · Office Supplies	
7310 · General Office Supplies	40.00
7320 · Ink	60.00
7330 · Computer Software	
7330.1 · QuickBooks	333.00
7330.2 · Microsoft	33.00
7340 · Office Equipment	0.00
7350 · MMS Online Database	499.59
7300 · Office Supplies - Other	0.00
Total 7300 · Office Supplies	<u>965.59</u>
7400 · Printing and Reproduction	
7410 · Pre Print	75.00
7420 · Proceedings	15.00
7430 · Publications	0.00
7440 · Check Order	0.00
7400 · Printing and Reproduction - Othe	0.00
Total 7400 · Printing and Reproduction	<u>90.00</u>
7500 · Postage and Delivery	
7510 · PO Box Rental	70.00
7520 · Stamps	33.00
7500 · Postage and Delivery - Other	0.00
Total 7500 · Postage and Delivery	<u>103.00</u>
7600 · Insurance	
7610 · Bond Premium	75.67
Total 7600 · Insurance	<u>75.67</u>
7700 · Repairs	
7710 · Computer Repairs	0.00
7720 · Equipment Repairs	0.00
Total 7700 · Repairs	<u>0.00</u>
Total 7000 · OFFICE EXPENSE	<u>1,484.26</u>
8000 · MISC	
8010 · Rituals	300.00
8020 · Regalia	0.00
8040 · Due Other Bodies	0.00
8070 · Misc - Other	0.00
Total 8000 · MISC	<u>300.00</u>
8500 · EDUCATION	
8510 · Education Course	0.00
8500 · EDUCATION - Other	0.00
Total 8500 · EDUCATION	<u>0.00</u>
Total Expense	<u>16,086.76</u>
Net Income	<u>1,294.03</u>

COUNCIL BUDGET 2025 - Continued

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Income	
4550 · Membership Development	
4551 · Membership Development Interest	707.50
4552 · Membership Development-Other	0.00
Total 4550 · Membership Development	<u>707.50</u>
Total Income	707.50
Expense	
9000 · MEMBERSHIP	
9010 · Membership Promotion	400.00
9020 · DeMolay Sword	100.00
9030 · GW Memorial (Dig Proceedings)	200.00
Total 9000 · MEMBERSHIP	<u>700.00</u>
Total Expense	700.00
Net Ordinary Income	7.50
Net Income	<u>7.50</u>

2025 GRAND SESSIONS BUDGET

4700 · GRAND SESSIONS	
4725-1 · Registration Fee	2,800.00
4725-2 · KYCH Banquet	3,450.00
4725-3 · Friday Lunch	2,300.00
4725-4 · Friday Grand Banquet	5,000.00
4725-5 · Ladies Program	600.00
Total 4700 · GRAND SESSIONS	<u>14,150.00</u>
Total Income	14,150.00
Gross Profit	14,150.00
Expense	
6000 · CONFERENCE/TRAVEL	
6025-24 · 2024 Grand Sessions Expense	
6025 · Grand Sessions Expense	
6026 · Grand Sessions Meals	
6026-1 · KYCH Banquet	3,450.00
6026-4 · Friday Lunch	2,300.00
6026-5 · Friday Banquet	5,000.00
Total 6026 · Grand Sessions Meals	<u>10,750.00</u>
6027 · Grand Sessions Room Rental	
6027-1 · Grand JP Room Rental	127.00
6027-2 · KYCH / PCA / Divine Service	442.00
6027-3 · Grand Chapter/Council Meetings	442.00
6027-4 · Grand Commandery Meeting	221.00
6027-5 · HRAKTP Room Rental	127.00
6027-6 · Friday Meeting Room Coffee	130.00
6027-7 · Saturday Meeting Room Coffee	130.00
6027-8 · A/V Rental	545.00
Total 6027 · Grand Sessions Room Rental	<u>2,164.00</u>
6027.5 · Ladies Program	600.00
6028 · FEES	
6028-01 · PayPal Fees	350.00
Total 6028 · FEES	<u>350.00</u>
6025 · Grand Sessions Expense - Other	
Total 6025 · Grand Sessions Expense	<u>13,864.00</u>
Total 6000 · CONFERENCE/TRAVEL	<u>13,864.00</u>
Total Expense	13,864.00
Net Income	<u>286.00</u>

NOTE: *Any funds budgeted for Grand Master Travel - (2025-2026) not disbursed during 2025 will be carried over to the 2026 budget.

CHARTERS AND DISPENSATIONS

ARTICLE 3.

Section 1. Committees.

After his election, the Grand Illustrious Master shall appoint the following committees to serve, except as otherwise provided, during his term of office:

e. Committee on Charters and Dispensations. Consisting of three members plus the Grand Principal of the Work as the ex-officio member.

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.

Sadly, we report that Altus Council No. 33 consolidated with Lawton Council No. 21, and Capitol Hill No.56 (Midwest City) consolidated with Alpha Council No. 18 (OKC), leaving the State with 14 Councils operating throughout Oklahoma.

During the 2024-2025 term, there were no requests for Charters or Dispensations to organize a new Council, nor were new charters granted. We defer to the Grand Illustrious Master's address for comments on the condition of the Councils.

Further, we believe the statistical information in the Grand Recorders report does not require explanation and any further inquiry regarding dispensations to the report of the Committee on Jurisprudence.

Fraternally,

Robert R. Rolseth [22] – Chairman, Stephen D. Gragg [3], Roberto A. DeLeon, Jr. [27], Michael S. Wright [11] – Ex Officio

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, at our last Annual Assembly the Grand Council established a certification program in which a member can 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. Councils and Companions interested in this certification program should consult Article 3, Section 2(h) of the General Laws of the Grand Council.

A "plain English" version of our adopted ritual was authorized by our Grand Council at its Annual Assembly in 2003. Three 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. This has been accomplished and the new publication is available from the Grand Recorder.

To further encourage excellence in our degree conferrals, and acting upon the recommendation of the Grand Illustrious Master, at our last Annual Assembly the Grand Council established a “Ritual Award” to recognize Companions who have excelled in the ritualistic presentation of the Cryptic degrees. Councils and Companions interested in this award should consult Article 7, Section 6 of the General Laws of the Grand Council.

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. Sadly this year saw a decrease in attendance at our regional festivals. The 2025 Central Oklahoma Festival scheduled for February of 2025 was canceled due to a lack of candidates. Our Northeast Oklahoma Festivals only had two candidates. This is an alarming trend. This makes our annual Grand Masters Festival even more important, my fellow Companions. It is imperative for each and every one of us to consider ourselves as a member of the membership committee. It takes effort from every one of us to get out and visit our local lodges and tell our brethren about all of the reasons they should be a York Rite Mason. Our future depends on it.

We have got to make an effort to get out and visit our area Lodges, visit with those brethren and encourage them to continue their masonic journey for further light by experiencing the York Rite. The pool of Master Masons who are not yet York Rite masons is our biggest resource for new members taking into account the small number of new Master Masons being Raised in Oklahoma.

Suspensions and withdrawals are another matter of concern. 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.

Sadly we also continue to see our numbers decline due to deaths. We lost many 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 Companion, James R. Taylor, Jr., Illustrious Grand Master, 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

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.

The 49th Triennial Assembly of the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons will be held in our Nation’s Capital, Washington DC, during the year 2026, when America will be celebrating the 250th anniversary of the 1776 Declaration of Independence. Please mark your calendar for August 31 & September 1st, 2026. The venue has been selected and is the beautiful and most convenient Capital Hilton in the heart of the city, about a few meters walk from the White House, the Smithsonian and many historical monuments. You should come a few days before and stay a few extra days to visit one of the most unique cities in the world with its rich masonic history and attractions. It will be with

much pleasure and great honor to welcome you to Washington, DC, at the end of August 2026 as we gather to celebrate Freemasonry and the York Rite. Detailed information, program, hotel reservation, and registration link will be posted on <https://yrtriennial.org>. Please commit today and reserve your seat as soon as possible. You do not want to miss this fantastic event.

Fraternally submitted:

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

YORK RITE COORDINATION

The Committee on York Rite Coordination meets during the regularly scheduled Grand York Rite Officers quarterly meetings. The quarterly meetings are used to coordinate the activities of the Grand York Rite. Some of the items discussed during the meetings, include regional and statewide festivals, membership and retention programs, use of the Grand York Rite website, and any other issue which may need to be discussed. The ability to meet jointly in an organized manner has led to stronger and more effective actions and thereby increased the York Rite's influence in Oklahoma.

Respectfully Submitted,

James R. Taylor, Jr. [22] – Chairman, Brian M. Ragain [21], Michael S. Wright [11], Matthew D. McGee [43]

EDUCATION

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]

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 our assistance in this regard during this Cryptic Council year; however, the Most Excellent Grand High Priest has continued a special path to York Rite membership by offering the Mark Master and the Past Master degrees to Master Masons at no charge. Regional Chapter and Council

Conferral teams were organized, and dates were placed on the calendar to facilitate a timely progression for these new companions in completing the journey through Cryptic Masonry and Templarism.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brian M. Ragain [21]

GRAND MASTER’S FESTIVAL

The Grand Master’s Festival was held in Norman, Oklahoma, on July 27, 2024. At the festival, 51 Companions were greeted as Select Masters. We want to thank Norman Council 27 for hosting the festival and for all their hard work. The Committee extends appreciation to the Royal Master degree team from Tulsa Council 22 and the Select Master degree team again from Tulsa Council 22. They are to be commended for the excellent work exemplified at the festival.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael S. Wright [11]- Chairman

REGIONAL DEGREE FESTIVALS

Unfortunately, the Regional Degree Festival, which was to be held in Central Oklahoma, was canceled due to a lack of candidates. The Northeast Oklahoma Regional Festival was held on February 8, 2025, at East Gate Masonic Center in Tulsa. Two new Royal and Select Masters were Greeted at this event. We want to thank the Companions of Tulsa Council No. 22 for hosting the festival and all their hard work and dedication to ensuring a successful event. The

The committee commends all the Companions who dedicated their time and effort to help promote Cryptic Masonry in Oklahoma both locally and statewide. The Regional Chapter Degree Festival Committee is always ready to assist the local Councils in any way possible to ensure a successful & educational event for our newest Royal and Select Masters of Oklahoma.

Respectfully submitted,
Matthew D. McGee [43] - Chairman

REPORT OF THE MASONIC CHARITY FOUNDATION

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 2025:

President	Jack L. Painter
1st VP	Gene McKelvey
2nd VP	John D. Church
Treasurer	L. Clay Stuart
Secretary	Robert G. Davis
Ass’t Sec.	John L. Logan

FINANCIAL

PRELIMINARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF DECEMBER 31, 2024

The members reviewed the preliminary financial statements ending December 31, 2024. The preliminary combined balance sheet reflects total assets of \$105,190,170.04, an increase of \$3,598,535.66 from one year ago. Endowments total \$91,737,662.22, an increase of \$145,179.40 from one year ago. The General Fund total is \$13,452,507.82, an increase of \$3,453,356.26 over the 2023 year-end.

The preliminary combined income statement for 2024 reflects a Total Revenue of \$9,005,615.12, including \$3,168,938.53 of unrealized investment gains. Expenditures for 2024 total \$5,292,841.41, a decrease of \$630,713.45 from the 2023 year-end.

Preliminary financials reflect the Defined Benefit Plan's total assets of \$3,385,158.77, representing a \$266,405.58 increase from the previous year. There are currently 25 beneficiaries, 20 of whom are receiving benefits. Five participants are not eligible to receive benefits yet, and two current employees have not yet vested to become participants in the plan.

LODGE MATCHING FUNDS

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

MATCHING FUNDS

- Total Matching Funds Program use as of December 31, 2024, = \$956,052.54
- Community Matching = \$857,294.78
- Promises Matter Matching = \$98,757.76
- # of Lodges using the program in 2024 = 183
- # of Lodges using the program in 2023 = 195
- Matching Funds applications processed = 1,061
- Applications denied = 59

Matching Funds disbursed since 1983 inception = \$37,556,101.88 (x2=\$75,112,202.56)

PROMISES MATTER

- Grants issued to Master Masons or their minor children or widows = 4
- Emergency grants issued = 16
- Average grant amount = \$1,404.05
- The average age of grant recipients = 65

As of December 31, 2024, the Total amount of Promises Matter Grant funds issued since the program's inception is \$2,038,277.50.

- **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 2024, St. Alban Lodge 192 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. In the 2023-24 school year, 260,261 students were screened, and 38,861 (14%) were referred for professional follow-up. Since 1986, our Foundation has provided over \$5.9 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 2024, the Fight Childhood Hunger Campaign resulted in \$110,130 donated to the Regional Food Bank and \$49,870 to the Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma. The 2024 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 6 in Tulsa), and KOCO-TV in Oklahoma City. The Food Bank campaign 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 2025 State Teacher of the Year will be awarded a check for \$7,500, and each of the eleven finalists \$1,500. Each local Teacher of the Year receives a certificate of appreciation.
2. **Student and Teacher of Today**
 - Total # of certificates issued for Student of Today = 1,893
 - Total # of certificates issued for Teacher of Today = 645
 - Participating schools = 572
 - 130 of 201 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 22, 2025.
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, which is designed to train kindergarten and transitional 1st-grade teachers by providing scholarships for enhanced reading techniques. In 2024, \$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.
 - 50 scholarships authorized @ \$4,000 = \$200,000.00
 - 44 scholarships awarded
 - Rainbow = 31 scholarships
 - Job's Daughters = 2 scholarships
 - DeMolay = 11 scholarships
 - Every qualifying applicant is offered a scholarship, pending demonstration that each applicant has met the minimum 3.0 GPA (college) or 20 A.C.T. score (high school) requirement.
6. **Senior Assistance Program**- In 2024, the Foundation's Edgar M. Woody Fund for the Aged, LLC disbursed \$921,248 to assist needy Oklahoma seniors.

In December 2024, \$674,609 was given to assist needy Oklahomans aged 55 and over with services not covered by existing government programs during the calendar year 2025. Since the inception of this program in 2007, the Foundation has donated \$12,990,902 in the name of the Masonic Fraternity of Oklahoma to enhance the lives of seniors in our communities. The eleven O4A 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 2025 grantmaking are:

- A \$1,000,000 gift will be disbursed in \$500,000 over two years to the Wings Special Needs Community, which will fund the construction of the first group home on their new campus.
- A \$1,000,000 gift will be disbursed in \$500,000 over two years to Hearts for Hearing, who 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. The \$1,000,000 grant from the Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma will assist in the construction of their new facility.
- 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 2025 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 2025.

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 2024, a \$12,000 grant was provided to the Infant Crisis Services.
- Masonic Charity supports Masonic youth orders! \$45,462 in Matching Funds was provided to local DeMolay, Rainbow, and Jobs Daughters in 2024. Scholarships of \$4,000 to youth order members and \$10,000 to each youth order's state-level trust to support ongoing programming and scholarships.
- 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 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 [3]

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 own stem cells, or by using stem cells from an adult donor, CMMRF is proving that these disease processes can begin to be reversed in as little as one treatment.

Nationally, donations to CMMRF in 2024 totaled \$528,695.22. Oklahoma’s giving of \$6523 was a decrease of \$5079 from the previous year. Donations made by Oklahoma’s Companions ranked 19th in 2024 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.” Lawton #21 was awarded with this distinction for 2024, with a total donation of \$2,129.

“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.” Woodward Council #52 raised \$32.73 per member in 2024. Woodward continues to be one of the biggest contributors every year, evident by the number of times they have been awarded this distinction.

Each Oklahoma Council is urged to hold at least one fundraising event each year to benefit this worthy cause and to participate in CMMRF Month during the month of March. We ask for a \$100 donation from each Council for CMMRF Month. More information can be found at CMMRF.org or CrypticMasons.org. Muskogee #2, Ardmore #11, Lawton #21, Tulsa #22, Stillwater #52, and Woodward #52 have met these requirements in 2024. Thank you!

With your continued support, CMMRF will be the most discussed, fastest growing, and perhaps the best suited charity to deal with the health problems of Cryptic Masons.

CMMRF 2024 Annual Report on Oklahoma Council Contributions

No.	Council	2024 Members	CMMRF Contribution by Council	Additional Contribution (Members)	Total Contribution	Ave. Per Member Donation
2	Muskogee	108	\$	\$150	\$150	\$1.39
3	Union	91	\$	\$0	\$0	\$0.00
11	Ardmore	61	\$	\$100	\$100	\$1.64
18	Alpha	224	\$	\$	\$	\$0.00
21	Lawton	129	\$	\$2,129	\$2,129	\$16.50
22	Tulsa	172	\$	\$1,120	\$1,120	\$6.51
25	Elk City	50	\$	\$	\$	\$0.00
27	Norman	89	\$	\$0	\$0	\$0.00
41	Bartlesville	44	\$	\$	\$	\$0.00
43	Bernard	47	\$	\$	\$0	\$0.00

48	Guthrie	68	\$	\$	\$0	\$0.00
50	Stillwater	52	\$	\$100	\$100	\$1.92
52	Woodward	33	\$155	\$925	\$1,080	\$32.73
61	Mysterious Nine	17	\$	\$75	\$75	\$4.41
	Past Grand High Priest's Association		\$1000	\$	\$1000	
	Grand Council		\$769	\$	\$769	
Totals		1185	\$1,769	\$4,754	\$6,523	\$5.50

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

SOUTH-CENTRAL CONFERENCE

The 67th Annual South Central York Rite Conference was held at the DoubleTree Warren Place Hotel in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on September 20 - 21, 2024.

On Friday, presentations from the General Grand Chapter and General Grand Council were given. I reported on the Grand Council activities for this year. The four elected officers of the Grand Council and the Grand Recorder attended the Department Conference. There was one appointed Grand Council Officer, five Past Most Illustrious Grand Masters from Oklahoma who also were in attendance, and numerous other Companions from across the State.

On Saturday, presentations from the Grand Encampment were given. The presentations were on Membership, KTEF, Commissioned Templar Chaplain, and other Grand Encampment Programs.

Our Grand Master, M.: W.: John F. Carter, attended the conference in its entirety and brought greetings on behalf of the Masons of Oklahoma.

The 68th Annual South Central York Rite Conference is scheduled to be held September 19 – 20, 2025, in League City, Texas. While the conference is primarily designed for Grand Officers, any Companion is welcome to attend. There will be several interesting presentations, and leadership training will be available through the “York Rite Leadership Training Program.”

Fraternally Submitted,
 James R. Taylor, Jr. [22]

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 put most of the forms our Recorders need online. Also, all award forms have been posted online. These forms are in the “downloads” section on the website. 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.: James R. Taylor, Jr., the Most Illustrious Grand Master, for his confidence and for 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]

NECROLOGY

Companions,

Another year has passed and several companions have laid down the working tools of life and went on to that great final reward. Although our hearts are heavy for the loss, it is a comfort to us to remember that, one day, we will all be reunited in our "appropriate stations in heaven." As we face the challenges of growing older, complete with its ups and downs, we should focus on the good memories of companionship that we share with one another.

Do not stand at my grave and weep,
I am not there, I do not sleep.

I am a thousand winds that blow.
I am the diamond glint on snow.
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.
I am the gentle autumn rain.

When you wake in the morning hush,
I am the swift, uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circling flight.
I am the soft starlight at night.

Do not stand at my grave and weep.
I am not there, I do not sleep.
(Do not stand at my grave and cry.
I am not there, I did not die!)

Fraternally,
George W. Ratliff [22]

COMMITTEE ON TIME AND PLACE

Our Annual Communications are being held once again at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Oklahoma City Northwest. If you have any questions about our accommodation, the meeting rooms, or meals, please contact one of the members of the Time & Place; we will do our best to make it right.

We have contracted to use this facility for our 2025, 2026, and 2027 Annual Meetings. Your Grand Officers have been in constant communication with the Time & Place Committee, and we appreciate their diligence in making this the best event we can.

Looking ahead, I want all the Companions to understand that our continuing to hold our annual meeting at a hotel depends critically on our renting sufficient hotel room nights to keep the hotel interested in our event.

As a smaller event with a specific proscribed calendar date for the annual meeting, it remains a struggle each year to locate a convenient and professional hotel/convention center to take on our contract. You have noticed that the registration fee has gone up this year. This serves to mitigate some of the costs associated with the event as we have currently negotiated it.

What can you do? If you want us to continue holding our annual meeting at a hotel/convention center, stay at the hotel at least one night – and if possible two. Spend time with your Companions. Enjoy the hospitality of being in Oklahoma City, with its myriad of activities. Or remain Saturday night after the Grand Commandry and relax. Staying at the hotel not only allows us to satisfy our contract but allows us to spend time together beyond the proscribed requirements for the annual meeting.

Fraternally
Bradley S. Rickelman [50] – Chairman, Brian A. Buswell [18], Ivan M. De Tevis [22, 50], Robert W. McLeod [22]
Jon B. Greene [22] Ex Officio

COMMITTEE ON APPRECIATION

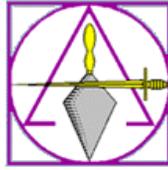
We are very pleased with the arrangements for our Annual Sessions, and we especially want to thank the Time and Place Committee, the Grand Recorder, and all who helped with their hard work and planning to make this a successful meeting.

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,
Michael Maxey [22] - Chairman

Council of Thrice Illustrious Masters of Oklahoma



Minutes of the 79th Annual Assembly held at Stillwater, Oklahoma August 17, 2024

Thrice Illustrious Master John R. Christopher opened the 79th Annual Assembly of the Council of Thrice Illustrious Masters of Oklahoma at 10:25 a.m. with thirty members and nine candidates present.

Officers present were:

Thrice Illustrious Master	John R. Christopher
Thrice Illustrious Senior Warden	Robert R. Rolseth
Thrice Illustrious Junior Warden	John D. Church (Pro-Tem)
Thrice Illustrious Registrar-Treasurer	James R. Taylor, Jr., PTIM
Thrice Illustrious Steward	Mark K. McFadden
Thrice Illustrious Sentinel	Michael S. Wright

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

Nicholas Andrew Valenta	Union Council No. 3
Roland Morales	Lawton Council No. 21
Larry Eugene Straining, Jr.	Tulsa Council No. 22
Kevin Sebastian Lapham	Norman Council No. 27
Michael Lewis Dixon	Guthrie Council No. 48
Jim Rule	Guthrie Council No. 48
Ryan Russell Frederick	Stillwater No. 50
Stephen W. Clymer	Capiton Hill No. 59
Adam Robertson Taylor	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	Justin M. McGee (Pro-Tem)
Thrice Illustrious Steward	Truman L. Ragain, Jr. (Pro-Tem)
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), Matthew D. McGee (2014-15), James R. Taylor, Jr. (2016-17), William J. Cloud (2017-18), Larry D. White (2020-2021), James D. Nobles (2021-22), and Mathew A. Turner (2022-2023)

A memorial service for the following Thrice Illustrious Masters was held: Kieth Ballard, Marc Garriott, Harvey Odgen, Bedford Rowland, Jr., and Donald Wolford.

The minutes of the August 19, 2023, Annual Assembly and Treasurer’s report were approved as distributed with the meeting summons.

It was announced the Council purchased 3 flameless LED candles for the altar.

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.

The annual election of officers for the 2024-2025 year was then held.

The nominating committee recommended that all 2023-2024 officers be advanced one station, with the exception that the Registrar-Treasurer be retained, and that Jon B. Greene be elected Sentinel.

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

M: I:. Companion James R. Taylor, Jr., Grand Master of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Oklahoma, was introduced and afforded the public grand honors. M: I:. Companion Taylor introduced the Grand Council Officers and Past Illustrious Grand Masters present.

M: I:. Companion Taylor then installed the officers of the Council of Thrice Illustrious Masters of Oklahoma. Officers for the 2024-2025 year are as follows:

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

Thrice Illustrious Master Robert R. Rolseth presented a Past Thrice Illustrious Master jewel to outgoing Thrice Illustrious Master John R. Christopher.

It was announced that the 80th Annual Assembly is scheduled for August 16, 2025, at Frontier Lodge No. 48, in Stillwater.

Thrice Illustrious Master Rolseth made closing comments, and there being no further business to come before the Assembly, it was closed in due form at 11:20 a.m.

James R. Taylor, Jr.
Registrar-Treasurer

John R. Christopher
Thrice Illustrious Master

*Council of Thrice Illustrious Masters of Oklahoma
Treasurer Report - 08-17-24*

Cash on Deposit, Arvest Bank		
Checking Account Balance 07/20/23		\$2,635.61
Deposits:		
Candidate Fees	\$280.00	
OST Jewel Sales	<u>\$ 0.00</u>	\$ 280.00
Disbursements:		
Oklahoma City Lodge No. 36 (Facility Use)		\$ 50.00
Jim Taylor (Degree Supplies)	\$ 42.96	
Simpson Jewelry & Uniform, Inc. (TIM Jewels)	<u>\$125.23</u>	
		<u>\$ 218.19</u>
Checking Account Balance 07/31/24		<u>\$2,697.42</u>

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*	2023-2024	John R. Christopher
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