



# NORTH CAROLINA The Mason

Official Publication of The Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina

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July/August 2016



Ric Carter photos

The degree team is taking one last run-through of their floor work before the candidates are presented.

## A night of mystery for candidates in the Sixth

*By Ric Carter*

HOOKERTON — On May 21, the weather looked sure for a good soaking in the immediate future. The previous several days had set the trend and soaked the ground. Still, the officers of Jerusalem 95 steeled themselves and proceeded with the Sixth Masonic District's Second Annual Outdoor Degree.

They returned to a skeet shooting range in the countryside not too far from Hookerton. There, at the end of a long farm path, past tylers posted to check traffic, their rustic lodge furniture was laid out in a large clearing in the woods. Tarps were staked out to cover much of the lodge floor to prevent daubing with untempered mud.

The weather, though, was benevolent. The skies sported only a light and patchy cloud cover. Sixty-five Masons from around the region braved the forecasts and enjoyed a cool, clear night of fellowship and outstanding ritual.

Bethel 589 Master Greg Giles headed up a cooking team from his lodge. They barbecued pigs to feed the attendees.

To make sure they beat any weather interference, they started early, not long before sunset. Among those opening the lodge were Master Charlie Hall, Senior

Warden Charles Chapman, Junior Warden J. K. Hall, Senior Deacon Johnny McLawhorn, Junior Deacon Ted Sauls, and Tyler Jordan Braswell. They were mostly from Jerusalem 95. They performed the first section of the degree on Greenville candidates Robert Tetterton for Bethel 589, and Rohan Parekh and Chad Van Etten for Crown Point 708.

Jerusalem 95's J. K. Hall was the operative craftsman who created the outdoor lodge furnishings. As his lodge was hosting and is the oldest lodge in the district (chartered 1827), they wanted the outdoor degree to have a rural, antique flavor. Preparation room and entrance doors were set up in the field. They came from a century-old



The degree team prepares for the second section.

see SIXTH, page 8

**Annual Communication is coming up September 23–24 in Winston-Salem — details begin on page 2.**

Coming September 23–24 to Winston-Salem

# Annual Communication on the horizon

By Ric Carter

WINSTON-SALEM — The 229<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina is scheduled for September 23–24. When Grand Master Bryant D. Webster presides at our 2016 Annual Communication in Winston-Salem, bring food. Webster is pushing support for food banks across the state this year. You are asked to bring at least ten cans of food (or ten dollars if you must) which will be collected by Food Bank trucks at the meeting.

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. Other voters are the committeemen and officers of the Grand Lodge and its districts.

Workshops and committee meetings held before the official sessions will be at the Twin City Quarter on Thursday, September 22. The Lodge Secretary's Workshops will be held there at 10:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M. Thursday.

All voting sessions will be held in the Twin City Quarter's Grand Pavilion Friday and Saturday, September 23–24. Lodge officers are asked to bring and wear their aprons for all business sessions. All Masons must present their dues card and give the password to enter business sessions.

Credentials have already been sent to your lodge. Please do not mail your credentials to the Grand Lodge office. You must present them at the registration desk to receive ballots and other essential information and materials. You may register in the main lobby on Thursday and outside the Grand Pavilion on Friday and Saturday mornings. In order to vote, you must have your credentials, and you must register. Again, do not return your credentials to the Grand Lodge office.

Grand Master Webster will open



Ric Carter photo

It's time to participate in the governance of our Grand Lodge.

the first session at 10:00 A.M. on Friday morning. That's when you'll see the formal opening and welcoming of special guests. Grand Orator David B. Sentelle, a member of Excelsior 261 in Charlotte, will make the keynote address. Sentelle is a Senior United States Circuit Judge of the United States Court of Appeals

for special service. Grand Master Webster will name a third Montfort Medalist for his year. It is expected that a Foundation development director will be introduced.

Downtown Winston-Salem has lots of restaurants, so you can find a place you like for the lunch break within easy

Some voting will take place on Friday afternoon. We usually break about 4:30 P.M. on Friday.

For you late-night types, there are several restaurants and night spots along the streets around the hotel for you to spend your evening with friends and brothers.

Business resumes on Saturday morning at 9:00 A.M. when the last day of the session opens. Prestonian Lecturer Richard Berman will speak during the morning. The budget for 2017 will be debated, honed, and adopted. More proposed amendments and resolutions will be considered during the session. An analysis of those proposals starts on page four of this issue of *The North Carolina Mason*. We will also adopt a budget for the year. We will elect Grand Lodge officers. Business is generally concluded around noon.

The Twin City Quarter is located at 301 West Fifth Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27101. The hotel is taking reservations now. You may reach them at (800) 320-0934 or <<http://tinyurl.com/GL-room2016>>. Be sure to specify that you are with the Masonic Grand Lodge so you may get our special rate.

We hope to see you there!



for the District of Columbia Circuit.

The rest of the morning, a number of reports will be read and others submitted for the record without reading. During the day-and-a-half of the session, we will also recognize several members

walking distance of the hall.

A memorial service for those Masons who died in the past year will follow the call from refreshment to labor. The Grand Master's Report is next. Other reports will also be received.

# Your guide to the Grand Lodge officers

By Ric Carter

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

We'll help you identify those guys opening and closing the meeting. Here's your program.

Starting just outside the divider is Grand Tyler D. L. Webster (Knap of Reeds 158) from Durham. He is the grand master's father. He'll be helped out by assistant tylers who will be posted at 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 in front of the stage. It has 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) Bryant D. Webster (Nichols-West Asheville 650). Webster and his wife Janet live in Black Mountain with their teen-aged daughter. Webster is an attorney with the law firm Stone and Christy.

On his right will be Deputy Grand Master (DGM) A. Gene Cobb Jr. (Royal White Hart 2). 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 left side of the stage is Grand Treasurer (GT) Lewis R. Ledford (Statesville 27). Ledford is executive director of the National Association of State Park Directors. He and his wife Susan live in Raleigh. Ledford was grand master in 2011.

On the right of 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 high school student 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 appendant 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, you'll find Senior Grand Warden (SGW) Jimmie B. Hicks Jr. (St. John's 3). Hicks is a lawyer in New Bern. He has a grown son and college student daughter.

Junior Grand Deacon (JGD) Shaun Bradshaw (Stokesdale 428) sits on Hicks' right. Bradshaw runs a software consulting firm. He and his wife Sharon live in Greensboro. They have a son 20 and daughter 18.

On the south side of the floor, to the delegates' right, is Junior Grand Warden (JGW) Speed Hallman (Eagle 19). Hallman and his wife Susan live in Hillsborough. They have two grown sons. Hallman is senior director of development for the UNC Eshelman School

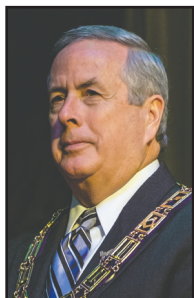
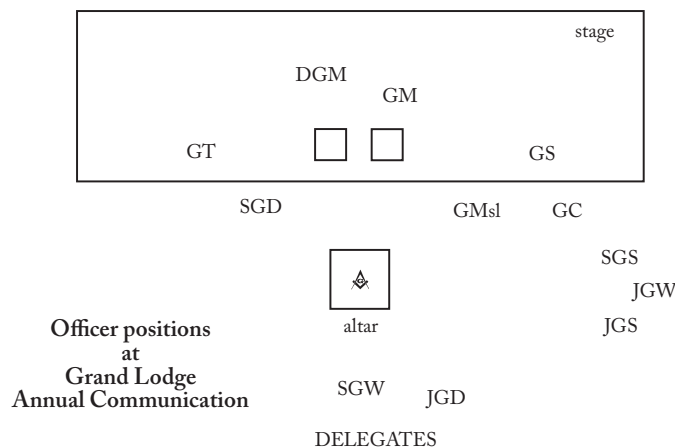
of Pharmacy at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. ard Kevan D. Frazier (Mount Hermon 118) is nearest the delegates. Thompson is an environmental supervisor. He and his wife Angela have six children ranging from one year old to more than 18 years old. They live in Salisbury. Frazier is executive director of Western Carolina University's Graduate and Professional center in Asheville.

Senior Grand Deacon (SGD) Dwight M. "Mack" Sigmon (Catawba 248) sits before the stage in front of the grand treasurer, to the grand master's right. Sigmon and his wife Linda live in Newton and have a grown son and three grandchildren. Sigmon is retired from GE.

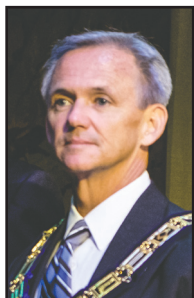
Another officer in the Grand Lodge line we don't have in the blue lodge progression to grand master is grand marshal (GMsl). Grand Marshal R. David Wicker (Oak Grove 750) holds that chair beside Grand Chaplain (GC) Henry C. Hilliard (Black Mountain 663). Wicker is a lawyer. He and his wife Susan have three nearly grown children and live in Oxford.

At the meeting, Hallman is flanked by the grand stewards.

Senior Grand Steward Larry B. Thompson Jr. (Blackmer 127) is nearest the stage, and Junior Grand Stew-



GS Clapp



SGW Hicks



DGM Cobb



GM Webster



GMsl Wicker



SGW Hallman



GT Ledford



GSt Thompson



SGD Sigmon



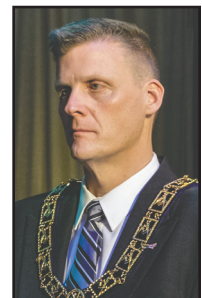
GC Hilliard



GTy Webster



JGD Bradshaw



GSt Frazier

Mike Harding/Genesis Group photos

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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.

## Burchfield receives Montfort Medal

ASHEVILLE — On May 26, John Marvin Burchfield was named a Joseph Montfort Medalist. The Montfort is the highest honor which can be conferred on a Mason by our Grand Lodge. Grand Master Bryant Webster was making his last District Meeting at his home lodge, Nichols-West Asheville 650 when he made the announcement of the award.

Burchfield is currently secretary of Black Mountain 663 and master of Veritas 769 and also a member of Nichols-West Asheville 650, Mt. Hermon 118, and Lux Libertas UD. He is past master of several of them and is serving as grand lecturer. He is a past district deputy grand master and lecturer. He is a retired law enforcement officer and currently an author. Webster says he was chosen "because of his extraordinary leadership in the 39<sup>th</sup> Masonic District and beyond."

The Montfort Medal is given for "distinguished Masonic service or achievement." A grand master may present only three during his term in office. Grand Master Webster's third will be presented during Annual Communication.



Mike Harding photo

Burchfield, left, accepts Montfort from Webster.

## Amendments we will consider

Here is a short recap of the year's proposed amendments to *The Code*. It is an effort to simplify and summarize the proposals in plain language. It is far from exhaustive, but intends to give you a better understanding of the changes offered and their possible repercussions. Full details of the proposed *Code* changes are available from your lodge secretary.

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

Following are the proposals to be considered at this year's meeting.

### An investment in Masonry

*By Jonathan Underwood*

What is Masonry worth to you? What value would you place on becoming a member of our fraternity?

This September an amendment will come before our Annual Communication proposing that the initiation fee of a petitioner for the degrees of Masonry should be three times the amount of a lodge's annual dues.

Currently, our minimum initiation fee of \$50 is unchanged since 1970 — almost a half century.

**Group 1** would require that a district deputy grand master be a member of a lodge in which he serves. *The Code* currently requires that he live in the district, but our districts are not defined by geographic or political boundaries, but by grouping lodges. It is very unlikely that a grand master would name a man DDGM who lived too far from the district to properly serve the office.

**Group 2** would allow committee members live outside the political boundaries of the state. We currently have members who live in other states, but are within our jurisdiction due to living closer to one of our lodges. For example, Virginia concedes its residents to petition North Carolina lodges when our lodge is closer to the man's home. Further, the "reside in NC" rule was made in the days

■ see AMEND, page 8

Many have dismissed this amendment's formula as exorbitant and unrealistic. Amid a few nods of approval, reactions to the amendment tend to include, "No one will pay that amount;" "That cost will keep potential members away;" "I never paid that much;" and "We're a poor lodge/community, that cost is unreasonable."

■ see WORTH, page 9

## BUILDING A STRONGER FOUNDATION



# It can happen to you, but it shouldn't

By Bryant D. Webster  
Grand Master

Have you ever considered going NPD, or perhaps demitting? I have a confession to make: I once thought about quitting Masonry. Not recently mind you; it was a long time ago. I was attending my home lodge regularly, and, for a period of about a year, we did nothing. Our ritual was weak at best; we struggled to open and close the lodge properly. We had no Masonic education. We had no meals, except for degrees, and those were few and far between. We opened the lodge, read the old minutes, paid any bills due, dealt with any items of required business, and then read the minutes and went home. We painfully plodded through that suggested agenda in the *Bahnson Manual*, even though we almost never had any of the items of business prescribed. The bad news: it was awful; the good news, if you could consider it that, was we were done in under 45 minutes. Because of the conditions, I had little interest in arriving early or hanging around after; there was little spirit of brotherhood to be had. Unfortunately, I suspect there are Masons reading this for whom this is not abstract or unfamiliar.

So, why did I stay? Initially, it was because of personal engagement. I had promised an officer in our line that I would be there to support him in any way as he progressed through the line. Due to that commitment, I could not leave at the time I was most dissatisfied. Unfulfilled or not, I had to attend and help because I had promised. However, it began to dawn on me that I could make a difference, if incrementally. I began to help with meals. I began to report on our charities. I continued to attend, and encouraged others to attend. We began to have sporadic Masonic education. Things began to improve very slowly. We got new members, and they helped us continue the improvement. We began to work on and improve our building. We began to fundraise for our charities. We started having special events such as awards night and a holiday banquet. Little by little, over many years, it became a lodge of which we can all be proud. Today, our lodge is thriving, filled with men young and old who are proud of their Masonry. When our lodge hosted a district meeting May 26, our building, our ritual, our meal, and our fellowship shone like Masonic jewels.

What can we learn from my near miss?

1. Having good programs is essential if we are to keep our members engaged. Regular meals of good quality, an atmosphere of love and fellowship, Masonic education, and interesting interactions both formally and informally are essential to the lodge experience.

2. Asking Brothers personally, one on one, to be involved and engaged, is critical to bind them to the lodge.

3. Stick with it. If I had quit, I would have missed out on the renaissance, and it might not have happened, for everyone in our lodge, including me, had a part in breathing life into the institution.

4. Be patient. Very small steps are necessary and sufficient to start the ball rolling. Clean up your building. Mow your grass. Practice your ritual. Put on a Masonic education program. Cook a meal. Report on the charities. Encourage your brethren to join you and to do likewise.

5. Each member who attends is essential to the experience. Everyone must contribute in some way.

Unfortunately, we don't always take the time or the effort to make our lodges great. I think it boils down to this: when I, as a member, give you a precious evening of my time away from work and away from my family, you must give me one of three things (and hopefully all three) in return:

1. You must give me some knowledge or information I did not have before, or provoke me to think about things I thought I knew already in a different way.

2. You must allow me to help someone as directly as possible.

3. I must enjoy the fellowship with other men, because of food or shared interests or all the above.

If you don't give me at least one of those things regularly, I have better things to do with my time. If you give me all three each time I come, I will probably be there every time the doors open.

On the Grand Lodge website, under Education Resources, is a Lodge Self-Assessment Tool. This is a great starting point for your officers to review all the systems and components of your lodge, and see what may need to be improved, and then pick several areas to try to improve. I always suggest, when doing such evaluations and action plans, pick some easy items and some hard items. There are always some low-hanging fruit that are easy, cheap, and not time-consuming to implement. In-

clude several of these in your plans. It will give you a sense of accomplishment early on and energize your members immediately. Don't stop though. Have some harder items that take more time or money, and work together toward those larger or longer goals. Working together and getting it done will bring your lodge closer, and increase your members' investment. At least once a year, reevaluate, see what you have accomplished, and celebrate, then update your action list, add some more easy and a few hard items to replace the ones completed, and go at it again. You will be surprised by how much you accomplish. Time, patience, and perseverance accomplish all things.

It is obvious to me in my travels that lodges are doing the best practices I have described above. The quality of our lodge experience is improving all over North Carolina. Sometimes, we hesitate to start, or we slow our progress because of money. If you start the process and you find that funds are scarce, don't be afraid to raise your dues as you increase the quality of the experience. We have tremendous brand loyalty in our organization. When was the last time you saw someone with a Rotary emblem tattooed on their body? An Apple logo? A Coca-Cola image? Yet, we have many members who wear their Masonry on their sleeves, literally. They are committed to us; we just need to give them the value they deserve. If it requires higher dues in the process, I predict they will understand and support them. But, the value must come first.

So, what does Masonry have to offer, and why should we stay?

1. The relationships we form with our Brothers are irreplaceable in any other venue or format.

2. The availability of help, of relief, of support to one another for ourselves and our families, is invaluable.

3. The teachings of Masonry, and the opportunity to constantly apply its lessons in our lives will help us to be better each day than we were before.

4. There are countless other benefits of this gentle craft.

Regardless of how bad it may be in any particular lodge at any particular time (and we all have those moments, no matter how good our lodges are), I strongly suspect that if we stop to think, and if we stop to invest even a little, we will realize, as I did, in the words of the old Willie Nelson and Merle Haggard song: "The reasons for quittin', don't outnumber all the reasons why."

# MILEPOSTS



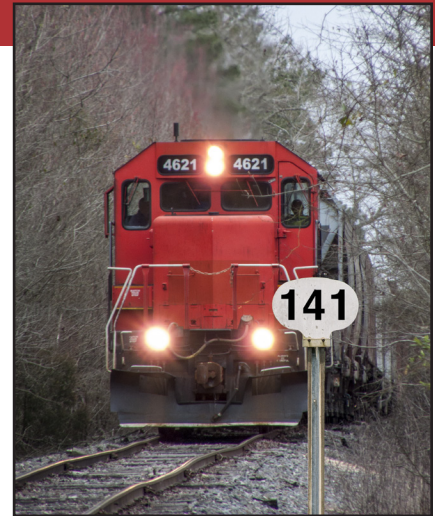
**FUQUAY-VARINA** — Woodrow Wilson Grant, center, was recently presented a certificate by Radiance 132 honoring his 75 years in the lodge. The 99-year-old received the award at his home from Jack Sutton, left, and J.W. Wilson, right. All three were members of Lenoir 233 before it merged with Radiance 132 in 2003.

— Bennie Heath



**LA GRANGE** — Radiance 132 in Snow Hill had a special award made for J. L. Wilson, left, to celebrate his 70 years as a Mason. Jack Sutton, right, made the presentation at the 96-year-old Wilson's home.

— Bennie Heath



**NEW BERN** — Doric 568 presented service awards at their May stated communication. Charles Hill received his Diamond Jubilee for 60 years membership. Veteran's Emblems for 50 years went to Cecil Broome and Clinton Dukes. Larry Mares was given his Coach's Certificate. Past Grand Master William Dill made the presentations. Seen here, from left, are Dill, Doric Master Donald Ipock, Hill, Dukes, and Broome.

— Wayne Lytton



**LOUISBURG** — Frank Reed, right, of James A. Johnson 413 recently received his 60-year Diamond Jubilee. He is seen here accepting the certificate from Sammy Beasley.

— Howard Moore



**GASTONIA** — Grand Master Bryant D. Webster visited Seth Thomas White Jr., center, June 16. He presented White his Diamond Jubilee for his 60 years as a Mason and member of King Solomon 704. At the right is his wife Jo.

— Victor A. Willis



**GARLAND** — On March 28, Past Grand Master Dalton Mayo, left, presented Garland 664's Gene Hart, center, his Diamond Jubilee honoring his 60 years in the lodge. Garland Lodge Master John Matthews Jr. is seen here holding the certificate.

— Phillip Smoak



**SELMA** — Rudolph Jones, right, received his Diamond Jubilee for 60 years as a Mason on May 17. He is seen here accepting the award from Selma 320 Master Will Barham.

— David Browning



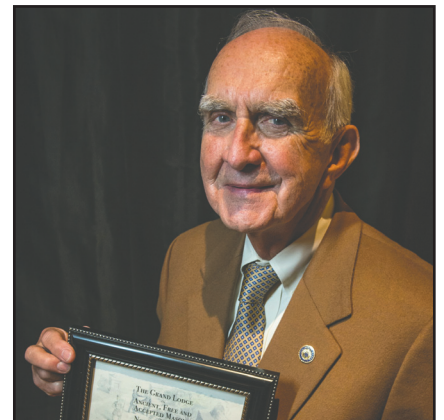
**ZEBULON** — Wilton Floyd Edwards, center, of Zebulon 609, got his Diamond Jubilee for 60 years in the lodge recently. He is seen here with Zebulon Lodge Master Kent Overby, left, and Andy Adams.

— Barna Wilder



**LOUISBURG** — James A. Johnson 413's Jack Cooper got his Diamond Jubilee award for 60 years lodge membership in February. Sammy Beasley and Stan Joyner presented him the award. Seen here with him are his daughter Haven Cooper Allen, left, and his granddaughter Mary Frances Allen, right.

— Howard L. Moore



**LOUISBURG** — In February, James A. Johnson 413 presented Jimmy Inscoc his Veteran's Emblem for 50 years lodge membership. Sammy Beasley and Stan Joyner made the presentation.

— Howard L. Moore

# Lux Libertas Lodge launched

By Ric Carter

CHAPEL HILL — Lux Libertas Lodge, under the 18<sup>th</sup>-century square and compasses of the Dialectic Society's hall, received their dispensation from Grand Master Bryant Webster on June 20. An affinity lodge for Masons interested in the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Lux Libertas held its first meeting in Dialectic Hall on the top floor of New West on the University campus on the 260<sup>th</sup> birthday of William R. Davie, the father of the University and our third grand master. The lodge launches with 59 members. Forty-eight members and 13 guests attended its institution.

UNC Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Jim Dean welcomed the Masons to the campus and spoke glowingly about the University's ties to the Masons of North Carolina and Davie especially.

At the direction of Grand Master Webster, Grand Secretary Walt Clapp read the dispensation founding a lodge to work toward a charter. The grand master then proceeded to open the lodge. The welcome by Webster, himself an alumnus of the University and a member of the new lodge, was fitting: "What is it that binds us to this place as to no other? It is not the well, or the bell, or the stone walls, or the crisp October nights, or the memory of dogwoods blooming. Our love for this place is based upon the fact that it is, as it was meant to be, the University of the people." The words of Charles Kuralt at the Bicentennial of this University, conceived, founded, and put in operation by Freemasons over 200 years ago.

"How extraordinary it is that we would come together at the conjunction



of the Summer Solstice, the strawberry moon, and the 260<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Most Worshipful Brother William Richardson Davie. When those Masons came together to form the first public university in the nation, that was a novel concept. It is so fitting and so right that we come together to create a Masonic Lodge in this place for this purpose; you have only to look just down the street to see the Masonic significance of this site."

He saluted Deputy Grand Master Gene Cobb and Junior Grand Warden Speed Hallman as the "principal architects" of Lux Libertas Lodge.

The lodge's first master Past Grand Master Gene Jernigan was brought to the altar and charged by the grand master. The officers were presented at the

altar and installed.

The new lodge's officers are Master Gene Jernigan, Senior Warden Dan Rice, Junior Warden Johnny Surles, Treasurer Mike Cashion, Secretary Mike Kenlan, Senior Deacon William Mills, Junior Deacon Gary Handy, Steward Brian Curran, Steward Andy Hicklin, Marshal Bobby Meadows, Chaplain Jim Jones, and Tyler William Charles Barrett.

Webster handed the gavel to Master Jernigan. During his comments on the momentous occasion, he made special mention of two of the young members of the lodge who were present; Andy Hicklin, who is a direct descendant of PGM Davie; and Charles Barrett, a direct descendant of UNC's first student, Hinton James. Barrett gave the lodge a tylers sword from his great great grand-

father, Alexander Hand James.

The University of North Carolina was the first public university, and was conceived and formed largely by Freemasons. The central campus is laid out as a Masonic lodge with the Old Well, Old East, Old West, and South Building. Old East was the first building on the campus. Its cornerstone laying was conducted by Grand Master Davie in 1793. The occasion was the first public procession of our Grand Lodge. The Dialectic Society was founded in 1795 and has the square and compasses as its emblem.

At the close of the meeting, those present encircled the Old Well where they held hands and recited the Closing Charge.

If you are interested in joining Lux Libertas Lodge contact the secretary at <luxlibertaslodge@gmail.com>.



MOCKSVILLE — On April 26, Mocksville 134 presented Davie High School senior Austin King a \$500 scholarship. He is the son of Kelly King of Farmington 265. Seen here at the presentation are, from left, Mocksville Lodge Senior Warden Adam Ressa, Austin King, Mocksville Lodge Master Brad Blackwelder, and Mocksville Mayor Will Marklin. — Adam Ressa

## Bailey Lodge turns 100

BAILEY — Bailey 411 just celebrated their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Their charter communication was held March 6, 1916 as Bailey 633. A merger with Rockville 411 in 1935 gave them their number change to Bailey 411. (*The NC Masonic Code* requires that merging lodges keep the earliest number.)

To help preserve the lodge's history, past master and past secretary of the lodge Horace Meacombs combed the minutes of the lodge from 1916 to 2008 excerpting important items from each meeting. Copies of the book he compiled are on file at the lodge and Grand Lodge Library. A PDF version is also available from him.

— Horace Meacombs



BREVARD — On May 7, Past Grand Master L. R. "Pete" Thomas had the privilege of seeing his grandson initiated in Dunn's Rock 267. Thomas got to give the Apron Lecture for his grandson's First Degree. New Entered Apprentice Luke Lundquist is seen here front center with members of his lodge. Past Grand Master Thomas is to his right, and Past Grand Master Norburn C. Hyatt to his left. That's high cotton for a fresh initiate. — Dana Hawkins

## SIXTH, from page 1

packhouse. The table serving as altar was more than 100 years old. Staffs, columns, and gavels were hewn from tree limbs and burned with the emblems of master and wardens. The bell was an old mule plow sweep from the early 1900s.

For the second section, a costumed degree team composed of members from around the district took over. That team included Sixth District Deputy Grand Master Dennis Campbell as King Solomon and Charles Sumerlin as senior grand warden. The fellow craft were performed by Tom Jones, Stephen Natale, and Fred Kirkland. Scott McLaurin, Doug Stocks, and Bennie Heath were the ruffians.

Each candidate was delivered by golf cart from the preparation camper down the lane.

As the degree progressed, the skies darkened. Citronella torches lit the lodge. They were supplemented by a rising nearly full moon as the evening wore on.

Charlie Hall, Charles Chapman, and Leroy Whitfield teamed up to do the lecture. Tom Jones gave the charge. In honor of his long service as lodge secretary and his 60+ years as a certified lecturer, Leroy Whitfield was seated in the East where he closed the lodge. J. K. Hall did the closing charge.



King Solomon Campbell



A moon lodge at its finest.



Warden's station



Hundreds have heard a Whitfield lecture.



A ruffian in our midst.

## AMEND, from page 4

before teleconferencing. Easier travel and electronic media allow men from around the world to readily hold real time meetings. Besides, there are North Carolina Masons in other states who live closer to our meeting sites than NC resident Masons (Virginia is closer to Raleigh than Asheville). Don't waste talent based on the location of a Mason's bedroom or mailbox.

**Group 3** is related to minimum fees for the degrees. It would set the fee to three times the annual dues of the lodge. A substitute amendment which will reach the floor first would set the minimum fee to \$300 and be adjusted for inflation every five years. Those wanting the increase say that the cost of the degrees has not kept pace with the cost of living; if we adjusted for inflation to the cost of the degrees during World War II, they would now be \$400 to \$500. Opponents say their constituent community could not afford the higher cost.

**Group 4** addresses the responsibilities of the Lodge Service Commission. The Commission is charged to prevent lodges from falling into legal and financial problems because of real estate holdings. Building, buying, and borrowing on property have long been covered. But, lodges are now facing tax threats on selling or ex-

panding commercial rental portions of their property. Legal or tax problems arising from such issues can affect the status of other lodges and the Grand Lodge. This change would require that the Commission approve an expanded range of potentially encumbering actions.

**Group 5** would explicitly remove the blue lodge chaplain from the list of officers required to pass off their Third Degree proficiency.

**Group 6** would allow current members in good standing to buy back service years missed while excluded for nonpayment of dues. To have his record expunged of the missing years, the member would have to pay for all the missed years by paying for each year at the lodge's current rate of dues and per capita.

**Group 7** would allow Masons to conduct cornerstone ceremonies for churches on Sunday. We are currently forbidden to conduct most ceremonies on Sundays. This amendment would make an exception for churches which request our assistance.

**Group 8** would end sales of endowed memberships. The endowed membership was introduced to allow lodges to continue to collect dues from a member even after his death. Several lodges, though, especially those

with heavy participation, say they are falling behind so rapidly that it will take years to earn back the lost income from the lower dues that are locked in when the endowed membership was bought. There are no hard figures known at this point that would summarize the threat, or account for the endowed members who might have otherwise gone NPD or demitted after dues increases. Current valid endowed memberships would continue in force as before.

**HIGHLANDS** — The first Charles E. Cathey Scholarship for 2016 was presented to McKayla D. Hensley, right, of Highlands High School. Miss Hensley is the daughter of Ron and Tonya Hensley. She will be attending UNC Chapel Hill in the fall. Blue Ridge 435's Dave Cashion is seen here making the presentation.





## Easter Bunny visits WhiteStone

By Richard Spivey

GREENSBORO — There were bunnies, eggs, baskets, and candy for the kids when the 23<sup>rd</sup> Masonic District hosted the Second Annual Easter Egg Hunt at WhiteStone: A Masonic & Eastern Star Community on March 19.

All employees, residents, Masons, Eastern Stars, and their families were invited to the event. Children under 10 years old participated in the hunt and had their pictures taken with the Easter Bunny. Afterward, everyone was invited to a hot dog lunch with ice cream sundaes for dessert. It was a hoppin' good time for all.

The eggs were hidden and mostly found. But, there was something greater hidden among the attendees. It was that flash of light found in every smiling face and happy heart. The smiles evidenced the principles that we hold so dear; faith, hope and charity. It doesn't take much to hide an egg and watch a child happily hunt for it, but the light of joy that was found in this simple act was immeasurable. As Grand Master Bryant Webster said, "A small act of charity can go a long way." We may never know the impact of a small act of kindness, but we can be assured that each kind act does bring a little more light into the world.

From the residents who saw light in the eyes of their grandchildren, the staff who saw the joy of their children, and the many Masons who saw the smiles of their little ones, thank you to the 23<sup>rd</sup> Masonic District for hiding a little light at WhiteStone.

*Richard Spivey is a member of Gate City 694 and marketing coordinator at WhiteStone.*



Fred Wilkerson photos



## You're invited

September 10

### 37<sup>th</sup> District Outdoor Degree

FOSCOE — Cranberry 598 is sponsoring an outdoor degree at Camp Gray Rock (used to be Camp Rainbow). It will start at 2:00 P.M. September 10. Contact Cranberry Lodge for details.

September 17

### Superhero 5K Run

WAKE FOREST — Wake Forest 282's Third Annual Superhero run is set for September 17. The run will be held in Joyner Park. Proceeds go to the Home for Children. For details visit <<http://www.wakeforestmasoniclodge282.com/heroes-run.html>>.

October 7-8

### 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Homecoming Festival

OXFORD — Homecoming Festival at the Masonic Home for Children starts with the Chip Shots for Children Golf Tournament and Friday Night Yard Party featuring the music of Bryan Mayer and Andrew Jackson Lodge's famous stew. That is also the launch time for the Barbecue Cookoff.

On Saturday morning, the big action starts with huge inflatables for the kids to climb and bounce, the Shrine Parade, and music by Jim Quick and the Coastline. The results of the barbecue contest will be consumed with ten dollars buying all you can eat. For information, visit <<http://mhc-oxford.org>>.



Smoky Mountain Times photo

BRYSON CITY — Oconee 427 awarded four Curtis Evans Memorial Scholarships May 12. They gave \$500 scholarships to four Swain County High School seniors: Chelsea Dehart, Abbey Brown, Autumn Cochran, and Conner Cochran. Three of the kids are headed to Western Carolina University and one to Haywood Technical College. All plan to return to their home community after college, a point emphasized in Oconee's scholarship selection process. — Tim Hines

WORTH, from page 4

Still, what is Masonry worth to you?

There is a huge misunderstanding of the significance of our initiation fee. The initiation fee is a man's first investment in Freemasonry — a lifelong journey of friendship and brotherhood. The initiation fee is a man's first investment in his lodge. And, the initiation fee is a means to guard our lodges against cowans — those unworthy to be Freemasons.

The initiation fee for the degrees of our sacred art is proportional to the significance a man places on the value and experience he is about to receive. Will a man think twice before petitioning a lodge if his investment in the experience is more than the cost of a pair of shoes? Yes, he will. And, yes he should.

From the early 1800s through the first half of the 1900s, initiation into Freemasonry was general valued as a week's wages — somewhere between \$400 and \$500. Men took pains to save their money to be a part of our fraternity, and that investment meant something special — an appreciation we may have lost today.

Our current minimum fee, \$50, is not even a half day's wage, but it fits our society's current need for instant gratification. Few men think anything about throwing away \$50 or even \$100 to get a glimpse of our ritual.

If a man's value of Freemasonry can be measured by his proportional investment in his entrance, we as Masons have failed to keep our fees proportional to economic inflation. Following World War II and an artificial influx of members, we shrugged off our cheap entry fees, despite the economic value of the dollar. Initiation fees were erroneously believed to be an antiquated token of admittance because we failed to grasp the true meaning of Masonry and invited scores of men into the fold without first vetting their suitability to the fraternity.

Freemasonry is not, and should not be, a mere civic club scrambling for members. As Freemasons, we are exceptional. We are different. We are the world's premier society of friends and brothers, and our standards for membership should be nothing less than extraordinary.

Except for \$21, initiation fees remain with a lodge. Of the \$21 that goes to the Grand Lodge, one dollar goes to the Grand Lodge as an administrative fee, ten dollars goes to the Grand Lodge Charity Fund, five dollars goes to support the George Washington National Masonic Memorial, and five dollars goes to the Grand Lodge's Building Endowment fund.

We pay more than \$200 a month for cable entertainment. We pay hundreds of dollars for smartphones and tablets and personal computers, then monthly subscription fees amounting to many dollars more. We flee from our blue lodges and join appendant bodies and have no qualms about dropping \$200 or \$300 or \$400 or more on multiple memberships, costumes, badges, medals, medallions, and fancy hats. But, why aren't we as enthusiastic about our blue lodges? Where's the enthusiasm for our Masonic home — for the foundation of our sacred art?

If you had the opportunity to petition for the degrees of Masonry again, what would you pay?

What is Masonry worth to you?

*Jonathan Underwood is assistant to the Grand Secretary.*

# TRAVELING THE TARHEEL STATE

## Washington

Little Washington's three Masonic lodges; Hiram 11 (PHA), Orr 104, and Washington 675; held a Red Cross blood drive on June 8. Washington 675 hosted it at their lodge building.

Washington 675 held a raffle this spring to give away a shotgun and a rifle. They sent a check for more than \$2,100 to the North Carolina Masonic Foundation from which both our Homes benefit.

## Aberdeen

Roman Eagle 550 held their golf tournament June 11 at Hyland Hills Golf Course. Entry fee was \$65 per player and hole sponsorships were \$100. Besides cash prizes for first through third places, there were prizes for longest drive and closest to the pin. Supper was included. Proceeds went to the Masonic Home for Children in Oxford.

— Roman Eagle Lodge

Roman Eagle Lodge's Awards and Past Masters' Night was held May 5.

— Gene Maples

## Wendell

Wendell 565 was selling plates of barbecued chicken leg quarters on June 11. Combat Warriors, Inc. was to benefit from the fundraiser.

— Lloyd Lancaster

## Mount Airy

Renfro 691 honored some of their members on April 16 with service awards. Tyco Woods got his Diamond Jubilee for his 60 years of membership. Veteran's Emblems went to John Bode and Bobby Watson for their 50 years in the lodge.

—Garner Jarrell Jr.

Granite 322 hosted Past Grand Master Tom Gregory May 17. His program was entitled "What's your job?"

— Homer Dearmin



## Southport

John Richards was an outstanding lodge secretary and ambassador for Pythagoras Lodge for many years. The much loved Mason, plagued by poor health for much of his career, passed away back in May. The lodge showed their affection and appreciation by picking up the tab for his funeral and a grave marker with Masonic and Coast Guard emblems.

Pythagoras Lodge is replacing their lodge aprons which had become worn. Hmmm, how many lodges need to take a look at their aprons?

Pythagoras 249's Annual Golf Tournament is coming up September 24. Their Fish Fry was held on June 7.

— Newsletter

## Havelock

Cherry Point 688 held a poker run June 11. The morning bike run started at Cherry Point Lodge and ran to Winterville Harley Davidson and back. Each play sheet cost \$20. Cash prizes went to best and worst hands. The benefit was held for WhiteStone's Masonic and Eastern Star Foundation.

— Jim McDougal

## NEWS FROM OUR LODGES

By Ric Carter



## Biscoe

Biscoe 437 held their annual raffle earlier this year. They termed it a success making \$3,500 for the Masonic Home for Children. They are talking about having another fundraiser in the fall.

— Carl Brown

## Hickory

The Plez Teague Memorial Pancake Breakfast brought in more than \$2,500 this year. Hickory 343's charity fundraiser is named for a now-deceased member of the lodge who was a wonderful advocate for our Homes. Lee Spach organized it this year.

Hickory Lodge also teamed up with a local church to volunteer to help feed the hungry. They have signed up to assist once every quarter this year with a local community effort.

The lodge's held a blood drive June 3.

— Hickory Lodge

## Candler

Hominy 491 recently named Enka High School's Vivi Santana the recipient of their 2016 Ed Bailey Mathematic Scholarship Award.

Fifty members and guests showed up for Hominy's Mothers Day Dinner on May 7. They unveiled their newly renovated restrooms.

Two April fundraisers at Hominy Lodge brought in more than \$3,000 for the Masonic Homes and Foundation. One was a rifle raffle, and the other was a pancake breakfast.

— Richard D. Pinkerton

## Asheville

Nichols-West Asheville 650 was having a raffle for a Ruger rifle. Tickets were five dollars, and the drawing was to be held July 18. Proceeds were sent to Masonic Charities.

— Jack Barnett

■ see next page

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 from 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.



## Feed the Needy

Each Mason should bring ten dollars or ten cans of food for admission to Annual Communication in September.

## Newell

Newell 739 is holding a Gun-A-Day Raffle in August. — Gary Cooke

## Winston-Salem

On June 6, Forsyth 707, Piedmont Pioneer 685, Salem 289, and Winston 167 held an open session about membership retention and mentorship at the new Winston Salem Masonic Center. Junior Grand Deacon Shaun Bradshaw was giving the presentation.

— *By the Square*

Forsyth 707 hosted Scottish Rite Journal Editor S. Brent Morris at Clemmons 755. Morris is one of the country's foremost authorities on Freemasonry and first joined a lodge (our Durham 352) while a graduate student at Duke University. — *By the Square*

Salem 289 was hosting Ron Sorntino, a member of Semper Fidelis 680 and first vice-president of National Sojourners, for a June 7 program.

— *The Salem Sentinel*

Chad Leinbach was raised June 6 in Old Town 751. His brother Todd raised him as his nephew Tyler looked on. Todd and Chad's late father Wayne was also a member of 751.

Old Town 751 had their Lodge Reunion and Family Picnic June 25. It was to be an early evening of "games, fellowship, and food."

Red Leslie gave Old Town Lodge a retractable projection screen. It will add to their lectures and give them other program possibilities.

Master Jamie Minton was hosting a breakfast before their June 4 clean up day. During their labors, they had a freeform discussion on the future of the lodge. They say several of the ideas rated further discussion, so they are going to schedule another meeting just to talk over these and other ideas for future projects and goals.

Also around the Old Town building, the lodge parking lot is getting in rough shape. They are starting to investigate the extent and cost of repairs that are necessary and best.

Old Town reaches out to young people. They recently responded to a request from a Boy Scout to help finance his Eagle Scout project. They passed the hat and got him more than \$150. Their Bikes for Books program awarded 11 bikes to kids in local elementary schools in 2016.

— *On the Level at Old Town Lodge*

## Hookerton

Jerusalem 95 was singing the praises of J. K. and Charlie Hall for organizing the Sixth Masonic District's outdoor degree. Sixty-five Masons from around the region attended the May 21 gathering outside Hookerton.

— *The Jerusalem Journal*

## Benson

Relief 431 held a Cornhole Tournament June 4. Team entries were \$50. Prizes of \$200 to \$50 were offered for the best four teams. They had the gym across the street reserved in case of inclement weather.

— Edward Franklin Olive

## Spruce Pine

Vesper 554 hosted their annual joint meeting with Bakersville 357 on April 29. Vesper's officers opened the meeting and Bakersville's closed it. As usual, they had lots of visitors around the 37<sup>th</sup> Masonic District and as far away as Tennessee.

Vesper Lodge officers were thanking Building and Grounds Committee members Nolan Shuford, Lee Earley, Matt Miller, and Van Phillips for their many recent efforts. They arranged monthly cleanings of the building as well as supervised major roof repairs. They installed a new dishwasher, garbage disposal, and wall-mounted air conditioner. They revitalized the lodge light. Alvin Carpenter arranged old oil tanks removed.

One of Master Don Wilson's goals of the year has been to improve communications in the lodge. They have reinforced using phone tree message, their newsletter, and email alerts to keep their members informed on short-term as well as long-term notice.

— *Newsletter*

## Gastonia

King Solomon 704 and Gastonia 369 are having a canned food drive for the hungry in their community. They've placed a food barrel in the lobby of the lodge to catch the cans. They are asking members to bring five cans of food to each communication.

King Solomon 704 held their Annual Picnic June 21 at Riverwood Plantation Clubhouse. They were charging a modest five dollars per person for the hamburger and hot dog get-together to make sure the lodge broke even on the event.

The lodge continues its tradition of wearing golf shirts to their July communication, dropping the usual tie requirement for officers.

Grand Master Bryant Webster recently visited King Solomon 704 to present service awards. Seth White Thomas Jr. got his Diamond Jubilee for his 60 years membership. Fifty-year Veteran's Emblems went to Lewis Wadell Blanton and Jerry Lawrence Mundy.

Senior Grand Deacon Mack Sigmund visited King Solomon May 10 with a program about Masonic ritual.

— *The Plumb Line*



## Kenly hosts Pinewood Derby

KENLY — Kenly 257 hosted the Cub Scout Pack 29's Pinewood Derby on February 11. A large contingent of kids and adults attended the model car race that has long been a Cub Scout favorite event. The lodge served the kids hot dogs and snacks at "trackside." The track was set up in the lodge room. Kenly Lodge Past Master Brandon Scott is the Cub Master for Pack 29.

— Ted Sherrod

## Laurinburg

May was a big month for fund raising at Laurinburg 305. They were running a concession stand at community events in Laurel Hill May 6-7 and in Laurinburg on May 20. Their Community Yard Sale was set for May 14.

— Gene Maples

## Fayetteville

Phoenix 8 sponsored a St. John the Baptist celebration at their historic lodge building on June 25. The five-hour party included bounce houses, games, food, and fellowship. They also had an educational program on St. John.

— Nick Yakas

■ see next page

## STATE, from previous

### High Point

A Masonic Unity evening was sponsored by the High Point Shrine Club on July 28. They invited all members of the fraternity along with their wives and children. They were holding it at the High Point Elks Club where the kids could play in the pool. For the ladies, there was a painting workshop. The guys were invited to a program about the Shrine and its much praised system of Children's Hospitals.

July 16, Numa F. Reid and Acacia 674 delivered a \$2,000 check to the Masonic Home for Children. It was the profit from their Spring Chicken Barbecue Fundraiser. They also carried along the hygiene products they have been collecting for the kids this year.

Numa F. Reid 344 hosted the Greensboro Assembly Order of Rainbow for Girls on June 13. The young ladies presented their Charity Lecture. The next night the lodge hosted Boy Scout Troop 8 who co-sponsored a Flag Retirement Ceremony.

— Michael Rinehardt

### Kenansville

The columns on the front of St. John's 13 have been repaired of their water damage. They upgraded the products used which should prevent such problems in the future.

Jerry Davis and pork master twins Herbert and Harvey Stroud prepared fresh barbecue and used it for sandwiches sold at the local Special Olympics. They made \$265 for the Olympics.

St. John's 13's pancake breakfast last year brought in more than \$600 to add to their "sizable" donation to our Homes and Foundation. — *Lodge Log*

### Conover

Fundraising at Conover 709 included two cookouts in May. They held one in town on May 7 and another at the May 21 Tractor Pull at the American Legion Fairgrounds. The Tractor Pull is their big one. Last year it brought in more than \$4,000 for charity. They also used Mason jars to collect their pocket change for the Masonic Homes.

May was also Bring a Brother Month at Conover Lodge. Members were being urged to bring other members to meetings.

— *Conover Lodge Newsletter*

### Ararat

Russell Atkins of Ararat 558 had 44 people present May 26 when his lodge presented him his Veteran's Emblem honoring his 50 years as a Mason. In appreciation of the multitude of lecture services he has given, he was presented a hand-crafted wooden plaque with a letter G. Several members of his family and many Masons from other lodges were there for the occasion.

— Gerald Plaster

### Stedman

Stedman 730 held their annual charity golf tournament on June 11 at Baywood Golf Course in Eastover. The \$55 entry fee got you a door prize, bottled water, and lunch in addition to the round of golf. Cash prizes were offered to first, second, and third place finishes. Lodges competed for the 17<sup>th</sup> Masonic District Cup. Profits went to the Masonic Home for Children and local charities. — *17<sup>th</sup> Masonic District*

### Southern Pines

Three R. C. Yoder Memorial Scholarships (\$2,000) were presented by Southern Pines 484 earlier this year. Jacob McKenzie (Union Pine High School) will be studying music therapy at Sandhills Community College. Miriam Pages (Pinecrest High) will study occupational therapy at East Carolina University. Morgan Hendrix (Pinecrest High) is headed for Meredith College to study pediatric psychology.

Southern Pines Lodge regularly participates in their town's downtown celebrations such as First Fridays and Springfest. They operate a concession booth to pass out information on Freemasonry and our Homes, and they sell snacks to raise money for those Homes. They awarded limited edition Masonic Home for Children t-shirts to the first dozen volunteers to staff the First Friday booth.

The lodge celebrated their Awards and Past Masters' Night May 2.

— Gene Maples

### Statesville

The July 5 stated communication of Statesville 27 was to feature a family cookout. Members were encouraged to bring family and friends to the event, a good, casual opportunity to learn more about the fraternity. They were featuring a cornhole tournament, hamburgers and hot dogs on the grill, and some live music under the old oak in the yard. Major General James Mallory was giving a patriotic program. They were also making the drawing on their gun raffle.

At their July 19 stated meeting, they were expecting a program from James Howell entitled "Why the Hat?"

— *The Joppa Informer*

### Youngsville

A Red Cross Blood Drive was held by Youngsville 377 on June 12.

— Dean Mooney

### Albemarle

Albemarle 703 is holding a 30/30 Gun Raffle in August. One \$35 ticket gets you 31 chances to win. Each day they draw for one gun. On the 31<sup>st</sup> day, they have the biggest drawing, one gun and several bonus prizes worth \$1,500.

— Eric Furr



## GM gets Masonic Scouting honor

ASHEVILLE — Grand Master Bryant Webster held his last district meeting on May 28 at his home lodge, Nichols-West Asheville 650 in the 39th Masonic District. At the meeting, Webster was presented the Daniel Carter Beard Scouter Award, a national recognition of his service to both the fraternity and the Boy Scouts of America. He is seen here, center, receiving the award from Jay Frechette of Derita 715 and Tony Rathbone, master of Nichols-West Asheville Lodge. — Tony Rathbone

### Pilot Mountain

Pilot 493 has gone tobacco-free. They passed the amendment to their bylaws in April. The ban includes e-cigarettes. — *The Pilot Mountain Traveler*

Pilot Lodge held a just for fun golf outing June 18. They played at Pilot Knob Park. Pilot Lodge Treasurer Dickie Crump supplied lunch — his "World Famous Squeeze Box Hot Dogs." — Homer Dearmin

### Highlands

Blue Ridge 435 was cooking dinner for the members of the local Methodist Church July 20. They do that every year to thank the congregation for letting them use the church's facilities several times a year. — *Trestleboard*

### Robbinsville

Knights of Solomon 764 motorcycled up from Charlotte and held their June communication at Robbinsville 672. There has been talk in our mountains about starting a western motorcycle affinity lodge. After the meeting and on their way home, attendees rode the Tail of the Dragon, an 11-mile mountain road with 318 curves.

— Terry Gevedon

### Salisbury

Sophia 767 had a special guest speaker June 4, Bob Davis, secretary of the Guthrie Oklahoma Scottish Rite. They held their post-meeting meal, which they call "harmony," at the Sweet Meadow Cafe. — Doug Calhoun

■ see next page

## STATE, from previous

**New Bern**

St. John's 3 sponsored their annual American Red Cross Blood Drive June 5. They held it at the New Bern Shrine Club. — John B. Green III

**Pittsboro**

Columbus 102 member Richard Webster recently retired as Chatham County Sheriff. On May 25, another member of the lodge, Michael Roberson, was installed as the county's new chief law enforcement officer.

— Samuel Leggett

**Greensboro**

The Greensboro Masonic Temple will be the site of a blood drive on Saturday, September 3. Greensboro 76 is hosting.

— Phillip Bialek

**Walnut Cove**

Pine Knolls Golf Course in Kerner-ville was the site of Walnut Cove 629's May 7 golf tournament.

— *The Salem Sentinel*

**Charlotte**

West Gate 738 presented service awards May 16. Charter member John O'Brien got his Diamond Jubilee for 60 years membership. Veteran's Emblems for 50 years went to Dwight Baucom, Bill Navy, Thad Kilby, and Gene Severs.

The lodge's building fund golf tournament is coming September 10 at Westport Golf Club in Denver. The entry fee is \$60 per player. — Gary Cooke

Excelsior 261 congratulated seven of their members on 50 years in the lodge. Getting their Veteran's Emblems were Joe Barkley, Mason Dorsey, Jerry D. Furr, Ralph Phillips, Troy Brown, Bobby Foy, and Billy Grant.

— *Trestle Board*

**Greenville**

Crown Point 708 was raffling a Henry Masonic Rifle. Chances were ten dollars each. Proceeds were earmarked for the Masonic Home for Children in Oxford.

— Christian Lockamy

**Weaverville**

Blackmer 170 held a fundraiser for their North Buncombe Scholarship. They sold pulled pork and baked bean plates on May 7. They award four scholarships to local graduating seniors.

— Terry Gevedon

**Lewisville**

West Bend 434 held a rifle raffle this spring. They drew for two rifles (a Henry .44 magnum and .22) on May 17. They made about \$1,900 for the Home for Children and MESH Foundation.

— *By the Square*

**Burnsville**

Bald Creek 397 held a spaghetti fundraiser on June 25. — Terry Gevedon

**Waxhaw**

The brothers at Waxhaw 562 are having their first fundraiser in several years. They were hitting several local celebrations to sell ten-dollar tickets for a chance to win a kayak. Our Masonic Homes will benefit. — Richard Shields

**Raleigh**

James B. Green 735 has a long tradition of family get-togethers every summer. The first of their usually monthly Ice Cream Social this year was May 14. They had hamburgers and hot dogs as well. They always encourage their members to bring friends who are interested or would make good Masons.

Green Lodge took a field trip to WhiteStone on May 7. They enjoyed lunch with the residents, a tour of the facility, and attended a meeting of WhiteStone Lodge UD. That lodge is based at the Home and is working toward earning their full charter.

Grand Historian Stephen Campbell visited the Green Lodge June 14 and presented a program about Arlington National Cemetery. — Scott Sholar

The Lodge held a Family Fishing Derby on May 7 at Perry's Sod Farm in Wendell. They enjoyed a catch-and-release contest with prizes. They enjoyed hot dogs and raised money for the Masonic Home for Children.

— Vann Johnson

**Oxford**

The 13<sup>th</sup> Masonic District was having their picnic at the Masonic Home for Children on June 25.

— Howard L. Moore

Oxford 122 raffled a Henry Golden Boy Masonic Rifle this spring. Tickets were ten dollars and limited to 500 sold. The drawing was held June 25. Proceeds were for the Masonic Homes.

— Rich Weaver

# Answering a Brother's wish

By Steve Brown

NORTH WILKESBORO — Liberty Lodge hosted a very special birthday party on February 27. A large group of Masons and friends joined in celebrating Paul Henderson's 97<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Paul is a unique person. Always optimistic and friendly, Paul has lived a rich

a very neat response. Wendell 565 Senior Warden Eric Phippen, a helicopter pilot with a firm that does training and provides rides, called Liberty Lodge. He offered to give Paul a ride. Wendell Lodge had already raised some money towards that goal, and we quickly made arrangements for Eric and two other Masons to fly from Wendell to the Wilkesboro birthday party to take Paul up into the air. Ashler Lodge in nearby Deep Gap, NC also donated funds, as did several members of Liberty Lodge, thereby covering all necessary expenses.

Not long after the 2:00 o'clock official start time for the birthday party, with everyone already there, we heard the noise of the helicopter coming in from the east. A large group came out to meet the whirlybird, and to cart Paul on out to the field where it landed. Paul's son, Bob, went along for the ride, as did NC State Senator Shirley Randleman.



life most of us could only imagine. He's lived all over the United States, working primarily as a machinist. Paul was employed in aircraft factories in his native St. Louis, and then for the longest period in automobile plants in Detroit, where he was raised in Livonia 586 in 1962. Paul is a veteran of WWII, and still has his pilot's license, although he did not fly airplanes in the war.

Paul moved to North Carolina a few years ago, and afterwards joined Liberty Lodge in 2013. Still quite active, Paul steadfastly attends nearly every meeting, probably as often as any other member in our lodge.

For the celebration, several groups Paul is affiliated with took part. There were members of Moravian Falls Baptist, the Wilkes Country Cruisers car club, Liberty Lodge and other Masonic groups, and members of the Eastern Star (though Paul is not a member there, he is a friend of many OES members). All told, our downstairs lodge dining room was full with around 125 attendees.

But, a bigger treat awaited. Some time ago, Paul told one of our newer Masons that he'd always wanted to ride in a helicopter. When we began planning Paul's birthday party, that newer member mentioned Paul's wish, and we excitedly set out to fulfill it, if we could.

We contacted some local firms with mixed success. Then, one of our members put out the word on the Grand Lodge Facebook page, and it generated



When they returned in a half-hour or so, everyone reconvened in the lodge dining hall for food and other celebratory ceremonies. Andy Soots presented Paul with a lifetime membership to the Wilkes Country Cruisers, as well as an embroidered club shirt. State Senator Shirley Randleman and NC Representative Jeff Elmore congratulated Paul on his 97 years. Paul's son, Bob, talked about Paul's years in NC, and how happy he's been here in the Tar Heel State.

It was a truly great day. To celebrate the 97<sup>th</sup> birthday of such a well liked and well respected man as Paul, with a large gathering of his friends, neighbors, and Masons, and then to top it off with a surprise helicopter ride, well, it was a truly unique and wonderful day in the history of Liberty Lodge.

*Steve Brown is secretary of Liberty 45.*

# WELCOME OUR NEW BROTHERS

10.....Hardy, William Thomas	217.....Farris, Timothy Seth	428.....Sigmon, Scott Michael	592.....Huffman, Jamie Dale	695.....Purser Jr., Clarence Vone
17.....Grizzard, Jody Parker	218.....Dill, Brian Richard	428.....Edmonds, Eugene Darrell	593.....Moose, Kelly Lee	699.....Ballard, Travis Scott
17.....Llewellyn, Jeffrey Scott	218.....Hoblit, Robert S.	428.....Parrish, Christopher Lee	602.....Becker Jr., Norman Richard	701.....Ruggiero, John
19.....Ross, Jason Dan	218.....Sutton, Desmond Demario	433.....Mitchell, William Fredrick	602.....Price, Dylan Justin	703.....Gresham, Tanner Hunt
19.....Verville, Michael Joseph Omar	248.....Blackburn, Chris David	434.....Epp, Drew Collins	602.....Thorne, Dennis Lee	703.....Bowers, Peyton Edward
27.....Weeks, Matthew Steven	248.....Moore, Christopher Shane	437.....Grimes, Richard Sherman	602.....Edwards, Bruce F.	703.....Faulkner, Mitchell Lamar
31.....Richter, Matthew Steven	249.....Heckendorn, Wesley Edward	439.....Plemmons, Ryan Eugene	602.....Williams III, Charles Omer	706.....Ross, Timothy Craig
31.....Saye Jr., Robert Lewis	249.....Lewallen Jr., John Michael	446.....Hittleman, Dean Grant	602.....Williams Jr., Charles Omer	706.....Smith, Joseph Harlen
31.....Flanigan, Eric Brandon	249.....Pollard, Charles Anthony	459.....Robinson Jr., Dale Eugene	617.....Gurley IV, Carl R.	706.....Vaselovic, James Edward
31.....Sheppard, John Winston	249.....Walton Jr., Roy Wayne	461.....Bassolino, Robert	617.....Martin, Christopher Scottie	708.....Parekh, Rohan Umesh
31.....Wendelborn, Daniel Alexander	263.....Beaty III, John Lawrence	463.....Shell, Jeffery Paige	626.....Chaney, Joshua David	708.....Van Etten, Chad Richard
39.....Lowe, Joseph Dillon	263.....Beaty, Zachary Fogle	463.....Coates, Michael Boswell	626.....James, Clay Daniel	709.....Loftin, Lonnie Shawn
39.....Turner, Jacques Randolph	263.....Cloninger, Michael Glenn	479.....Jones, David Nathaniel	650.....Allen Jr., Thomas Steven	709.....Sigmon, Robert Edward
45.....Southwell, Edward Michael	267.....Bell, Justin Richard	479.....Simpson, Samuel Casey	656.....Calles, Rodrigo	709.....Tutko, Michael Willy
53.....Dunn, Leslie Kenneth	267.....Brissey, Brandon Cody	484.....Green, David Peter	656.....Fish, Edmund Booth	712.....Horton, William Andrew
75.....Plymel, Donald Lee	276.....Trinh, Lam Son	484.....Kaiser, Sean Patrick Rueth	656.....Holt, Patrick Michael	712.....Reese, Jonathan Henry
81.....Endicott, Thomas Ellwood	292.....Henderson, John Caleb	484.....Walker, Dilles Allen	656.....Partington, Heath Scott	713.....Campbell, Jody Dwayne
83.....Cheeseman, Jeffrey Charles	292.....Kent, Colton Dean	484.....Wolf, Matt Martin	656.....Garcia, Juan Leeruis	713.....Smith Jr., Cecil Prince
85.....Betts Jr., Ronald Edward	306.....Hawkes, Justin Bradley	493.....Hall, Timothy Daren	656.....Himmelman, Edward Brandon	717.....Kanipe, Joshua Lynn
85.....Oakey Jr., Billy Ray	319.....Vinson, Woodrow Ellis	496.....Tallman, Nathaniel David	657.....Fisher IV, Jacob Eli	722.....Roddy, Kenneth Trent
91.....Newton, Timothy Earl	320.....Black, Timothy Michael	500.....Bae, Young Soon	657.....Jones, William Michael	725.....Keeler, Jack Craig
97.....Griffis, John Matthew	320.....Brower, Harold Joseph	500.....Corrigan, Michael Victor	657.....Tucker, Daniel Chadwick	725.....Whaley, Jonathan Wade
97.....Harten, Matthew Gerald	320.....Lynch, Spencer Ashton	500.....Roberts, Mark Andrew	670.....Street, William Grant	737.....Burgess, John Douglas
97.....Hix, Justin Harrison	320.....Muniz, Luis Carlos	501.....Smith, Phillip Chase	672.....Ditmore, Robert Thomas	737.....Terry, Paul Michael
97.....Johnson, Micael Antony	339.....Carroll, Edward James	502.....Leatherman, Matthew Clayton	672.....Ingram, Samuel Roy	739.....Bennett, Anthony David
98.....Coombs, Joshua Wayne	343.....Bowman, Mark Scott	502.....Willis, Rodney Shane	672.....Smith, Charles Edward	739.....Bennett, David Wayne
113.....Chaney, Michael Howard	343.....Lynch, Brian Edward	505.....Hartman Jr., Burl E.	679.....Reams, Michael Blaine	739.....Kralik, James Richard
115.....Aker, Donald Christopher	343.....Moscarella, Anthony	505.....Rainwater, Travis David	679.....Taylor, Christopher Allen	739.....Polen, Larry Lewis
115.....Cozart, Perry	344.....Carte, Derek Thomas	521.....Doughtie, Brent Douglas Young	680.....Sanchez, Jorge Leon	741.....Lawrence, James Grady
117.....Vitale, Michael Philip	352.....Adams, Benjamin Bradshaw	521.....Keating Jr., Louis	685.....McGuire Jr., James H.	750.....Ray, John Michael
118.....DeBruhl, Brandon Almond	352.....Brock, James William	521.....Andrews, Evan Taylor	685.....Wyer, Cody James	757.....Howard, Mark Anthony
118.....Riggs, Jason Cory	356.....Beam, Michael Gage	521.....Andrews, Kyle Bailey	688.....Dutton, Jerry Wayne	757.....Pitman, Travis Michael
118.....Robertson, Joseph Howell	356.....Fox, Earl Brice	521.....Benson, Kyle Alan	688.....Lemmon, Russel Lee	759.....Schroeder, Andrew Thomas
118.....Silver, George Michael	356.....Scronce, Austin James	527.....Bass, David Chadwick	690.....Fletcher, John Eric	762.....Vanderwalker, Matthew Albert
122.....Nicholson, David Lee	369.....Robb, Daniel Steven	528.....Meares, Kenneth Eugene	692.....LaFond, Stephan Michael	762.....Xaubet, Horacio
123.....Joyner, Nathaniel James	374.....Hicks, Daniel Franklin	535.....Yelton, Kelly Robert	694.....Luper, Norman	765.....Jobin, Trent Christopher
129.....Clark, Paul Ryan	378.....Overton, William Thomas	542.....Baughman III, Paul Webster	694.....Wilkins, Kristopher Charles P.	UD.....Sawyer, Keegan Christian
134.....Earnhardt, Todd Steven	384.....Snyder, Robert Samuel	543.....Untiedt, Johann Wilhelm	695.....Bishop, Brandon Scott	UD.....Ashcraft, Nathan Kent
136.....Hopkins, Webb Harlan	384.....DeLapp, James Christopher	543.....Foley, Jonathan Elliott		
136.....Horton, Brice Everett	384.....Walker, Patrick Charles	544.....Lingle, John Todd		
137.....Sipes, Clay Parker	391.....Long, Christopher Townsend	552.....Edmondson, Byron Eugene		
138.....Bullard, Walter David	391.....Ratley, Neil Jody	552.....Vincent, Paul Michael		
138.....Fraze, Christopher John	391.....Thomas, Matthew Troy	552.....Moore, Brantley Preston		
145.....Giles, Eric Lee	395.....Vogt, Stephen K.	568.....Mallard Jr., David Craig		
162.....Shore, Varnie Trent	397.....Killian, Jonathan Scott	571.....Melton Jr., James Lee		
198.....Akers, Alexander Scott	404.....Koller, Lars	573.....Haynes, Darrell Ray		
205.....Chappuis, Kyle Thomas	408.....Cook, Charles Hamilton	573.....Livingston, Benjamin Taylor		
205.....Jones, Todd Dean	408.....Russell, Michael Charles	573.....Parker, Charles Andrew		
205.....Kenley, Jon Ronald	418.....Stanley, John Hampton	576.....Hopper, Timothy Alan		
205.....Pennington Sr, James Allen	418.....Turner, Lucas Grant	589.....Tetterton, Robert Darell		
	420.....Eddy, Joshua Ian			



## LEOs raise one of their own

STATESVILLE — Iredell County deputy John Fletcher, front center, was raised by Mt. Moriah 690 on May 23. His brothers and co-workers with the Iredell County Sheriff's Office conferred the second section of his Master Masons degree. — Marty Byers

## Let me help Masonry's charities

- The North Carolina Masonic Foundation
- Masonic and Eastern Star Foundation
- 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.

## The Grand Historian's Courier Case Arlington at rest

By Steven Campbell

Just 240 years ago, a new nation was forged in the heat of battle, as well as in the hearts and minds of those who came before us. The United States of America is a young nation in the annals of history, yet it is a nation of a proud, just, and honorable people. Many who led the way were members of our Fraternity. It is well that we do not forget those who possessed the fortitude to “press onward.”

Perched on the heights along the Potomac River, adjacent to the seat of the American Republic, sits Arlington National Cemetery. Those who lie at rest upon these grounds are ever vigilant over the nation's capital. This is hallowed ground, which contains the mortal remains of those who answered the “call to duty” when summoned by our country. Thousands of Freemasons who valiantly served the nation lie at rest in Arlington. Some of our well-known Brothers are: General John J. “Black Jack” Pershing, Major Audie Murphy, General Omar Bradley, General Leonard Wood, General James Doolittle, and General George C. Marshall, explorers Robert Peary and Richard Byrd, and President William Taft.

### From whence it came

During the War of American Independence (1775–1783), Brother George Washington's (Fredericksburg 4) stepson, John Parke Custis, purchased Abington Estate just north of Mt. Vernon. Sadly, whilst serving on his step-father's staff at Yorktown (1781), he contracted “camp fever” and perished. His young widow was confronted with debt and the raising of their children, George Washington Parke Custis and Eleanor. It was agreed that the children would live between Abington and Mt. Vernon. Through inheritance, George Washington Parke Custis would own Abington and a nearby 1,100 acre tract of land across the Potomac River, upon which he would build Arlington. (Over time, the estate of Abington would pass from owner to owner, and in the 20<sup>th</sup> century it would be transformed into today's Reagan National Airport.)

For sixteen years, G. W. P. Custis and his wife Mary oversaw the construction of a Greek inspired home. Seeking to perpetuate the memory of Bro. George Washington, Custis originally named his home Mt. Washington. However, upon further reflection he titled the estate Arlington, in honor of his ancestors' 17<sup>th</sup> century property along Virginia's eastern shore.

In 1831 their lovely daughter, Mary Anne Randolph Custis would wed young Lt. Robert E. Lee in the Arlington House parlor. For thirty years, the Lees considered Arlington their home. Sadly, in 1861, when

the nation would be split asunder by war (1861–65), the Lees were forced to flee Arlington. As the slaughter of this horrid war continued, the US government obtained the abandoned estate through auction in 1864 for \$26,800.

As all wars, the War of Secession or the Great Rebellion ended in 1865, yet graves continued to be filled upon the grounds at Arlington. Robert E. Lee never set foot on the Arlington estate again. Ever mindful of her childhood home, Mary Lee harbored hope that one day she could reclaim Arlington. In 1873, the now widowed and crippled Mary would visit the grounds of Arlington, and within five months, perish, never to re-obtain her home. Being overseen by the US Army, the house deteriorated yet was stable. The uniform marble grave markers, known still today, first appeared in 1874.

In early 1883, the United States Supreme Court ruled that the U. S. government had illegally obtained Arlington and that ownership was to be returned to the Lee family. Now the final resting place to thousands of men and women, the Lees accepted the payment of the fair market price of \$150,000. The deed to Arlington was presented by US Secretary of War Robert Todd Lincoln.

### The never-ending legacy

Other national cemeteries existed in the United States, however, in 1892, it was determined that veterans from all American wars would be laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery. Selected remains from the American Revolution, the War of 1812, and other conflicts were re-interred at Arlington. The solemn tradition of honoring unknown soldiers began in the Civil War and continues to this day. The United States Third Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard), stationed at Fort Myer, stands to post at the Tomb of the Unknowns (“Known but to God”) 24 hours a day.

Tradition and uniformity play a strong role in the functions of Arlington National Cemetery. Modernizations in management practices have advanced, however the respect afforded those who are buried here and the ones they have left behind has not diminished. In 2014 the Arlington National Cemetery's 680+ acres was befittingly designated a National Historic District. If you're ever near Arlington, stop awhile, seek out our Brothers' graves, and honor those who came before us.

### A challenge

Here in the Old North State are: (1) Salisbury National Cemetery, (2) Raleigh National Cemetery, (3) Wilmington National Cemetery, and (4) New Bern National Cemetery. Please, go visit and record Brother Freemasons you find at these hallowed sites. Submit your findings in a “field report” to your grand historian at <campmckay1358@gmail.com>. I look forward to hearing from you.

*Grand Historian Steven Campbell is a member of Blackmer 127.*

## From the Medical Committee Heat-related illness

By Michael Johnston

As the mercury in the thermostat rises this summer, there will be many Masons at risk of suffering a heat-related illness. These can include heat cramps, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke. Any of these conditions may strike when the body cannot adequately cool itself. High humidity, physical activity, and hot temperatures, in any combination can increase one's vulnerability. The elderly, and those with chronic health conditions such as high blood pressure, diabetes, heart or kidney related problems, and cancer are at much greater risks.

Heat exhaustion typically occurs as a result of excessive sweating, usually during exercise or manual labor. The body loses large amounts of water and salt, interfering with circulation and brain function. Sometimes, one may initially experience cramping of the muscles because of the loss of important electrolytes. Signs you may be experiencing heat exhaustion include: dizziness, fatigue, nausea, confusion, fainting, and dark colored urine from dehydration. Without prompt treatment, heat exhaustion can lead to heat stroke.

Heat stroke is the most serious heat-related illness and is often fatal. It will display many of the symptoms listed previously, but is also marked by high fever (above 104° F), caused by failure of the body's temperature regulation mechanism.

If you begin to experience any of the symptoms listed above — dizziness, fatigue, nausea, confusion, fainting, and dark colored urine from dehydration — in a high temperature environment, it is urgent to stop what you are doing, and take preventive measures to avoid serious consequence! Re-hydrate, get to a cooler location, place a cool wet towel on the wrist, groin, and forehead. Seek medical attention if symptoms do not improve.

*Michael Johnston is a member of Asheboro 669.*



CLINTON — Hiram 98 termed their March 24 Spring Pancake Dinner “a great success.”

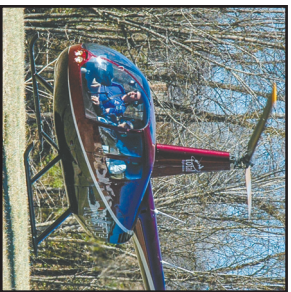
— Sherrill Allen



**page 1**  
**Sixth District**  
**outdoor raising**



**page 2**  
**Annual Communication**  
**September 23-24**



**page 13**  
**97-year-old Mason**  
**gets wish answered**

**On the cover**

A clearing in the woods  
of Green County furnished a  
lodge for the Sixth  
District's recent degree.  
Ric Carter photo

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# NORTH CAROLINA The Mason

**Sixth District holds  
degree in the woods  
Annual Communication  
coming in September**



**JUL/AUG  
2016**