



NORTH CAROLINA The Mason



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Oxford, North Carolina

July/August 2012

Otis named Home for Children administrator

By Ric Carter

OXFORD — Kevin Otis has been hired as the new administrator of the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford according to Board of Directors president Dan C. Rice (PGM). Otis comes to our Home after being employed at Webster-Cantrell Hall in Decatur, Illinois since 1985. He began work July 16.

Otis was chosen from nearly 100 candidates who submitted resumes. The selection process included vetting by a professional, narrowing the field by a search committee, and finally extensive interviews of the finalists by the entire



Kevin Otis

Board of the Home as well as employee committees. Otis was the unanimous choice of the participants. According to Rice, "Kevin is an enthusiastic, passionate person and a very good communicator who brings years of experience in the child care business. We are thrilled to have him join us."

Otis brings a 1985 sociology degree from Illinois State University and a 2001 masters in business administration from Millikin University. His most recent position at Webster-Cantrell was a fund development director for the last four years. Before that, he was director of staff development. Earlier still, he held several child care and supervisory positions at the home.

He sees the future of our Home as "building new programs that will receive investment from the community and invest back into the community. By creating programs that have a direct impact, more opportunities for the kids will be created."

Otis has lived in Decatur since he was five. His parents are still there. His wife of 25 years is also named Kevin. She is chief clinical officer and a social worker at Webster-Cantrell Hall. They have two children: Alexandria who teaches fifth grade in Missouri and Andrew who is a rising high school senior. Mrs. Otis and Andrew will be remaining in Illinois for Andrew to finish high school. Andrew plans to become the only person in his class to letter in football all four years of his career.

Kevin was not exposed to Freemasonry in his day-to-day life, so has never joined a lodge. His experience so far has been favorable and made him curious about the fraternity. We expect that lodges in the Oxford community will soon be hearing a distinct knock upon the door.

In his spare time, Kevin enjoys competing in triathlons and working in stained glass. Not surprisingly, he roots for the Cubs and the Bears.

As his start date was so close to press time for *The North Carolina Mason*, we have brought you only this short introduction. A message from Kevin Otis will be featured in the next issue. He will also be present at Annual Communication in September.

Chris Richardson, who served as interim administrator while the Search Committee did their work, returns to his previous position as director of development and assistant administrator for the Masonic Home for Children.

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Ric Carter photos

Grand Champion Spurmont 98 looked like an experimental MASH unit preparing their pig.

Seventh Pig Jig is piglicious

By Ric Carter

RALEIGH — Raleigh 500 held the Seventh Annual Carolina Masonic Pig Jig here on May 19 at the North Carolina State Fairgrounds. It was celebrated in conjunction with the Got to Be NC AgFest, our state's off-season state fair. The Pig Jig has thousands of visitors each year and crowns the best Masonic team in several divisions of grilled delights.

At the Pig Jig, more than 3,500 people ate and voted for their favorites this year. More than 30 teams entered the competition. While final figures are not yet available, it is estimated that \$8,000 will go to the Masonic Home for Children in Oxford and to Central Children's Home. The two institutions have been supported by the Masons of North Carolina for many years.

All the pictures in this set are from the setup period on the night before the judg-

ing. Many Masons will tell you this is the time of the most fun and Masonic sharing. The Masons are not then distracted by patrons or the rush of the AgFest. They just get to enjoy each others company and visit around.

This year's winners are:

The Grand Champion title and the People's Choice Award left the state for the first time this year. Spurmont 98, from Strasburg, VA took both honors for 2012. They entered the contest here last year as well as the contest at the Masonic Home for Children's October Homecoming.

Other division winners were:

Pork Division

- First Hiram 40 (Raleigh)
- Second NC Grand Lodge AF & AM
- Third Spurmont 98 (Strasburg, VA)

see PIG JIG, page 4 Sometimes, preparation is just waiting.

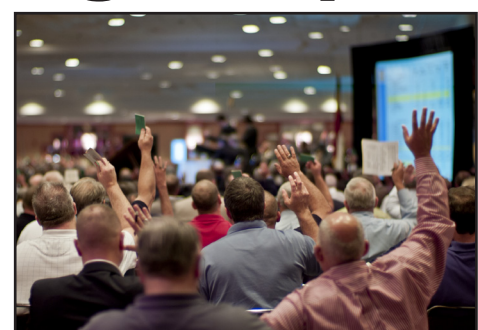


Annual meeting is September 21-22

By Ric Carter

WINSTON-SALEM — Grand Master Robert E. Gresham Jr. will preside as 2012 Annual Communication opens in Winston-Salem. The 225th annual meeting of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina is scheduled for September 21-22. The communication will be at the Twin City Quarter here, the same hotel we have used the last few years. It will be the headquarters hotel, the site of all committee meetings, and Grand Lodge business sessions.

While every Mason in the state is invited, only the master and wardens of your lodge, or their official proxies, may vote during business sessions. They'll join the same officers of the other lodges around the state. The other votes come from committeemen and officers of the Grand Lodge and its districts.



Ric Carter photo

Workshops and committee meetings held before the official sessions will be at the Twin City Quarter on Thursday, September 20. The Lodge Secretary's Workshop will be held there that Thursday afternoon at 2:00 P.M.

All voting sessions will be held in the

see AnnComm, page 4

Amendment roundup

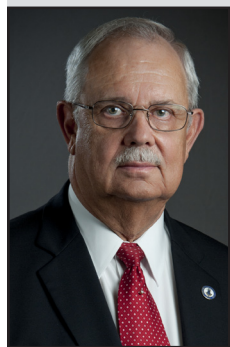
By Ric Carter

Here we go with our annual recap of the year's proposed amendments to *The Code*. This is an effort to put the proposals in plain language and share some of the arguments commonly expressed on the amendments. The discussion is far from exhaustive, but intends to give you a better understanding of the changes offered and their possible repercussions.

A lodge cannot and should not attempt to bind its delegates to a particular vote on a particular question. Very often, the amendments are changed on the floor before voting. More often still,

see VOTES, page 4

THE BOTTOM LINE



We remain busy

By Robert E. Gresham Jr.
Grand Master

During my district meetings, I discussed with you my desire to start a Masonic blood drive month. I have heard from several lodges that have started new blood drives this year. The last one was yesterday in which I heard that three lodges had gone together and held a very successful blood drive this past Saturday. Their goal was 40 pints of blood, they collected 54 pints and had at least ten people rejected for various reasons. Thanks to all of you who have already completed or are planning blood drives for this year. I would like to make a report at Grand Lodge as to the status of our blood drives for this year. Please notify your DDGM by September 1, 2012 the results of any blood drives you have completed in the previous 12 months. If your blood drive is new this year, please indicate this also. I will then ask the DDGMs to assemble this information and forward to me so that I will be able to give this report during Grand Lodge. Thank you for your cooperation.

Another topic during our district meetings was NPDs. We are at the time where the first reading of NPDs is being made by the lodge secretaries. Please make every effort to contact these brothers and explain to them that they are needed and wanted in our lodges. As I told you during the district meetings, it is my belief that personal contact will go a long way toward reducing the number of NPDs each year.

On June 18, I had the privilege of attending Rockingham 495

and presenting two 60-year awards. I presented a 60-year service award to Past Grand Master Bunn T. Phillips and Brother Stan Wilson. These brothers are to be congratulated for their faithful service to our fraternity. Past Grand Master Phillips is my Masonic great grandfather. He appointed Past Grand Master Gerry Smith who then appointed Past Grand Master Leonard Safrit into the grand line. Past Grand Master Safrit appointed me, and at last year's Grand Lodge, when I was elected grand master, I announced the appointment of Brother Mack Sigmon as my junior grand steward. We were fortunate that all five generations were present during the presentation and happy that we were able to get a photograph of all of us together.

June and July have been busy months for your grand master. On June 11, I attended the Grand Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star and brought fraternal greetings on behalf of our Grand Lodge. On June 19, I had the privilege of attending South Carolina Grand Master Jay Pearson's home lodge in Inman, South Carolina. Grand Master Pearson had arranged a Third Degree for my benefit. I can truthfully say that if you have never witnessed a South Carolina Third Degree, do not miss the opportunity if you're given one. On June 25 and 26, I attended Rainbow Grand Chapter representing our Grand Lodge. On Tuesday night, June 26, Miss Kaitlyn Kubacki, from Albemarle was installed as grand worthy advisor. Her dad is a past master of my lodge, Albemarle 703. July 1-5, Carolyn and I were guests of the Imperial Shrine for their annual meeting which was held in Charlotte. It was my privilege to serve as the host grand master for this meeting. Al Madsen, a past potentate of Oasis Shrine, was installed as imperial potentate during this

meeting, a first for the Oasis Temple and for North Carolina. Our congratulations to Brother Al.

July 7-9, I represented our Grand Lodge at the York Rite Summer Assembly held in Maggie Valley. July 14, I attended the Northeast Conference of Grand Masters in New York. Deputy Grand Master Dewey Preslar Jr., Senior Grand Warden Dalton Mayo, Junior Grand Warden Doug Caudle, Grand Treasurer Lew Ledford (PGM), and Grand Secretary Walt Clapp, and my wife, Carolyn accompanied me on this trip. July 17, Carolyn and I were guests of the Grand Lodge of Canada, Province of Ontario, for their Annual Communication.

Again, thank you for the privilege that you have bestowed upon me in allowing me to serve as your grand master this year. I am deeply humbled by this opportunity.

In closing I'd like to leave you with the following thought:

All kinds of people

In this world there are four kinds of people: Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody. There was an important job to be done, and Everybody was asked to do it. Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it.

Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did. Somebody got angry about it because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought that Somebody would do it, but Nobody realized it wouldn't get done by Anybody.

It ended up that not only the job was not done, but Everybody accused Somebody, and Nobody accepted the responsibility.

Moral: Everybody's job is Anybody's. Nobody can be Somebody unless they are willing to do Anybody's work. — Unknown

Past Grand Master Noble dead at 89

NEW BERN — North Carolina Freemasonry recently lost its senior past grand master. Brother Stephen Franklin Noble Jr., 89 years old, died June 2 in his home surrounded by his family. Noble was preceded in death by Frances, his wife of 61 years. He is survived by two daughters (Joyce N. Vanderford and Carol N. Foret) and three grandchildren.

Noble was born to Stephen Frank Noble and Stella Clodfelter Noble April 18, 1923 in Ayden. He graduated high school there in 1940 and spent three years in the Merchant Marine during World War II. He was owner and operator of Tru-Tread Tire Company before his retirement. He was a 30-year choir member at Riverside United Methodist Church.

Frank was raised in St. John's 3 in New Bern in 1959. He served as master there in 1966. He was an honorary member of Doric 568 and Crown Point 708. A. A. Kafer appointed him to the grand line through which he progressed to be grand master in 1975-76. He enjoyed the many events celebrating the national bicentennial during his term.

We received the following letter from his family, and share it with you at their request.

"Words fail to express our gratitude for the love and support our family has received dur-

ing the passing of our father, Past Grand Master S. Frank Noble Jr. When our family vehicles rounded the corner and Dad's church came into view we were astonished at the sea of white aprons that completely filled the front lawn. Our hearts were warmed and our spirits lifted when we realized that many of these men had traveled a considerable distance to honor our father.

"We are deeply appreciative of the assistance of Past Grand Master William L. Dill of New Bern who made himself available to assist our family and to the officers and members of Dad's lodge, St. John's 3. The words of the Masonic graveside ritual spoken so expressively and beautifully by Past Grand Master Dill were an inspiration to all in attendance and were a source of comfort to our family. We have received and continue to receive cards, emails, and notes from Masons from across the state of North Carolina who served with our dad on various Masonic boards and committees and who have expressed gratitude for his years of service to the fraternity that was so much a part of his life and the man that he was. We express our heartfelt appreciation for this love and support that has helped to sustain us during this difficult time.

"Most sincerely,
"The Daughters of S. Frank Noble Jr."



PGM Billy Dill, PGM Frank Noble, and PGM Pete Thomas, Henry Carson.

Berne Lodge celebrates golden anniversary

NEW BERN — Berne 724 held its 50th Anniversary Celebration on May 17. In attendance were three past grand masters, Frank Noble, L. R. Thomas Jr., and William L. Dill; Seventh District Deputy Grand Master Johnny Surles; several past masters of Berne and Seventh District lodges, Berne members, and guests.

The evening kicked off with a meal of barbecue, fried chicken, Brunswick stew, and all of the fixings. The meeting included a reading of the history of Berne Lodge by lodge secretary

Richard Smith, PGM Pete Thomas' relating of the Masonic biography of Berne Lodge's first master Nelson B. Banks (PGM), and PGM Billy Dill's telling of the story of the relationship between St. John's 3, Berne 724, and the Scottish Rite Temple in New Bern.

Henry Clay Carson was presented his Veteran's Emblem Award for 50 years membership. Carson spoke about his journey in Masonry and the importance of the blue lodge. His speech was followed by a standing ovation. — Rex Smith



From left, are PGM Phillips, Gresham, and Wilson.

GM Gresham visits to present awards

ROCKINGHAM — On June 18, Grand Master Robert E. Gresham Jr., center, ventured to Rockingham 495 to present Past Grand Master Bunn T. Phillips Jr., left, and Stencil Warren Wilson, right, their Diamond Jubilee awards for 60 years Masonic membership. Eighty-five Masons attended the special event.

In attendance were the entire associated line

of appointees to the Grand Lodge line. Seen in that group photo are, from left, PGM Gerry T. Smith (appointed by Phillips), PGM Bunn T. Phillips, Grand Master Robert E. Gresham Jr. (appointed by Safrit), PGM Leonard Y. Safrit Jr. (appointed by Smith), and Grand Steward Dwight M. Sigmon (appointed by Gresham).

— Dwight M. Sigmon



Extreme togetherness

TRAPHILL — If your lodge is chosen to host a district meeting, don't panic about not having enough room. Some of our best area meetings are in the tightest conditions. It helps us get to know one another better. It reflects and reminds us of the strength of our bonds and loyalties.

Small halls where attendees ate in shifts are

often remembered fondly. Grand Master Gresham's first district meeting of the year was March 5 at Traphill 483. As you can easily see, the room was barely adequate for the gathering. That said, it may well be a favorite memory of the year. The sight of a grand master scooting sideways to get to the East is one not soon forgotten.



Phillips appointment line, from left, Smith, Phillips, Gresham, Safrit, and Sigmon.

225th celebration coming

On November 3, 2012, the Grand Lodge of North Carolina will celebrate its 225th anniversary. The schedule of the ceremonies which will include the dedication of the restoration of the Grand Lodge headquarters building in Raleigh. There will be lunch and music and historical presentations.

The newly restored deck will include six time capsules for placement of artifacts of our lodges. Lodges are urged to participate. Collect books or pins or coins or remembrances that have marked occasions in your lodge. Additionally, the 225th Committee wishes to collect photos as well as histories of your blue lodge. The capsules will be opened in 25 years at the celebration of our 250th. Items should be collected and delivered by September to assure they get a place in the program.

New attention is being paid to the museum and library area downstairs in the building. Old papers and books are being organized and cataloged. Each lodge is getting its own spot for history and notes and special recognitions and

mentions. We would like for you to send us a history of your lodge to be placed in those records. Please include photos of the interior and exterior of your building. Make notes and photographs of any special possessions such as furniture, antiques, or art. Have a special painting or art work or artifact in your lodge? Share it through photos and story. These materials will find their way into the archives and annals of the Grand Lodge to be shared with future generations. Some will be placed in the time capsules.

Has your lodge digitized any old minutes of the lodge? Do you have digitized photos of your past masters? Other electronic bits of history? Download your website to a CD. We'd love to have digital copies here in the library. It will allow researchers now and in the future recover Masonic history that might otherwise be lost in the mists of time.

Not sure if what you choose will work? Just give the Grand Lodge office a call at (919) 787-2021 or send them an email <rcarter@glnc.us>. They'll be happy to help you decide.

You're invited

WhiteStone grand opening

August 11

GREENSBORO — The grand opening of WhiteStone's new \$30 million expansion will be 1:00- 3:00 P.M., Saturday, August 11. A ribbon-cutting and dedication are scheduled. This is the kick-off event for the Home's Centennial celebration. WhiteStone's website is <www.liveatwhitestone.org/>.

Golf tournament

August 11

PINEHURST — Southern Pines 484 plays its R. C. Yoder Memorial Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament August 11 at Pinewild Country Club in Pinehurst. Hole sponsorships are available. Team entry is \$300, \$75 for individuals. For information, contact Mark Miller (910) 724-6892 or Larry Golay (910) 690-4981.

Golf tournament

September 5

CLEMMONS — The Tenth Annual Charity Golf Tournament is coming to Meadowlands Golf Club. This tournament has raised nearly \$100,000 for Masonic Homes and the Clemmons Food Bank since its inception. Singles are \$75 to enter, \$300 for a team. Hole sponsorships are available. Contact Bob Charlier for details <rcharliers@triad.rr.com> or (336) 766-5133.

Chris Hodapp speaking

September 8

RALEIGH — Masonic author Chris Hodapp will deliver a guest lecture at Hiram 40 on Saturday, September 8 at the Raleigh Masonic Temple on 1520 Caswell Street. Tickets are \$15 each. Doors open at 7:00 P.M. and the lecture begins at 7:30. Proceeds are to benefit the temple. For details and reservations see <www.hiram40.org>.

Golf tournament

September 26

RALEIGH — Our Prince Hall Brothers are holding their Grand Master Golf Tournament Wednesday, September 26. They are on the links at Wil-Mar Golf Club on Milburnie Road. The entry fee is \$65 (early bird)/\$75 after August 10 per player. For information contact Johnny Foster at (704) 717-0994.

Golf tournament

September 28

DURHAM — Oak Grove 750 is holding their Annual Masonic Golf Challenge on Friday, September 28. They'd love to have your lodge enter a team. Entry fee is \$75 individual/\$300 per team. Contact Doug Harward at <wharward@nc.rr.com>.

DC roadtrip

October 11-12

DOBSON — Copeland 390 is visiting the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria Thursday and Friday, October 11-12. There will be a lodge meeting of Alexandria 22 and a tour of the GWMNM. You can join them for \$157 double occupancy, includes bus, hotel with breakfast, tours. For details, if you want to join them, contact Dempsey Brewer, (336) 671-3319.

NC Mason Deadlines

Issue	Deadline
January/February	January 1
March/April	March 1
May/June	May 1
July/August	July 1
September/October	September 1
November/December	November 1

THE MISSION OF FREEMASONRY IN NORTH CAROLINA IS TO RAISE THE MORAL, SOCIAL, INTELLECTUAL, AND SPIRITUAL CONSCIENCE OF SOCIETY BY TEACHING THE ANCIENT AND ENDURING PHILOSOPHICAL TENETS OF BROTHERLY LOVE, RELIEF, AND TRUTH, WHICH ARE EXPRESSED OUTWARDLY THROUGH SERVICE TO GOD, FAMILY, COUNTRY, AND SELF UNDER THE FATHERHOOD OF GOD WITHIN THE BROTHERHOOD OF MAN.

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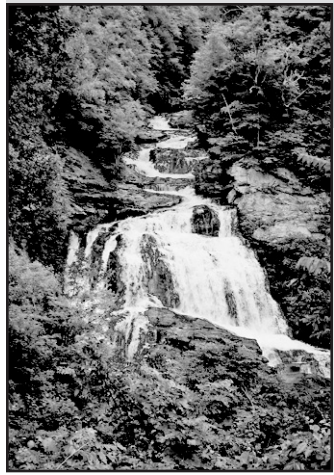
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TRAVELING THE TAR HEEL STATE



NEWS FROM NORTH CAROLINA'S LODGES

By Ric Carter



Shawboro

Hall 53 held its Eighth Annual Golf Tournament May 5. They played at Mill Run Golf Course in Moyock. It was four-man superball, 9:00 A.M. shotgun start. — Hall Lodge

Gatesville

The Compasses is Gatesville 126's new newsletter.

Gatesville Lodge hosted a Gates County Blood Drive January 4. They exceeded their quota by five pints.

The lodge building has been spruced up in Gatesville. The walls are now light blue with white trim. The floor is covered in a dark blue carpet. New tile has gone down in the preparation room, kitchen, and restroom.

Gatesville Lodge donated \$1,000 to the Gates County Schools Foundation. It's the money they earned taking care of traffic at the Masonic Tractor Pull at Morgans Corner last year. — *The Compasses*

Winston-Salem

Salem 289 enjoyed smoked rib eye steaks at their May 2 Annual Past Masters' Night. Twelve past masters were among the crowd of 40 who attended.

Salem Lodge held a Saturday Third Degree June 2, raising four new members. Two of the new Masons were lucky enough to have grandfathers there to actually raise them. — *The Salem Sentinel*

Old Town 751 has recently reached out to kids' programs. They have placed a nonperishable food collection box that helps the Old Town World Academy's Back Pack program. The lodge's Masonic Youth Committee sponsored a steak dinner April 13 to raise money to help the local DeMolay and Rainbow Girls attend area meetings. They also concluded the 2012 edition of Bikes for Books. This year, they gave two bikes each to four elementary schools (plus one extra due to a tie). The program, which has given 43 students bikes over the last few years, rewards improved readers.

Recent failure of a heating and air conditioning unit at Old Town Lodge has set them to thinking about the future. Their emergency fund, built with a legacy gift to the lodge, allowed them to readily replace the unit. But with three other units in place, they are already rebuilding the fund to prepare for other repairs.

James "Mac" Guill, a charter member of Old Town 751, recently got his Diamond Jubilee Award honoring his 60 years Masonic membership. District Deputy Grand Master John Craven made the presentation.

The lodge's pancake supper was held April 27 and their golf tournament April 28. — *On the Level at Old Town Lodge*

Raleigh

James B. Green 735 is having a busy year, as usual. On May 8, the Rainbow Girls fed the lodge in their annual fundraiser dinner. The lodge's chicken barbecue project was a "resounding success," selling 525 plates. They were hosting an appreciation night for local law enforcement and fire fighters June 12. They scheduled three ice cream socials during the summer, one at the lodge (June 16) and one at each of the Masonic Homes (WhiteStone July 14 and MHCO August 18).

The lodge's Annual Family Picnic was scheduled for the Wake County Shrine Club July 21. They were serving hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans, chips, and homemade ice cream. There were to be games supplied by DeMolay and country music playing for the day. They raised their new shed on June 9.

Green Lodge is a studios lot. They were talking about getting involved in the North Carolina Masonic Pig Jig held in Raleigh each year. Rather than just jump into it, this academic bunch set about apprenticing and investigating. They signed on to help and learn from the veteran team at Rolesville 683. According to their newsletter, Jerry Rose "learned many valuable secrets that make him a cunning worker in pork. We are still bearers of burden, however, and our path ahead is still long, but one day we will be able to wear our cooking aprons flowing free, and have the distinguished honor of being Master Barbecue Masons." — *The James B. Green Scene*

Paw Creek

June 30 was a work day for West Gate 738. The 7:00 A.M. rendezvous at the lodge was to do heavy cleaning and some repair. There was lots of work to be done on the gutters with a full cleaning, some repair, and downspout extensions. They were pressure washing the kitchen floor and grills. They were carting off all the clutter that had accumulated in the back. — Gary Cooke

Thomasville

Royal Jarvis has been exploring the city cemetery here. He found the grave of Thomasville 214's first initiate, George Lines.

On May 19, seven members of the lodge visited the city cemetery to do a little work for a long dead Mason and his family. Three graves of William Hanna's family were in disrepair. The crew laid a new base for a fallen tombstone, reerected, and cleaned it. Hanna lived 1800-1870.

Thomasville Lodge sponsored a softball tournament June 30 to benefit the Masonic Home for Children. The USSSA sanctioned tournament was held at Myers Park in Thomasville. It was an official qualifying event for the state title event in Men's Slow Pitch Church League. — Ashley Leonard

Statesville

Wayne Craddock headed up a committee organizing a golf tournament at Fox Den Country Club on behalf of Statesville 27. The May 11 contest raised money to help with Relay for Life, the national drive to raise funds to fight cancer. Mark Carr made and sold quesadillas and put together corn hole games for the same event.

— *The Joppa Informer*

Grand Treasurer Lewis R. Ledford (PGM), a member of Statesville 27, was given the Governor's Award for Excellence in November by Governor Beverly Perdue. The award is the highest honor available for state employees and is given for "outstanding state government service." — *The Steward*



Hamburgers were on the menu for both the Masonic Family teams.



The Shrine Marlins with Shrine Club President J.T. Tharrington and the Corinthian Lodge Athletics with Past Master David Mosley.

Brotherly competition

ROCKY MOUNT — Ever cheer for both teams? Corinthian 230 and the Rocky Mount Shrine Club each sponsor a kids league baseball team here. On May 29, the two teams went head to head. Who won?

They both did. It was a great afternoon of playing ball and, afterward, getting together for a cook-out as one big family. It was a great turnout, with about 60 people, ball players, moms, dads, brothers, and sisters as the two teams were shown the connection between the Shrine and the Masonic Lodge.

This was the fourth year the two groups have sponsored teams, showing community involvement and support, as well as showing that support can be fun. — Barry Mitchell

Washington

Hiram 11 (PHA) invited members of Orr 104 and Washington 675 to visit for their Master Mason Degree May 19.

In May, Orr Lodge chose Brandon Samuel Adams to receive their \$500 scholarship. Adams was a student at Southside High School.

Orr 104 held two clean up days in May, one for the grounds and one for the secretary's office. — Doug Bennett and Ty Carter

Southern Pines

The Ninth Annual R. C. Yoder Memorial Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament is set for August 11 at the Pinewild Country Club in Pinehurst. Southern Pines 484 holds the event to raise money for the scholarships they present local students each year. They also used the April 28 Springfest celebration to hold a fundraiser breakfast and lunch. Thanks to stepped up advertising, they sold a record number of meals this year.

Southern Pines Lodge's 1916 building is now sporting a new brick walk and plaque commemorating the 1897 founding of the lodge.

Recent education programs at Southern Pines Lodge include retired Marine Peter Dotto's views on the nation's future and Chief Deputy Neil Godfrey on how the Moore County Sheriff's Office works.

Jim McKee recently donated his Masonic books to the lodge for use in their reference library. — *The Trestle Board*

Robbinsville

Poorman's potluck was the really vague, no promises menu at Robbinsville 672 on May 8. Bet it was good, though. — Derek Cheek

Clayton

Granite 191 has established a scholarship that will go to a Clayton High School senior each year. The first one was awarded to Will Greene. — David Ellis

Hookerton

Jerusalem 95 presented Leroy Whitfield his Diamond Jubilee saluting his 60 years as a Mason. DDGM Bennie Heath performed the honors.

Endowed members of Jerusalem Lodge were being asked to wear coat and tie to the June 12 meeting of the lodge. They were having their pictures made for a new display planned for the lodge. — *The Jerusalem Journal*

Roseboro

Roseboro 585 held its annual Gospel and Bluegrass Festival May 5. The free event lasted for much of the Saturday afternoon. They make money by selling food and drinks at the festival. — Bruce Rawls

Wilson

In his report to the lodges of the 16th Masonic District, District Deputy Grand Master David Ellis informed the membership that every lodge in the district appointed a Finance and Budget Committee and had prepared a budget and examined the books of their lodges.

Each Lodge in the district has received at least one petition in the past year with several receiving five or more. He also reported that the District Funeral Committee was working well. Within the last 12 months, each funeral they helped with had more than 20 aproned Masons attending. — David Ellis

Asheville

Nichols-West Asheville 650 was hosting an American Red Cross blood drive April 28.

— Jack Barnett

Mount Hermon 118 is blazing along this year having already initiated 14 by mid-year. They've got their coaches working overtime.

The lodge is having their first Fun Day August 4 at Weaver Park in Merrimon. The lodge is furnishing the hot dogs and hamburgers. Members and their families are being asked to bring a covered dish and games.

The Asheville Masonic Temple is having a clean up day every second Saturday. Recent work includes repairs needed after last summer's storms damaged the building. They hope to be completed by September.

The Temple Board is also organizing a Friends of the Temple group to help with events and fundraising.

As for the variety of things going on at the Temple here is the May schedule: May 4-6, Tango Gypsies; May 5, Enchanted Evening; 11-12, Electro Music; 12-13, Rummage Sale; 18, Playback Improve Theater; 19, Garden Club Dinner; and 20, Ann Dunn Dance Recital. You could keep yourself entertained in Asheville without visiting anywhere other than the temple. — *Trestle Board*

Southport

Jim Ragan of Mt. Vernon 359 in Oriental, visited Pythagoras 249 on May 1 for a special privilege. He raised his grandson Josh Schrom.

The new lift at Pythagoras was expected to be in operation July 1. City inspectors slowed the process some in making sure the system was up to snuff.

Master Don Kelley was calling for a major clean up inside and outside the lodge soon after everyone got the Independence Day celebrations out of the way.

Their Annual Fish Fry raised \$2,322 for the Masonic Home for Children. — *Newsletter*

Highlands

Blue Ridge 435 held a Main Street Hot Dog Sale June 30. They find it a "marvelous showcase for the Highlands community" and brag that "without a hint of exaggeration, these are the best hot dogs in the world!"

Blue Ridge Lodge recently presented Mickey Henry his 40-year membership award on behalf of the Grand Lodge of Florida. — *Trestleboard*

Charlotte

Now that Excelsior 261 has finished its new kitchen, their next big project is the entry hall.

Excelsior planned a bus trip to Washington, DC to visit the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. They were going in July when their lodge is usually dark.

Coming up in October, they plan to have a Masonic prom. They are facing prom decisions involving food, entertainment, awards, decorations, and themes.

Excelsior's website has been redesigned. It's a periodic necessity for nearly all web sites.

They were performing their street clean up May 12. — *Trestle Board*

Charles M. Setzer 693 has been working for the charities this year. Their recent raffle of a beach vacation brought in \$2,300 for the Masonic Home for Children. Megan McGivney won the stay in the beach cottage shared with the lodge by Richard and Rose Thompson. Also to benefit the Home for Children is the sale of coupon books. They offer discounts at various sorts of businesses around the community.

Setzer Lodge was holding their Homecoming/Open House July 13. The Saturday afternoon event was to enjoy each other's company and to invite friends who might be interested in joining the lodge. Ten days later, they were joining their neighbors at the Montclair Home Owners Association party. They were setting up a table there to acquaint the neighbors with the lodge.

The local DeMolay Chapter there has been reactivated. Alan Simpson and John Trail are securing help from around the 32nd Masonic District. Their first initiation was expected in late June.

Setzer Master Allan Mann promised to pay \$50 to the lodge each time they surpassed 25 members at a meeting this year. He has since upped the ante to \$100 each time 40 or more attend. — *Trestleboard*

Phalanx 31 held a charity benefit June 16. They had dinner and a show with Joe Edwards performing. — *Mint Hill Lodge*

Derita 715 was celebrating their 700th stated communication June 12. To add special enjoyment to the occasion, David Ludlow was presenting a program on the bagpipe and its relationship with Freemasonry. He was to play a short recital including a number of Scottish Masonic tunes. — *Derita Lodge*

see STATE, page 5

If your lodge has a newsletter for its members, make sure *The North Carolina Mason* is on your mailing list. Lodge newsletters are a major source of news for Masons around the state. If you don't have one, think about starting one. Newsletters are a good way to keep your members active, happy, and informed.

PIG JIG, from page 1

Chicken Division

- First A. S. Hunter 825 PHA (Durham)
 - Second Wake 717 PHA (Raleigh)
 - Third Spurmont 98 (Strasburg, VA)
- Sauce Division
- First NC Grand Lodge AF & AM
 - Second Hiram 40 (Raleigh)
 - Third Riverside 606 (Catawba)

The Masonic Pig Jig returns to Got to Be NC AgFest next year on May 18. We'll bring you details right here. Don't miss the fun or the opportunity to make a little money for your lodge.



Ric Carter photos



Perspective comes from looking backward...

By Al Manning

An excerpt from Waynesville 259 minutes of November 8, 1867:

"On motion Brother Hartgrove was appointed a delegate to represent this lodge in the next meeting of the Grand Lodge of the State of North Carolina and was allowed \$35.00 to defray expenses..."

In those days, being a delegate to a Grand Lodge meeting in Raleigh was not a simple undertaking. Brother Hartgrove was faced with a long and arduous journey by horseback or buggy to the nearest railhead, which in 1867 was Morganton. Today, via I-40, it is approximately 85 miles from Waynesville to Morganton. In those days it was further, as the old road snaked around coming down out of the mountains. He had, at least, a three-day ride, stopping at night at the homes of other Masons, if there were any

along his route, or at local inns, if there were any, or camping out. On finally reaching Morganton, he would have put his horse in the livery stable and caught the train for an all day ride to Raleigh.

After Grand Lodge, which we assume to be for two days, he would reverse the process, and hopefully arrive back in Waynesville some 10-11 days after his departure. \$35 seems to be a lot of money at a time when having the lodge room cleaned cost 50 cents, or chairs for the lodge cost one dollar each. However, considering what this Brother had to go through, I don't think he was overpaid.

In those days, complaints by our Brothers that they have to drive an hour to attend Grand Lodge seem rather pathetic.

Al Manning is a member of Waynesville 259.

VOTES, from page 1

arguments not thought of in analysis or lodge debate arise at the meeting, bringing a different outlook to the proposal. Discuss the votes and suggest the thinking of the lodge. Your delegates should vote in the best interests of your lodge and all Masonry after hearing all discussion.

Amendment Groups 1 and 2 change references to our Masonic Homes that are necessitated by law. The first is a bookkeeping correction missed earlier when the Masonic and Eastern Star Home became WhiteStone. The second removes the reference to lodges reporting on all applications to the Masonic Home for Children. That is now a violation of state and federal privacy laws protecting children.

Group 3 addresses a problem with demits. Demits, quitting the lodge, must be granted by a lodge at the first stated communication after the request is made. With some frequency, demits are asked for rashly or mistakenly. Under current law, they cannot be reconsidered. Getting back into the lodge requires applying, laying over 28 days, and a unanimous ballot. These changes would allow a member three days to reconsider his request for a demit from the lodge.

Due to a renumbering error when a proposal was withdrawn, there is no Group 4.

Group 5 addresses official notifications which are required to be sent by certified or registered mail. At the time these rules were written, US Mail was the only commonly available service which verified delivery. Systems which verify telephone and email are now possible and would satisfy requirements for official notification if we pass this amendment.

Group 6 addresses our tobacco in lodges. The current standard form bylaws in our Code require all lodge to ban smoking during degree work. This change would make that ban include all forms of tobacco. It would also add an optional bylaw form which would guide lodges banning use of all tobacco products in their facility. Tired of people spitting in cups or Pepsi bottles during lodge? This amendment is for you. Need a chew during ritual? You'll want to speak up on this one.

Group 7 is about lodge secretaries reading minutes of previous meetings. While many lodges already appreciate summarization of lodge minutes, this change would make it more explicitly acceptable.

Group 8 would raise the minimum fees for the degrees to \$150 from the current minimum of \$50. The minimum has not been raised since the 1940s. There has been a trend to cheapening Freemasonry in the last 50 or so years. It has sometimes been caused by a fear of losing candidates to other lodges or fear that cost would defer a man from becoming a Freemason. Sometimes sight has been lost of the fact that what we charge for the degrees may signal to outsiders the value we place on the experience. Historically, fees for the degrees have run five to ten times the annual dues of the lodge. If passed, this rule would set the least fees possible, a lodge could charge more if it wished.

Group 9 is a housekeeping issue. It fixes a reference to a balloting change made a couple of years ago, but at the time missed in the necessary changes to other parts of The Code. It concerns the allowed alternative balloting procedure sometimes know as the Royal White Hart Rule.

Group 10 has to do with life memberships. Life memberships are granted by lodges to members who have made outstanding contributions to the lodge. Election forgives the dues of a member for the rest of his life. Currently, election of a life member requires a unanimous ballot of the lodge. This amendment would change the necessary vote to a simple majority.

Group 11 deals, once again, with the question of alcohol in lodge facilities. The primary form would allow lodges to rent facilities to groups

using alcoholic beverages. Use of those beverages would be forbidden in the lodge room. At this point, the rentals urban lodges are missing due to our rules fall into several groups. About a third are wedding receptions. Another third are civic groups holding fundraisers which include drinks. A third more are musical and theatrical performances or recitals which serve drinks during a short intermission.

An alternative form which may be put on the floor is to allow the grand master to offer dispensations to as many as ten lodges to participate in a trial program allowing building use by groups utilizing alcoholic beverages. Such a trial would allow us to make an experienced judgement on the concept. We could find that it alleviates fears of the change, or we could find that it causes too

many problems. Either way, we would be making a more informed decision.

Groups 12 and 13 would create two new awards officially recognized by the Grand Lodge. Those favoring these proposals say there are men in these offices worthy of recognition. Others say that nothing prevents those recognitions now, and The Code is already too bloated to add things not important to our governance. They also fear that adding more and more awards will dilute the importance of the ones already in use.

The exact wording and changes on the amendments is in the hands of your lodge secretary. If you have questions about any of the proposed changes to The Code, contact the grand secretary's office at <grandsecretary@grandlodge-nc.org> or (919) 787-2021.

Know the 2012 players

By Ric Carter

Most Masons don't think too much about Grand Lodge officers until Annual Communication rolls around. Can't tell the players without a program?

Now you'll be able to identify those guys opening and closing the meeting. Here's your program.

Starting just inside the door is Grand Tyler Scott B. Gresham (Albemarle 703) from Albemarle. He'll be helped out by assistant tylers who will be posted outside the several entrances to the meeting room to check your dues card and listen to a whispered password.

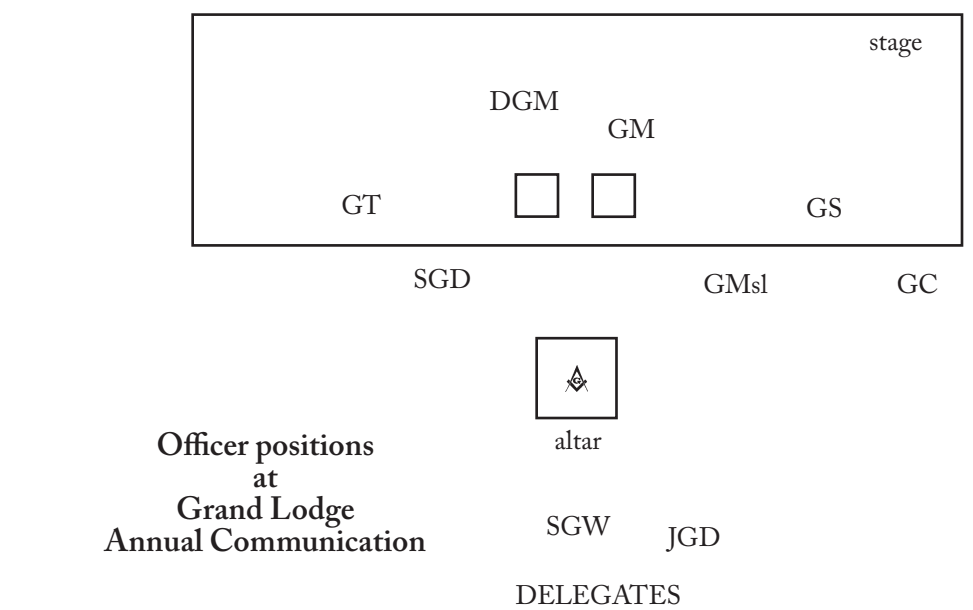
At the front of the auditorium, a lodge room will be set on and before a riser. It is of much the same form as your blue lodge, but with a station or two added. Four officers will be on the stage facing the crowd. Front and center on the stage will be Grand Master (GM) Robert E. Gresham Jr. (Albemarle 703). He was president of Service Distributing Company (SERVCO) before his retirement. Gresham and his wife Carolyn live in Mount Gilead.

On his right will be Deputy Grand Master (DGM) Dewey R. Preslar Jr. (Andrew Jackson 576). Preslar and his wife Terrie live in Salisbury. He retired as a vice president of Food Lion and is now consulting for the state self-insurance service.

On the left side of the stage is Grand Treasurer (GT) Lewis R. Ledford (Statesville 27). Ledford is director of NC State Parks and Recreation. He is the only head of State Parks to rise to that position from the job as park ranger. He and his wife Susan live in Raleigh. Ledford was grand master in 2011.

At the right on the stage is Grand Secretary (GS) T. Walton Clapp III (Mystic Tie 237) who has served in the office since 1997. Clapp resides in Raleigh with his wife Betty (a Presbyterian minister) and daughter Anh.

Seated at the back of the stage in neat rows are special guests and past grand masters. The special guests include officers from state appen-



dant bodies and officers from other grand lodges and Masonic organizations.

The rest of the officers are on the auditorium floor in front of the stage. Facing the stage, with his back to the delegates, you'll find Senior Grand Warden (SGW) Dalton W. Mayo (Hiram 98). Mayo is retired from the faculty of Sampson Community College. He lives in Clinton.

Junior Grand Deacon (JGD) A. Gene Cobb (Royal White Hart 2) sits on Mayo's right. Cobb is minister at St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Sanford where he lives with his wife Brenda. Their children are grown.

On the south side of the floor, to the delegates' right, is Junior Grand Warden (JGW) Douglas L. Caudle (Statesville 27). Caudle and his wife Angela live in Taylorsville. He is president of Piedmont Fiberglass.

At the meeting, Caudle is flanked by the grand stewards. Senior Grand Steward C. Speed Hallman (Eagle 19) is nearest the stage, and Junior Grand Steward Dwight M. Sigmon (Catawba 248) is nearest the delegates. Hallman and his wife Susan live in Hillsborough

and have two teenaged sons. Sigmon and his wife Linda live in Newton and have a grown son and two grand children.

Senior Grand Deacon (SGD) Bryant D. Webster (Nichols-West Asheville 650) sits before the stage in front of the grand treasurer, to the grand master's right. Webster is a lawyer and lives in Black Mountain with his wife (Janet) and daughter.

Another officer in the Grand Lodge line we don't have in the blue lodge progression to master is grand marshal (GMsl). Grand Marshal Jimmie B. Hicks Jr. (St. John's 3) holds that chair beside Grand Chaplain (GC) Joseph L. Hester (Neill S. Stewart 556). Hicks is a lawyer in New Bern. He has a 16-year-old son and 14-year-old daughter. Hester is pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Smithfield.

There, you have it — the starting line up for the 225th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina. Don't get cocky, though. We'll elect new officers at this meeting. They'll be installed in November and take us all, once again, into a new year.

PULL, from page 8

filled parking areas. Track maintenance was done mostly by lodge members on lodge supplied tractors. The Elizabeth City Shrine Club brought more than 25 members to do the cooking. They had a large tent that supplied a wide ranging menu for attendees, competitors, other workers, and sponsors.

Johnson adds, "It is a great way to provide not only an exciting and safe event for the family; it also brings business to an economically depressed area of the state. To stimulate the economy and provide relief to other human beings at the same time is what we as Masons are charged to do each time we leave our stated communications. It's a great way for the community to see how this great fraternity can come together in unity, have fellowship, share in a common cause, and support the community at large."

Several businesses offer sponsorships to help defray the cost of winners' purses and costs of putting on such a big production. Sponsors this year included Presenting Sponsors Duck Thru Stores and Davie Lodge 39; Class Sponsors Biggs Cadillac, Colony Tire, DRS Technologies, the Elizabeth City Visitor and Tourism Bureau, Hall Automotive, and Harrell's Medical Transport; and Sponsors Nucor Steel and Mark's Truck Repair.



Ric Carter photos



SUMNER, from page 8

Church, Guilford Battleground Company, the North Carolina Society of the Cincinnati, Sons of the American Revolution had parts in the ceremony. Masons then held our funeral ceremony presided over by Grand Master Robert E. Gresham. Jay Callaham, of P. P. Turner 746, sounded taps. The park's volunteer fife and drum corps played "Rosslyn Castle," a dirge associated with the funeral of George Washington and other heroes of the Revolution.

Sumner was born in Virginia in 1733 and served in the French and Indian War before moving to Bute (now Warren) County. He is thought to have become a Mason in Royal White Hart 2 well before the Revolution. He was an innkeeper and served as sheriff in Bute County. He was an officer in Blandford-Bute Lodge.

He was commissioned a major in the Halifax militia in 1775. When the Third North Carolina Regiment was formed in 1776, Sumner was put in command. They joined Washington's Army and fought in Brandywine, Germantown, and Monmouth. In 1779, he was promoted to brigadier general and sent south to recruit and train for the Continental Army. Sumner returned to the fray himself in 1781 for the Battle of Eutaw Springs. Sumner survived for some years after the

Revolution and served as one of the first presidents of the Society of Cincinnati. When he died in 1785, he was buried in Warren County. In 1891, the Guilford Battleground Company moved his remains to the Guilford Courthouse Military Park, entombing him under a monument suitable for his status as "one of the Heroes of '76."

The reburial and Masonic funeral service were recognized on the floor of the United States House of Representatives the next day in a speech by Representative Howard Coble, a member of Guilford 656 in Greensboro.



David Duncan photo

STATE, from page 1

Creedmoor

May 5 was the date of Creedmoor 499's Third Annual Car Show. They held it at the Ellington-Brim Chevy dealer. Seeing them all was free. Entering a car cost \$20.

On May 6, Creedmoor Lodge did a fundraiser for the Home for Children in partnership with Texas Roadhouse in Wake Forest. Dropping one's receipt in the hostess basket on the way out netted ten percent of the total for the kids at the Home. — Rick Haskins

Greensboro

The 23rd Masonic District's annual Arthur Johnson Memorial Golf Tournament was held May 19. Played at Holly Ridge Golf Links, the tournament raises money for the Masonic Home for Children Scholarship Fund.

Gate City 694 was having a family open house June 16. Their annual Hot Dog, Hamburger, and Ice Cream Social is a chance for family to come enjoy the lodge and other members and also an opportunity for men interested in joining to learn more. By the way, the ice cream is homemade. — Gary Ballance

P.P. Turner 746 and other lodges who call the Greensboro Masonic Temple home are already planning a joint installation of their officers for mid-December. They plan to make it a day for the public also by conducting tours of their wonderful facility in downtown Greensboro. — P. P. Turner Lodge

Oak Island

On the Saturday before each of their third Thursdays stated communications, Oak Island 758 gets together for breakfast. — Newsletter

On May 26, the lodge sold barbecue plates and delivered pre-sold Boston butts. — Bobby Carmon

Ranger

Montgomery 426 was having its annual picnic/open house May 26. They were smoking Boston butts the day before. — Derek Cheek

Hayesville

Clay 301 will be holding their Annual Barn Degree September 15 at Ronnie Smith's barn in Downings Creek. Dinner and bluegrass music will be at 5:00 P.M. at Downings Creek Baptist Church. The degree begins at 7:00 P.M. — Derek Cheek

Wilmington

St. John's 1 is planning to visit WhiteStone August 18. They will be having lunch and a tour of the Masonic retirement community. — Trestle Board

Kannapolis

Cannon Memorial 626 was holding a Coin and Collectible show at the lodge May 5. Any money they made was earmarked for kitchen and boiler repairs at the lodge. — Thomas A. Etten

They also held a blood drive June 6. — Richard Secoolish

Kernersville

They're having to replace the air conditioning system and insulation at Kernersville 669. They are soliciting donations from their members to cover the \$10,000 expense.

Kernersville Lodge's recent spaghetti dinner brought in \$1,700 for Masonic charities. — The Kernersville Masonic Lodge News

Candler

Hominy 491 held their Ladies' Night Supper May 5.

The lodge picnic was held on June 23. The lodge supplies the hot dogs and hamburgers while members brought covered dishes. — Buddy Taylor

Carthage

Carthage 181 was holding their Annual Fish Fry April 27, benefitting the Masonic Home for Children. — Billy Ray Freeland Jr.

Kinston

St. John's 4 held a Corn Hole Tournament at Festival on the Neuse May 5. Chris Barwick's team won the tournament with Stephens Lawn Care taking second, and Team USA third. Timmy Mooring won the raffled corn hole boards. — Lynn Hill

Cary

Good news for Cary Masons with failing hearing, Cary 198 has installed their new sound system. — Cary Masonic Lodge

Mount Holly

On May 4, the city of Mount Holly named Bobby Blankenship their Man of the Year. Blankenship has been treasurer of Mount Holly 544 for more than 30 years. — Dewayne Gore

Concord

Cabarrus 720 had a Past Masters' Night in May. The old guys raised four new members that night. They have another Past Masters' Night set for October 4.

They held their second Annual Spring Yard Sale May 12. They raised more than \$400 for charity. — Newsletter

Pilot Mountain

Pilot 493 presented its college scholarship this year to one of their own members, and one of the youngest Masons in the state, Cole Carson. — The Pilot Mountain Traveler

Mint Hill

Mint Hill 742 scheduled their Bluegrass/Gospel Fest for Saturday, June 2. The show was to feature the Hinson Girls. Proceeds were to go to Masonic charities.

Mint Hill Lodge is gathering donations to add a defibrillator to the lodge. It will be placed there in memory of Earl and Heath Reynolds.

Want to draw a crowd to one of your meetings? Try this trick from Mint Hill. They had a free supper featuring steak on May 3. One hundred fifty joined them for supper, with 55 staying over for the meeting.

The Trails presented some educational programs May 3. Jacqueline told the lodge about the Salvation Army and the Center of Hope Women's Shelter. John gave them a report on the new DeMolay chapter in town. — Mint Hill Lodge

Bailey

The master and members of Bailey 411 made a special Proclamation of Recognition and Appreciation honoring Horace M. Meacombs for "65 years of service to Bailey Lodge."

Bailey Lodge was pressing their members to be thinking about memorabilia of the lodge for possible inclusion in the Grand Lodge time capsules celebrating our 225th anniversary in November. — Bailey Lodge

Gibsonville

Tabasco 271 raised \$1,800 for charity with their recent golf tournament.

The lodge had their lodge picnic set for June 16. Chuck Chance and Murray Skeen were recently made honorary members of Tabasco Lodge. — Trestle Board

Franklin

Junaluskee 145 held its first Flag Day celebration June 14. Macon County veterans, community leaders, and members of the community came to the lodge to salute the flag. Senior Warden Jim Dautel greeted the nearly 50 guests. Hayden Rogers and Ronnie Beale were guest speakers. They wound it all up with a "good ole American hot dog lunch." — Jim Dautel

Gastonia

Local charities are important to Gastonia 369. They have been working with Relay for Life for several years. They have lately teamed with the Gaston County Women's Shelter. They were doing a workday at the shelter June 2 to take care of facilities. Pressure washer, push brooms, and yard maintenance tools were being supplied by the lodge. — Rick Clanton

Rose Hill

Rehobeth 279 raised \$1,500 with their April 27 fundraiser. — Rehobeth Lodge

Jacksonville

The Onslow County Scholarships this year were to be presented at LaFayette 83 July 17. The recipients of the \$1,200 awards were Erica Gurganus (Jacksonville High School), Morgan Drye (Dixon High), Taylor Scott (Southwest High), Destiny Bengstrom (Jacksonville High), and Samantha South (White Oak High). — Howard Kahn

Selma

Selma 320 was to hold their prize drawing June 5. They were giving away a high definition television and two gift cards. Money raised was going to the scholarships the lodge awards to Johnston County high school seniors each year. — David Ellis

Shallotte

June 29 was the date set for Shallotte 727's Annual Fish Fry. — Newsletter

Marble

Marble Springs 439 is one of the few lodges in the state which holds their regular meetings on Saturdays. Poorman's potluck, ever popular with lodges in the hills, was on tap for their May meeting. — Derek Cheek

Homecoming set for October 12-13

OXFORD — The Masonic Home for Children at Oxford will again bring together two of the most recognizable days on its calendar when they celebrate the second annual Masonic Homecoming Festival October 12-13. This will be the second year of moving what used to be St. John's Day celebration for the state's

Masons to coincide with the Home's Alumni Homecoming. The weekend again honors alumni and their families with a traditional Homecoming celebration while welcoming the state's Masons and other special guests to campus. The state's largest Shrine Parade and entertainment from country legend T. Graham

Brown will headline the weekend. The celebration will include a special opening for Home for Children alumni, the crowning of the homecoming queen, and a number of traditional alumni activities scheduled throughout the weekend. The alumni hosts Chip Shots for Children Charity Golf Tournament kicks-off the weekend on Friday morning. Friday evening the barbecue teams start their weekend of cooking for the public and the glory with a yard party on campus. Everyone is welcome. There will be music by David Quick and Kelly and the Cowboys. The famous Andrew Jackson Lodge Brunswick stew will be served for dinner. Saturday features judging for the Barbecue Cook-Off, a stated communication of Orphans Lodge on campus, the Shrine parade, campus tours, and other alumni activities.

Visit <http://www.mhc-oxford.org/john.html> for barbecue entry rules and application, parade information, entertainment announcements, golf tournament sign-up, and a complete schedule of events. Check the site for updates frequently as preparations for the Second Annual Masonic Homecoming Festival continue. Hope to see you there!



Enjoy a super Shrine parade

GL scholarship winners



LINCOLNTON — Grand Lodge Scholarship winner Dylan Smith was presented his award May 25 at school. The West Lincoln High School student plans to attend Western Carolina University this fall and major in physical therapy. His father Chad Smith and school principal Cale Sain are both members of Cookeville 502. Grand Steward Mack Sigmon presented the award on behalf of the Grand Lodge. — Mack Sigmon



ASHEVILLE — Past Grand Master Berry Rigdon visited Clyde A. Erwin High School here to present one of the Charles Cathey Grand Lodge Scholarships. Morgan Keri Grooms was the proud recipient. — Berry Rigdon (PGM)



T. Graham Brown

Let me help Masonry's charities

- The North Carolina Masonic Foundation
- WhiteStone, a Masonic & Eastern Star Community (MESH)
- The Masonic Home for Children
- Send information about wills and bequests.
- Please have someone contact me.

My name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ My lodge _____

In memory of (optional) _____

Address _____

To assure that your gift is properly credited to the fund of your choice, please make the check payable to that charity.

Mail to The Grand Lodge of North Carolina, PO Box 6506, Raleigh, NC 27628.

WELCOME OUR NEW BROTHERS

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1..... Feinberg, Ryan Mitchell | 176..... Dilbeck, Christopher Andrew | 363..... Austin, Griffith Douglas | 517..... Taylor, Mervin Tugwell | 680..... Chantiles, Stavros Demetrios |
| 1..... Whitwam, Michael Edward | 176..... King, Edwin Watson | 363..... McNeil, Jesse Morgan | 517..... Howard, Robert Alan | 687..... Custar, Graham Taylor |
| 1..... Chestnut Jr., Donald Wayne | 176..... Ragan, David Lee | 363..... Teague, Joshua James | 527..... Watson, Justin Matthew | 687..... Randolph Jr., Wayne Edward |
| 1..... Efstathiadis, Efstathios | 191..... Balenovic, Gordan | 373..... Bryan, Anthony Wayne | 527..... Williams Jr., Clayton Earl | 692..... Frasco, Michael |
| 1..... Jones, Christopher Blair | 191..... Riddick Jr., Thomas Lindsey | 373..... Bryan, Joshua Wayne | 527..... Parrish, Gary Steven | 694..... Brendle, Seth Benjamin |
| 1..... Moore III, Edwin Holt | 198..... Livecchi, Brian Patrick | 373..... Norris, Garrett Vance | 527..... Ward, Stephen Anderson | 695..... Harrel, David Scott |
| 2..... Tripp Jr., Samuel Wesley | 202..... Scruggs, Anthony Wayne | 374..... Ramey, Gary James | 529..... Dockery, Mark Alan | 698..... Barnett, Thomas Brett |
| 3..... Bell, Joshua Adam | 206..... Jackson, Gary Bradley | 375..... Buff, Seth Garland | 535..... Hamrick, John Wesley | 698..... Anderson, Bruce D. |
| 3..... Farmer, Wesley Langton | 206..... Jackson, William Martin | 375..... Wall, Joseph Fred | 535..... Toney, Forrest Yates | 698..... Cox, Bobby Harold |
| 4..... Fordham, George Speight | 206..... Lockamy, Billy Frank | 387..... Rogers, Robert Allan | 542..... Slaughter III, Robert Lee | 699..... Emerson II, Dandridge Neal |
| 13..... Phillips, Chadwick Dalaney | 208..... Puckett, Dennis Eugene | 390..... Brewer, Timothy Allen | 542..... Cardille, Todd Edward | 699..... Hardwick, Forrest John |
| 32..... Parsley, Brian K. | 214..... Francis, Zachary Kevin | 390..... Chilton, Edward Clayton | 543..... Crews, Jeremy Kevin | 701..... Parker, Matthew Nathaniel |
| 40..... Barnes, Anthony Eugene | 217..... Lonon, Rodger Dale | 390..... Darden, Robert James | 543..... West, Eric Warren | 704..... Farmer, William Floyd |
| 40..... Geist, William Michael | 217..... McNeely, Marty Alan | 390..... Darden, William Ellison | 554..... McKinney, Ethan Cole | 707..... Gibble, James Brian |
| 40..... Jones, Stewart Christopher | 218..... Gadke, Brandon Hess | 391..... Brown, John Barron | 565..... Bass, Charles Ryan | 708..... Spruill, Chad Lee |
| 40..... Perry, Jonathan Neil | 218..... Hopping, Albert Earl | 391..... Everitte, Charles Wayne | 565..... Rogers, Brandon Lee | 708..... Uvalle, Marcos Antonio |
| 53..... Dennis, James Felix | 218..... Marshall, Michael Patrick | 391..... Hill, Brian Glynn | 573..... Ellis, Derek Royce | 708..... Dorsey, Jason Osborne |
| 53..... Howle, Andrew Wilds | 231..... Midkiff, James Talmage | 391..... Cooper, Christopher Lee | 576..... Cole, Joshua John | 713..... Smith, Donald Richard |
| 59..... Jett, Benson Curtis | 231..... Williams, Robert Steven | 391..... Hamilton, Joshua Kirby | 576..... Bryant, Sanford Ray | 717..... Parmelee, Richard John |
| 64..... Berry, Charles | 243..... Braswell, Jordan Ivan | 391..... Pugsley, James Leonard | 576..... Vick, Tyler Kenneth | 717..... Riddle, Martin Eugene |
| 64..... Wright, Travis A. | 243..... Brinson, Anthony Keith | 391..... Woolfolk, Garland Jon | 578..... Clawson, Tyler Wayne | 720..... Goodermote Jr., James Walter |
| 76..... Kraft, David Allen | 243..... White, Joshua Earl | 397..... Owens, Steven Christopher | 578..... Davis, James Thomas | 720..... Hunt, Cory Adam |
| 81..... Brasch, Timothy Michael | 248..... Davis, Allen Trent | 407..... Absher, Jonah Bryce | 578..... Wilson, Brian Keith | 720..... Rinehardt, Taylor Wilson |
| 81..... Heath, Floyd Allen | 248..... Mazzocchio, Jason Arron | 407..... Blackburn, Derrick Neal | 579..... King, Hunter Webb | 722..... Haynes, Matthew Robert |
| 81..... King, Robert Allen | 249..... Schrom, Joshua Craig | 409..... Booth, Adam Lee | 579..... Miller, Caleb Kenneth | 722..... Wall, Douglas Cleveland |
| 81..... Paschal, Doug | 253..... Maynor, Timothy Dean | 409..... Brotherton, David | 583..... Gray, James David | 725..... Fedchenko, Jeffrey Alexander |
| 81..... Sanderson, Christopher Scott | 253..... Whitt, Donald Riley | 409..... Hunter, William Marc | 585..... Dew, Michael | 725..... Jeter, Donald Gene |
| 81..... Eimer, Justin Thayne | 261..... Fernandes, Alexandre de Andrade | 412..... Patsfield, David John | 590..... Hoffman, Dustan Jennings | 725..... Martin, Timothy Michael |
| 81..... King Jr., Felix Darrell | 261..... Pettit, Clay Eugene | 412..... Logan, Douglas Paul | 590..... McLean, Cameron Blake | 725..... Byrd, Jeffery Henderson |
| 81..... Ward Jr., Stephen Derrick | 262..... Tompkins, Glenn Edward | 412..... Wilkins, Holden Lee | 590..... Rhyne, Richard Pence | 725..... Miller, Bryan Swain |
| 83..... Melsoni, Charles David | 262..... Penley, Todd Dean | 413..... Moore, Junius Gregory | 592..... Early, Eric Mark | 725..... Morrow, Clifton |
| 83..... Casebier, Kenneth Randall | 265..... Eakin, Christopher Robert | 423..... Edwards, Robert Allen | 596..... Ellis, Clyde Lendon | 725..... Christie, Andrew Ronald |
| 84..... Wilson, Rodney A. | 271..... Carter, James Oakes | 426..... Edmondson, James Russell | 596..... Spivey, David Allen | 725..... Sweat, Randy Lee |
| 85..... Hill, James Scott | 271..... Jones, Vernon Salle | 426..... McMillan Jr., Dallas Frank | 596..... Watts, Ricky Banks | 727..... Alderman, Eric Lee |
| 85..... Milks, Keith D | 271..... Rogers, Bennie Green | 427..... Howe, Tyler Barrett | 606..... Morrison, Travis Garrett | 727..... Dixon, Jeremy Clifton |
| 98..... Boyette, Kenneth Ray | 271..... Tilden, Robert Jay | 428..... Scott, Samuel Cephus | 618..... McKenzie Jr., Billy Darrell | 727..... Smith, Joseph |
| 104..... Moore, Jonathan Mccray | 277..... Ryan, Christopher Michael | 428..... Sluder, Charles Thomas | 618..... Nash, David Gordon | 727..... Smith, William J. |
| 106..... Arnold, Daren Ray | 283..... Parks, Andy L. | 435..... Henry, Timothy Chris | 618..... Nash, John Robert | 730..... Holland, Michael Lee |
| 106..... Chase, Kevin Robert | 289..... Barrett, Samuel Nelson | 446..... Reynolds, Coren Paul | 624..... Bell, Arthur Jordan | 732..... Barr, Steven Harrison |
| 109..... Humphries, Kenneth Ward | 289..... Perry, Daniel Dean | 446..... McCaslin, Donnie Wayne | 629..... Cooke, Daniel Kirby | 735..... Hale, Wesley Garrett |
| 112..... Delbridge, Matthew Leonard | 289..... Trawick, Evan M. | 446..... Bryson III, Frank Marion | 646..... Guy Jr., James Riley | 735..... Marshburn, Bradford Leon |
| 114..... Barfield, Brent Edward | 289..... Varney, Eric Victor | 446..... DeHart, Paul Thomas | 654..... Wagoner, Michael Edward | 735..... Mazzoleni, Ruben Humberto |
| 118..... Cooper, Brian Edward | 292..... Wilson, Joseph Lee | 446..... Edwards, Kenneth Amos | 656..... Medlin, Thomas Haywood | 735..... Murphy, James Michael |
| 118..... McDivitt, Tadd Everett | 302..... Colombo, Phillip Wayne | 446..... Emory, Ricky Charles | 656..... Phillips, William Clyde | 736..... Dail, Dennis Wayne |
| 118..... Rutherford, Eric | 302..... Freeman, Donnie Steve | 447..... Aycok, Steven Dale | 656..... Caldwell, Steven Dwight | 737..... Cecil, Charles Eddie |
| 118..... Lloyd, Chad Anthony | 302..... Lamancusa, Anthony Thomas | 454..... Norman, Stewart Tyler | 657..... Boshuizen, Christopher Ryan | 739..... Chakra, Ronny |
| 125..... Warren, Brian Douglas | 302..... Toler, Michael Justin | 459..... Rogers, James William | 657..... Walker, Travis Ray | 741..... Taylor, Brian Keith |
| 126..... Smith, Stephen Andrew | 304..... Canady, Jeremy Howard | 461..... Kirkland, Wyman Rexall | 663..... Lunsford, Jamie Michael | 741..... Grow, Michael Glen |
| 129..... Brannock, Seth Adam | 314..... Burnham, Joshua Allen | 461..... Komst, Christopher Earl | 667..... Boyd Jr., Herschel Lee | 742..... West, Lewis Albert |
| 132..... Merrill, Robert Franklin | 317..... Massey, James Kevin | 461..... Lee II, Barry Scott | 667..... Lambo, William Ernest | 746..... Miller II, Richard Andrew |
| 134..... Brown, James Clayton | 317..... Priebe, Erik Edward | 461..... Talavera, Ruben | 667..... Stanfield, William Nicholas | 749..... Burch, Clay Franklin |
| 134..... Myers, Brian Scott | 319..... Hoff, Michael Martin | 463..... Bedsole Jr., Clark Clifford | 667..... Goodman, Jason Richard | 749..... Meagher, Benjamin Matthew |
| 138..... George, William Elias | 319..... Taylor, James Oran | 471..... Gadbois, Ricky Lee | 667..... Kenny, Padraic Francis Harold | 749..... Schofield, William Robert |
| 138..... Goff, Robert Granberry | 319..... Toole, Sharlan Alexander | 471..... Lewis, Travis Dale | 667..... Maggard, Tommy Wayne | 750..... Crowder, Stanley Worth |
| 138..... Herring, Nicholas Edward | 322..... Riffe, Michael Cary | 471..... Pevette, Joseph Charles | 667..... Nuss, Benjamin L. | 751..... Sanders, George Giffen |
| 138..... Jasper, Timothy Clayton | 322..... Ring, Jerry Joseph | 482..... Bennison, Timothy Paul | 667..... Wallace, Jacob Alan | 752..... Abbott, Thomas Dean |
| 138..... Morton, Nathan Todd | 322..... Smith, Garrett Travis | 482..... Freeman, Brannon Mitchell | 669..... Oringderff, John Scott | 756..... Eavers, Thomas Michael |
| 143..... Johnson, Clarence Horton | 343..... Turner, Robert Wilson | 482..... Guice, David McKinley | 670..... Powell, Matthew Tyler | 756..... Quatrone, Alex Raymond |
| 145..... Farmer, Brian Lee | 343..... Bowman, Dennis Scott | 492..... Fogleman, Jeffrey Lynn | 670..... Spake, David Claude | 756..... Walker, William Lee |
| 145..... Ledford, Brandon Scott | 343..... Kirk, John Frank | 493..... Apple, Leon Edward | 670..... Holder, Brooks Irwin | 757..... Bennett, Marsol Scott |
| 147..... Warfield, Jason Eric Alan | 343..... Lineberger, Matthew Arlee | 493..... Carson, Richard Cole | 670..... Morton Jr., Bobby Gene | 757..... Champury, Richard Adam |
| 147..... White, Patrick Gaston | 343..... McClure, Andrew Paul | 496..... Vitanza, Anthony Santino | 674..... Thomas, Robert Lester | 759..... Newman, John Joseph |
| 150..... Griffin, Samuel David | 343..... Menzel, Ulf Klaus | 499..... Foley, Matthew Marchioni | 674..... Tuttle, Timothy Phillip | 759..... St. Clair III, Duncan David |
| 151..... Nicol, Matthew Brian | 344..... Davis, Joshua Allen | 499..... Brinkley, William Michael | 675..... Radcliffe, Marvin Wayne | 759..... St. Clair, Michael Duncan |
| 151..... Teel, Dillon William Lester | 344..... Payne, Robert Otis | 499..... Thoman, Kurt Kyle | 676..... McCormick, Robert Gordon | 759..... Capps II, Harold William |
| 162..... Moxley, Billy Joe | 356..... Beatty, Brian Charles | 500..... McKaig, Jesse Scott | 679..... Kersey, Donny Lee | 762..... Covington, Kevin Leon |
| 162..... Wagoner, Jacob Alexander | 356..... Tysinger, Daniel Albert | 500..... Wood, Marvin Tad | 680..... Barnes, Alfonso | 762..... House, John Wesley |

WhiteStone's 100th

GREENSBORO — As many are aware, WhiteStone: A Masonic and Eastern Star community is about to turn 100 years old this year. Officially incorporated in 1912, with operations starting a year later in 1913, there is no doubt that making it to the century mark is a remarkable accomplishment that the community shares with other well-known American icons turning 100 this year such as Chevrolet, Girl Scouts of America, and Boston's Fenway baseball park. Making it this far is a testament to the dedication and efforts through the years of the hundreds of thousands of Masonic and Eastern Star members. However, with this tremendous legacy, comes the responsibility and an expectation to ensure success of this great institution for the fraternal generations to follow.

As WhiteStone moves into its next century of dedicated service, the Board of Directors, and staff have been hard at work these past few years imple-

menting their strategic plan to ensure that the community continues to be at the forefront of providing excellent retirement living, a benevolent charity, and quality nursing care. As a prime example of this commitment to preserving its heritage by ensuring the best in retirement living for its residents going forward, WhiteStone will officially kick off its 2012-2013 centennial celebration on August 11 (1:00-3:00 P.M.), in which all Masons and Eastern Star members, family members, and neighbors are invited to join residents and staff, for the exciting grand opening of its new independent living apartment complex, new fellowship hall, beauty salon, coffee shop bistro, and arts and crafts area, to go along with its recently renovated dining room, kitchen, and clubhouse. WhiteStone is undergoing a remarkable transformation, and we are anxious to showcase the changes to our campus.

— WhiteStone



President McKinley learns of the Craft

When asked of Masonry, President William McKinley explained: "After the battle of Opequam, I went with the surgeon of our Ohio regiment to the field where 5,000 Confederate prisoners were under guard. As soon as we passed the guard, the doctor shook hands with a number of prisoners and began passing out his roll of bills. On the way back to camp I asked him, 'Did you know those men?'"

'No'

'But you gave them a lot of money, do you expect to get it back?'"

'If they are able to pay me back, they will. It makes no difference to me; they are brother Masons in trouble and I am only doing my duty.'

I said to myself, 'If that is Masonry, I will take some of it myself.'" — Alfonse Cerza

MILEPOSTS



BLACK MOUNTAIN — Roderick MacRae was recently presented his Diamond Jubilee Award for 60 years Masonic membership. The Black Mountain 663 member is seen here, right, getting the award from Black Mountain Senior Warden Hank Hilliard. — John Burchfield



CASAR — On June 7, Casar 579 presented J.W. Hunt a coach's award. Grand Steward Mack Sigmon, left, is seen here presenting Hunt's recognition for his 50 years of coaching candidates through their catechisms. — Eric Newton



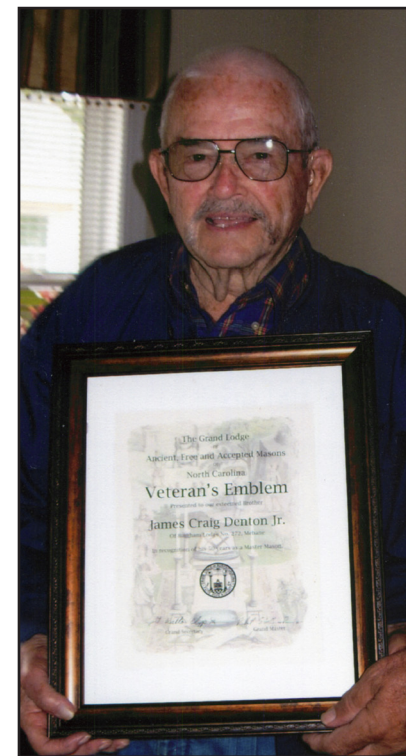
PIKEVILLE— Harmony 340 recently gave Dewey Pate, center, his Diamond Jubilee for 60 years Masonic membership. The presentation was made by District Deputy Grand Master Ricky Stroud at the lodge's Past Masters' and Widows' Night. — Doug Lancaster



BLACK MOUNTAIN — On May 7, two Black Mountain 663 members received service awards honoring their years of Masonic service. Thirty-ninth Masonic District Deputy Grand Master Ron Reece, left; presented Waylon Thomas, center, his Veterans' Emblem for 50 years membership; and Cliff Longcoy, right, his Diamond Jubilee for 60 years membership. — John Burchfield



TABOR CITY — William H. Stevens, center, of Tabor 563 recently received his Diamond Jubilee Award honoring his 60 years as a Mason. Seen here with him are lodge Master Gene Burroughs Jr., left, and PDDGM Gary Bass. — Len Fipps



MEBANE — Bingham 272 recently presented James Denton Jr. his Veteran's Emblem for 50 years Masonic membership on behalf of the Grand Lodge. — James Oakley



BURGAW — King Solomon 138's annual outdoor degree on the banks of the Cape Fear River was rained out back on March 31. They had to move indoors, but continued their work of raising five new Masons, from left: Bill George III, Robert Goff, Clay Jasper, Nick Herring, and Nathan Morton. It was only the second rainout in the degree's 12 year history. — Keith Batson



HAYESVILLE — Clay 301's Anderson Brothers both got service awards last year. Jack, left, got his Veteran's Emblem for 50 years as a member. Ray, right, got his Diamond Jubilee for 60 years membership. Their late father, Glenn, was a 30-plus-year member of Clay Lodge. — Ray Anderson



ALBEMARLE — At Grand Master Gresham's last district meeting on May 30, the Board of Custodians presented Billy F. Love, right, a special award honoring his 50 years as a certified lecturer. Love, a member of Stokes 32 in Concord, is North Carolina's 13th certified lecturer to achieve this award. He is seen here receiving the certificate from Grand Lecturer Luigi Ammons, left, and Grand Master Robert E. Gresham. — Mack Sigmon



REIDSVILLE — Grand Master Robert E. Gresham Jr. presented three service awards during his May 1 district meeting at Jefferson Penn 384. He presented Veteran's Emblems honoring 50 years membership to Milton Lewis Bailey and Lodge Master John Paul Jones VI of Jefferson Penn 384. He presented Dan River 129's Charles Garland Rakestraw his Diamond Jubilee for 60 years in the lodge. Seen here, from left, are Bailey, Rakestraw, Gresham, and Jones. — Paul Tutherford



WENDELL — At their April 14 Past Masters' Banquet, Wendell 565 had an interesting dual presentation. James Baker Jr., left, presented his son, James Baker III, right, a past master apron honoring his office last year. As soon as he was done, James III presented his dad his Veteran's Emblem saluting his 50 years of lodge membership. Thelma Baker (mother and wife), center, participated in both. — Raymond A. Burch



David Duncan photo

Masonic hero gets rites at reburial

By Ric Carter

GREENSBORO — In May 1782, retired tavern-keeper and general Jethro Sumner became one of the first Masons to call for establishment of new governing body for Freemasonry in North Carolina. He was speculating where North Carolina Masons might find the authority to charter lodges now that they had lost connection with Grand Lodge of England. His questions came during a meeting of Blandford-Bute Lodge (now Johnston Caswell 10). He died just a few years later, well before the founding of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina.

These days, although well-known to historians, his name has not often been brought into Masonic discussions. At least not until March of this year when an auto accident in Greensboro destroyed his tomb at Guilford Courthouse National Military Park. The copper box containing

his remains, exposed by the wreck, were removed for safe keeping. Planning immediately began to replace his memorial and grave. Several organizations were contacted to participate in honoring the reinterment of this hero of the Revolution. Greensboro Masons, the North Carolina Sons of the American Revolution, and the NC Society of the Cincinnati were enlisted to honor their brother. Phillip Bialek of Greensboro 76 helped organize the proceedings.

At 11:00 A.M. May 30, a large contingent of citizens gathered at the Battlefield and marched in procession from the visitor's center to Sumner's burial site. There, they gathered at the repaired memorial. Representatives of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Episcopal

see SUMNER, page 5

First District Masons pull a fast one for charity

By Ric Carter

MORGANS CORNER — The Masons of the First Masonic District remind the world that Freemasonry is not about only quiet contemplation and self fulfillment. It can also be a raucous, dirt flinging, smoky display of power watched by families with coolers in oversized trucks, and young couples in tight jeans and camo, piercings, and tats.

Perquimans 106 promotes the event, but they enlist the rest of the lodges in the district to help make it happen. The profits they bring in, more than \$11,000 last year, go to charities around the community. 2012 figures are not in yet, but In 2011, they gave \$2,500 to the Food Bank of the Albemarle; \$1,500 each to Perquimans County School Foundation and Elizabeth City Pasquotank Public School Foundation; \$1,000 each to the School Foundations of Chowan, Gates, Camden, and Currituck counties; \$1,000 to the Salvation Army; and \$500 to Benjamin House.

The 2012 pull happened June 1-2. Friday night, threatening weather kept the crowds down to about 500, but the pull went on dry and otherwise unaffected. Saturday night though was a "make up for it crowd" when more than 2,300 folks came filling the grandstands and chairs in the back of pickups.

According to First District Deputy Grand Master Phil Johnson, "Perquimans Lodge 106 uses this event as the only fund raiser they have all year. They already meet or exceed the goal contributions (\$25 per member) to our Masonic Charities each year, so all the proceeds go to sup-

port local charities in our local communities."

Eight lodges brought more than 30 workers to make things move smoothly. You could spot the working Masons by their day-glo green t-shirts sporting a large square and compasses. There were cars to be parked, and a gate to be manned, and traffic to be directed through the

see PULL, page 5



Nancy Perry signs autograph for a fan.



Ric Carter photos

The annual tractor pull is popular with local youth.

In this issue of The NC Mason



page 1

Annual Communication coming September 21-22



page 1

Seventh Annual Pigjig draws thousands



page 8

Revolutionary Mason Sumner reburied



page 8

The First District held their tractor pull again

On the cover

There were a wide variety of cookers and styles seen at the Seventh Annual Carolina Masonic Pig Jig in May. (Ric Carter photo)

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The Mason

Pig Jig brings thousands

First District pulls for charity

Annual Communication details

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