

KANSAS GRAND LODGE OF RESEARCH
Capitol Plaza Hotel, Topeka, Kansas
Annual Meeting Minutes 3/17/2016

DRAFT

At 3:00 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Worshipful Master Frederick Reichert in the Pioneer Room of the Capitol Plaza Hotel.

In Attendance:

Other officers in attendance were Michael Snively, Senior Warden, John Crary, Junior Warden, Wayne Rolf, Treasurer, and Jon Woodward, Secretary. By the Secretary's register, 68 other members were in attendance.

Worshipful Reichert welcomed the members and introduced the officers and chairs of the standing committees.

Consent Agenda:

After assuring that the members present had the opportunity to review the Secretary's financial and membership statement, as well as the Treasurer's Report, the Master called for a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was properly made, seconded and approved without objection.

The Secretary noted that there were several in attendance who had not previously attended a meeting of the lodge of research and asked for a show of hands of new members since the previous meeting. There were approximately thirty new members in attendance. Owing to the support of the Kansas Masonic Foundation and the generosity of Brother Bob Shively in particular, 21 new members had signed up immediately prior to the meeting.

Committee Reports:

Worshipful Reichert called upon committee chairs to report on the actions taken by their committees since the last meeting. John Crary reported that the research committee was assisting the Grand Lodge Masonic Education Committee with its preparation of the Masonry-in-a-box initiative, but was supportive of individual research efforts as may be taken by members.

Herb Merrick of the Publications Committee also encouraged members to write about research that they might conduct. He indicated that several members of the lodge have had articles published in the Kansas Mason and that space is available in every issue for work done by the members of the lodge.

John Spangler reported that his Speakers Bureau Committee of one had prepared guidelines and criteria for speakers and recommended that if a member wishes to present on any topic in the name of the KSLOR, he should be certified to do so through

presentation of his material at one of our membership meetings. He suggested that the criteria for speakers be posted on-line and reviewed by the membership.

RW Dale Morrow, Grand Senior Warden, spoke about the progress made on the Masonry-in-a-Box initiative, a set of integrated audio-visual programs and scripts that could be presented in meetings of lodges around the state. He indicated that several topics were in the works, with the first expected to be completed by the end of April of this year. Those mentioned were: The Three Great Lights; Corn, Wine, and Oil; Landmarks of Masonry; Symbolism; and Perfect Points of Entrance. He also discussed his progress in implementing an three-dimensional animation program focused on Albert Pike with an intention to also develop one centered on Albert Mackey. He indicated that any presentations prepared for the program should be non-esoteric because they could easily be posted on-line or presented to groups of Masons and non-Masons alike.

Before proceeding to the remaining items on the agenda, the Worshipful Master passed out a sign-up sheet for members to sit at the KSLOR table on Saturday to answer questions and sign up new members.

Lodge By-Laws:

Lincoln Wilson was asked to make the report of the Jurisprudence Committee. He indicated that by-laws had been distributed to all members of record by e-mail and by regular mail sixty days prior to the meeting in order to meet the review requirements of the previous set of by-laws. On completion of his report, he moved their adoption. Such motion was seconded by John Crary. After brief discussion, the motion was approved.

Lodge Logo:

The Worshipful Master explained that when he took office, he was unaware that there was a globe and telescope logo previously adopted by the lodge. He felt a recognizable logo was necessary and developed one which used the lamp of knowledge, the name of the lodge, and a Latin motto meaning "Discovery Without Limits". Mike Snively indicated that the globe and telescope logo had been used for a long time and was originally developed as representative of a global search for knowledge. On proper motion and second, the lamp logo was adopted for future use. Allen Peyton requested that the previous logo and its information be placed in the archives of the lodge so that it not be lost. Brother Barry Albin agrees to assist Brother Snively with an article for the archives.

The Worshipful Master requested Jon Woodward join him at the podium where he awarded him a certificate of appreciation and commemorative coin for his work in developing the communication and records system now in use by the lodge.

He then asked Herb Merrick to join him at the podium where he presented him with a Certificate of Title as Professor of Masonic Research and a commemorative paperweight for his work in moving the publications efforts of the lodge forward during the last two years. The complete text of both presentations is attached hereto.

Comments:

Worshipful Brother Reichert then presented a farewell address prior to the election of new officers for the ensuing term. He indicated that what he had hoped for two years ago when he assumed office was that the lodge of research would support the Grand Lodge by becoming one of the premier research lodges in the mid-West. He recalled that he presented in August of 2014 at Tactical plan for the work of the lodge in the next two or so years to enable the masonic explorer in all of us. He hoped that the KSLOR could become the Grand Lodge education arm and ultimately become the masonic university of Kansas. He indicated that leaders were needed who would own success and take it further along the road to becoming that premier organization. A complete text of his remarks is attached hereto.

Nomination and Elections:

The floor was opened for nominations for Worshipful Master of the Kansas Lodge of Research for the year 2016-2017. Michael Snively was nominated, and his nomination was seconded. There being no further nominations, Brother Snively was asked to give a two minute dissertation on his plans for the lodge for the next year. He said he wanted to focus on aiding research by getting a list of Masonic e-books posted on the lodge web-site, and he hoped that 2017 would see the publication of a set of articles prepared by the membership. He also pledged to see that a listing of those brothers who could do the funeral orations is published on the web site as a resource to all lodges when they are seeking someone to do Masonic funerals.

The floor was opened for nominations for Senior Warden. Brother John Crary was nominated and seconded. He indicated that he hoped to focus his efforts as Senior Warden on the development of articles of research and the Masonry-in-a-Box initiative.

There being no further nominations for either Worshipful Master or Senior Warden, Brother Reichert called for a show of hands vote of acclamation for both positions. The brothers were elected by acclamation.

Nominations were then received for Junior Warden. Brothers Wayne Rector and Frank Keedy were nominated from the floor. Both were seconded. Brother Rector indicated that he would contribute as he could to make the lodge the best research lodge in the Midwest. Brother Keedy indicated that he believed we all had an obligation to write into our lives the best efforts we can to further research on the fraternity. A secret ballot was conducted and Brother Rector was elected as Junior Warden for the coming year.

Worshipful Master Reichert then accepted nominations for Treasurer and Secretary of the lodge. As both Wayne Rollf and Jon Woodward were willing to continue in their roles for another year, both were elected by acclamation.

Most Worshipful Brother Reichert then installed all officers into their newly elected or continued positions for the 2016-2017 year.

Newly installed Worshipful Master Snively then appointed Ken Lackey to head the research committee and asked Herb Merrick and John Spangler to continue in their roles as chairmen of the Publications Committee and Speakers Bureau. He announced that the lodge would meet on the following dates during the year:

- May 21 in the Salina area
- August 13 in the Olathe/Overland Park area
- November 4 on the Friday before the Leadership Conference
- On the Thursday, March 16 before the 2017 Grand Lodge meeting

It is intended that all meetings be held in the afternoon.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. so that the members could attend the Grand Lodge reception being held down the hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Jon Woodward, Secretary

Attachments of Worshipful Master Reichert's Presentations and Address

Recognition of Brother Jon Woodward

Brother Jon Woodward. Please join me on the dais.

You are without a doubt the hardest working officer of the Kansas Lodge of Research leadership team. You have spent an inordinate amount of time carefully culling through the records of your predecessor, and, along with Brother Wayne Rollf, were able to piece together records that had become highly fragmented or lost. This accomplishment alone is worthy of our deepest appreciation and admiration. But, there is more.

You have kept a geographically dispersed membership informed, engaged and cohesive as a group. You have introduced a mechanism to make it easier for members to keep up with their dues requirements both by the cash and check method as well as online. Moreover, through constant and consistent communications, membership has grown. You've helped with the transition of Kansas Lodge of Research from an ordinary experience to a point where we have the capability and resources to achieve the extraordinary.

At meetings, when most are enjoying a meal and a good speaker, you are busy taking minutes, handling membership issues, and coordinating with the caterer.

Your efforts have not gone unnoticed, and, in fact, are singularly responsible for the continuing success upon success that our lodge had achieved. In recognition of your exemplary service to Kansas Lodge of Research and therefore the Craft at large, I present you with a two tokens of our appreciation.

Recognition of Brother Herb Merrick

Of our three strategic pursuits: Research, Publish, and Speak, one stands out as having put Kansas Lodge of Research back on the map. It is the one lane that has raised our visibility and attracted many new members. It is the pursuit of publishing to which I refer.

With you as the lead for the Publishing Committee we can claim the following achievements over the past two years:

- Chief editor who compiled a Writer's Guide – used to prepare manuscripts for publication (including Kansas Mason magazine) and made available to all Masons via the KSLOR.ORG web site
- Author of "The Unyielding Carle Woodruff, Founding Master", which explored the crossed paths of the founding of a Masonic Lodge in Kansas with the Civil War, published in the Kansas Mason Spring 2015 issue
- Author of "Studying Symbolism in Blue Lodge Masonry", an article about where some of our common and not-so-common symbols come from and where to begin to find more information on them, published in the Fall 2015 edition of the Kansas Mason.

- Author of “From Whence We Came”, which was a primer for any Mason wanting to follow a path of Masonic discovery on his own but needed a place to start, published in the Spring 2016 edition of The Kansas Mason.
- Coordinator and editor who gathered other articles for publication in the Kansas Mason in the space held for Kansas Lodge of Research.
- Guest Speaker at the October 30, 2015 Kansas Lodge of Research dinner and meeting where he spoke on “Preserving your Lodge’s Heritage” to a wowed audience.
- And, for his continued wise counsel and inexhaustible support to me, the Kansas Lodge of Research and to the Grand Lodge of Kansas.

His achievements both for Blue Lodge Masonry and through his many appendant body affiliations is numerous and continues to grow. Knowing how many other pursuits he has that he put so much time and effort into the noble endeavor of the Publishing Committee should be greatly revered by all of us.

Brother Herb. I present you with these tokens of our great esteem and admiration for you.

Worshipful Master’s Concluding Address

My Brothers. This is my farewell address to you as Worshipful Master of the Kansas Lodge of Research. Before we set upon the task of electing the officers to carry us through the next several years, I would like us to take a look at where we have been and where we might like to go with the Lodge of Research.

In March of 2013, I laid out a general vision of where I thought the Lodge of Research fits in the Grand Lodge endeavors get our brothers so stoked about their fraternity that they are on fire for the Craft. As a Grand Lodge entity, this body should assist every way it can to provide additional fuel for the fired up Mason. Specifically, I wanted any Mason who wanted to hear more about a Masonic topic he heard, or needed to do some research for a Masonic Education in his lodge, or had written something about what he learned of the Craft that he deemed worthy of publication would make the Kansas Lodge of Research the natural first stop for any of these needs. If it had anything to do with Reserching a Mosnic topic, capturing his findings in a form he could share with others, or to express his willingness to speak about a Masonic topic where he has some expertise, I had hoped that the Kansas Lodge of Research would have the volunteers, resources, and mechanisms in place to be at the ready.

In August 2014, I published the tactical plan to get us started in that direction and entitled it “Masonic Explorer Enablement – 2016”. Since then, you have probably seen my little rocket ship on various printed materials with the words “enabling the Masonic explorer in all of us”. This remains my vision for our lodge. The plan was extremely aggressive and would require much greater resources than we currently have or can raise based on the limitations of our bylaws. This lodge could not only enhance the Grand Lodge aim for excellence in Masonic Education, it could be the Masonic Education arm of the Grand Lodge and the University for Kansas Masons. We need the Lodge of Research to be accessible to large numbers of Masons on a regular basis with substantial positive benefit to their pursuit of more light in Masonry.

Regardless how lofty the ambitions may be, in spite of the seeming impossibility of reaching such a substantial level of importance to our Craft, we should never lose sight of that as our ultimate goal. I don't believe we want the Lodge of Research to revert to relative obscurity where a few graybeards discuss some Pikesonian philosophy of little interest to the Craft at large over chianti and fava beans on a weekday afternoon. We cannot afford to throttle back or change direction lest the Lodge of Research become wholly insignificant.

We have made a lot of progress in the past two years. In true Kansas form, we started at the beginning and are now following the paved path toward our own Emerald City. We spent the first two years defining the template of success and then organizing in preparation to make great progress.

The next steps are to pick an aggressive set of leaders who will enlist the on-fire Masons; those brothers with talent and the desire to take a chunk of our plan and run with it. We need the folks who want to own the success and do what it takes to get us there. This is an excellent proving field for those wanting to demonstrate their propensity as leaders in Masonry and further serve Grand Lodge in a higher capacity.

In a few moments, you will hear from our nominees. I will be giving time for each candidate, whether his seat is being contested or not, to tell you a little about himself and the direction he wants to take the Kansas Lodge of Research. Listen closely to whether they will subscribe to the further the advancement of our lodge toward our strategic aims.

Once the officers are elected and installed, I will step out of their way but will be taking a supporting role or two, as they allow. I agreed to continue assisting with the KSLOR.ORG web site and enhancing its capabilities, as well as posting whatever materials the officers and Publishing committee send my way. I also plan to assist Brother John Spangler or his successor with getting the Speakers Bureau up and running.

I want to again thank Brother Herb, Brother Jon Woodward, Brother Wayne, Brother Michael, Brother John Crary, and Brother Lincoln for all your help, aid and assistance throughout the year and especially in preparation for the Annual Communication.

I thank you, my brothers, for showing your support through your membership, the great turnout at our dinner meetings, and for being here today.

Now, let us turn our attention to the future of Kansas Lodge of Research.