MICHIGAN AND ARKANSAS GRAND LODGES DECLARE SHRINE CLANDESTINE – SHRINE RESPONDS

By the Kansas Mason Staff

Two American grand lodges have withdrawn Masonic recognition of Shriners International over similar incidents involving expelled Masons who have maintained their Shrine memberships.

On November 23, the Grand Master of Michigan, Frederick E. Kaiser, Jr., expelled a Mason who was also a Potentate of Elf Khurafeh Shrine Center in Saginaw, for a criminal law violation. Citing the refusal of both Elf Khurafeh Shrine and Imperial Shrine to expel the member, the Grand Master ordered “that no Mason who holds membership in a Michigan Lodge, or in a Lodge chartered by a recognized Grand Lodge who resides or sojourns in Michigan, may (1) attend any nonpublic function of any Shrine in Michigan or (2) have any Masonic interaction of any kind with any Shrine organization in Michigan.” Following GM Kaiser’s order, Michael G. Severe, the Imperial Potentate of Shriners International, responded by stating that the Michigan expulsion was premature and left the matter of expulsion of the offending Shriner for the 138th Imperial Session to be held in Charlotte, North Carolina in July.

In an unrelated incident, Arkansas Grand Lodge expelled an Arkansas Mason for unmasonic conduct late last year, and despite the expulsion, the man remained on the rolls of Scimitar Shrine in Little Rock. On December 28, the Grand Master of (See Mich. and Ark., pg. 3)

YOU CAN'T HIT A NERF BALL OUT OF THE PARK

By Rick Reichert, Grand Senior Warden

A group of dedicated brothers have given you a marvelous gift; your lodge. Your predecessors put a lot of time, monumental effort, and a goodly portion of their personal fortune into the founding and building up of your lodge. Whether you’re a 50 year member or just getting started, you have been given a gift which has been entrusted to your care. It's now your lodge and it's your turn at bat.

You can play with a Nerf ball, those spongy, easy-to-solve problems with solutions that only get you so far. But try as you might, you can't hit a Nerf ball out of the park. The real heroes are those who are willing to step up to the plate, take on the fast-pitch hard ball, real-life long-term problems. Strategic planning helps you break down the seemingly complex action into simple, manageable pieces. Executing your plan gives you direction and confidence to make solid connection with the ball, sending it over the fence for a home run. To hit, you first need to get into the game. Here are a few stories about those who stepped up to bat.

The Morland story. Interested lodges in the 35th District and surrounding area assembled last September 17th in Morland to get a jump start with their strategic plans. Encouraged by District Deputy Bro. Cole Presley, lodges with no idea how to get started with planning walked away with an outline of a workable plan. Lodges that showed up with the most discouraging prospects for the future came away with a positive (See You Can't Hit, pg. 3)

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THE GRAND EAST

By Tracy Bloom
Salina Lodge No. 60
Grand Master

I hope you all made it through the holiday season unscathed and are tolerating yet another Kansas winter to the best of your ability. It’s always wonderful to spend time with family and friends especially during the holiday season. Time is an ever-decreasing commodity that we must manage on at least a daily basis and the old saying, that sometimes you find yourself coming and going, has been quite true for me. Please don’t take that wrong, I’m certainly not complaining, but at times it certainly was the case and it’s at those times, when it hits me the most, that I needed to slow down and smell the roses, metaphorically speaking.

Those times usually catch up to me while enjoying time with my family, which could be anywhere from a large family gathering over the holidays to talking about Masonry with dad, visiting with the kids over the phone or just on a simple dinner date with Jessica. It also becomes very clear to me, at those times; I’m not the Grand Master, but just plain old Tracy, or son or dad! I have a wonderful family that reminds me of that and keeps me within my due bounds.

The holidays, time with friends and family, visits with brothers, and my travels all over this great state were enhanced and made more meaningful because of the lessons and teachings of Masonry and the search for something more; more wisdom, more knowledge, more truth, more light! (See THE GRAND EAST, pg. 4)

SECRETARY’S CORNER

By Robert B. Pfuetze
St. Johns Lodge No.113
Grand Secretary

This is definitely the busiest time of year at the Grand Lodge office. It begins with the Annual Reports starting to arrive in early January. I’m sure many of you believe we simply file the Annual Report and deposit the check for Grand Lodge dues. That couldn’t be farther from the truth. Each year when we have our annual audit, the auditors check to be sure that we have received the correct amount of money from each Lodge based on their membership. If they don’t believe we have, they expect me to be able to prove why I accepted the amount I did. Therefore, as part of the process of receiving the annual reports, we must enter the data into our database, including all new members, dimitis, transfers, suspensions, plurals and duals, etc. We must enter the entire list of new officers and committee chairman into the database also. Finally we reconcile the reported membership statistics with the amount of Grand Lodge dues the Lodge sent. For the average Lodge, this process takes 10-15 minutes, and much longer when the calculations don’t work out the first time. It is almost as if we have to (See Secretary, pg. 12)
outlook and a promising direction. Lodges that already had great notions got the assistance they needed to put those plans to paper.

What Cole put together was a bootstrap planning session starting with a high-level planning how-to presentation and then a working session with facilitators. With the basic steps in hand and ideas flowing, the brothers formed working groups and molded their ideas into something they could take back to their lodges.

As part of the inaugural Leadership Academy held in Topeka on October 1st, a refined version of the Strategic Planning how-to was presented to over 60 attendees. The target audience was lodge Wardens, but Masonic leaders attending from across the state learned how to simplify what strategic planning was all about, obtained samples and templates, and become potential catalysts of planning ideas for their constituent bodies. Up until the Leadership Academy, most of the materials and presentations were about why planning was necessary and provided encouragement to get started. The Topeka session provided simplified first steps for how to plan.

The Kansas City story. Taking the cue from the Leadership Academy, District Deputy Bro. Mark Davison put together a planning session for District 2 on January 21st. With the help of Area Deputy Bro. Gary Folk, he invited lodges throughout Area 1 and beyond. This widely publicized event has spawned interest for similar sessions in other areas. With the success of the working sessions already completed and more lodges willing to host planning sessions, there is no reason why every lodge that wants to prosper cannot get the help they need to get their planning started before summer 2012.

Fulfilling the dream. Vision 2020, Grand Lodge’s guiding ten year plan asks that every lodge have their own strategic plan by Mid-March 2013. There is extensive material on the Vision 2020 page of the Grand Lodge web site (kansasmason.org) and widely available in the public domain that explains why planning is necessary and the steps to get it done. Planning is the first step to ensure the future success of your lodge. As the old adage goes, those failing to plan are planning to fail. The corollary is that success starts with a plan.

For assistance or answers to planning questions, or if you are interested in hosting an Area-wide strategic planning bootstrap session, start by contacting your District Deputy Grand Master. Other resources are the Area Deputy Grand Master, the Grand Senior Warden and the Grand Lodge office. The sooner your planning starts, the sooner you’ll be able to set a long-term course for the success of your lodge and leave a gift for the generations of brothers we hope will follow you.

Arkansas, Myles A. Oliver declared the Shrine “illegitimate and clandestine,” and further ordered “that Master Masons within this Grand Jurisdiction shall not participate in any Shrine activity that in any way presents itself as being part of the Masonic Fraternity. Further, Master Masons within this Grand Jurisdiction are not permitted to display any Masonic emblem on a Shrine Fez or as a part of a Shrine uniform. The Worshipful Masters and all Appendant or recognized bodies are ordered to immediately remove, from their Lodges, and/or meeting facilities, any and all references, pictures, articles, or other paraphernalia, that contain any Shrine emblem, or any connection between the Shrine and Freemasonry.” Subsequent to the Grand Lodge action, the member in question dimitted from his lodge in Arkansas and his Shrine Temple.

On January 13, Imperial Potentate Severe addressed a lengthy letter to the North American Conference of Grand Masters, which meets later this month, setting out the Imperial Shrine position, and four days later issued an order to Arkansas Shriners that “for so long as such threat of suppression or proscription continues, Shriners International, its members, and its temples in the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Arkansas, retain all their rights, responsibilities and authority, notwithstanding any provision of the bylaws to the contrary.” The Kansas Mason will continue coverage of this story as events dictate.

For further information visit: masonicleaks.com or freemasonsfordummies.blogspot.com.
WINNERS OF THE 2011 STATE MASONIC PUBLIC SCHOOL ESSAY CONTEST

**Topic:** “Who is the most prominent Kansas figure from its 150 year history? Explain?”

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<tr>
<td>First Place</td>
<td>Megan Hendrich</td>
<td>Russell Lodge #177</td>
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<td>Second Place</td>
<td>Cheyenne Garrison</td>
<td>Newton Lodge #142</td>
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<td>Minneapolis Lodge #143</td>
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<td>Overland Park Lodge #436</td>
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<td>Walnut City Lodge #215</td>
<td>Rush Center</td>
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<td>Mankato Lodge #87</td>
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THE GRAND EAST (Continued from pg. 2)

There is little in life that comes easy, and few things are appreciated more than those you have to work hard for. The old adage that you get out of something what you put into it, is never more true than with your own experience in this thing we call Masonry. I find that those who are asking themselves “what can I do for Masonry?” are the ones who are getting out and making a difference in their lodge, their community and affecting others around them. If that isn’t you, I would encourage you to seek out that distinguished brother in your lodge who is trying to make a difference and simply ask him, “Brother, is there anything I can help you with?” Each of you are individuals with your own unique way of looking at our fraternity; consequently each of you have something unique to contribute to our Craft. I encourage you, if you’re not already, to become a vital part of your lodge and make a difference within it. You might be surprised what you can do for your lodge that will affect its stability, strength, and status within your community. By doing so, it will also have a positive effect on yourself, thus completing the circle which is vital for anything of any consequence and importance.

Grand Lodge is fast approaching, if you haven’t already registered you can do so this year by filling out and returning the registration form in this publication, you can also pay for your registration and meals by going to www.kansasmason.org/shop. You can pay with a PayPal account or use your credit card to complete the transaction. Also new and exciting, there will be child care available for the 2012 annual communication, if interested please contact the Grand Lodge office for further details.

For this Grand Lodge session we have three of the most revered and distinguished masonic authors and speakers you’ll find anywhere. Bros. James Tresner, Robert Davis and Cliff Porter will grace us with their presence and aid and assist us with breakout sessions and other talks and addresses.

Finally, let me remind you that we have many exciting books on Freemasonry at the Grand Lodge store – including a new arrival Observing the Craft by Andrew Hammer, Past Master of Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22 in Virginia. We also have a few more copies of W. Brother Cliff Porter’s book, The Secret Psychology of Freemasonry, which comes with a nice surprise, but you’ll have to buy the book to find out what!

I look forward to seeing each of you at the annual communication and wish for each of you that you have a productive and prosperous year!
Ross A. Olson, Dwight Lodge #374 and his son Ezra R. Olson, Ninnescah Lodge #230 were both elected and installed as Masters of their respective Lodges for the year 2012.

Pictured with Ross Olson (center) of Council Grove, newly elected and installed Master of the Dwight Masonic Lodge #374 A.F. & A.M. of Kansas are his sons, Mark Olson of Lenexa, and Ezra Olson, Kingdom, who was elected and installed as Master of Ninnescah Lodge #230. Ross’s third son, Spencer Olson of Emporia, was unable to attend. Olson’s sons are 5th Generation Master Masons.

Gilead Lodge #144
Yates Center

Cordially invite you and your guest to a Reception and Banquet honoring

M:. W:. DONALD D. NEWMAN, JR.

GRAND MASTER
OF MASONS IN KANSAS

Saturday, May 5, 2012
Informal BBQ

High School Commons
105 West Bell
Yates Center, Kansas

Attire – Casual
Men: Jeans, dockers, slacks
Women: Jeans, capris, slacks

Reception 4:00 p.m.
Dinner 6:00 p.m.

Menu:
Pulled pork/smoked turkey
Side dishes
Vegetarian and Diabetic foods available upon request.

$15.00 per person
Checks payable to Gilead Lodge #144

Send Reservation with money
by May 1, 2012 to
Sondra Peterson
511 N. Prairie
Yates Center, KS 66783
620-625-2610
fpeterson4@cox.net
speterson@usd366.net
AUSTRALIAN MASON SUES GRAND LODGE FOR REINSTATEMENT

By The Kansas Mason Staff

An Australian news site is reporting that an expelled Australian Freemason has sued his Grand Lodge for reinstatement.

According to the report, the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free & Accepted Masons of South Australia and the Northern Territory expelled James Spriggs for unmasonic conduct in 2007 over his opposition to the running of the Masonic home - Memorial Masonic Village - in Darwin (Australia). Court papers assert that since 2006 he wrote numerous letters accusing the Masonic home’s board of directors of “mismanagement.”

Spriggs, a Past Master of the lodge in Darwin, has asked the court to force the Grand Lodge to reinstate his membership, claiming that he was denied “natural justice” when he was expelled after he complained about the way it ran the aged care facility.

The Grand Lodge has replied to those allegations by claiming that Spriggs’ “persistent and unwarranted interference” amounted to “conduct unbecoming a Freemason,” adding that his “persistent” claims of mismanagement were not supported by any evidence. “(He was told) the consequences of continued conflict with the elected board would be expulsion,” the papers say.

Although suits by Freemasons against Grand Lodges are rare, they are by no means unprecedented. According to the New York Times, in 1899, a New York Mason, Robert Kopp was expelled for unmasonic conduct after he sent a letter to the Grand Lodge of New York in which “he assailed the Grand Master.” Refusing to appear at his Masonic trial, Kopp was duly expelled. After his appeal to the Grand Lodge Commission on Appeals was denied, Kopp filed suit in the state court of New York.

A more recent example involved Frank Haas, Past Grand Master of West Virginia, who was expelled, and who appealed, on similar facts as the Kopp case, in 2008. Haas filed suit in West Virginia seeking, among other remedies, reinstatement.

In both cases, the courts ruled in favor of the Grand Lodges. The South Australia case will resume next month.

For more information:

ARIZONA DEPUTY GRAND MASTER OUSTED

By The Kansas Mason Staff

Arizona Deputy Grand Master Michael Meier has been removed from office by the Grand Master of Arizona, D. Brook Cunningham, on December 26.

According to a January 2 letter sent by the Grand Master to all Arizona lodges, Meier was removed following a “pattern of disrespect and intentional disregard for the Grand Master’s directives.”

Unsubstantiated accounts of other high level Grand Lodge officer resignations have also appeared online. Masonic blogger Chris Hodapp has stated that the “Senior Grand Warden and the only other elected officer besides the Grand Master himself have recently resigned, as well,” although no details have been made public.

The Grand Lodge of Arizona website offered no information on any of the recent events and as of this writing, Michael Meier was still listed as the Deputy Grand Master. There is no word on Meier’s replacement.
BOOK REVIEW

ALBERT PIKE, THE MAN BEYOND THE MONUMENT by James T. Tresner

When shopping for a home in a new city it is not a bad idea to look at some of the older properties on the market. So it is when looking for a good Masonic read. Albert Pike, The Man Beyond The Monument by James T. Tresner, written in 1995, may be just what you are seeking.

Albert Pike is the greatest Masonic philosopher who ever lived and a pioneering student of comparative religions. Pike’s rituals for the Scottish Rite present such good ideals for both individual living and civilized behavior that with the passage of time since his death we have come to elevate him into something more than a man.

Jim Tresner has done a magnificent job of humanizing Pike, showing us the great man, warts and all. Tresner’s book is impressively researched and well written. Pike was an exceptional genius who tested out of the first two years at Harvard and then refused to attend because Harvard wanted tuition payment for the exempted attendance. His further education was obtained through extensive reading and led to a law career. At 6 feet, 2 inches tall, well built, and handsome, Pike capitalized on his appeal to the fair sex. He lived much of his life away from his estranged wife and was known as one of the best dancers and party-goers in Washington City. At times, he enjoyed using his ability to drink male dinner companions under the table. He loved his tobacco.

Pike was a rugged individual well at home with Indians on the plains of what would later become Oklahoma and New Mexico and regularly impressed them with his marksmanship. As a Civil War Confederate General he led Indians into the Battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas. Following the Mexican War of 1848, ex-Captain Pike wrote in an Arkansas newspaper that his commander, Lt. Colonel John Roane had ill-prepared his troops for a battle. Roane took offense and challenged Pike to a duel which was held on an Indian Territory sandbar across the Arkansas River from Fort Smith.

Tresner did a great job at humanizing Pike while not detracting from Pike’s achievements. The book categorizes and presents major thoughts from Pike’s many writings. From this reviewer’s perspective the only downside of the book is due to the very great love of poetry which Pike and Tresner share. There is no logic to believing that the value of imparted wisdom is increased by contorting the sentence structure and giving the work a sing-song lilt and rhyming patterns. Sighs of boredom can be generated by reading extended stanzas of songs, one of which took six pages of the book.

Reviewed by: J. Howard Duncan, Lawrence Lodge No. 6

MASONIC COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Deadline for Legends of Kansas Masonry
February 17

Paola Lodge #37
150-year celebration and dedication
February 18, 12 p.m.

Lindsborg Lodge #397
Centennial and Rededication
February 21, 6 p.m., Lindsborg

School of Instruction District 26
Haysville Lodge #112
February 25, Haysville

Emblem presentation by Grand Master
March 3, 2 p.m. Marysville 91

Annual Communication of
the Grand Lodge of Kansas
March 15-17, Salina

Past DDGM Association meeting
March 21, Spring Hill

Grand Masters Reception
May 5, Yates Center
Questions Answered

The Kansas Mason is pleased to receive questions from our readers and answer them as time and space permits. Please send your questions about Masonic law, etiquette, custom, traditions or history to the Questions Answered Editor, Nolan Sump at questions@kansasmason.org.

Comments: I will be W.M. of Lodge 112 in the upcoming year and have been performing those duties while S.W. this year. I was Initiated, Passed, and Raised in 1973 reciting both the Q & A from the cypher and the Working Tools in Lodge. However, while visiting other lodges, I see that some lodges now perceive 'proficiency' differently, seemingly contrary to the Constitution and By-Laws as I've read them. Some are requiring the memory work as I did, some a written test requiring no memory work at all, some only requiring memorization of only the 'Obligation', and some only that the candidate be able to read that part of the cypher.

What is the Grand Lodge position on this? How should we test for proficiency?

This brings up another question. What passes for 'proficiency' in one-day classes?

Thank you,
Lowell Brown
S.W. Haysville Lodge

Brother Lowell,

That's a great question; I'll attempt to answer your questions in order and give you the Official Answer that all of the Grand Lodge Officers should be communicating to the craft.

#1 Under Article X, Section 6 of the Constitution. Ballot--Renewal of Petition--Proficiency--A unanimous ballot shall be required for the acceptance of a candidate for the Mysteries of Masonry, or of a sojourner for Advancement, or of an applicant for Membership; Provided, If but one negative ballot appears the Master shall order a second ballot, when if one or more negative ballot appears the petition shall be rejected. The petition of such rejected candidate shall not be renewed within six months; but the petition of such rejected sojourner, or such rejected applicant, may be renewed at any time. Before any candidate is advanced to the Second or Third Degree, he must exhibit suitable proficiency in the preceding Degree, and on demand of any member of the Lodge the ballot must be taken in the same manner as on the petition. Cross-Reference: By-Laws, Secs. 4-128, 4-129, 4-130, 4-206.

#2 4-206. Proficiency Examination--The examination of a candidate upon his proficiency may be conducted while the Lodge is open on the Degree previously attained by the candidate or at any time at the Lodge hall in the presence of a committee consisting of a minimum of three Master Masons appointed by the Master for the purpose of conducting the proficiency examination. This proficiency will be the memory work as contained in the candidate handbook and will include the first and second-degree proficiency. The third degree proficiency examination should be completed but shall be at the option of the candidate. The Masonic Education Committee will report the score of the proficiency support program before the Lodge vote is taken. The vote of the Lodge upon the proficiency of the candidate shall be taken with the candidate excused. If the Proficiency was demonstrated to a committee, then the vote shall be taken in open Lodge only after a favorable recommendation has been made by a majority of the committee examining the candidate. (Amended 1967, 1988, 1991, 1993). Cross-Reference: By-Laws, Sec. 3-403.

#3 One day classes, these are a bit of a different animal, because by edict from the Grand Master, the Second degree proficiency is waived and of course the third degree proficiency is optional for the third degree! This should not be confused with any other situation and the requirement of proficiency. One Day Classes are the only case in which the proficiency is waived and it's pretty specific. Along with that, the first degree proficiency is still required and in fact if a lodge is sending someone to a one day class to get his second and third degrees the Master and Secretary are charged with certifying that that EA has demonstrates suitable proficiency by issuing and signing a certificate of suitable proficiency to be carried to the one day event and turned into the hosting lodge secretary.

Please also keep in mind that those proficiency requirements are a minimum required by the Grand Lodge of Kansas, if your lodge wants to require more stringent proficiency, that's up to your lodge.

Signed,
The Editor
OFFICIAL NOTICES

PROPOSED CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAW CHANGES FOR 2012

Note that wording to be removed has been struck out, these words for example, and any additions are boldfaced and underlined, these words for example.

Proposal #1

5-239. Crimes Involving Sexual Activities with Children.

Duty to Report. It is hereby made the duty of any member convicted of such a crime to notify the Grand Master within thirty (30) days of conviction and to provide a certified copy of the court’s proceedings. It is also the duty of a member who has actual knowledge of another member’s conviction of such a crime to promptly notify the Grand Master.

d. Duty to Report. It is hereby made the duty of any member who has actual knowledge of another member’s conviction of such a crime to promptly notify the Master of his lodge.

Rationale: The first sentence in section d makes no sense at all and will never be followed. To be honest for this sentence to be obeyed the accused would have to read the trial code before he went out and had sex with a child and then be dumb enough to report himself. I doubt if anyone has read the entire trial code and if they had this would not have been written this way.

Both the first and second sentences of section d are in direct conflict with three other sections of the trial code as follows. In section 5-201 it says: “Every proceeding against a brother shall be brought in the Lodge of which he is a member or by the Lodge wherein the offense was committed except in those cases where the Grand Lodge has original jurisdiction.” This says EVERY proceeding no exception unless Grand Lodge has original jurisdiction. This is covered in Article III of the trial code where Grand Lodge or the Grand Master can bring charges when there is a conflict between two lodges and that is all.

The second sentence is also in direct conflict with section 5-209 and 5-210. When these two by-laws are obeyed and the Grand Master receives the charges with proof he can go ahead and expel the brother without going to the Trials and Punishment Committee.

Fraternally submitted, Don E. Robinett, PGM

Proposal #2

5-239. Crimes Involving Sexual Activities with Children.

Summary punishment. Any Mason subject to jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge who has been, or hereafter shall be, convicted in any court of competent jurisdiction of a crime regarding sexual activity with or involving a child shall, by direction of the Grand Master, be summarily expelled from Masonry, suspended, or reprimanded, depending upon the severity of offense, without the preferring of charges and the usual Masonic trial. However, before issuing such order of expulsion, suspension, or reprimand, the Grand Master may refer said matter to the Trials and Punishment Committee for their recommendation as to the punishment suitable for the offense. The Trials and Punishment Committee shall forward their written recommendation to the Grand Master within thirty (30) days from the date of the receipt of the request for such recommendation by the Grand Master.

c. Right of Appeal. Any Mason expelled, suspended, or reprimanded under the provisions of this section shall be entitled to the right of appeal as provided by By-law 5-233.

Rationale: To clarify the actions required upon felony conviction of any felony perpetrated by a Kansas Mason, including a sex crime involving a child, and to return to the Grand Master the specific authority, clearly stated within the By Laws, to deal with all felony convictions within his jurisdiction.

The intent of the 2011 amendment to 5-239 to make expulsion from Masonry automatic in the case of felony sex crimes convictions involving children was laudable, but the wording was unclear and the 2011 amendment removed some important options from the Grand Master in cases involving any felony conviction other than sex crimes with a child.

The need for the return of “felony options” for the Grand Master is to articulate the authority and discretion of the Grand Master in matters of this nature. It has been put forward that the indiscretions of youth (or the resulting convictions) may be over looked if the man has grown and changed. This is an appropriate Masonic sentiment but not an intuitive one. By articulating the authority of the Grand Master of expulsion, suspension, or reprimand for conviction of a felony (with the exception of 5-239) there is no question on the authority of the Grand Master’s discretion in these matters.

Respectfully submitted,
Kyle G Ferlemann, Golden Rule Lodge #90
Proposal #3 (New By-Law)

5-240. Conviction Of or Pleading Guilty to Felony Crimes.

Summary punishment. Any Mason subject to jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge who has been convicted in any court of competent jurisdiction of a felony crime shall, by direction of the Grand Master, be summarily expelled from Masonry, suspended, or reprimanded, depending upon the severity of offense, without the preferring of charges and the usual Masonic trial. However, before issuing such order of expulsion, suspension, or reprimand, the Grand Master may refer said matter to the Trials and Punishment Committee for their recommendation as to the punishment suitable for the offense. The Trials and Punishment Committee shall forward their written recommendation to the Grand Master within thirty (30) days from the date of the receipt of the request for such recommendation by the Grand Master.

b. Evidence. Without limiting other forms of evidence, a certified copy of the Court's proceedings showing a judgment of conviction shall be sufficient to justify expulsion, suspension, or reprimand by the Grand Master as provided above.

c. Right to Appeal. Any Mason expelled, suspended, or reprimanded under the provisions of this section shall be entitled to the right of appeal as provided by By-Law 5-233.

d. Duty to Report. It is hereby made the duty of any member convicted of such a crime to notify the Grand Master within thirty (30) days of conviction and to provide a certified copy of the Court's proceedings. It is also the duty of a member who has actual knowledge of another member's conviction of such a crime to promptly notify the Grand Master.

Reversal of Conviction. If the conviction shall be reversed upon appeal in the criminal court, the Grand Master shall set aside any order of punishment issued by him under this section and shall reinstate the member without lose of time.

Felony Conviction Prior to Petition for the Mysteries. Conviction of a felony prior to Petition for the Mysteries shall not automatically be a bar of acceptance into Masonry. The Investigating Committee of the receiving Lodge shall make the initial determination of acceptability but should confer with the Grand Master, via the Master of the Lodge, for concurrence when petitions involving past felony convictions are discovered.

Rationale: Masonry does not seek to bar any man who shows himself worthy of enlightenment, regardless of his past, with the exception of certain cases of wonton selfishness and malice. Although we as Masons do not judge men (as this is the sole purview of the Grand Architect of the Universe) we can in fact judge what is right and what is wrong. We do this with within our fraternity to preserve the wholesomeness of our Brotherly associations and it is correct that we should do so. It is also correct that the Grand Master should be Supreme and final authority in these decisions with the guidance of By-Laws, the assistance of his own wisdom, and the good council of his Trials and Punishment Committee. Let this worthy sentiment be clearly stated within the By Laws of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge Of Ancient, Free And Accepted Masons Of Kansas.

Respectfully submitted,
Kyle G Ferlemann, Golden Rule Lodge #90

Proposal #4

4-308. Lodge Dues—Payable in Advance—Suspension—Lodge Dues shall be payable in advance and shall be delinquent if not paid on or before January 1, of each year. If same are not paid by the date of the Annual Communication in December thereafter, the member shall be suspended on that date to be effective as of December 31, July 1 of the dues year thereafter.

Rationale: The Lodge budget is based on all members paying his dues when due. It will also save time, paperwork and postage for the Lodge Secretary and also for the Grand Lodge Secretary.

Respectfully submitted,
C. W. "Charlie" McClain, Past Master, Xenia Lodge #47

Proposal #5 (New By-Law)

Grand Lodge Library and Museum—The four recognized Masonic Orders: Grand York Rite (Chapter, Council, and Commandery) DeMolay, Jobs Daughters, and Rainbow for Girls, having property stored or displayed in the Grand Lodge Building (320 SW 8th Ave, Topeka, Kansas) will be required to supply the Grand Secretary with an inventory of all such items one time. Thereafter report shall be made to the Grand Secretary of any changes (items added, removed, or to report no change) in the inventory. The report will be due January 1 of each year.

Respectfully submitted,
Albert O. Arnold, Jr., Past Grand Secretary

Rationale: This is needed to properly identify the ownership of the property of the recognized Orders.
GRAND LODGE OF A.F. & A.M. OF KANSAS
156th ANNUAL COMMUNICATION 2012
March 15 - 16 - 17, 2012

Masonic Center
336 South Santa Fe, Salina, Kansas

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>1:00 – 5:00 pm</td>
<td>Registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>7:00 am – 3:30 pm</td>
<td>Registration, Grand Procession, Open to Public, Formal Opening, Ladies Luncheon, Men's Luncheon, All-Masonic Banquet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Registration NOT available on Saturday</td>
<td>Call to Labor, Annual Necrology Service, Installation of 2012-2013 Grand Lodge Officers, Open to Public</td>
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</table>

Hotel
Ramada Inn (formerly Holiday Inn), Mention “Mason's Room Block”
1616 W. Crawford St., Salina, KS / Phone: 785-823-1739

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LAST NAME:</th>
<th>FIRST NAME:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Member Number:</td>
<td>Lodge Name and Number:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MEAL RESERVATIONS FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 16th

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th># of Tickets</th>
<th>Cost Per Ticket</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ladies Luncheon 3/16/2012 (Chef's salad served with toasted French bread)</td>
<td></td>
<td>$15.00 - $20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men's Luncheon 3/16/2012 (Brisket, cheese potatoes, vegetable, drink and dessert)</td>
<td></td>
<td>$12.00 - $16.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All-Masonic Banquet 3/16/2012 (Stuffed Pork Chop, Buttered Corn, with wild rice and dessert)</td>
<td></td>
<td>$25.00 - $30.00</td>
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</table>

REGISTRATION FEE - Kansas Masons ONLY $ 25.00
TOTAL ENCLOSED $  
Make check payable to -- The Grand Lodge of Kansas

Complete and return this form by February 29th to: Grand Lodge of Kansas
No refunds will be available after March 9th
( Meal tickets will not be available at the registration desk)
You may also register online at www.kansasmason.org/shop
do the annual report for each Lodge all over again. When you multiply that by the 237 Lodges in Kansas, I'm sure you realize this is not a small job.

Add to all this the fact that we are now receiving reports from the Committee Chairman which have to be typed and prepared for printing in the Advance Reports so that this can be ready to go to the printer by the middle of February. Obviously this is all in addition to the regular work, because it doesn’t stop either. Bills have to be paid, address changes and activity reports have to be entered, letters have to be written. If any of the office staff seems to be a little “out of sorts” when you call, maybe you will now understand. We try not to let the pressure of the season take its toll, but sometimes it just can’t be helped.

We have now received approximately 80% of our annual reports, and I want to thank all the Secretaries who have sent their reports on time. Many have told me the reports get easier every year, as our database becomes more accurate and up to date. If you are a Lodge Secretary, and have not sent in your annual report, you are now more than 20 days late. Please do it immediately. Also the more detail you can provide for us the easier it is to reconcile your report. These record changes for each Lodge must be reported at the Annual Communication in March, so we have to get them in the system for this report to be meaningful.

In today’s economy, that is a really good return on your money! While these payouts must be determined annually, based on the earnings of the Perpetual Life Membership Fund, Inc., the committee does work hard to return as much as possible to the Lodges.

I am frequently asked who can vote at the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge. It used to be that only Past Masters and the current elected Master, Senior Warden, and Junior Warden could vote at the annual communication. Some years ago the by-law was changed to allow all current elected and appointed Lodge officers and Grand Lodge officers to vote. Now essentially the only Master Masons who cannot vote are those who are neither a Past Master nor a current officer. Therefore you should encourage all of your officers and Past Masters to attend Grand Lodge and to vote on important issues. We have numerous by-law change proposals to be voted upon this year. These are printed in this issue of the Kansas Mason as well as in the December issue. I hope you will attend and express your opinion. If you don’t vote, you shouldn’t complain about the outcome.

Speaking of the Annual Communication, I hope to see all of you there. I am always quite busy at the meetings and other events, but I still enjoy having you stop by the Grand Secretary’s table and say “hello”. It is such a great time every year, and I always come home feeling as if I have just attended a revival meeting. I have the opportunity to meet and visit with so many wonderful Brothers. It renews my belief that we belong to the greatest organization in the world. We have such a fantastic fraternity, let’s do everything possible to preserve it and make it grow. 🙏