



# NORTH CAROLINA The Mason

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## 229<sup>th</sup> Annual Communication concludes after productive session

By Ric Carter



Ric Carter photos

WINSTON-SALEM — Grand Master Bryant D. Webster presided over the 229<sup>th</sup> Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina September 23–24. It was a session of extraordinary affability in its business and fellowship. It was also marked by immense amounts of food, not just for those present, but for the community as well. The meeting was also marked by much more singing than previous meetings. It was held at the Embassy Suites here. Despite the fuel shortages around the Southeast due to a pipeline malfunction, we enjoyed the largest attendance at Annual Communication we have seen in several years.

Methodist minister A. Gene Cobb Jr., a member of Royal White Hart 2 who lives in Sanford, was elected grand master. The biggest surprise of the meeting was Senior Grand Warden Jimmy Hicks' withdrawal of his name from consideration for deputy grand master. All line officers moved up two steps, and two grand stewards were named. The new stewards are Don E. Kehler of Bula 409 and a Burlington resident and Robert W. Rideout of Zebulon and member of White Stone 155. The grand steward positions are at the bottom of the line which leads to being grand master a few years down the line.

Officers began arriving on Wednesday night, September 21 for committee meetings early the next morning.

Thursday was filled with committee, board, and commission meetings pertaining to business to be brought before the assembly the next two days. Several also dealt with plans for the coming year. Lodge secretaries attended morning and afternoon workshops to learn more about caring for their lodges. This year they learned more about lodge insurance, fundraising, and MORI, the lodge recordkeeping software. The grand master hosted a dinner for his guests and officers on Thursday evening.

Three hundred forty-four lodges were represented. Seventeen Grand Lodge officers, 16 past grand masters, 59 committeemen, 32 district deputy grand masters, and 20 district deputy grand lecturers made for a total of 1,168 voting delegates for the meeting.

There seemed to be a larger crowd than usual at the opening. The formal opening began at 10:00 A.M. on Friday, September 23. District officers and visitors from other jurisdictions were received and introduced. Officials from North Carolina's Prince Hall Grand Lodge, District of Columbia, England, Georgia, Louisiana, New Jersey, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia were on hand, as were officers from North Carolina's appendant organizations. There were a few last minute cancellations because of fuel shortages that week.

GM Webster communicates with the gavel.

■ see GRAND LODGE, page 8



Several lodges outdid themselves on the Masons Can project championed by Grand Master Webster.



# St. John's I repeats Battleship Degree

By Ric Carter

WILMINGTON — For a second straight year, St. John's 1 held a raising on the battleship USS North Carolina. About 80 Masons from around the state attended the degree aboard the National Historic Landmark. The popular event was held September 17 at the ship's permanent mooring across the Cape Fear River from downtown Wilmington.

A delicious prime rib meal was served in the welcome center at 6:00 P.M., after the battleship was closed to the public for the day and before the lodge was opened at 7:00 P.M. That gave time for early arrivals to tour the museum and ship for a while before supper and a bit before the degree work began.

The degree was moved to the officers ward room this year, located on the main deck, it was easier to access than last years below decks mess hall location. Kids from Wilmington's Masonic youth groups were on hand to help welcome and direct visitors.

Wooden naval shipping crates were used for officer podiums, a sailors white canvas duffle served as a kneeling pad at the altar. The altar was lit with a vintage ship's deck lantern, and paper aprons inscribed for the occasion were distributed.

St. John's 1's officers raised two new Masons, their own candidate Justin Dean Cook, and Binh Qudc Nguyen as a courtesy for Ashlar 765. The raising was presided over by Master/King Solomon Frank Barfoot; Senior Warden/Senior Grand Warden Jim Brandt; Fellows Craft Chris Jones, Avery Rackley, and Marty Hunt; Ruffians Larry Brown, Andy Greene, and Terry Kuhn; Secretary



The lodge was situated in the center of the terrazzo floored officers ward room.

Jim Frost; and Lecturer John Shawver.

The USS North Carolina was the fourth ship the United States Navy named for our state. Her hull was laid in 1937, and she was commissioned in 1940. She was nicknamed "Showboat" because of the widespread attention she drew on her launch and testing cruise. She lived up to the nickname winning 15 battle stars during her participation in every major naval offensive in the Pacific Theater during World War II. Armament included nine 16-inch guns and 20 five-inch guns. The ship was crewed by more than 2,300 sailors and Marines.

After her decommissioning in 1960, she was bought by the school children of North Carolina, brought to her permanent berth in Wilmington, and made a monument to North Carolinians who died during their WWII service.



Candidate Cook tours the museum before his raising.



Kingfisher on the ship's fantail is seen under a rising moon.

Ric Carter photos



Master and altar



Port of Joppa



Three of the ship's 16-inch guns at sunset.



## Pig Jig 2016 champions

RALEIGH — Raleigh 500's Annual Masonic Pig Jig attracts hundreds each year at the Got to Be NC Festival at the North Carolina State Fairgrounds. The 11<sup>th</sup> annual event was again a big success in raising money for Masonic charities. It is also one of the most successful fellowship opportunities held in the state. Thirty or so teams from various Masonic bodies in several states enjoy a night of fun with each other as they cook to take the bragging rights to the best barbecue in the state.



### Grand Champion Doric 30

Despite bad weather forecasts, the event this year enjoyed beautiful weather and a great turnout. They raised more than \$11,000 for the kids at the Central Children's Home and Masonic Home for Children, both in Oxford.



### People's Choice Rhamkatte 827

This year's awards went to:

*Grand Champion* – Doric 30 (from Delaware)

*People's Choice award* – Rhamkatte 827 (PHA)

*Team Spirit award* – Widow's Son 4 (PHA)

*Best Pork*

First – Doric 30 (Delaware)

Second – Rhamkatte 827 (PHA)

Third – Branch Water BBQ

*Best Chicken*

First – Lenoir York Rite Bodies

Second – Branch Water BBQ

Third – Doric 30

*Best Sauce*

First – Holly Springs 115

Second – Doric 30 (Delaware)

Third – Mentor 55 (PHA)

A special plate with a gold ring was presented to multi-year Grand Champion Branch Water BBQ.

The next Carolina Masonic Pig Jig will be held May 20, 2017. Visit <<http://carolinapigjig.com/index.html>> to learn more about being part of the fun. You can even earn money for your lodge charities. — Sean Rollman



## Landscape Day

OXFORD — On March 19, the Masonic Home for Children held their Fifth Annual Great Landscape Day on the Home's campus. Volunteers from around the state grabbed their yard tools and came to lend a hand on that Saturday morning. They started with breakfast and ended with lunch on campus.

In between, they took care of a number of yard projects including the erection of a new shed. Grand Master Webster was among the day labor spiffing up the Home.

Lodges in the 21<sup>st</sup> Masonic District collected the money to buy a garden shed for the home in 2015. CertainTeed donated shingles for it, and Masons from the 13<sup>th</sup> Masonic District assembled it during Great Landscape Day.

— Scott Sholar, Rich Weaver, and *Campus Tracks*

## Family Day at WhiteStone

*By Richard Spivey*

GREENSBORO — Family Day has long been WhiteStone's largest event of each year. The focus on this event is in no small part due to the fraternal values of family and friendship which founded our community so many years ago. Those values are so embroidered into our community fabric that this event continues to grow each year. 2016 Family Day (the 15<sup>th</sup>) was a great success. Loved ones gathered, residents came out, staff stepped up, and fraternal connections came through to make it a fun filled family affair.

This year's beach theme set the tone for a super summer. Beach umbrellas, beach balls, and snow cones reminded us to have plenty of family fun time through the season. Bands were playing, folks were dancing, kids played corn hole with their grandparents, and the smell of popcorn and cotton candy painted the air. There was face painting and farm animals for petting. Gate City 694 and Revolution 552 cooked up some awesome barbecue.

They also dedicated the newly renovated Care & Wellness Center courtyards which were funded by Greensboro 76's Louis M. Sirota and his wife Meryl B. Sheppard.

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



SELMA — Grover Dees recently presented a portrait of Richard Noble, a master of Selma 320 who went on to become a member of Fellowship 84 in Smithfield and North Carolina's grand master in 1899. Dees presented the picture in honor of Harry Greene, seen here with the portrait. Dees said he wanted to honor "Brother Harry's love for Masonry and all he has done for Selma Lodge over the past 45 years."



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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.

## Kolada gets Montfort

WINSTON-SALEM — Our newest Joseph Montfort Medalist is Mark Kolada, administrator of WhiteStone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Community. Grand Master Bryant Webster chose to surprise Kolada with the presentation during Annual Communication, September 23. He was pinned by WhiteStone Board Chairman Gene Jernigan (PGM).

Mark Kolada came to our Home when our Board there decided to go with a commercial management company to help manage the Home. Kolada faced a tough job winning over those in the community who thought that plan was not the best path for our charity. He has helped bring WhiteStone back from the brink of disaster to a thriving institution which has begun increasing its charitable outreach. He has become warmly embraced by members of the WhiteStone community. Kolada took his degrees at Mosaic 762 in 2007. He is also a member of Gate City 694 and MESH 771.

The Joseph Montfort Medal is the highest hon-



Kolada, left, is pinned by PGM Jernigan.

or presented by our Grand Lodge. It is given for "distinguished Masonic service or achievement." A grand master may present only three during his term in office. It is named for Colonial Treasurer Joseph Montfort who, in 1771, became the only man ever named provincial grand master of America. Montfort was a member of Royal White Hart 2 in Halifax where he is buried.

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

### 150 down, 1 to go

Change always wins; embrace it.

For those of you who may have missed it, the end of my 25 years at the helm of *The North Carolina Mason* is nigh — one more paper. Continue to send news from your lodge to the paper. While the new editor is yet to be chosen, that lucky person will need your help. No editor has a crystal ball (at least if there is one here, I never saw it); we depend on you to let us know what's going on in your corner of the world.

Back in June, when I tendered my retirement, we created the email address [ncmason@glnc.us](mailto:ncmason@glnc.us). That address should be used for sending news, thank yous, and complaints to the paper. When the November/December issue is put to bed, Grand Secretary Clapp will throw the switch that will send those communications to the new editor. You may still email me at [rcarter@glnc.us](mailto:rcarter@glnc.us) for personal correspondence. Feel free

to use that address to clear your system.

Indications are that your new editor will be handling communications for our charities as well as the Craft. I wish them as much joy as I have seen.

I was very touched by the kindness and warmth I felt at Annual Communication. I got to suitably tear up and laugh. My exit garnered much applause (not quite sure how to take that).

I was uncomfortable through a lovely tribute, given a smiling cartoon portrait, and named editor emeritus. Anyway, I'll probably have a little more to say in the next issue.

Please, keep that news coming in. As always, don't wait to be appointed, make yourself the reporter. Take a couple of steps closer to your subject, and set the camera to the highest resolution possible.

Hope to see you all again real soon — as that odd looking guy on the sideline.





## BUILDING A STRONGER FOUNDATION



# Leaving a better campsite

By Bryant D. Webster  
Grand Master

One of the time-honored principles of the Boy Scouts of America, of which I have long been a member, is that you always leave the campsite better than you found it. Every time we headed home, our Scouts and leaders would line up across one side of the area, separate to where our fingers were just touching, and slowly walk together across the site, picking up any left articles, bits of trash, and anything that did not belong there. We would reverse, again checking our steps. We would repeat the process at a 90 degree angle, such that we were making a complete grid across the site. We would repeat this practice until no person was finding any trash or foreign objects. It did not matter how cold it was, how hard it was raining, or how much of a hurry we were in, we never skipped this regimen. We referred to the process as “policing the area.”

Policing the area is a concept I still practice today, and I bridle at the idea of using any public or private facility and not leaving it better than we found it. It is my strong desire to apply this principle to our year of service together in the Grand Lodge of North Carolina. I want us to leave the Grand Lodge of North Carolina better than we found it.

There are several ideas taught by policing an area which are worthy of specific mention: 1. Pick up after yourself: Don't leave a mess for others. 2. Don't just pick up after yourself: Clean up the messes of previous users, and leave it nicer for those coming later. 3. Make things better for others you don't even know is not optional — it is priority one. 4. We have to do this together: One person is not very effective policing the area, but if we all concentrate our efforts, we can ensure that everything is squared away properly.

So, are we leaving a better campsite? What have we delivered of value this year? We have provided a Lodge Self-Assessment, to help lodges to look in the mirror, see where they are, and plan for improvement. We have provided a primer on estate planning documents to more than 3,000 Masons in district meetings, lodge Masonic education programs, and Annual Communication, encouraging our Brothers to protect their families and provide for our charities. Many brothers have followed up on this with real action. We have a Music Committee that is helping our lodges understand

and use the music in our *Bahnson Manual* and beyond. We have demonstrated the kind of difference lighting can make in the lodge experience. We have an Education Committee which is actively producing new programs, including a Reading List, a successful Speaker's Bureau, the Restorations Lecture Series, and the new Davie Leadership Academy. We have brought the Prestonian Lecturer to North Carolina twice. We have issued dispensations for two new lodges: MESH Lodge UD and Lux Libertas Lodge UD. We have issued charters for two new lodges: State College 770 and MESH 771. We have promoted and explained and strengthened the North Carolina Masonic Foundation, including hiring a new chief development officer. We have fostered and strengthened our relationships with our appendant bodies. We have reminded our Brothers, in lodges large and small, that we are all regular Masons, and we know who the “most important man in Masonry” really is. We have collected thousands of cans of food and money for our neighbors in need through the Masons Can program.

Please accept my thanks for all of your efforts to make these accomplishments possible. They are OUR accomplishments. No one man can do much of anything by himself — not even a grand master. Working together, we have policed our area and left a better campsite. Thank you also for all of the honorary memberships, wonderful meals, meaningful gifts, and every kindness and courtesy I have been afforded as I traveled across “the Goodliest Land.” My travels both in North Carolina and outside our jurisdiction convince me that we are onto something good here in the Grand Lodge of North Carolina. We are forming lodges to meet the needs and desires of our Masons. We are training our leaders through Wilkerson College and Davie Leadership Academy, and providing easy to use resources to add Masonic Education and improve the lodge experience. We have young officer lines and great excitement and enthusiasm about Freemasonry in every part of this state.

To our past grand masters, thank you for your continued service to our fraternity, and for all the kindnesses you have shown me. Your support, your wisdom, your willingness to answer my calls or emails, and your steadfast resolve to aid when asked but never to meddle is greatly appreciated. To all of our committees, boards, and commis-

sions, you are the engines which drive our gentle craft forward; thank you for the hard work you do to superintend the “sausage making” which is necessary but unseen in most organizations, including ours. To our Grand Lodge officers, thank you to you and your families for all of the sacrifices that you make to serve the Grand Lodge and each of its members. Very few know the countless hours and countless dollars you spend in selfless service to make this thing go. I know, and I thank you. To all of the most important men in Masonry, thank you for all the things you do daily to shine the light of our fraternity in every farm, county, village, town, city, and crossroads community in this state — you are the personification of Freemasonry; thank you for being the Light!

To my family, thank you for being willing to bear the sacrifices and to allow me to serve this great organization in this way. I appreciate my Dad serving as grand tyler, and I thank my parents and my brother for providing a safe haven for me to rest and to work in Durham and in Goldsboro, central to the state, as I traveled on Grand Lodge business. To Jan and Amy, thank you for allowing me to join in this work. I wish I could share in the accomplishments and achievements, and yet somehow erase all the miles. You have kept hearth and home together in my absence. I look forward to being much more present for you.

I cannot say enough to show my appreciation to the Grand Lodge of North Carolina for affording me the opportunity to lead and to serve this year. The joy of my laughter, the smiles you have seen in person and on Facebook and elsewhere, are real. I will forever nurture these treasures of brotherly love in my heart. Policing the area implies that it is time to leave, and I will soon shed the mantle of the East in favor of a new leader. That is entirely right, just, and welcomed. We will be well-served by Gene Cobb and the officers who follow him. I have a large windshield and a small rear view mirror. I will look forward to other and different opportunities to serve my fellow man and to continue this journey of self-improvement. Our foundation is strengthened. We must continue building.

As we look forward, and go forward together, let us heed the words of the poet, Robert Frost, in “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening”:

The woods are lovely, dark and deep,  
But I have promises to keep,  
And miles to go before I sleep,  
And miles to go before I sleep.



# MILEPOSTS



**LOUISBURG** — Dean Holton received his Veteran's Emblem for his 50 years in the lodge in February. Sammy Beasley and Stan Joyner presented the award to the James A. Johnson 413 member. — Howard L. Moore



**BAHAMA** — Bobby Hancock, right, recently received his 50-year Veteran's Emblem. David Bryant, left, made the presentation for Knap of Reeds 158. — Kent Dixon



**TARBORO** — Stanley Vick was recently presented his Diamond Jubilee for his 60 years as a Mason. He is seen here with many of his brothers from Concord 58. — Frank Etheridge



**LEXINGTON** — Lexington-Memorial 473 recently presented service awards to several members making membership anniversaries. Seen here Johnny Ray Thomason, left, is presented his Veteran's Emblem celebrating his 50 years as a Mason by Lexington-Memorial Master Scott Robbins.

— Thomas Jolly Jr.



**LEXINGTON** — Lexington-Memorial 473 recently presented service awards to several of their members. Charlie Favre, left, got his Diamond Jubilee for 60 years membership, and Johnny Thomason, right, got his Veteran's Emblem for his 50 years. Lodge Master Scott Robbins, center, made the presentations. — Thomas Jolly Jr.



**BRENTWOOD, TN** — John N. Mitchell Jr., center, received his Diamond Jubilee award celebrating his 60 years as a Mason on June 6. Mitchell was presented the award by Tennessee Masons in his current hometown. The Vance 293 Mason is seen here with Tennessee Grand Lodge representative Don Anderson, left, and his son John Mitchell III, right. — John N. Mitchell Jr.



**BAHAMA** — Bill Peeler, right, of Knap of Reeds 158 is seen here receiving his Veteran's Emblem from David Bryant. The award honors 50 years Masonic service. — Kent Dixon



**LEXINGTON** — Billy Hughes, left, recently received his Diamond Jubilee honoring his 60 years as a Mason. The Lexington-Memorial 473 member is seen here receiving the award from lodge Master Scott Robbins. — Thomas Jolly Jr.



**GREENVILLE** — James Herbert Bailey returned to Jarvis Memorial United Methodist Church, his old home church here, to preach on July 17. While he was there, his Brothers from Crown Point 708 surprised him by presenting him his Veteran's Emblem celebrating his 50 years as a Mason. Bailey is seen here, right, receiving the award from Crown Point Secretary Roy Selby. Bailey is a past grand chaplain of our Grand Lodge. — Roy Selby



**LOUISVILLE** — James A. Johnson 413 honored Sammy Beasley, center, May 24. Lodge Master Harry Dupree and Stan Joyner presented him his Veteran's Emblem for his 50 years Masonic membership during the lodge's stated communication. — Howard L. Moore



**HIGH POINT** — Numa F. Reid 344 and Acacia 674 sponsored a Flag Day event June 14 at their lodge. Colors were presented, the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was given, and a brief history of our flag was given. As the feature event of the evening, Boy Scout Troop 8 from the First Baptist Church in Jamestown conducted a Ceremony of Retirement. An explanation was given for the colors and stars on the flag. To conclude the ceremony, each person present was asked to place a retired flag on the pyre. — Michael Rinehardt



**ADVANCE** — Advance 710's newest member Jonathan Jarvis (left) is holding the Bible his grandfather H. R. Hendricks, center, received 75 years ago. Jonathan's dad Joe Jarvis (right) with Advance Master Jeff Finney are seen here with them. The youngest Jarvis was raised July 28. —Mark Stephen Howell



## MILEPOSTS



**LEXINGTON** — Lexington-Memorial 473 recently presented service awards to several members making membership anniversaries. Seen here Ed Wilkerson, left, he received his Veteran's Emblem for 50 years membership from Master Scott Robbins. — Thomas Jolly Jr.



**LEXINGTON** — Lexington-Memorial 473 recently presented service awards to several members on their membership anniversaries. Seen here H. W. Davis, left, he received his 50-year Veteran's Emblem from Master Scott Robbins. — Thomas Jolly Jr.



**LEXINGTON** — Lexington-Memorial 473 recently presented service awards to several members achieving membership anniversaries. George Clifton, right, got his 60-year Diamond Jubilee. He is seen here with lodge Master Scott Robbins. — Thomas Jolly Jr.



Ric Carter photo

**RALEIGH** — William T. Bain 231 has instituted a Mason of the Month program to recognize and encourage dedication and action in the lodge. The first honoree was David Jones, right. The young Mason has only been a Master Mason for a few months, but has been very active in lodge activities. He is seen here with his friend and Brother Vick Tart.



Butch Pillar photo

**REIDSVILLE** — Jefferson Penn 384 honored Paul Tutherow, center, on June 17 at their Past Masters and Widows Banquet. Lodge Master Jack Chaney, left, presented Tutherow's Veteran's Emblem recognizing his 50 years in the fraternity. His son Michael Tutherow, right, senior warden of Scotch Ireland 154, helped with the presentation.



**WILSON** — Four college bound young people here received T. Bruce Boyette Scholarships this year. Wilson 712 held a special banquet to present the \$1,000 awards. Seen at the banquet, from left, are Isaigh Oakes, bound for Johnson C. Smith University; Haleigh Vickrey, going to East Carolina University; Wilson 712 Master Kyle Bissette; Taylor Westbrook, UNC-Greensboro; and Hannah Rogers, Pitt Community College. The lodge raises the money for the scholars each year with a golf tournament. — Kathy Fardy



## GRAND LODGE, from page 1

The opening was more easily heard this year thanks to the officers being wirelessly microphoned. After the ritual opening, the first order of business was hearing the keynote address from the grand orator. This year, that was Judge David Sentelle, a member of Excelsior 261 and senior United States circuit judge on the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. Sentelle spoke about his experience of having his membership in the fraternity challenged as he went through the confirmation process in the US Senate after his 1987 appointment to the Court of Appeals by Ronald Reagan. The questions arose because of our fraternity's white-only membership at that time.

A number of official reports were received and formally entered on the record of the communication which will be published next year. They were also available in the *Reports* booklet at the meeting and on personal digital devices by way of QR codes posted in the hall (an innovation offered the past few years). Past Grand Master Douglas Caudle presented his final report on his year in the East.

Just before lunch, Grand Master Webster had Montfort medalists who were at the Communication assemble around the altar. He then had WhiteStone Administrator Mark Kolada presented at the East where he was presented the Joseph Montfort Medal in honor of his service to the Craft. WhiteStone Board Chairman Gene Jernigan (PGM) pinned the medal on Kolada's chest.

A few non-Masons spoke before labor was resumed after lunch. Most newsworthy among those speakers was Jeffery Hensley, the newly hired chief development officer for the North Carolina Masonic Foundation.

After guest speakers concluded, labor was resumed, and the Necrology Service honored our members who died since our last annual meeting.

Grand Master Bryant Webster made the most striking Grand Master's interim report we have seen in many years. Webster walked virtually the entire hall talking to the more than 1,200+ Masons gathered there. He spoke not to a mass, but the men he walked among within less than arm's length. He played the cheerleader for many of the good works performed by Masons this year in North Carolina. He recognized lodges and individuals, having them stand for applause and appreciation of their accomplishments. He reiterated his mantra this year that, "You are the most important Mason in North Carolina." He even joined in singing as part of a quartet.

Two lodges operating under dispensation this year applied for charters as official lodges. Both were granted charters after positive reports from the Committee on Charters and Dispensations. Our newest lodges are State College 770 and MESH 771.

State College Lodge is Raleigh's newest lodge and is an affinity lodge with an interest in North Carolina State University, its history, students, and future. They celebrate especially the strong tie between Freemasons and the founding and development of that university. They meet monthly on third Wednesdays.

MESH 771 is North Carolina's only daylight lodge. They are based at WhiteStone: A Masonic and East-



Back apron for a service dog.



The grand master enters the hall under Knights Templar arch.

ern Star Community in Greensboro. The lodge allows our Masonic Brothers in our retirement home to attend lodge more frequently and with much less difficulty. It also offers opportunities to Masons from around the state to enjoy the fellowship of the Home. MESH Lodge meets monthly on second Saturdays.

Both lodges are open for application across the state, with no special restrictions.

The Committee on Appeals reported on all the cases heard on charges of un-Masonic behavior during the past year. The members of Grand Lodge approved the decisions of all 19 cases heard this year. No restorations were granted among the four applications.

The Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence presented six Grand Masters' orders (two from GM Caudle and four from GM Webster) made since our last meeting. All but one were technical matters involving lodge procedures. One involved disregard for an order of Lodge Service Commission on complying with local fire codes in a lodge. All six were approved by vote of Grand Lodge.

All action on the proposed amendment to *The Code* for this year was taken on Friday afternoon.

Group 1 was approved. It clarified residency requirements for District Deputy Grand Masters. A DDGM must be a member of a lodge of his district but may reside outside the district.

Group 2 would have allowed men who live outside the state to serve on Grand Lodge boards, commissions, and committees. It was defeated.

Group 3 and its substitute, concerning minimum fees for the degrees, were withdrawn so not voted on.

Group 4 was approved. After recent guidance for the Internal Revenue Service, we added selling lodge property and renting by the lodge of commercial/office property to the list of actions which must be approved by the Lodge Service Commission.

Group 5 was approved. It made sure that the chaplain of a blue lodge is not required to hold proficiency

in the Master Mason Degree.

Group 6, which would have allowed a Mason in good standing to purchase previous years of service he missed due to nonpayment of dues in the past, was defeated.

Group 7 was approved to allow Masonic ceremonies at churches on Sundays with permission of the grand master.

Group 8 would have ended the endowed membership program. It was defeated.

Group 9 passed expanding the Grand Lodge Committees on the Masonic Homes. The committees have no authority other than reporting to the membership on the operations at the Homes. The committees may now have between five and nine members.

A little before 5:00 p.m., the Grand lodge was called from labor to refreshment. The fellowship became less structured as Masons from around the state explored downtown and various hospitality rooms, formed their own pods of friends to get supper together, and bumped into friends they never knew before. The grand master even hosted a pizza party for the membership in his room.

At 9:00 a.m. Saturday morning, labor was resumed.

Grand Master Webster this year has been promoting Masons Can, a drive to collect food for the Food Bank. Delegates were asked to bring ten cans of food or ten dollars. Several lodges and a district or two decided to pad the results by pushing to bring much more to the meeting. There were collection points in the hotel lobby and a trailer was parked outside to direct pack larger amounts delivered. In the end, we got about 7,000 pounds of food and nearly \$4,000. All together, we collected 32,000 meals for the hungry. Remember, this is a worthy cause that does not need to be dropped now that Annual Communication is concluded. There are organizations who feed the hungry everywhere, and the cause is deserving. Keep up these drives when you get home.

During the morning, *North Carolina Mason* Editor

Ric

Lun





Carter photos



Senior Grand Warden Hicks after his announcement.

Your lodge officers **are** the Grand Lodge.

Cobb, Kehler, Rideout, and Webster



GM Webster makes a quartet.



cheon on the deck courtesy Winston-Salem Masons.

Ric Carter was saluted on the eve of his retirement after 25 years as editor of the Craft's journal. He received a warm reception, a caricature portrait, a lovely tribute, and was named editor emeritus of *The North Carolina Mason*. Carter thanked the assembled Masons for their help over the years and reminded them of the esteem in which he held the blue lodges and the rank and file Masons around the state.

The United Grand Lodge of England's Prestonian Lecturer Richard Berman gave a short talk on the trade union origins of Freemasonry between 1300 and 1700 which became the fraternity we know today. It was a fascinating addition to the annual proceedings.

The first order of business, as per *The Code*, was the consideration of the Grand Lodge budget presented by Finance Committee Chairman Grover Dees. The budget was approved without changes.

Officer elections began as the budget was being discussed and voted on in sections.

Deputy Grand Master A. Gene Cobb Jr. (Royal White Hart 2) was elected grand master. Both Grand Treasurer Lewis R. Ledford (PGM) (Statesville 27) and Grand Secretary T. Walton Clapp III (Mystic Tie 237) were reelected.

Senior Grand Warden Jimmie B. Hicks Jr. moved

to the podium and announced that he would not be available for election as deputy grand master because of his recent acceptance to London's Imperial College's Global MBA Program, a lifelong dream. He expressed his frustration that his classroom requirements and study time would detract from the time to do a proper job as deputy grand master next year. He expressed his deep regret at losing the opportunity to serve after his years invested in Masonry, but expressed his appreciation for the opportunities and the experience afforded him by his time in the Grand Lodge line.

Junior Grand Warden Speed Hallman (Eagle 19) was elected deputy grand master, Senior Grand Deacon Dwight "Mack" Sigmon was elected Senior Grand Warden. Junior Grand Deacon Shaun Bradshaw was elected junior grand warden.

Appointed officers for 2017 include: Senior Grand Deacon R. David Wicker (Oak Grove 750), Junior Grand Deacon Larry B. Thompson Jr. (Blackmer 127), Grand Marshal Kevan D. Frazier (Mt. Hermon 118), Grand Steward Donald E. Kehler (Bula 409), Grand Steward Robert W. Rideout (White Stone 155), Grand Chaplain Mark M. M. Vickers (Stokesdale 428), Grand Tyler William B. Bruton (Blackmer 127), Grand Lecturer Hugh L. McLaurin (Corinthian 542),

Grand Historian Steven A. Campbell (Blackmer 127), Grand Orator David R. Cash (Campbell 374), and Judge Advocate James R. Stevens (Garner 701).

New line appointment Don Kehler is a financial advisor and secretary of Greensboro's Scottish Rite. He is a member of Bula 409 in Burlington. Our other new grand steward is Robert W. Rideout, a member of White Stone 155 in Zebulon. He is an administrative law judge.

Grand Lodge was closed just before noon Saturday, September 24, and the Closing Charge was shared by all present.

The Grand Lodge officer installation will be held Saturday, December 3, 2016, at the Carolina Inn Hotel, 211 Pittsboro Street, Chapel Hill, NC, at 10:00 A.M.

As Grand Master Webster said, "I have heard many positive comments and high praise for the 2016 Annual Communication. All the thanks for any success we experienced at Annual Communication is due to you and all your efforts to help execute an excellent program. My goal for the weekend was for everyone present to leave with their batteries charged and to feel positive about being a North Carolina Freemason. I believe we accomplished that. There seems to be a great deal of energy and excitement about where we are headed."

Indeed there is, Brothers. Your job is to share the excitement with others as best you can.



# TRAVELING THE TARHEEL STATE

## Kenly

They are working on their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations at Kenly 257. They found the old lodge altar from the early 1900s in storage at the local newspaper. They are refinishing it to make it ready for the upcoming party.

Kenly Lodge awarded three \$750 scholarships this year. They honored the recipients at a special dinner June 7. Awards went to Ashley Bell (Meredith College bound), Bre Woodruff (headed to Barton College), and Hunter Lassiter (going to Johnston Community College).

The lodge was raffling three guns in September. Tickets were \$50 each and limited to 100 sold. Money raised was bound for several Masonic charities. Their April barbecued chicken fundraiser sold nearly 400 plates.

Kenly Lodge member Jimmy Bailey recently got his Veterans' Emblem for their 50 years as a Mason. In November, they are presenting Glen Rains his 50-year recognition. — *Past Meridian*

## Wendell

On August 13, Wendell 565 and their Eastern Star chapter were having a yard sale and selling barbecue. The barbecue was ten dollars-a-pound or \$3.50 for a sandwich. Proceeds are for our elderly Masons and their families at WhiteStone in Greensboro.

Their next fundraiser is November 4 when they will hold their spaghetti dinner at five dollars per meal. That one is to make money for the Masonic Home for Children. — Raymond Burch

## Weaverville

Blackmer 170 held their barbecue fundraiser September 10. They served pulled pork and baked beans.

— Terry Gevedon



## Candler

Hominy 491 presented their Ed Bailey Mathematic Scholarship Award to Vivi Santana. She is a graduate of Enka High School.

Hominy Lodge has had two fundraisers this year. They made \$1,557 on a pancake breakfast on April 2. On April 30, they held the drawing for a Ruger 50<sup>th</sup> Edition they raffled. They raised \$1,445 with that one. That gave them a record amount for their lodge to divide among our Masonic Homes and Foundation this year.

They had enough success with the gun raffle, they are repeating the theme raffling five guns in five days beginning November 1 or whenever the 400 tickets are sold.

The lodge held their Mother's Day Dinner on May 7. More than 50 members and guests attended.

— Richard Pinkerton

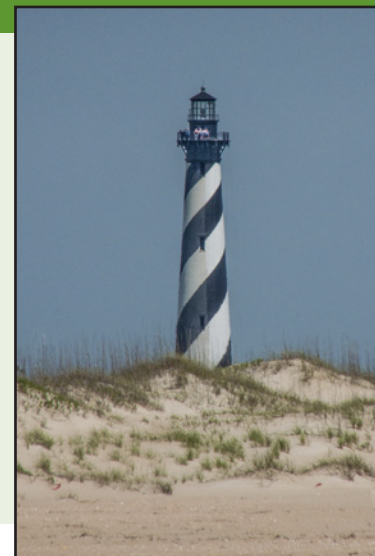
## Wilmington

Orient 395 enjoys a casual dress meeting every summer. Their stated meeting nearest Independence Day features loose clothes, hamburgers, and hot dogs.

— Harry Steele

## NEWS FROM OUR LODGES

By Ric Carter



## Spruce Pine

David Greene was a central pillar of Vesper 554. He was an award winning editor of the lodge newsletter and a past district deputy grand master. He also wrote a history of the lodge. After his recent death, his widow (Kathy) honored a request Greene made for her to host a lodge dinner to express his love of the lodge and the fraternity. Fifty Masons from seven lodges attended the meal. Grand Master Bryant Webster and Grand Chaplain Hank Hilliard were there, and Webster saluted Greene and taught the men about the importance of planning to protect their families at their demise.

Grand Master Webster presented Dale Bost his Veteran's Emblem for his 50 years membership.

Ron Lough appointed himself to wash all the second floor windows and wash their curtains. — *Newsletter*

## Mocksville

The 136<sup>th</sup> Annual Mocksville Masonic Picnic was held here August 13. It's the longest running Masonic charity event in North Carolina. Meals were eight dollars, or only one dollar if you bring a basket of food. They were honoring George Martin this year. Speakers included local officials as well as the masters of Mocksville 134, Advance 710, and Farmington 265.

They featured free ice cream and jump castles for the kids. Music of the Hazy Ridge Bluegrass Band followed the meal. All proceeds are for the Masonic Home for Children. — *Mocksville Lodge*

## High Point

High Point lodges were setting up a bowling team for the fall season at the High Point Bowling Center. The fall league is for co-ed, four-member teams. It'll run every Tuesday night for about 30 weeks. The league actually pays out cash at the end of the season, so the lodge hopes to send a tidy donation to the Masonic Home for Children. They enjoyed playing in the summer league. They brought in about \$100 for the Home for Children and had a great time playing. — Matt Ashby

Numa F. Reid 344 planned a July 16 trip to the Masonic Home for Children to deliver a check for \$2,000 raised at their Spring Chicken Barbecue. They were also taking a supply of hygiene items collected for the Home's residents. — Michael Rinehardt

## Raleigh

William T. Bain 231 members are a sucker for punishment. For the third straight year, they ventured to the Masonic Home for Children to challenge the lady residents of Master Mason Cottage to a game of basketball. The "game" was July 17. — Ben Hart

James B. Green 735 is famous for ice cream socials. They hold several of them each summer. It's a family event meant to include wives, kids, and friends in the activities of the lodge. It's always summer fun with hamburgers and hot dogs and several flavors of home-made ice cream. Summer is fun time at Green Lodge. — Scott Sholar

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.



### Pittsboro

Columbus 102 was to hold their Annual Car Show and Rib Fest fundraiser October 1. They were having bouncy houses for the kids and offering tours of their lodge (built in 1837) and the small historic building at the back of their property. The proceeds were to be divided between taking care of the lodge's historic lodge building and the Masonic Home for Children in Oxford. — Samuel Leggett

### Pilot Mountain

Pilot 493 was to hold their 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Barbecue fundraiser September 30. Plates are nine dollars, dine-in or take-out, and ten or more plates could be delivered. The project benefitted a variety of charities supported by the lodge.

August was a busy month at Pilot Lodge. They did two Second Degrees on the 15<sup>th</sup>, a Third Degree on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, and a First on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

— Homer Dearmin

### Thomasville

An Annual Banquet at Thomasville 214 honors the lodge's Masonic widows. They are holding it November 17 this year.

The lodge held a gun raffle this summer. They had a limited number of tickets available at \$20 each. There were three weapons being offered, so each ticket had three chances to win. Proceeds were to be split between the two Masonic Homes. — *Trestle Board*

### Newton Grove

Mill Creek 125 recently presented Veteran's Emblems to Gordon Joyner and J. B. Henderson to celebrate their 50 years as Masons. The lodge also elected three honorary members: Mike Bass, David Jones, and Raymond Turner.

The lodge recently held their Annual Golf Tournament. — J. B. Price

### Winston-Salem

Old Town 751 is launching a Legacy Fund. It is a permanent fund to support major maintenance jobs which cannot be supported by passing the hat. Such projects include things like heating and air conditioning systems, roofs, and parking lot paving. Donations will be acknowledged with engraved pavers around the lodge's flagpole. The pole already honors the lodge's first master, Jay Gaultney.

The lodge's most pressing project is the parking lot which needs repaving. They have gotten an offer from one unnamed donor to match a "significant portion" of funds donated to completely repave.

Eagle Scout candidate Jonah Misesk visited the lodge in August. He told them about his Eagle project to build a latch practice wall for the Children's Center. It will help disabled kids learn to master the different types of door latches they may encounter. The lodge passed the hat to help finance his project.

Old Town Lodge is planning for the 26<sup>th</sup> District Chicken Stew Challenge coming up October 15.

Old Town has a huge charity fundraiser November 5. They have dinner, activities, and drawings for lots of great prizes. The \$25 tickets get you dinner and a chance to win one of ten major prizes, including a 60-inch television, a couple of guns, an iPad, and gift certificates to several local businesses.

— *On the Level at Old Town Lodge*

Salem 289 will be holding their Masonic Barbecue on October 21. They'll be located at the new Winston-Salem Masonic Center.

Education programs at Salem Lodge are including some special guests this season. Steven Cates was to give them a history of Masonic aprons. They were also having a representative of Hospice of Winston-Salem.

— *The Salem Sentinel*

## LEOs feted in Siler City

SILER CITY — On August 6, Siler City 403 invited local law enforcement officers and emergency first responders to a breakfast of pancakes, country ham, and sausage to show the lodge and community appreciation of their hard work and sacrifice. More than 30 first responders attended, including members of Chatham County Sheriff's Department, Siler City Police Department, Siler City and Silk Hope fire departments, and First Health/UNC Air Care crews among others. Siler City Mayor John Grimes was there.

"We wanted to express our gratitude for the dedication and service that these local men and women provide for our community," said 403 Master Leland Greene "We have planned this event



Officers enjoyed their lunch almost as much as the Brothers enjoyed feeding them.

for several weeks, and the recent events which occurred in Dallas, Texas, and other places where many law enforcement officers have been killed and injured in the line of duty has made this event even more important than ever."

— Rod Tidy



### Mount Gilead

On April 16, Blackmer 127 held the Third Annual Uwharrie Mountain Rumble. The motorcycle rally drew more than 160 people on 138 motorcycles. The ride drove up to Jumping Off Rock and then back down to The Ford Place where they enjoyed the music of Jeff Morris's band. All the fun raised \$4,200 which was divided evenly between the Masonic Homes and Foundation.

Blackmer 127 now meets at 7:30 P.M. with dinner being served at 6:30.

— *Blackmer Buzz*

### Carthage

Carthage 181 raffled a \$250 Food Lion gift card in May. They raised \$1,000 for the Masonic Home for Children. — *Trestle Board*

### Southport

On July 2, Pythagoras 249 invited the public to share their 150<sup>th</sup> birthday. The lodge was open for tours and questions during the town's Independence Day celebration. The celebration included the reading of a proclamation by Southport Mayor Jerry Dove.

The party did not keep the lodge from holding their usual Hot Dog Sale. It was deemed a "tremendous success."

The lodge held their Eleventh Annual Masonic Golf Tournament at Lakes Golf Tournament on September 24. They had more than 50 hole sponsors this year. — *Newsletter* and James Griffin

### Durham

Oak Grove 750 hosted local law enforcement officers for a free dinner on August 15. — Tom Simmons

### Holly Springs

October 15 is a big day at Holly Springs 115. It's delivery day for their Boston Butt Sale. They were holding the sale to help finance the restoration of their 1847 lodge building. It went on the National Historic Register in 2010.

Holly Springs Lodge is planning to enjoy the Binding Tie Masonic Celebration at Niche Wine Bar in Holly Springs. They enjoyed the occasion for the first time last year and found it "an exceptional evening of friendship, morality, and brotherly love." They'll have several guest speakers. — John Dullaghan

### Lewisville

West Bend 434 created a Widows Committee this year. Several Masons were to visit each widow during the year.

— *By the Square*

■ see next page



## STATE, from previous

**Havelock**

Cherry Point 688 raffled a vacation week this summer. Ten dollars bought a chance at a week in a Green Mountain cabin in Branson, Missouri. The Masonic Home for Children was the recipient of the profits.

— *Cherry Point Lodge*

**Charlotte**

Pat Glover is heading up a team at West Gate 738 to resolve a drainage issue on the lodge grounds.

West Gate 738's Fall Chicken Fry is set for October 21.

The lodge held their golf tournament on September 10 at Westport Golf Course. They were playing for the building fund. — *News from the West*

Excelsior 261 is putting a new black and white mosaic floor under the altar in their lodge. It will include a star between the altar and master's station and a cable tow around the border. They are selling tile squares and memorializing donors on a permanent plaque in the lodge.

On August 15, Excelsior Lodge was hosting Andrew Hammer, national authority on traditional observance lodges. He is past master of Alexandria-Washington 22 in Virginia. Hammer married into the lodge as the son-in-law and grandson-in-law of Excelsior past masters Richard and Walter Klein.

— *Trestle Board*

Derita 715 is now meeting at Oasis Shrine Center on Doug Mayes Place in Charlotte.

The lodge suffered serious losses in the arson of their cookhouse/storage building back in late April. Many of the lodge's artifacts and much of their furniture were destroyed or stolen in the conflagration. They were storing many of their possessions there while they planned their new lodge building. Work on purchasing and rezoning their new property in Mallard Creek continues.

Derita Lodge has reduced their newsletter to a quarterly instead of monthly schedule. This comes in part from their increased use of a phonetree system to provide short-term notifications to their members.

It is time for their charity gun raffle for the Masonic charities. They named the event in the memory of Claude Hildreth. — *From the East*

**Gibsonville**

Tabasco 271 held their golf tournament on May 6. Though they were rained on for the second straight year, they still termed it a success.

The little red piggy banks from the Masonic Home for Children are still being handed out at Tabasco. Their goal is to fill 500 of them with spare change this year. — *Trestle Board*

**Statesville**

More than 60 people attended Statesville 27's Independence Day celebration on July 5 at the lodge. They enjoyed hot dogs and hamburgers and watermelon before hearing a patriotic message from Major General James Mallory. Wayne Craddock manned the grill.

The lodge is holding their Family and Awards Night October 15. The Iredell Ramblers Band will entertain after everyone enjoys a catered supper.

Few lodges have more educational programs than Statesville Lodge. In the past few months, they heard an entertaining presentation on the ruffians from Fred Barkley, got information on the Home for Children from Past Grand Master Dewey Preslar, heard the history of the master's hat from James Howell, and got ex-NYPD Detective Kameron Brown's story of investigating 9/11. — *The Joppa Informer*

The gun raffle held by Statesville 27 and Mount Moriah 690 brought in \$3,914.69 for the lodges' charities.

— *The Joppa Informer*

**Huntersville**

In August, Long Creek 205 was selling chicken lunches by Bucky Oates and Timmy Mac. They were raising money for the lodge building fund.

— Gary Cooke

**Clemmons**

Forsyth 707 sponsored well-known Masonic historian Art DeHoyas on a July 13 speaking engagement. He was speaking at Clemmons 755.

— *The Salem Sentinel*



**SALUDA** — Polk County Unity 482 presented two \$1,500 Oscar Harbin Memorial Scholarships on June 2. The Polk County high school seniors were Lindsey Stechschulte and Harrison Turnage. The award is named for Polk Unity's secretary who passed away in 2014. He was known as a knowledgeable storyteller with a smooth voice, warm laugh, and agile mind. Seen here, from left, are Stechschulte, Harbin's daughter Emily Harbin, Harbin's widow Cheryl Harbin, and Turnage. — John Hubbs

**Dobson**

Copeland 390 hosted Jim Medlin recently to hear about the ins and outs of fundraising. As usual, Medlin invited all the lodges in the district to attend. Medlin is chairman of the Grand Lodge Commission on Special Activities. — Homer Dearmin

**Greensboro**

P. P. Turner 746 raffled a shotgun and a Yeti cooler for Masonic charities. They limited sales to 100 tickets and held their drawing in July.

— Jay Callahan

The End of Summer Beach Blast Blood Drive was held by Greensboro 76 on September 3. They did the drive in cooperation with C. W. Lawrence 837 (PHA).

In July, Old 76 took care of their Adopt-A-Park and Adopt-A-Street projects. They held their first responders luncheon in August.

— Phillip Bialek

Revolution 552 held a golf tournament to help pay for some lodge repairs. They held the contest at Oak Hollow Golf Course in High Point. Individuals paid \$75 entry fee, and pre-formed teams of four paid \$280. Players got water, soft drinks, range balls, a goody bag, and a place at the awards dinner featuring grilled chicken.

— Revolution Lodge



**BOILING SPRINGS** — Garland Hastings, in the summer of 2004, suggested that Friendship 388 start a scholarship for local kids. He made a generous gift to establish an endowment trust which subsequent gifts and donations have made grow dramatically. They presented four \$1,000 scholarships this year to students at Crest High School. Seen here, from left, Andrew Impeduglia, Andi Morgan, Friendship Master Danny Smart, Taylor Guffey, and Jodi Blanton. — Donnie Morgan

see next page



STATE, from previous

**Hickory**

Family Day at Hickory 343 was scheduled for August 6. It's a big summer fun event for the whole lodge family that they hold every year. As most classic American summer gatherings, hot dogs, hamburgers, and homemade ice cream were featured. Bathing suits were recommended for the water fun, and Becky the Balloon Lady was to be there.

Hickory Lodge was holding a Blood Drive August 26.

On July 18, Hickory Lodge made Hollis Craft an honorary member. Craft, a member of Brandon 279 in Greenville, SC, has attended every meeting and practice at Hickory Lodge in the past several months.

— *Hickory Lodge*



**ROBBINSVILLE** — Robbinsville 672 hosted a circus for one of their fundraisers. One way of advanced selling show tickets was for lodge members to dress up as clowns, stand on the street corner with signs, and wave passing motorists to ticket sales locations. Pictured here are Jim Hyde as Chubby the Orange Blossom Special; with the help of digital magic, his practical-joker twin Tubby the Rodeo Clown flanking Bill "Tu-Pee the Clown" Truett a former member of the Yarrab Shrine Temple Clown Unit. Hyde actually changed costumes each day they were out selling tickets. On the day of circus, the circus owner did ask Brother Hyde to join in for the show, but it only paid peanuts. The circus proved to be a very successful fundraiser, as it has been over the 20 years that a circus has visited Robbinsville.

**Hillsborough**

Jake Jacobs was the fireplug at Eagle 19 for years, supplying coaching, labor, and inspiration to members of the lodge. He would have been 86 this year. As they have since his death, the lodge held a steak dinner to honor his birthday. Meals were \$15 with the money going to a needy member of the lodge.

— Eagle Lodge

Mosaic 762 held their annual Hawaiian shirt stated communication July 19. A yard party was to replace the usual festive board with members kibitzing Steve Barrell who was manning the grill. Awards were being offered for best and worst shirts. Members were urged to wear their "best/worst/eye-popping/beach-mood-inducingest shirts." As usual, delicious meat as well as vegetarian meals were offered.

Mosaic Lodge is exploring another family evening at the NC Art Museum.

— Keith Morgan

**Highlands**

On July 20, Blue Ridge 435 served 142 at their annual dinner for Highlands United Methodist Church. The church, next door to the lodge, let's them borrow their social hall as need requires. The lodge had to bring in the Boy Scouts' portable kitchen because of a recent kitchen fire at the church.

The annual Lodge Picnic was held August 6 at Highlands Recreation Park. The lodge provided the main course and drinks. Members supplied covered dishes.

Stan Bevers recently presented a short history of Masonry in North Carolina at Blue Ridge Lodge.

— *Trestleboard*

**Gastonia**

Several lodges took up Grand Master Bryant Webster's Masons Can challenge for Annual Communication. Gastonia 369 put a container in the lodge lobby to collect more food than the ten cans per delegate requested by Webster.

Butch Carter is working on the task list for the lodge's October 1 Fall Jamboree.

— *The Trestleboard*

In September, King Solomon 704 had a special Masonic education program about music in the lodge.

— *The Plumblin*

**Conover**

The County Fair makes for a fundraiser in Conover 709 during the first week of September. Lodge members park cars at the American Legion Fairgrounds for the week. They take home \$2,500 for Masonic charities.

They've also started filling Mason Jars with pocket change each night. So far, three members have turned them in with a total of more than \$200 for charity.

Terri Lawson recently visited the lodge and told them the story of her years at the Masonic Home for Children in Oxford.

— *Conover Lodge Newsletter*

**Kenansville**

Warsaw was picked as an Official North Carolina Veterans' Day Celebration. St. John's 13 (which is now merged with Warsaw 677) was to continue Warsaw Lodge's traditional Veterans' Day Pancake Breakfast fundraiser. Money from the parade event will go to our Homes and Foundation.

September is the month of St. John's 13's annual chicken pastry meal. It also serves as their Ladies' and Awards Night.

— *Lodge Log*



**ROBBINSVILLE** — This spring, Robbinsville 672 was asked to cook the lodge's community favorite pulled pork for the concession at the regional Special Olympics. The lodge, of course, went into full pork butt cook mode. The lodge members sold enough pork butts to cover the entire expense of the Special Olympics, donated 75 pounds of pulled pork to the cause, and turned an extra profit of more than \$500 they donated toward future events. Lodge Secretary Jim Hyde is seen here presenting Special Olympics Coordinator Kristy Cable the money.

**Southern Pines**

Southern Pines 484 rededicated their lodge building on its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The celebration was held September 14 with Grand Master Bryant Webster presiding. We plan to have details in the next issue of *The North Carolina Mason*.

Southern Pines Lodge was urging their members to donate things from a back-top-school needs list from the Masonic Home for Children.

— Gene Maples

**Asheville**

Nichols-West Asheville 650 suspended their August 15 stated meeting so they could attend Grand Master Bryant Webster's visit to Vance 293 in Weaverville. Webster is a member of Nichols-West Asheville. His brothers wanted to pack the meeting for their brother.

— Terry Gevedon

**Fayetteville**

Creasy Proctor 679 held their first ever cornhole tournament July 23. Entry fees were \$20 for teams of two or \$15 for individuals. The double elimination tournament awarded prizes for first and second places. Lunch was ten dollars extra. They were raising money to help a member with medical expenses and make a donation to the Masonic Home for Children.

— Derec Mercer

**Pittsboro**

Columbus 102 was to hold their Annual Car Show and Rib Fest fundraiser October 1. They were having bouncy houses for the kids and offering tours of their lodge (built in 1837) and the small historic building at the back of their property. The proceeds were to be divided between taking care of the lodge's historic lodge building and the Masonic Home for Children in Oxford.

— Samuel Leggett

**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



# WELCOME OUR NEW BROTHERS

1.....	Cook, Justin Dean	218.....	Napoles, Raul A.	418.....	Turner, Lucas Grant	590.....	Reed, Stephen Tae	702.....	Whitener, Ron David
3.....	Lockwood, Eric Lloyd	248.....	Blackburn, Chris David	420.....	Eddy, Joshua Ian	593.....	Moose, Kelly Lee	703.....	Bowers, Peyton Edward
3.....	Lupton, Daniel Glenn	248.....	Moore, Christopher Shane	423.....	Carico, Ethan D.	598.....	Young III, Wood Hall	703.....	Faulkner, Mitchell Lamar
3.....	Zerby, William Charles	249.....	Lewallen Jr., John Michael	426.....	Crisp, Jonathan Dale	602.....	Edwards, Bruce F.	703.....	Morgan, William Charlie
8.....	Chandler, Joshua David	249.....	Pollard, Charles Anthony	426.....	Locke, Chase Dakota	602.....	Williams III, Charles Omer	703.....	Ohman, Alexander Gregory
8.....	Chandler, Troy Allen	249.....	Walton Jr., Roy Wayne	433.....	Jones, Jonathan Isaac	602.....	Williams Jr., Charles Omer	706.....	Ross, Timothy Craig
8.....	Quick, Ronald Wayne	249.....	Falcetti, Mark Paul	434.....	Epp, Drew Collins	616.....	Easter, Michael Tyrell	706.....	Smith, Joseph Harlen
8.....	Yoakum Jr., Robert Franklin	249.....	Wittkofsky, Tyler Bruce	437.....	Grimes, Richard Sherman	616.....	Easter, Michael Tyrell	706.....	Vaselovic, James Edward
10.....	Hardy, William Thomas	262.....	Haire, Brian David	446.....	Hittleman, Dean Grant	617.....	Gurley IV, Carl R.	708.....	Parekh, Rohan Umesh
13.....	Davis, Jerry Lee	263.....	Young, Devon Chase	446.....	Robinson, Melvin Richard	617.....	Martin, Christopher Scottie	708.....	Van Etten, Chad Richard
13.....	Graham, Dennis Lee	267.....	Bell, Justin Richard	446.....	Hart, Walter Flave	629.....	Lemons, Joseph Marc	710.....	Jarvis, Jonathan Daniel
19.....	Ross, Jason Dan	267.....	Brissey, Brandon Cody	454.....	Gentry, James Travis	629.....	Smith, Michael Keith	713.....	Campbell, Jody Dwayne
19.....	Verville, Michael Joseph Omar	267.....	Lundquist, Luke Steven	461.....	Bassolino, Robert	650.....	Allen Jr., Thomas Steven	713.....	Smith Jr., Cecil Prince
27.....	Weeks, Matthew Steven	267.....	Owen, Charles Wesley	463.....	Coates, Michael Boswell	656.....	Holt, Patrick Michael	718.....	Davis, David William
31.....	Flanigan, Eric Brandon	267.....	Owens, Barry Joseph	463.....	McGough, Matthew Justin	656.....	Partington, Heath Scott	722.....	Roddy, Kenneth Trent
31.....	Sheppard, John Winston	271.....	Blackmon, Harold Lee	479.....	Jones, David Nathaniel	656.....	Garcia, Juan Leeruis	724.....	Higgins, Jack Ryan
31.....	Wendelborn, Daniel Alexander	271.....	Huffman, Bradley Scott	479.....	Simpson, Samuel Casey	656.....	Himmelman, Edward Brandon	730.....	Bullard, Aaron Samuel
32.....	Alvarez, Marcos Alejandro	271.....	McKirgan, Brandon Allen	484.....	Green, David Peter	657.....	Lambert, Jerry Dale	735.....	Malone, Charles Joyner
32.....	Malone, James Andrew	276.....	Trinh, Lam Son	484.....	Kaiser, Sean Patrick Rueth	657.....	Talbert, David Keith	735.....	Patino, Jonathan Arturo
39.....	Lowe, Joseph Dillon	292.....	Henderson, John Caleb	484.....	Walker, Dilles Allen	657.....	Wilhite, Chase Edward	737.....	Burgess, John Douglas
39.....	Turner, Jacques Randolph	292.....	Kent, Colton Dean	484.....	Wolf, Matt Martin	672.....	Ditmore, Robert Thomas	737.....	Terry, Paul Michael
45.....	Southwell, Edward Michael	292.....	Peek, Kevin Douglas	486.....	Jolley, Grady Richard	672.....	Ingram, Samuel Roy	741.....	Lawrence, James Grady
45.....	Fracassi, Nicholas Scott	292.....	Petzold Jr., Carl Robert	489.....	Ashe, Carlos Twobear	672.....	Smith, Charles Edward	742.....	Chapman, Drew Clayton
45.....	Mockerman, Benjamin James	294.....	Stotesberry, William Ray	489.....	Gates, Samuel Chasten	679.....	Taylor, Christopher Allen	742.....	DeValle, Blake Conrad
53.....	Dunn, Leslie Kenneth	294.....	Williams, Joseph Cordon	491.....	Warren, Micheal Ryan	680.....	Acevedo Jr., Heriberto	742.....	Stanley, David Richard
59.....	Patterson, James Michael	314.....	Weeks, Terry Clyde	492.....	Stead, Zachary Thomas	680.....	Lewis Jr., Reginald Byron	742.....	Violette, Russell
64.....	Thomas, John Garrett	339.....	Carroll Jr., Edward James	493.....	Register, Christian Allen	680.....	Lewis, Reginald Byron	744.....	Hamrick, Jonathan Cole
75.....	Plymel, Donald Lee	343.....	Bowman, Mark Scott	495.....	Carroll, Joseph Ray	680.....	Martinez, Luis Rey	745.....	Cook, Stephen George
81.....	Scott, Edward Trent McIntyre	343.....	Lynch, Brian Edward	500.....	Bae, Young Soon	683.....	Johnson, Ricky Vann	745.....	Johnson, Dennis Wayne
85.....	Oakey Jr., Billy Ray	343.....	Moscarella, Anthony	500.....	Corrigan, Michael Victor	685.....	McGuire Jr., James H.	750.....	Ray, John Michael
90.....	Creech, Joseph Ernest	356.....	Beam, Michael Gage	500.....	Roberts, Mark Andrew	685.....	Wyer, Cody James	751.....	Leinbach, Kenneth Chad
97.....	Griffis, John Matthew	356.....	Fox, Earl Brice	502.....	Gafford, Kevin Christopher	688.....	Dutton, Jerry Wayne	755.....	Doumas, Louis Stephen
97.....	Harten, Matthew Gerald	356.....	Scronce, Austin James	502.....	Putnam, Collin Trent	688.....	Lemmon, Russel Lee	757.....	Howard, Mark Anthony
97.....	Hix, Justin Harrison	357.....	Lunsford, Calvin Vance	502.....	Scott Jr., Jerry Eugene	690.....	Fletcher, John Eric	757.....	Pitman, Travis Michael
97.....	Johnson, Micael Antony	358.....	Edwards, Uriah Prescott	505.....	Lesenger, John David	692.....	LaFond, Stephan Michael	759.....	Schroeder, Andrew Thomas
109.....	Brown, Richard Wayne	359.....	Broughton, Christopher Brock	505.....	Thornburg, Claydon Jerrid	694.....	Luper, Norman	759.....	Maney, Keith Stephen
109.....	Heartsill, Charles William	359.....	Edwards, Zachary Ryan	521.....	Doughtie, Brent Douglas Young	694.....	Wilkins, Kristopher Charles P.	763.....	Barnes, Dustin Wayne
112.....	Bennett, Craig Thomas	363.....	Fox, Will Marshall	521.....	Keating Jr., Louis	695.....	Purser Jr., Clarence Vone	763.....	McNeill, Todd Phillip
112.....	Finley Jr., Joseph Edward	363.....	Stamp, Gregory Lee	521.....	Andrews, Eyan Taylor	698.....	Spragins, Joey Michael C.	765.....	Jobin, Trent Christopher
113.....	Chaney, Michael Benjamin James	369.....	Robb, Daniel Steven	521.....	Andrews, Kyle Bailey	699.....	Ballard, Travis Scott	770.....	Ashcraft, Nathan Kent
118.....	DeBruhl, Brandon Almond	369.....	Hibberts, Jacob Lee	521.....	Benson, Kyle Alan	701.....	Ruggiero, John		
118.....	Riggs, Jason Cory	369.....	Wallace, James Michael	527.....	Bass, David Chadwick				
118.....	Robertson, Joseph Howell	373.....	Bengtson, Eric Nils	527.....	Spruill, Nicholas Adam				
118.....	Silver, George Michael	374.....	Hicks, Daniel Franklin	528.....	Mearns, Kenneth Eugene				
118.....	Cobb, Marshall Braxton Martin	375.....	Conner, Terry Donald	532.....	Barbee Jr., Lawrence Leroy				
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122.....	Nicholson, David Lee	384.....	Snyder, Robert Samuel	543.....	Foley, Jonathan Elliott				
123.....	Joyner, Nathaniel James	384.....	DeLapp, James Christopher	543.....	Reash, Tyler James				
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129.....	Clark, Paul Ryan	387.....	Dolinger Jr., Avery Dale	552.....	Edmondson, Byron Eugene				
143.....	Barker, Garrett Vann	387.....	Taggart, John Samuel	552.....	Vincent, Paul Michael				
145.....	Giles, Eric Lee	391.....	Long, Christopher Townsend	561.....	Moore, Brantley Preston				
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198.....	Guadagno, Michael	404.....	Koller, Lars	589.....	Tetterton, Robert Darrell				
207.....	Long II, Garland Marco	418.....	Stanley, John Hampton	589.....	Everette, Joseph Christopher				



**MURFREESBORO** — American George 17 entered a float in the parade of their town's 31<sup>st</sup> Watermelon Festival in early August. Kids on the float threw candy to people along the parade route.  
— Floyd Stephen Fowler

## Let me help Masonry's charities

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## The Grand Historian's Courier Case

# Our most wanted unknown brother

By Steven Campbell

Controversial, generally unknown, yet in good standing, defines the life of North Carolina's highest ranking military officer in the American Revolutionary War: Brother Robert Howe.

Though scant, Cape Fear region records indicate that Brother Howe began his Masonic journey in Hanover Lodge (originating as an Army Lodge in the French & Indian War in 1758 and then disappearing). His name does appear on the rolls of St. John's 1 in Wilmington, NC.

For business purposes, the young man immigrated to England. Returning to the Colony of North Carolina in 1766, he obtained the rank of captain in the Royal Militia, and was elected to the NC Assembly. Twice he commanded North Carolina's Fort Johnston. Colonel Howe was soon in command of the Royal Militia Artillery and with Governor Tryon when the armed Regulators were crushed in their unsuccessful insurrection at the Battle of Alamance in May 1771.

Though moderately successful as a planter, Howe's success as an officer and Assemblyman continued. Sensing the unsettling tyrannical rule of the Crown, Robert embraced the increasing American ideals – to the point of becoming a member of the Sons of Liberty, the Committee of Safety, and finally North Carolina's Provisional Congress. As the American crisis evolved, Royal Governor Josiah Martin called loyal subjects to arms. The result was a crushing defeat at Moore's Creek and the Governor's flight. Brothers Robert Howe and Cornelius Harnett burned Fort Johnston. With the escalation of armed rebellion, these two men would be excluded from the King's amnesty offered to all "misguided subjects." They would be declared "most wanted".

With the die cast, the Continental Congress in Philadelphia requested each colony to supply troops to serve in the newly created Continental Army, placed under the command of Brother George Washington. North Carolina would provide two regiments. Colonel Robert Howe was placed in command of the 2<sup>nd</sup> NC Regiment and soon afterwards ordered to Norfolk, Virginia. There Royal Governor Dunmore's force

was defeated, and Norfolk destroyed. For his valued service, Brother Howe was among the first eight men to be promoted to brigadier general. He returned home to a hero's welcome.

Next General Howe traveled to South Carolina, where an initial British attempt to capture the largest city in the South, Charlestown, was thwarted. During this period, Brother Lord Cornwallis, with nearly 1,000 British troops, landed in Wilmington for a short time and discharged specific orders to destroy Howe's home and plantation. Though no consolation for losing his home, Brother Howe was promoted to major general and named commander of the Southern Department. (It is noted that many, if not most, major generals in the American Army were Freemasons.) Whilst the major British effort to crush the rebellion was taking place in the northeastern colonies, activity was ongoing in the south between Loyalists and Patriots. Men such as Brothers Francis Marion ("The Swamp Fox") and William Davie were proving most troublesome to British designs.

General Howe's appointment as overall commander did not sit well with political leaders in either South Carolina or Georgia. One such leader, Christopher Gadsden (designer of the Don't Tread on Me flag), engaged Howe in a duel. Though Howe slightly wounded Gadsden, they became friends. Meanwhile, British forces under Generals Campbell and Prevost appeared, and Howe, hoping to dispel their efforts, moved his scant Army of 900 regulars and militia south. As a result of ill prepared, poorly trained, and sparsely supplied troops, the Americans gave way as the British successfully took control of eastern Florida, Savannah, and Augusta, Georgia. Howe's lack of success resulted in his being relieved of command and replaced by Brother Benjamin Lincoln. With politics astir, Robert Howe's performance in the south was presented to a court martial – he was fully exonerated.

Though politicians did not appear to appreciate Howe's qualities, General Washington apparently did not share their opinion. When accused of administrative wrongdoing in Philadelphia, Brother General Benedict Arnold

was court-martialed. It was Howe who served as president of the court martial which found Arnold guilty of misconduct. After fulfilling this assignment, General Howe served in the field and was placed in command of the vital post at West Point. He would serve there until replaced by General Arnold. (It was at this post that Arnold would betray our nation.) Upon the arrest of Arnold's British contact Major John Andre, Howe sat upon his court martial, which found Andre guilty of spying, resulting in his execution.

As the eight-year struggle for independence continued, unpaid American troops mutinied. In 1781, General Howe suppressed the mutiny of the New Jersey Continental troops. Various duty assignments kept him in New York and Philadelphia as the scope of war increased in the south. In 1783, just months before peace came, it was Brother Howe who restored order to the capital as an unruly mob's action resulted in the Congress fleeing Philadelphia.

With final victory and independence achieved, Howe returned to North Carolina. The impact of the war had been harsh upon Howe's property, fortune, and personal life. Living apart from his wife, his reputation for enjoying the company of the fairer sex did not detract from the respect accorded him. In 1785, the United States Congress appointed him a lead negotiator in defining the western frontier boundaries. In 1786, the 54-year-old Howe was once again elected to serve in the NC House, which was meeting in Fayetteville at that time. Unfortunately, he perished while en route, reportedly at the home of General Thomas Clark. Records state he died of "fever."

Biographers have not delved into our Brother's life, and much of it remains unknown, even where his mortal remains lie at rest. There is much speculation as to the location of his grave, and thankfully the General Robert Howe Chapter of the DAR continues to seek it out. If any of our readers has any news, insights or information on Brother Howe's grave, please contact your grand historian.

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

## From the Medical Committee The time is now...

By Darrin A. Helton

I recently had the privilege of attending Grand Master Bryant Webster's district meeting at my home lodge and was very impressed at the message presented by the grand master. One of the main points of the message was preparation for our inevitable demise. I would encourage each of us to pursue these issues and strongly recommend further preparatory steps including funeral preparation and specific wishes such as military and/or Masonic funeral rites. As a hospice nurse, I have the unique opportunity to assist people as their journey in this life draws near and reaches its end.

Too often, immediately after death, many families say, "We are not sure what he/she would have wanted." That leaves many decisions regarding funeral services and arrangements to the grieving family left behind. Many of these decisions could be made prior to our death and could well be considered our final gift to our family. They will know what we want and be allowed to grieve and rest easy in this knowledge. These conversations are often avoided and even prove scary to some, but the comfort they provide far outweighs the initial discomfort.

A very young Master Mason died unexpectedly in 2014. I was surprised to learn that he had made arrangements down to the songs he wanted played at his funeral service. While the accident that took his life was tragic, his wife and family were allowed to grieve without having to make those decisions and wondering what he would have wanted.

One of the saddest phrases ever uttered is "We thought we had more time!" Quite simply, not one of us is guaranteed another minute; thus, the time for these decisions and conversations are now.

*Darrin A. Helton is a registered nurse with Hospice of McDowell County and a member of Mystic Tie 237.*



The full area of ignorance is not mapped: we are at present only exploring its fringes.  
– J. D. Bernal





page 1

Grand Lodge collects food for communities



page 2

Battleship Degree in Wilmington



page 3

Pig Jig results

**On the cover**

Masons are seen here aproning up for the Third Degree about to start on the USS North Carolina  
Ric Carter photo

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# NORTH CAROLINA The Mason

## Annual Communication elects Cobb next GM

## Battleship Degree re- peats in Wilmington

