



The Kansas Mason

The Voice of Kansas Masonry

A Publication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Kansas

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Issue #3

CHRIS HODAPP TO SPEAK AT WARDENS SCHOOL

By The Kansas Mason Staff



Hodapp

The author of numerous Masonic books and articles including *Freemasons For Dummies* and *Solomon's Builders: Freemasons, Founding Fathers and the Secrets of Washington*

D.C., Chris Hodapp will be the keynote speaker at the 2010 Grand Lodge Wardens School at Emporia Lodge No. 12 on Saturday, October 2, 2010.

Open to all Master Masons and their wives, and particularly valuable to incoming wardens and masters, the Wardens School provides training for the three principle officers of the lodge. With presentations on Masonic law, leadership, budget and finance, and for the first time real-time lodge scenarios illustrating common problems and their solutions, the Wardens School is indispensable for anyone approaching the East. A companion program for Master Mason's ladies will accompany the men's program, focusing on Masonic education for ladies. Along with an explanation of Freemasonry, and answers to common questions about the fraternity, the ladies will tour a typical Masonic lodge before ad-

journing for an afternoon tea in a Victorian mansion. Registrations for the School must be made in advance and will include lunch (See registration form, Page 8). For more information about the Wardens School, please contact Jan Nelson at Grand Lodge, (785) 234-5518.

Hodapp, who will speak about "Revitalizing a Struggling Lodge," as well as addressing the ladies' program, will also be the featured speaker at dinner following the Wardens School. He has appeared on The History Channel and the Discovery Channel on the subject of Freemasonry and its role in the founding of the United States and the building of Washington D.C. He is a frequent TV and radio guest, as well as a

(See **CHRIS HODAPP**, pg. 8)

GRAND JUNIOR WARDEN FORMING LEADERSHIP TEAM

By Rick Reichert

Hancock Lodge No. 311



Reichert

The Leadership challenge of Vision 2020, our 10-year strategic plan, calls for each lodge, all 242 of them, to have a plan by 2013 that addresses their long-term growth, sound financial footing, capital im-

provements, fresh faces in positions of leadership, and solid reputation in their communities. This is a tall order but a necessity if each lodge is to stay healthy and relevant. There is an old adage that says, "If you don't know where you're

going, any road will get you there." Humorous as that may sound, most lodges have not set for themselves an audacious long-term vision. Grand Lodge currently only has two resources to support the planning endeavor: Warden's Schools and Secretary's Courses. They are excellent in laying out the fundamentals of lodge leadership and operations but both are limited in availability and long-term scope. Missing completely are readily available tools that guide in planning and coordinating for lodge success well into the future.

Fortunately, there is an abundance of talent in Kansas Masonry and some have already addressed the many challenges we face, either in their own avocation or for their lodge. For example, these forward-looking Masons may have already led an effort to improve an aging facility or raised

capital for new lodge furnishings. Others have excited new interest by prospective Masons, encouraged those who have not previously held office to take an active role, or raised the worth

(See **GRAND JUNIOR WARDON**, pg. 6)

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Editor

Michael A. Halleran
editor@kansasmason.org

Book Review Editor

Howard Duncan
bookreviews@kansasmason.org

Questions Answered Editor

Nolan Sump
questions@kansasmason.org

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THE GRAND EAST



By Kent Needham
Great Bend Lodge No. 15
Grand Master

Greetings from the Grand East! As we move from dark to light, I am pleased to inform you it has been a very busy and productive summer. Our efforts to jumpstart Vision 2020 are paying off. The most visible progress is the improvements we have made in *The Kansas Mason* which we hope will make the newsletter more readable and more valuable to you. Work on the website is also progressing. In the very near future, we will have implemented a much-improved and updated website. Please stay tuned for

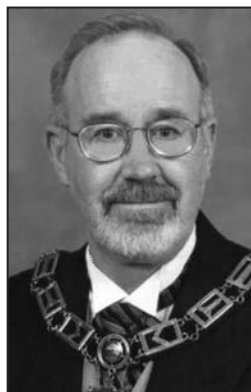
updates. Additionally, in this issue, R.W.: Rick Reichert, GJW has written a piece regarding his vision for Leadership. Please read his comments.

Your Grand Lodge Officers have been very busy answering the requests of the Craft for emblem presentations, dedications and managing the business of the fraternity. The Council of Administration met regularly via telephone conference over the summer to address the many administrative matters of the Craft. The agendas have been long, but we are making progress.

In early June, a few Grand Lodge Officers and Kansas Masons had a very memorable experience. W.:Ashley S. Buss, Master of Nevada Lodge No. 4, A.F. & A.M. of Nevadaville, Colorado invited the Grand Lodge of Kansas to celebrate his lodge's sesquicentennial anniversary. Why Kansas you ask? Well, Nevada Lodge No. 4 was originally Nevada Lodge No. 36 A.F. & A.M. of Nevadaville, Kansas Territory which was chartered on December 22, 1860, one year before the formation of the State of Colorado! Just northwest of Central City, Nevadaville's heyday during the gold and silver rushes of the latter part of 1800s made it a boom town with three thousand more inhabitants than Golden or Denver. It was even considered as the Territorial Capital for Colorado but having no water this honor, along with the town's prospects, dried up. Nevadaville is now a ghost town but Nevada Lodge had a core group that kept the building alive until the late 1930s when the lodge relocated to new quarters in Central City. In the early 1960s a small group of

(See *THE GRAND EAST*, pg. 7)

SECRETARY'S CORNER



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

The summer has been long and hot here in Topeka, and in most of the rest of the state as well. I hope you will be ready to return to your Fall Lodge Schedule with renewed enthusiasm. We all need to work to make our meetings interesting so that our members will want to come to Lodge each meeting night. To that end, several Brothers have volunteered to travel to Lodges and present programs on a variety of topics. If your Lodge would be interested in having a speaker, please contact the Grand Lodge office so arrangements can be made. There is no charge for the speaker, but you should consider making a donation to help cover his gasoline, meals, and perhaps an

(See *SECRETARY*, pg. 5)



KANSAS MASONIC NOTES

SOLOMON LODGE AWARDS SCHOLARSHIP TO AREA STUDENT

By The Kansas Mason staff

Megan Powell is the 2010 winner of the Solomon Lodge No. 105 annual essay scholarship content on May 20, 2010. Powell, a senior at Solomon High School in Solomon City, was presented with a certificate for a \$750 scholarship in a brief ceremony officiated by the Master of Lodge 105, Don Johnson. Since 1976, an annual essay scholarship contest in honor of



Megan Powell

Charles Arey a local farmer/stockman has been a regular feature of Solomon Lodge's charitable work in the community. Open to graduating seniors of Solomon High School, the lodge has given away of \$20,000 in scholarships to deserving students over the past 30 years.

Powell plans on attending Kansas State University and using the scholarship to assist her in earning a business degree. 🙏



AWARDS & HONORS

FATHER AND SON



Master of Millbrook Lodge No. 281, Hill City, Kirk Schweitzer and his son Chris Schweitzer who was raised on April 8, 2010. Chris graduated from Hill City High School in 2010 and will attend the University of Kansas in the Fall studying to be a Pharmacist. 🙏

CLAY CENTERS HONORS 325 YEARS IN MASONRY

On April 24, 2010, Clay Center Lodge No. 134 recognized some long-time members for their years of membership – 325 years when taken together -- and their service to the Craft. Honored were Morris W. Brown, West Covina, CA, 65 years; Leo W. Nelson, Manhattan, 65 years; Verl S. Johnson, Clay Center, 60 years; Frank W. Palmateer, Wakefield, 60 years; Loren L. Mall, Denver, Co, 50 years; and Kerry W. Retter, Salina, 25 years.



Verl Johnson

Morris Brown became a Master Mason in December, 1945. Loren Mall attained the third degree on June 1960, and Leo Nelson was raised in November 1945. Nelson served as Worshipful Master of Clay Center Lodge in 1952.

Verl Johnson received the sublime degree in May 1950; he proceeded through the chairs to the east at Clay Center Lodge in 1990, 1991 and 1995, and has also been honored with the Outstanding Mason Award in 2001.



Frank Palmateer

Wakefield Lodge and later became a member of Clay Center Lodge after consolidation.

According to Richard Blackburn, the Master of Clay Center Lodge, "These men have been devoted Master Masons throughout the years of their membership; it's appropriate that we recognize their contributions to the development and success of Clay Center Lodge." 🙏

Frank Palmateer became a Master Mason in April 1950, in Oakhill Lodge No. 334. It consolidated with Wakefield Lodge No. 396 in December 1997 which in turn consolidated with Clay Center Lodge in May 2009.

Kerry Retter was raised in March 1985 in Wakefield Lodge. He served as Master in 1989 and 1990 at



Kerry Retter



THE CRAFT ABROAD

THE FREEMASONS' WHITE HOUSE STONES EXHIBIT AT GWMM

By Mark A. Tabbert, Director of Collections,
George Washington Masonic Memorial

The George Washington Masonic Memorial opened a new exhibit in February featuring 45 historic White House stones. Each stone is marked by a Scottish stonemason who helped build the White House. The stones are reassembled for the first time since President Harry S. Truman sent one to every U.S. Masonic Grand Lodge in 1952. Complementing the stones is a Minute Book from The Lodge of Journeymen Masons No. 8 of Edinburgh, Scotland. It lists members of the lodge, who in 1794, immigrated to help build the White House. Accompanying the Minute Book is the lodge's Mark Book, showing each stonemason's trade mark. By comparing these marks to the marks on the stones, visitors may identify the men who helped to build the President's House. The exhibit opened in conjunction with the Memorial Association's 100th Anniversary and will run through May 2011.

In 1789, first president George Washington and the U.S. Congress were determined to build a great capital city. By 1792, the site was chosen, designer Pierre L'Enfant's street plan was adapted, and work began. At the city's center would be the U.S. Capitol, the "People's House." The President's House would be located on Pennsylvania Avenue. Washington reviewed the site and personally selected architect James Hoban's design. The mansion's cornerstone was laid with a small civic and Masonic ceremony on October 13, 1792.

Although foundation work then began in earnest, the government soon discovered the young nation had an abundance of craftsmen, but few master stonemasons. What's more, those it did have were working on the U.S. Capitol. After a thorough search in America and Europe, agent George Walker traveled to Edinburgh, Scotland. By spring 1794, he had recruited at least eight stonemasons from The Lodge of Journeymen Masons No. 8.

With the arrival of the eight Scots stonemasons, the White House walls rose to completion in 1798. During construction, the stonemasons, being Freemasons, joined

the local lodge. Federal Lodge No.15 had been chartered September 12, 1793 by the Grand Lodge of Maryland. James Hoban was its first Worshipful Master. Federal Lodge became the first lodge when the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia was constituted in 1811. The exhibit also includes Federal Lodge's first Account Book listing the Scots stonemasons and White House architect James Hoban as its first Master. Additional materials include a letter from President Truman, historic photographs and other items.

The White House stones were discovered soon after Truman became president in 1945. With major plaster cracks appearing and a piano dropping nearly through the

floor, it was obvious that the executive mansion needed a complete overhaul. The First Family relocated to Blair House as work began. By 1950, only the White House facade and some of the original foundation stones remained. President Truman inspected the work often and during one tour he noticed a large number of stones engraved with mason's marks. Recognizing that they were made by Scottish stonemasons, he



Historic White House stones from 1798 are on display at the George Washington Memorial.

contacted the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia and had more than 100 of them delivered to the Grand Lodge headquarters on New York Avenue—just three blocks away.

In 1952, President Truman asked the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia to send one of the marked stones to each U.S. Grand Lodge. Each stone had a small White House brass plaque affixed to it accompanied by a letter - framed of recycled White House wood - to the Grand Master. Many were hand delivered by Truman or by Carl Claudy, Executive Secretary of the Masonic Service Association. In 2004, the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia presented stones to the recently independent Grand Lodge of Alaska and Grand Lodge of Hawaii.

This unique exhibit is sponsored by the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction, Valley of Washington, Orient of the District of Columbia, and by the Grand Lodge, F.A.A.M., of the District of Columbia as well as the cooperation and support of many U.S. Grand Lodges, the Grand Lodge of Scotland,

(See *THE FREEMASONS' WHITE HOUSE*, pg. 7)



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.



Dear Editor:

What are the largest top five Kansas Masonic Lodges (in terms of current membership totals)??? And a follow-up question: What are the top five oldest, continuously-used Lodge Halls in Kansas?

James A. Marples
 Longview, Texas
 Perpetual Life Member, Mulvane Lodge #201 Mulvane, KS

Dear Brother,

According to Grand Lodge records, the five most populous lodges as of December 31, 2009, are as follows:

<u>Lodge</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>Location</u>
Albert Pike No. 303	1,153	Wichita
Wyandotte No. 3	458	Kansas City
Salina No. 60	409	Salina
Golden Rule No. 90	393	Topeka
Sunflower No. 86	367	Wichita

The oldest lodge that still occupies its original building is probably Xenia Lodge No. 47, although for reasons I will explain below, I can't be certain of that. Xenia Lodge was chartered in October 17, 1866, and it is located in its original building on 664 Wood Road in Xenia (although the mailing

SECRETARY (Continued from pg. 2)

overnight stay, depending on where your Lodge is located and where he lives. Also, if you would be interested in presenting a program on some Masonic topic to other Lodges, please let me know, and I will add you to the list. I hope you all have a successful remainder of the year. If Grand Lodge can help you in any way, please do not hesitate to call or write.

I am sorry to report that there are two Lodges that still have not sent their annual reports or per capita tax as of this writing. These reports and payments are now 9 months past due. The Lodges are Paradise #290 and Minneola #431. I will not issue 2011 dues cards for the members of these Lodges until we get the reports and per capita tax as required. I'm sorry the Secretary's apparent unwillingness to do his job will be hurting the members of the Lodge more than it will him, but I have no other recourse to try to get the Secretary to do his job.

address is now actually in Bronson, Ks), with scheduled meetings on the first Saturday of each month. A great many lodges that were chartered in the nineteenth century are no longer in their original premises, having moved once or possibly even several times. Grand Lodge records do not note if the lodge building is the original building, only the current address, so researching your question more fully is problematic.

Technically, a lodge that relocates to different premises is required to petition for removal under the Constitution. Article IX, Section 7, spells out the procedure for removal of a lodge and calls for lodges to file for an "Edict of Removal" – the Grand Master's formal permission to move a lodge, which is kept on file at Grand Lodge. But according the Grand Secretary Bob Pfuetze, "throughout history, lodges have not always faithfully followed that requirement." Thus, the records of the fraternity may not be especially helpful in determining which lodges are in the oldest buildings.

And in the interest of *even further light* on the subject, I am pleased to announce that *The Kansas Mason* will sponsor a \$15 Grand Lodge store credit to any member who establishes that his lodge is still in its original building, if it was chartered prior to 1900. To be eligible for the prize, this information must reach me by no later than November 15, 2010, only one winner per lodge, first come, first served. 🙏

LODGE SECRETARIES: Our roster printouts were mailed in July, and you should have returned it to us by August 31, 2010, along with the dues card order form in order to get your dues cards. If you have not done that yet, please do it immediately. We must have your corrected roster and dues card order form before we will print dues cards for your Lodge. There is no point in printing a set of dues cards from incorrect information. Please correct and return your roster immediately if you have not done so. Most Secretaries are telling us that the database is getting more accurate all the time, and that is mostly because of the help Secretaries provide in checking and correcting their rosters. The records we have at Grand Lodge are only a copy of the information sent to us by the Lodge Secretary. The only truly correct records are those in the Lodge Secretary's office. We very much appreciate being told of any errors you find. 🙏

BOOK REVIEW

SOLOMON'S BUILDERS: FREEMASONS, FOUNDING FATHERS, AND THE SECRETS OF WASHINGTON, D.C.

By Christopher Hodapp

It is interesting that *Solomon's Builders* was originally written as a counter-point to unravel the complex mix of fiction and fact which best-seller author Dan Brown wove in his thrilling novel *The Lost Symbol*. Author Christopher Hodapp achieved that initial objective and went on to provide great information about the development of our nation, early Masonry in colonial America, how Masonic philosophy influenced our form of government, and the design of streets and public buildings in our nation's capital. He does that while debunking the conspiracy theorists who attack Masonry as a sinister cult intent on world control.



The book begins with an interesting dramatization of the Entered Apprentice initiation of America's most famous Mason, George Washington. The next chapter goes through the history of the dark ages and the feudal systems and the special place in society of the craft masons. In the age of enlightenment he details the way that speculative Masonry gradually replaces craft masonry with popularity of Freemasonry throughout Europe and America.

The book then details the growth of Masonry in colonial America. Many lodges were chartered by Grand Lodges in Ireland and Scotland (the Ancients) and many were chartered by Grand Lodges in England (the Modernists). Many lodges at the time were comprised of mostly Loyalists—modernists-- and a few were comprised primarily of patriots--ancients. St. Andrew's Lodge in Boston in particular had many members who were active in the revolution. James Otis, Paul Revere, Dr. Joseph Warren

and John Hancock were notable members of this lodge, and many of its members participated in the Boston Tea Party. Efforts were made to keep these revolutionary activities separated from Masonic philosophy and the normal charitable business conducted within the lodge.

The last portion of the book goes into the layout of the nation's capitol and provides a very thorough history of the building of the capital city in marshland. Pierre L'Enfant was hired by George Washington to design the city but was fired about a year later due to controversy. According to Hodapp and contrary to the assertion in Brown's book, L'Enfant was not a Mason. Masonic buildings in D.C. are reviewed in the book and black and white pictures are provided.

Solomon's Builders does a fine job of explaining the symbolism with research serving to discount the occult signs and symbols supposedly designed onto the city and its buildings. But the real value of the book is its explanation of Masonic history throughout the dark ages and the revolutionary period, the history of the construction of our capital city, and the stories of the many Freemasons who helped take part in writing our constitution and forming a truly representative government. Hodapp makes the point that the fraternity and equality experienced in the Masonic lodges of the time served to provide a model for our strikingly different form of new government.

The book is very readable and well researched. For people just beginning their study of Masonry, it is a great introduction to the early history of American Freemasonry.

Reviewed by: Jerry Grant, Lawrence Lodge No. 6

Ulysses Press, 324 pages

Paperback (\$10.19), Kindle Edition (\$9.99)

GRAND JUNIOR WARDEN (Continued from pg. 1)

of the Masonic Lodge to its host community. These success stories may be just the template another lodge needs to begin planning their own way ahead. And more importantly, they are a step in the right direction.

As the advocate for the leadership portion of our Strategic Plan, and as Grand Junior Warden, I'm putting together a Leadership Resource Team

that will develop helpful guidelines and tools to help Lodges plan. These resources will assist lodges with setting achievable objectives, draw on the experience of those who have successfully "been there - done that," and capture success stories, best practices, and lessons learned - bottling the secret sauce and making it available across Masonry. The team will endeavor

to give lodges a jump start in planning without attempting to do the lodge's plan for them. The Leadership aspect of Vision 2020 is to get each lodge to envision where they want to be in 2020 and chart the course to get there. Masons interested in being a member of the Leadership Resource Team, should contact me by September 30, 2010 at signaleer@earthlink.net. 🙏



MASONIC COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Pikes Peak Annual Inspection

Saturday, September 11-Sunday, September 12.
Silver Saddle Motel, 215 Manitou Avenue,
Manitou Springs, Colorado. More info: 620-842-5916.
davidw3@cebridge.net.

Oak Tree Lodge — Saturday, September 16.

Three miles SW of Little River. Signs.
Ham and bean picnic supper (Donation) 6 p.m.
Tyled meeting (3°) following.

Masons Day & Dedication at KU Med Center

Saturday, September 18.
University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City

Quarry Lodge — Saturday, September 25.

Steak meal begins at 6 p.m Silverdale Quarry,
Arkansas City. Tyled meeting (3°) following.
More info: Brad Childs 620-441-0379,
Ron Mozingo 620-221-4039 or 620-221-5700.

Warden's School — Saturday, October 2. — Emporia

Dedication of Lawrence Masonic Center

with cornerstone laying — Sunday, October 3,
12 p.m.-4 p.m Lunch. Open Grand Lodge 2 p.m.
www.lawrencemasons.com.

Benevolent Lodge re-dedication of cornerstone

Saturday, October 23. — Abilene.

Hoisington Lodge re-dedication

Sunday, October 24. — Hoisington.

Mound City Lodge re-dedication

Saturday, October 30. — Mound City.

2010 District Lecturer Schools:

check online calendar at
www.kansasmason.org

THE GRAND EAST (Continued from pg. 2)

Brothers jumped through all the hoops to reopen the Lodge building and it has been under construction ever since! Seizing on a unique, and fun, fundraising activity, the lodge developed its signature Ghost Town Raisings, where by invitation only, up to four lodges a year can perform ritual work in the historic and beautiful building. Our visit was one such occasion and Nevada Lodge raised several brothers with our Kansas contingent present.

After the work was done, and with a special dispensation from the Grand Lodge of Colorado, the Grand Lodge of Kansas was opened, in ample form, and ceremoniously opened Nevada Lodge No. 36 A.F. & A.M as a part of the 150th year celebration. A copy of the charter was on display and even the original Bible from Lodge 36 was on the altar. I had the privilege of sharing a bit of the lodge's Kansas history with Brother Scot Autry, archivist for the Grand Lodge of Colorado. Then with white gloves on, the archivist read the minutes of the very last meeting of the lodge, which were written but never officially approved, and as a result, they had never been entered into the official archives. So, it was our privilege to ceremoni-

ously move, second and vote to approve the minutes of the last meeting of Lodge 36, *one hundred and forty nine* years later allowing them to finally take their place in the archives. The act of approving the minutes was initially a fairly lighthearted event but upon reflection, a very solemn moment for all in attendance. As an interesting sidelight, Nevada Lodge No. 36 was invited to be one of the lodges that formed the Grand Lodge of Colorado in 1861 but the sitting Worshipful Master of that time objected to the Grand Lodge of Nebraska issuing warrants into the Kansas Territory and refused, thus the reason Nevada had the fourth Charter issued in Colorado on December 10, 1861.

I continue to be humbled and honored to have the opportunity to serve the Masons of Kansas as your Grand Master this year. By the time you read this, this Masonic year will be half over. In the next issue of *The Kansas Mason*, we will share changes in the Grand Session content and schedule that I am confident will be positively received. Until then, I look forward to seeing you at our various events statewide, and as always, on the level. 🙏

THE FREEMASONS' WHITE HOUSE (Continued from pg. 4)

The Lodge of Journeymen Masons No. 8 of Edinburgh, Federal Lodge No. 1 of the District of Columbia, and the White House Historical Association.

The George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association is a private, non-profit educational organization. Its membership is comprised of 52 Grand Lodges

(50 states, plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico), representing nearly two million Freemasons in the United States. The Association's mission is: "To inspire humanity through education to emulate and promote the virtues, character and vision of George Washington, the Man, the Mason and Father of our Country." 🙏



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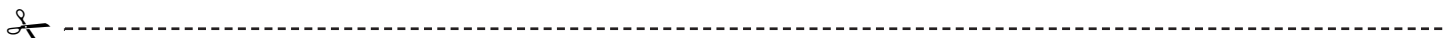
CHRIS HODAPP (Continued from pg. 1)

popular speaker on Freemasonry, the Knights Templar, conspiracy theories, and secret societies. His new book, *Deciphering The Lost Symbol*, was published in January 2010.

The morning session begins at 9:00 a.m.

(registration 8.30 a.m.). Dinner will be served at 6.00 p.m. in the Lodge dining hall at a cost of \$15.00 per person. **Attendance at the Wardens School is not required for dinner, but please make reservations as seating is limited.**

After dinner, Bro. Chris will address the Lodge about "*Freemasonry and the Dan Brown Effect.*" Copies of his many books will be available to purchase, and fellowship and a book signing will be held immediately following. 🙏



2010 WARDENS SCHOOL & DINNER WITH CHRIS HODAPP

Full Name: _____ Lodge: _____

Lady's Name _____ Telephone: (____) _____ Email: _____
(if attending)

Address: _____

Registration Fees (Includes morning reception, lunch, and proceedings).

PLEASE CHECK APPROPRIATE REGISTRATION FEE:

- Wardens School \$90
- Ladies' Program \$25

Dinner with Chris Hodapp (\$15 per person) Indicate # of guests _____ x \$15 = \$ _____

TOTAL AMT: \$ _____

RETURN THIS FORM WITH YOUR PAYMENT TO:

WARDENS SCHOOL
GRAND LODGE OF KANSAS AF & AM
 PO BOX 1217, TOPEKA, KS 66601-1217
REGISTRATION DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 27, 2010