

KANSAS GRAND LODGE OF RESEARCH
Capitol Plaza Hotel
Meeting Minutes 3/19/2015

At 3:00 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Worshipful Master Fredrick Reichert

In Attendance:

Officers in attendance were Michael Snively, Senior Warden, Wayne Rolff, Treasurer, and Jon Woodward, Secretary. By the Secretary's register, 36 members and two guests were present.

Worshipful Reichert welcomed the members and introduced the officers present and two guests, Most Worshipful John Hess, Past Grand Master of Missouri and Senior Deacon of the Missouri Lodge of Research, and Brother Russ Pence, Assistant Librarian of the Missouri Lodge of Research.

Consent Agenda:

After offering the opportunity to the membership to pull any item from the Consent Agenda, the Master called for a motion to approve the consent agenda which had been previously distributed to members of record. The motion was properly made, seconded and approved with one dissenting vote.

Standing Committee Reports:

The Master called for committee reports from the standing committee chairmen. Brother Michael Johnson reported on the website develop for his Research Committee.

Brother Herb Merrick reported on the ongoing development of a style manual for masonic writers which is in development, stressing the importance of obtaining proper permissions for copyrighted information; he further indicated that the committee is open to the acceptance of articles for eventual publication. When completed, the style guide would be made available on the KSLOR.ORG web site. Under the topic of publications, the Worshipful Master asked Brother Mike Tavares to explain the Kansas Masonic Foundation's efforts to provide a template for lodges to prepare and publish their own Newsletters using a cut-and-paste template provided by the Foundation.

Brother John Spangler spoke about the development of criteria and qualifications for Masonic speakers for both internal and external communication opportunities. He indicated that for each potential speech opportunity, the presenters should prepare an abstract of the material for review by those seeking Masonic education presentations. He indicated that there are different goals for different audience characters – what may be perfectly acceptable for presentation within lodge may frequently not be appropriate for presentation to a community group. One of the early goals of the Committee will be to clearly define the role of the KSLOR vice-a-vise the Council of Administration on making presentations that might be interpreted as representing the body of Masonry.

Brother Spangler asked that any who might be interested in assisting on the committee to contact him (e-mail = jspangler36@cox.net).

Project Updates:

Worshipful Master next reviewed the status of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for the Kansas Lodge of Research. He discussed the development of the web site and the acquisition of the KSLOR.ORG domain name for \$7 (the KLOR.ORG name was already claimed and could have been purchased for \$3,500). He discussed the anticipated acquisition of a table cover, the publication of brochures, banner hardware, brochures, etc during 2015. It was said that publications expenses were hoped to be self-supporting. He then discussed the development of a “discovery map” for each degree wherein researchers can write about the various activities within the degrees that take place at each location within the lodge; for example, what occurs in the northeast corner, and why it happens there. Understandably, this initiative may have to sit behind a firewall and be available only by member password.

He then made several announcements of interest to the lodge

- A full-time archivist/librarian has been hired at Grand Lodge
- There is an intention that the Grand Lodge library (or at least the card catalogue, will be moved on-line.
- A future meeting will be held in Emporia to take advantage of the professional librarianship educators at ESU
- A recognition program for Kansas Masonic scholars is being considered – such program would be comparable to the Fellow designation at Philaethes, etc.

By-Laws Consideration:

The Master then asked Brother Lincoln Wilson to present the report of the Jurisprudence Committee. Based on an assignment by the Worshipful Master to a By-Laws Committee at the August meeting of the Lodge, a set of revised by-laws was prepared for lodge consideration. A briefer second by-laws proposal was prepared by the Worshipful Master and Brother Wilson. Brother Wilson explained that our current by-laws are a 30-year-old document that, when prepared, was adequate for its time, but does not reflect changes in technologies and communication practices that have become available since the lodge was founded. He began to go through the proposed by-law modifications, but various members objected to any consideration of by-law changes that had not been supplied to the membership at least 60 days prior to their consideration, as required by the currently adopted by-laws. As neither set of proposed by-laws had been completed and sent to the membership in accordance with the adopted by-laws, both sets of proposed by-laws were withdrawn with the intent to resubmit at the Annual Meeting concurrent with the 2016 Annual Convocation of the Grand Lodge (March 17-19, 2016).

Election of Officers for 2015:

The next item of business was the election of officers for the ensuing term. All current officers, with the exception of the current Junior Warden, indicated that if re-elected, they would be willing to serve for another year.

The floor was opened to nominations for Worshipful Master. Brother Fredrick Reichert was nominated. No additional nominations for Master were received.

The floor was opened to nominations for Senior Warden. Brother Michael Snively was nominated. No additional nominations for Senior Warden were received.

The floor was opened to nominations for Junior Warden. Brothers John Crary and Steve Hume were nominated. Brother Hume declined the nomination owing to his Masonic responsibilities as a new lodge Secretary and other roles. No additional nominations for Junior Warden were received.

The floor was opened to nominations for Treasurer. Brother Wayne Rolff was nominated. No additional nominations for Treasurer were received.

The floor was opened to nominations for Secretary. Brother Michael Snively was nominated. No additional nominations for Secretary were received.

As only one member had been nominated for each office, it was moved and seconded that the officers be re-elected by acclamation. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Good of the Order:

For the good of the order, the Worshipful Master announced that the next meeting of the Kansas Lodge of Research is currently planned to be held on May 9 in Wichita. It is anticipated that the meeting will be afternoon, followed by a dinner ending early enough to allow members to return home for Mother Day festivities. Details will be posted on the web site and communications will be sent to all members in time for the meeting.

The Master then recognized Most Worshipful Brother John Hess and Brother Russ Pence of the Missouri Lodge of Research. Our Missouri brothers brought with them a set of seven books detailing the histories of all lodges in Missouri for donation to the Kansas Lodge of Research. The Master thanked the brothers for the contribution to the Lodge.

There being no further business to come before the lodge, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Fraternally Submitted,

Jon Woodward, Secretary