

# NORTH CAROLINA THE MASON

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

Volume 143 Number 3

Oxford, North Carolina

May/June 2018

## Making a splash for a cool pool

**Oh,** swimming pool!  
So cold and blue  
Are you aware  
That I love you?

Your diving board,  
Your lovely slide ...  
Which is best?  
I can't decide.

On sunny days that never end  
Oh, swimming pool  
You're my best friend!

By Beth Grace  
Mason Editor

With that recital of a poem from PBS's *Arthur* show, Grand Master Speed Hallman and the board of the Masonic Home for Children kicked off the official "Make a Splash" pool fundraising campaign to get the kids at Oxford back into the swim of things.

The 30-year-old pool has passed its prime (and its dotage) say the experts, and must be replaced. An inspection last year of the pool built in 1988 shows that the shower and pump houses had aged beyond repair, decking was broken, and ladders were permanently disconnected.

It just wasn't safe anymore for the kids and the sad order came: Close the pool.

"Nothing is more important to us than the safety and happiness of our kids," says Administrator Kevin Otis. "It was a no brainer – a sad no brainer – that the pool had to be closed."

But it won't be gone forever.

The MHCO board of directors, led by Chairman Dewey Preslar, joined with MHCO staff and kids on May 11 to kick off the "Make a Splash" campaign to raise \$725,000 toward a new pool, a pool house, and add some fun new attractions – including a giant mushroom, a security fence, and a safe new slippery slide.

Plans call for construction of a six-lane pool with a "beach-type" zero-entry feature, meaning swimmers wade in rather than jump from the shallow end. There also will be a "splash pad" that takes the place of an old-school baby pool, complete with a mushroom-shaped shower, bubblers and fountains. The new pool house will have an upgraded lifeguard office, disabled-accessible showers and an updated



Beth Grace photo

The kids at MHCO are so excited about their new pool they have already started digging! Make a splash and help make their pool a reality!



concession stand.

The biggest change? The pool itself will be in a new location,

closer to parking and administration buildings, which will give swimmers quicker access to other campus activities.

Past Grand Master Preslar, who chairs the MHCO board, says a great effort has gone into planning for the pool to ensure that the home builds the best pool for the best price – and all with safety in mind.

"We have been talking about

this project for a long time," Preslar told board members, friends and a handful of giggling tiny MHCO residents. "I hardly have words now to say how thrilled we are to launch this campaign and get our kids back into the pool! I give thanks to God for everyone who brought us to this place."

■ see SPLASH page 2





The MHCO board and friends gather to kick off the fundraising campaign that will rebuild the home's pool, update the pool house and install a secure fence to keep the kids safe and sound. Beth Grace photo

## SPLASH, from page 1

The pool has been the scene of so many great memories for the kids over the years. The MHCO board and Otis began researching the project and putting out bids for the work more than a year ago. The goal: to replace and upgrade the pool

without breaking the bank.


The \$725,000 goal will cover pool costs, maintenance and all related utility work, permitting and contingencies.

Folks are already lining up to be a part of the project. As of presstime,

pledges totaling \$271,000 had been received, including a \$100,000 contribution from the North Carolina Masonic Foundation.

To contribute, contact MHCO or get in touch with Chris Richardson, eastern region director of

development for the NCMF, at crichardson@mfnc.org or call him at 919-690-5996.

If the fundraising campaign goes as planned, construction should begin soon with an eye toward completion by this fall. 

# We won! Mason, G poster earn national honors

The North Carolina Mason and a special poster created to raise funds for historic lodge preservation have won national awards for creative content and design.

The *Mason* placed second in print media/newsletters in the "Hermes Creative Award," administered and judged by the Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals, which represents several thousand creative professionals around the world. AMCP oversees the awards and recognition programs, provides judges and rewards outstanding achievement and service to the profession.

The awards, which pitted *The Mason* against nonprofit newsletters nationwide are named after Hermes, the Olympian god of orators and wit, of literature and poets, and invention and commerce. Winners were announced in late April.

The "G" poster, which features more than 70 Gs from lodges around North Carolina, also won a second place in Print Media/Marketing Collateral Branding-Poster.



**AMCP**  
Association of Marketing  
& Communication Professionals



Gold-award winning edition of The Mason September-October 2017 Newsletter Category



Gold-award winning G poster Marketing Collateral/Branding Poster Category



*Portraits of Brotherhood*

# Something different in the East at Gate City

A master brings years of experience in Masonry and in life when he rises to the East. Some bring a little something extra.

Meet Master Gregory Woodard, master of Gate City #694 in Greensboro. Elected this year, he doesn't stand alone in his duties. He is accompanied by two furry friends – highly trained service dogs – who help keep his world running smoothly.

Greg is a military veteran with 23 years of service. The dogs help him cope with the symptoms of a Traumatic Brain Injury or TBI, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder or PTSD, Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder or OCD, and Reiter's syndrome better known as Reactive Arthritis. As Greg puts it, this is his "alphabet soup of life," all impairments sustained when he was serving his country. He was on the receiving end of friendly fire.

His impairments have not curbed his love for Masonry or his dedication to his civic duty. In addition to his role as master of Gate City, he continues to serve a representative to the Greensboro Masonic Temple Board and as the secretary/property manager for the Temple Board. He also serves the city of Greensboro and Guilford County on numerous boards and commissions and he currently serves as a North Carolina Military and Veterans Affairs Commissioner.

Greg says he never thought he would ever be seated in the East.

"When asked to join the line of officers, I would always politely decline, thinking I could never remember the degree work required to work my way through the chairs, to the Master's chair," he said. Truth be told, he also worried how the brothers would respond to having service dogs in lodge.

But after some long conversations with several Past Masters and a bit more prodding, he agreed to try.

"Well, it turned out I was able to do the work," he said. "I proceeded successfully through the chairs to the East. And my lodge brethren have welcomed the dogs with open

arms."

Nikita and Sierra, both 4-year-old female German Shepard/Husky mixes, are the star of the show when he visits other lodges. Brothers and others gather to pet the friendly dogs, who clearly enjoy their work.

They are psychiatric services dogs trained to do work, or perform tasks that mitigate their handler's disability.

PTSD is an anxiety disorder that can occur after a person has been through a traumatic event. During this type of event, one may think that their life or the lives of others are in danger. A person may feel afraid or feel that they have no control over what is happening around them. Anyone who has gone through a life-threatening event can develop PTSD.

TBI is a brain dysfunction caused by an outside force, usually a violent blow to the head. Treatment depends on severity, and usually involves rest, medications, and surgery. OCD is a mental disorder in which a person has unwanted and repeated thoughts, feels, ideas, sensations, obsessions, and behaviors that drive them to do something over and over.

Greg, a native of Glens Falls, NY, served three years in the U.S. Army and 20 years in the U.S. Navy. He retired in July 2002 after serving in multiple commands. He was deployed to or stationed at/on: Iraq and Kuwait, (Operation Desert Storm/Desert Shield), COMDESRON 18, Portsmouth



VA., USS Nicholson DD 982, Norfolk VA., CINCLANT FLT, Norfolk, VA., USS Scott DDG 995, Norfolk, Va., NAVMAR-CORPRESREDCEN, Greensboro, NC., CINCOSOUTH, HQ, USSOUTHERNCOM, Quarry Heights Panama, Joint Operations Center and Joint Reconnaissance Center, (Operation "Just Cause"), USS Mooseburger DD980, Charleston, SC, (operation Urgent Fury), FLECOMBATRACENLANT Dam Neck, Va., CRUIT-RACOM NCT Great Lakes, Ill., F- BTRY, 29th FA, USAREUR, Germany, K- BTRY 29th FA., Fort Polk, LA., C- BTRY, 6th TRNG, USAFATC, Fort Sill, OK., C-BTRY, 4th, TRNG BN, USAFATC, Fort Sill, OK.

He has received many awards and medals for his service, including the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, for support provided to the Joint Chiefs of Staff, National Security Agency, The Unified Commands and Theater Operational Units during operation "JUST CAUSE;" a Joint Service Commendation Medal

for support to the Commander In Chief Southern Commands/ability to perform missions in support of National Goals in Latin America; and the Joint Reconnaissance Center for superior military bearing, communications skills, technical knowledge, and is credited for the saving of a down helicopter and its crew.

Greg worked under the umbrella of Special Operations and Military intelligence, received training in multiple fields: counterespionage, covert collection platforms, (gathering, processing, coordinating, and disseminating), providing real time intelligence to units for the successful result of their missions assigned.

## Find out more online

**Traumatic Brain Injury**  
traumaticbraininjury.com

**Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder**  
tinyurl.com/m2qzsey

**Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder**  
iocdf.org

**Reiter's syndrome**  
tinyurl.com/ybcs8y7w



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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.

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

# This just in: New rules and a big thank you!

Who doesn't love Facebook? OK, lots of folks don't ... but within Masonry, we love what Facebook can do to help spread the word of events, ideas, news and good Masonic thoughts in general.

But like Masons around the country and the world, we have learned that messages on Facebook are not always good, helpful, fair or even true.

The Board of General Purposes earlier this year asked the Board of Publications to work with the Grand Lodge staff to take a look at our social media guidelines and update them to ensure that our communications in real time were clear and fair. Turns out, we had no such guidelines. But a check with jurisdictions elsewhere found that we were in the minority. Some states had long, tough rules; some had brief statements asking for brothers to be good to each other.

This Grand Lodge opted for a middle road – a short, clear statement on Freemasonry followed by guidelines, patterned after those of the United Grand Lodge of England. You will find our new guidelines posted on all of our Facebook pages: Grand Lodge of North Carolina A.F. & A.M.; The North Carolina Mason page; and the North Carolina Masonic Foundation Page.

You also will notice some changes in how the Grand Lodge page is now administered. Posts must be approved before they appear, and brothers seeking to join the page must provide their lodge name and number, to ensure that only Masons in good standing are permitted to join going forward.

### Here are the Grand Lodge of North Carolina's Social Media Guidelines:

Every Freemason has a duty not to engage in conduct which is contrary to the law of the land. As a Freemason he also has a duty not to engage in activity which violates his obligations or brings Freemasonry into disrepute.

Consider this before you post: What if a candidate for Masonry read all of your social media posts before deciding to join?

When posting on social media platforms, a Freemason must not:

▶ Produce, link to, or refer to any content that is illegal, defamatory, or purposely offensive;

▶ Cause or contribute to hostile or unproductive arguments, or exercise any private piques or quarrels (that is to say, good-natured debate is fine, but be prepared to abandon the exchange if it ceases to be friendly);

▶ Discuss, allude to or post any photos of any of the Masonic Signs, Tokens, or Words, including photographs;

▶ Claim to speak for any Masonic body on whose behalf he is not expressly authorized to speak;

▶ Identify anyone else as a Freemason without his explicit consent;

▶ Divulge personal information about any Freemason without his explicit consent, such as his address, telephone number, etc.;

▶ Attempt to use Masonic channels as a vehicle for personal profit, or for any other form of self-promotion;

▶ Violate any provision of Chapter 86 of The Code, or any other part of Masonic Law;

▶ Disparage the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina, or any of its members or officers, or any other legitimate Masonic authority.

### Meanwhile ....

I like to give credit where it's due. And it's due in a very big way to two of the most creative colleagues I've ever worked with. In this issue of *The Mason* is a story announcing that *The Mason* and the special "G" poster we produced for the NC Masonic Foundation have each won a national award for creative marketing.

This is a true reward for all the work we have invested in creating the best newspaper for the Craft in North Carolina. It commends the strong support of and partnerships with the Board of Publications, Grand Lodge officers and staff, the NCMF Board of Directors and all the brothers out there who contribute news and story ideas.

But these awards truly recognize the outstanding work of Brother John Pea of Gastonia #369, who does all of the layout and artistic design work in each issue of *The Mason*, and Photographer/Designer Melody McBride, a sister of the Eastern Star, who designed the



By Beth Grace  
Editor



## FROM THE GRAND MASTER



# More heat than light

By Speed Hallman  
Grand Master

I had the honor in April of addressing the Wilkerson College Class of 2018 and presenting their graduation certificates.

Wilkerson College is one of North Carolina Masonry's priceless gems. It helps deacons and wardens prepare for their year in the east, and it gives them the opportunity to build relationships with Grand Lodge officers and emerging leaders from around the state. Our data shows that lodges led by Wilkerson College graduates perform better than lodges whose masters didn't have the opportunity to attend.

If you are a deacon or about to become one, I urge you to visit the Education Resources section of the Grand Lodge website and read about Wilkerson College. The College begins accepting applications on Oct. 1 and the class fills quickly.

At graduation I talked about former President Harry Truman, PGM of Missouri. Truman saved American lives by dropping two atomic bombs. He ended the war and won the peace, and I revere him for his guts, his ethics and his constant desire to do the right thing, whether it was popular or not. I also admire his plain speaking and his dedication to Masonry.

One of Truman's favorite aphorisms was "If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen."

Heat accompanies the hat and the gavel. That's what leaders sign on for. I've made tough calls and I've felt the heat. Every day I pray for guidance and for brethren who vent their heat, but sadly, shed no light, through social media, instead of talking with me. Remember how we are to interact with a brother if we feel he is in error. Remember our obligations, our charges and our closing charge.

Truman loved his Masonry and he was an active Mason before, during and after his political career. But he believed, as I do, that politics must be checked at the lodge door. While American political thought, activity and debate have given us the world's greatest system of governance, its intrusion into our sacred retreat of friendship and virtue will prove to be divisive and corrosive.

That's how I would characterize much of the social media discourse concerning my directive on gun raffles. As you know, since I issued that directive, the raffle committee has made its recommendations – which closely paralleled those of my own directive – and I have accepted the report and let the original directive stand.

I have received many, many messages of support and encouragement about my directive from across the political spectrum, from brethren who work in law enforcement, who are active duty or retired military, and who are life members of the NRA.

Many of those who oppose the directive tell me they understand and accept my reasoning. A few claim I'm bringing politics into the fraternity. That was not my intent. My goal was to practice outside of the lodge those duties that we are taught in it. Remembering that our actions should be virtuous, amiable, and discreet. That our conduct must prove to the world the happy and beneficial effects of our ancient institution; so that when anyone is said to be a member of it, the world may know that he is one to whom the burdened heart may pour forth its sorrow, to whom the distressed may prefer their suit, whose hand is guided by justice and whose heart is expanded by benevolence.

To my brethren who believe the directive injects politics into Masonry, I ask you to set aside for a moment the notion that we must dig in, defend our positions and attack and insult the opposition. When a brother sinks to such un-Masonic behavior, he's telling us that his politics are more important than his Masonry.

I ask these brethren to subdue their passions, read the directive, read the task force report and read my cover letter that accompanies it. Then decide if this is politics, or if it's about being compassionate members of our communities. I want Masons to be thought of as compassionate, not clueless, when the next tragedy occurs, and the next.

One social media comment said something like this: "Masonry needs me more than I need it." If you feel that way, you're not a Mason. You're just a member. Go. Masonry will be better off without you.



The district meetings ended May 15 at my home lodge, Eagle #19 in Hillsborough. I thank the 27 host lodges, their officers and members, from Manteo to Oconee, and from Dan River to Beaver Dam, for their generous hospitality and many kindnesses.

In the meetings I enjoyed quoting one of my favorite Masonic writers, Chris Hodapp. I recommend his book *Freemasons for Dummies* to Masons, non-Masons, prospective Masons – anyone who wants to know more about our craft. His blog, posted under the same title, is the go-to source for Masonic news from around the world.

The quotes came from a provocative and

inspirational talk Chris gave last July to grand lodge officers at the Northeast Masonic Conference in Indianapolis. He observed that we like to pat the new guys on the back and tell them that they will get out of Masonry what they put into it. Right?

Wrong, he said. A lodge gets out of Masons what it puts into them.

He also said the most important meeting of the Masonic career is the fourth meeting – that's the first meeting a new member attends after his third degree. How is that new Mason received in your lodge on that night? As Hodapp says, he's been poked and prodded his first three times in the lodge. He needs a warm embrace on the fourth night, and the fifth, and the sixth if you want him to keep coming back.

On how we should live and act as Masons, Hodapp said don't break the law, stick to the precepts of Masonry and look after each other's welfare. That pretty much sums up our obligations, doesn't it?

On the absolute necessity for leaders to inspire, he noted that Dr. Martin Luther King didn't say, "I have a plan."

He also quoted the French author, aviator and Freemason Antoine de Saint-Exupery, author of *The Little Prince*, who wrote "If you want to build a ship, don't herd people together to collect wood, and don't assign them tasks and work, but rather, teach them to long for the endless immensity of the sea."



Our 231st Annual Communication returns to Winston-Salem Sept. 28-29. In addition to the business at hand we'll welcome back to North Carolina and hear from two friends and brethren who have news of importance to the craft.

This spring the 2016 Prestonian Lecturer, Ric Berman, published *From Roanoke to Raleigh, Freemasonry in North Carolina, 1730-1800*. WB Ric will speak after the Friday afternoon session and sign copies of his book, which will be available for sale. He addressed our 2016 Communication and spoke in several lodges. We're delighted that he's traveling from England to share his findings.

WB Oscar Alleyne, the junior grand warden in the Grand Lodge of New York, will speak on clandestine Masonry and his experiences as a former member of a clandestine lodge. It's a fascinating topic. Clandestine Masons are all around us, and WB Oscar will shed some light on their activities. WB Oscar has spoken at the Wilkerson College Symposium and in Sophia Lodge and we look forward to his return to our state. ✦



# OUR MASONIC CHARITIES AT WORK

## Who had fun at Family Day? Everyone!

Grandparents, grandbabies and kids of all ages had lots of fun at WhiteStone's Family Day in May. The 17th annual event went off without a hitch and featured barbecue served by Gate City #694 and Revolution #552, music from DJ Randy Smith and bubble machines all around. Kids especially enjoyed petting some therapy animals, including a couple of feisty goats, a horse, pony, rabbit, dogs and a tiny family of chicks. The annual event that brings residents and their families together for a day of fun and food is the largest event of the year on the campus of WhiteStone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Community.

Photos by Beth Grace







# The Great Landscape Event 2018



## Brothers get hands dirty for the kids

When spring does its thing, the brothers (and others) get busy. Some 120 brothers from around the state took a picture perfect April Day to make a perfect picture of the Masonic Home for Children campus in Oxford. Dirt was dug, mulch spread and plants planted around the campus cottages, God's Half Acre and many campus buildings.

The annual Great Landscape Event – held a little later than normal this year to ensure better weather – is a lot of work, for sure .... but it's also fun for those who pile into trucks and spend half a Saturday day getting their hands dirty to make our home for kids the most beautiful in the state. Brother Masons made up the largest contingent of helpers, but MHCO board members and local civic groups also pitched in.

The work does not go unrewarded. Workers are fed well – they start the day early, with a tasty, hearty breakfast and end it with a filling lunch before everyone heads home.

What? You missed it? Make a date for next year. Be there in 2019. It's fun, it makes a real difference on campus, and .... Did we mention that it's fun? "Like" the MHCO Facebook page today to keep up to date on upcoming events to help the kids.

Brothers and friends of MHCO spent a hard-working morning on campus cleaning away old brush and planting new flowers. Clockwise from top, mulching around the swings keeps things clean and fresh for the kids; Volunteers improvised and didn't miss a thing – even scrubbing down the street signs on campus; Brothers invested a lot of muscle, time and love to clean out old trees and brush around God's Half Acre; A perfect place to pause and reflect on the good work of the home and the brothers who support it.

Photos by Beth Grace;  
Tree photo by GM Speed Hallman





# So why the 'A' in front of F. & A.M.?

I'm often asked what our Grand Lodge's initials mean: A.F. & A.M. They are indicative of our Grand Lodge being composed of ancient, free and accepted masons.

But what does that mean?

Traditionally, the initials of a grand lodge indicated whether or not it was affiliated with the Moderns/Premier grand lodge (typically the aristocracy/nobles) or the Ancient/Antients/Atholl grand lodge (typically merchants and military men).

Our initials, then, would indicate that our grand lodge derived its authority from the Ancients' grand lodge, but this is not necessarily the case. (*See list at right*)

So, what does that mean? In all likelihood, you can probably chalk up our multiple personality disorder to the whim of the printer of our proceedings. Sometimes he was a brother mason who understood our fraternity, and sometimes not.

Sometimes, past Grand Secretaries recorded in great detail the particulars of a meeting, i.e.: the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient York Masons of North Carolina convened today at 10 of the clock, ante-meridian... OR The Grand Lodge opened today at 10 a.m.

Several of our early eastern lodges were chartered by the Moderns

(Royal White Hart #2, St. John's #1) and Joseph Montfort received his commission to be Provincial Grand Master from the Moderns' Grand Lodge in 1771, so we know lodges 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, and 9 were likely Moderns lodges.



By Jonathan Underwood  
Assistant to the Grand  
Secretary

However, old Union Lodge at Cross Creek/Campbelltown (now Phoenix #8 at Fayetteville) was traditionally believed to have been chartered by the Ancients or at least by the Grand Lodge of Scotland (an Ancient affiliation) in the mid-1760s. The lodge at Salisbury (known as Old Cone #9 after the Revolutionary War) was probably chartered by a sister lodge located in Virginia or even Pennsylvania (this is my speculation) by at least 1770, and the lodge on Buffalo Creek/Blandford-Bute Lodge (now Johnston-Caswell #10) received its charter in 1765 from Blandford Lodge at Petersburg, Va., which was in turn chartered by the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

When the several lodges came together to form the Grand Lodge in 1787, the Moderns' aristocratic affiliation was still well known, as was the more egalitarian nature of the Ancients' lodges.

However, to prevent a divide of allegiance and to unify the hundreds of brethren across the state, the delegates to the first communica-

tion of the Grand Lodge chose to agree that the fraternity was ancient (not Ancient/Antient/Atholl) and honorable. And, as the United States developed, even the "ancient and honorable" appellations were dropped for the more simplistic "Grand Lodge of North Carolina."

When the Ancient and Moderns Grand Lodge merged in 1813, during the age of Romanticism, and a generation after the establishment of the Grand Lodge, its members or grand secretary or printer probably looked back across the institution's history to its legendary origins—romantically believed to have been at York in northern England, and incorporated the story of Prince Edwin into the mythology of Freemasonry's British origins. It was also an era when our ritual was being codified and merged with other traditions (yes, our ritual has changed over time), which served as legitimizing agents for the order.

By and large, and outside of what are probably errors or oversights on the part of a copyist or printer, our official title was probably akin to "the Ancient and Honorable Society of Free and Accepted York Masons of North Carolina." Why we became F. and A.M. between 1858 and 1866 is anybody's guess. When I find the official committee minutes, I'll let you know.

While our initials are not so significant, what is important is that we are Masons, aware of our intriguing past and looking forward to a bright, relevant future serving mankind. ✦

## What's in a name?

Our proceedings have labeled this Grand Lodge as:

- 1787-1793: Ancient and Honorable Society of Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina
- 1794-1802: Grand Lodge of North Carolina
- 1803-1813: Grand Lodge of North Carolina and Tennessee
- 1814-1815: Grand Lodge of North Carolina
- 1816: Grand Lodge of Ancient York Masons of North Carolina
- 1817-1820: Grand Lodge of North Carolina
- 1821-1837: Grand Lodge of Ancient York Masons of North Carolina
- 1838: Grand Lodge of North Carolina
- 1839-1840: Grand Lodge of Ancient York Masons of North Carolina
- 1841: Right Worshipful Grand Lodge of the Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina
- 1842-1843: Right Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina
- 1844-1845: Grand Lodge of Ancient York Masons of North Carolina
- 1846-1847: Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina
- 1848-1849: Grand Lodge of North Carolina
- 1850-1857: Grand Lodge of Ancient York Masons of North Carolina
- 1858-1866: Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina
- 1867-present: Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina



Wayne Carringer, right, hatches up a plan with the grand master to bring a lodge meeting to the VA hospital in Asheville on July 10.

## GM visit turns into plan for special VA Vet event

It started out as a regular visit for Grand Master Speed Hallman.

North Carolina's Grand Master makes a visit – at least one – every year to visit brothers in residence at the Charles George VA Medical Center in Asheville.

Hallman stopped in to visit with Wayne Carringer of Robbinsville #672, a 97-year-old veteran of the Bataan Death March. The two enjoyed each other's company and got to talking about lodge meetings

and how good it is to spend time with brothers.

It didn't take long for the two brothers to hatch a plan.

"Before we left the facility, we had made plans to hold an emergent communication of Sonoma #472 at the hospital on Tuesday, July 10, at 2:30 p.m.," Grand Master Hallman said. "What a wonderful way not only to celebrate Masonry but to bring brothers together!"

Masons at the hospital will be special invitees to the meeting. Brothers from all area lodges are invited to attend. More details will be released via Facebook and email as the meeting draws closer.

The Grand Master has invited his counterparts from South Carolina and Tennessee for what promises to be a special day of fellowship and brotherhood. Discussions with the VA in Salisbury also are under way.



# Proposed Code Amendments for 2018

Here are the proposed amendments to be considered at Annual Communication, Sept. 28-29:



## Amendment Group 1

This amendment creates a new type of membership called Legacy Membership, and would replace the current Endowed Membership program. Current Endowed Memberships would be unaffected. Legacy Membership is crafted after Endowed Membership and uses similar financial assumptions. The purchase price is increased so the amount paid out to the lodge and Grand Lodge can increase over time. This allows the dues paid to the lodge to keep up with inflation, leaving a true legacy for all time. Endowed Membership holders may upgrade to a Legacy Membership. Also, Legacy Memberships can be purchased via a bequest in a will by a brother in good standing at the time of his death.

Proposed by William G. Hill #218



## Amendment Group 2

Would allow a lodge to hold a stated communication in the event their regular stated communication was cancelled due to inclement weather or hazardous conditions.

Proposed by Knights of Solomon #766



## Amendment Group 3

This amendment restores qualifications inadvertently removed from previous editions of The Code, which stated members appointed to the Code Commission are to be a Past Masters or Secretaries of a lodge.

Proposed by the Grand Secretary



## Amendment Group 4

Permits the Master of a lodge to order a petition or application withdrawn and returned if he discovers after it has been received that the petitioner or applicant falsely answered any question in the petition or application.

Proposed by Eagle #19



## Amendment Group 5

This amendment would automatically suspend a Mason criminally charged with a felony in any state court, U.S. District Court, or under U.S. Uniform Code of Military Justice. The suspended Mason may not attend any lodge until his case is adjudicated. If a Mason is found guilty of a felony, the Mason shall be immediately expelled by the Judge Advocate. If the Mason is found to be not guilty, or the charges are dismissed, the suspension shall be immediately withdrawn and the record of the suspension expunged from his Masonic record

Proposed by Oak Grove #750



## Amendment Group 6

This amendment raises the per capita to \$25.

Proposed by PGM A. Gene Cobb



## Amendment Group 7

The amendment requires a Master of a lodge makes certain the Treasurer makes a full and complete report at least quarterly to the lodge of its receipts, disbursements, account balances, and financial condition. Each quarterly report of the Treasurer shall be read in open lodge and recorded by the Secretary as a part of the minutes.

Proposed by PGM A. Gene Cobb



## Amendment Group 8

This amendment allows the Grand Master, in cases of inclement weather, to permit a lodge to hold its annual election at a time other than a stated communication.

Proposed by the Grand Secretary



## Amendment Group 9

This amendment would allow a lodge to have the option to open lodge on the First Degree and conduct business.

Proposed by: Blackmer #127, Fellowship #84, Kenly #257, James K. Polk #759, Nichols West-Asheville #650, Eagle #19



## Amendment Group 10

This amendment further defines forbidden obstructive motions.

Proposed by Eagle #19



Photo by Melody McBride

Past Grand Master Gene Cobb, left, fights emotion after Grand Master Speed Hallman, right, presents him with the Montfort Medal, the highest honor a Mason can receive in North Carolina.

## PGM Cobb our newest Montfort medal recipient

Nobody was more surprised than the recipient when a routine portrait unveiling turned into a much bigger deal.

Most Worshipful A. Gene Cobb, Past Grand Master of Masons of North Carolina, was given the Montfort Medal on Halifax Day after Royal White Hart #2 unveiled portraits of the two Grand Masters who have emerged from the lodge: Cobb and William Richardson Davie.

Jeremy Hicklin, a descendant of Davie, was on hand for the unveiling.

MW Hallman said Cobb deserved the Montfort honor for all he has given to Masonry, "most of all, his heart." Cobb recalled that 53 years earlier to the day of the award his grandfather had brought him to the lodge for the first time "just to show me around."

## EDITOR, from page 4

"G" poster the foundation is selling to benefit historic lodge preservation.

Their expertise is evident when you look at their work, but their effort behind the scenes – working with me to brainstorm and execute new ways to tell our story – is invaluable. They exemplify the best of what Masonry stands for, and I applaud (and thank) them!



# TRAVELING THE TAR HEEL STATE

## Did George sit here?



▲ **EDENTON** – The Brothers from Unanimity #7 made a recent road trip to Virginia to see an old “friend.” They hit the road to see an historic chair that once was in the East at the lodge. It was revealed in 1983 to be a museum-quality piece. The chair, crafted by Benjamin Bucktrout, was a gift from a George Russell, according to minutes dated July 6, 1778. The chair most likely came from a lodge in Alexandria, Va., that had disbanded and distributed its furniture to avoid capture by the British. Legend has it that George Washington sat in it, and the chair is described in the Journal of Early Southern Decorative Arts as “the most elaborate American Freemason’s chair known.” But because the cost of insuring the chair was so high, the lodge sold it to Colonial Williamsburg. As part of the offer, the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation built an exact replica of the chair, which is still displayed at Unanimity. In March, several members of Unanimity travelled to Colonial Williamsburg to see the original chair, now stored at the DeWitt Wallace Collections and Conservation Building. The brothers also attended a stated meeting at Williamsburg #6, where some brothers dress in colonial attire. Pictured: WVM Bill Potts poses with the Bucktrout chair.



## NEWS FROM OUR LODGES



▲ **FAYETTEVILLE** – The brethren at Phoenix #8 plant pinwheels during their monthly fellowship breakfast. The pinwheels were planted to bring awareness to Child Abuse Prevention during the month of April. The pinwheels are sponsored through the Child Advocacy Center, which provides abused children a safe place to be interviewed and receive therapy.

◀ **WILMINGTON** – Orient #395 turned things around and did a good deed for some good-deed-doers in March. Brethren sponsored a pancake breakfast that raised \$513 to help send members of Boy Scout Troop #730 to camp. Members and officers of the lodge did the cooking and the scouts helped serve the meal.



# TRAVELING THE TAR HEEL STATE



▲ **LUMBERTON** – St. Albans #114 brother Rick Gregory escorts a young lady to a pageant at the Carolina Civic Center. The lodge has an ongoing support arrangement with the Robeson County Parks and Recreation Department's program for the county's Special Needs population. Gregory, Durham Lewis, along with brothers Aaron Milstead, Lewis Woodard and Brent Barfield had the privilege of escorting 15 young ladies in the pageant.

## RALEIGH

William G. Hill #218's annual Easter egg hunt this year was the largest ever. About 60 kids came to the temple to search for colored eggs at the 10th annual hunt. Some 965 candy-filled plastic eggs were hidden around the temple as early chilly temperatures evened out and the sun rose high into the sky. Brothers took about 60 people on tours of the temple, a magician performed for the kids and all enjoyed some good food and fellowship.

► **RALEIGH** – Secretaries from almost 30 lodges gather at the Grand Lodge to hear the latest news and updates from Grand Secretary Walt Clapp. The Grand Lodge offers the "school" on a regular basis to help secretaries handle the workload that comes with an active lodge.



▲ **NEW BERN** – A check for \$1,080 is presented by Worshipful Master Ronald Ipock of Doric #568 to the Pamlico Animal Welfare Society. Pictured from left to right: PAWS Treasurer Mary Maxwell, PAWS Vice President Christine Garman, Ipock and PAWS President Jackie Schmidt.



▲ **COVE CITY** – On a cold Saturday night in late January, Ionic #583 had an uninvited guest in the fellowship hall: a three-ton pickup truck. Considerable damage was done to the building and contents of the fellowship hall, including past master portraits that had been displayed on the wall where the truck entered. While brothers wait for structural studies and word from the insurance company, Zion #81 has invited the brothers of Ionic to meet there.





# MILEPOSTS



◀ **KENLY** – Out of darkness comes light. In March, an Automated External Defibrillator was donated to Kenly #257 in honor of Secretary Ted Sherrod, who suffered a massive heart attack last Fall. Ted, a licensed professional engineer, was in Mooresville about to conduct a stormwater and erosion control workshop for Duke Energy staff and consultants when he fell gravely ill. Brother Dale Wooten, Eureka #238 and Duke Energy Lead EHS Professional, quickly came to his aid. Brother Wooten, who is a certified CPR instructor, used an AED that had been installed near the classroom until emergency help arrived. At the time, neither brother knew he was helping or being helped by a masonic brother. Dale stayed in touch with Ted's wife, Janet, over the next week during Ted's intensive care hospitalization. During a visit to the hospital, Dale noticed a get well card from Ted's Kenly brothers, complete the Masonic square and compasses. Dale joined Ted at Kenly #257's March meeting and helped train brothers how to use the AED. Pictured: DDGM Dist. 16 Ted Sherrod, left, spends time with brother Dale Wooten, who helped saved his life.



## HENDERSONVILLE

May 2 was a big day for WB Kolen Flack. At the 38th District Meeting at Kedron #387, Brother was presented a certificate commemorating his 60 years as a certified lecturer. Kolen has been a master mason for 68 years, and in addition to his many years of distinguished service as a member of the Board of Custodians, is a Joseph Montfort Medal recipient. Br. Kolen Flack was joined by his sons, Jodie and Randy Flack, for the presentation, which was made by MW Grand Master Speed Hallman and Deputy Grand Master "Mack" Sigmon.

▶ **GASTONIA** – Seventy years in Masonry is a very big milestone. Brother Harry M. Bryant Sr., 97, was surrounded by friends and family at his home in April as Grand Master Speed Hallman presented him with a 70-year service award. Harry is a member of King Solomon #704 in Gastonia and served as Potentate of Oasis Shriners in 1965. In 1966, Harry was honored as a recipient of the Joseph Montfort Medal, the highest award given by the Grand Master of Masons in North Carolina. The Grand Master was joined by Oasis Potentate John D. Burgess, and Past Potentates Billy Farris and John Stanley. A successful former business owner and lifelong avid Tar Heels fan, Brother Harry resides in Gastonia with his loving wife of 75 years, Ruby. His remarks were those of warmth and sincere appreciation as he looks forward to celebrating his 100th birthday in the near future.



◀ **BENSON** – It was a family in April at Relief #431. The brethren welcomed three new brothers, all of which have a direct family tie to the fraternity. Brother Justin Norris raised his father, Lee Norris Jr.; brother Stephen Caldwell of Mill Creek #127 raised his son, Adam Caldwell, to Master Mason. Brother William Neighbors was raised by WM Matt Moore, carrying on his late father's legacy of becoming a Master Mason. Pictured l-r: Justin Norris, Lee Norris, Matt Moore, Adam Caldwell, Stephen Caldwell.



## ADVANCE

Advance #710 Brothers Joe Jarvis and Past Master Joel Crofts have been awarded the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonel. This award is given for individual contributions to their community, state or nation for their special achievements on behalf of others.

## Service awards reported to The Mason

### 60 Years

Alton Myrick, Thomas M. Holt #492  
Bailey Gillespie, Western Star #91

### 50 Years

Joseph Thomas Briggs, John H. Mills #624  
Floyd C. Dixon, Seaside #429  
Nicholas Keith Gilbert, Catawba #248  
John Kilby, Ashe #594





# AFTER THE STORM

## Brothers help brothers after PHA lodge destroyed

A storm post gone viral prompted a national call for help after a tornado that struck Greensboro in April destroyed a Prince Hall lodge.

Brother Marcus Orr of Graham, a member of Thomas M. Holt #492 and Mosaic #762 tells the story:

On April 15, the east side of Greensboro was hit by an EF2 tornado that registered 135 mph and cut around a 300-yard path directly through dense residential neighborhoods.

When the tornado passed through, I and several others were waiting out the storm in the basement of the Greensboro Masonic Temple. After it passed, I left downtown Greensboro and headed toward the interstate to return home.

At the time, I did not know that a tornado had passed through. Due to falling power lines and trees, I found myself stuck for a couple of hours in the neighborhoods hardest hit by the tornado. I parked my truck and started walking the neighborhood helping some of the residents check on other residents in houses that had been destroyed.

As I did this, I took quite extensive photographs of the damage and posted it to my Facebook feed. I was unaware at the time that the media

was unable to access the neighborhood and that communication coming out of the neighborhoods was virtually non-existent during those first few hours. My phone battery eventually died, and I lost communication.

I was shocked when I regained service and had a half dozen or more requests from national and local media organizations requesting permission to use my photos. I was even more shocked when I checked my Facebook photo and saw that it

had been shared thousands of times.

I heard early the next morning that the Prince Hall Lodge had been destroyed, but wasn't accessible due to downed trees and power lines, so I packed up my drone to see if I could circum-

vent the closures and get some pictures of the lodge.

The neighborhood where the lodge was located took a direct hit and the devastation was terrible. The lodge was one of the worst hit buildings in the city.

I set up my drone and took some aerial video that morning and later came back that afternoon to take some more. A drone video can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/y9llevdm>.

There were two primary organizations meeting in the lodge



Damage caused by a tornado was extensive in Greensboro, destroying a Prince Hall lodge building. Debris was scattered around the property, including lodge furnishings and art work.

– C.W. Lawrence #837 and Luther Kimbrough #838. I understand that a travelling lodge, Climax #832 made use of the facilities on an occasional basis and the building was also the home of Order of the Eastern Star's Genesis #673 and Rebecca #656.

These lodges literally lost everything and at the very least, I hoped that the fundraiser would generate enough to restore some of the basic items these lodges and chapters use to operate or help them fund temporary housing arrangements.

I wanted to do something to help these brothers recover from their loss and thought that my Facebook

post would be a great platform to drive traffic to a Go Fund Me campaign.

So, I started the Go Fund Me Page and shared it through various Masonic Facebook groups. Donations started coming in.

To date, the campaign has reached just over 50 percent of our \$5,000 goal. Many brothers from within the GLNC and brothers throughout the United States and overseas have donated generously.

*Editor's Note: The Go Fund Me campaign is still open and ready to receive donations. Here's a link: [www.gofundme.com/RebuildingTheLodge](http://www.gofundme.com/RebuildingTheLodge)*



### Audit time

It's always busy at the Grand Lodge, but some months are busier than others. Every year, auditors and the Grand Lodge staff, including Vicki Lam, far left, and Grand Secretary Walt Clapp, far right, invest time and effort reviewing the Grand Lodge's financial reports to make sure everything is properly recorded and accounted for. Interested in learning more about the financial side of things? The Finance Committee invites you to attend a meeting at the Grand Lodge on Aug. 3. Watch here for details: [grandlodge-nc.org](http://grandlodge-nc.org)



Like The NC Mason on Facebook: <http://bit.ly/2irdm6m>



From the Courier's Case

# George Washington: Patriot and Mason

By Steven Campbell  
Masonic Historian

For 46 of his 67 years of life, George Washington served as a protector of his fellow countrymen and the tenets of the Freemason Fraternity.

George Washington (named in honor of his mother's guardian, George Ewing) was born in Westmoreland County, Virginia, in 1732. He was the eldest child of a second marriage. His father died when George was 11. He inherited Ferry Farm along the Rappahannock River. His education consisted of tutoring, homeschooling and experience; finances prevented him from attending university. At 16, his half-brother Lawrence obtained for him an ensign's commission in the British Navy, which his mother quashed. Mature beyond his years, George began on-the-job training as a surveyor and at age 17 was appointed Culpeper County, Va.'s first Royal Surveyor. His career exposed him to Virginia's gentry class, which enabled him to accrue both money and land.

At 19, George accompanied Lawrence, stricken with tuberculosis, to Barbados – the only time George would leave North America. While there, he contracted and survived smallpox. Within months of their return, Lawrence would die and George would lease Mount Vernon from Lawrence's widow, Ann Fairfax Washington. George inherited the estate in 1761.

At 21, Washington obtained a Major's commission in Virginia's Royal Militia. He had no military training but readily acclimated to the life. His role in initiating

hostile armed action against French troops catapulted Great Britain and France into the French and Indian War. On July 4, 1754, Col. George Washington would surrender troops under his command (to the French) for the only time in his life. Washington then turned his attention to personal bliss, and in January 1759, wed Virginia's wealthiest widow, Martha Dandridge Custis. Their 40-year marriage and his adoption of her two children, Jackie and Patsy, proved an ideal match.

As tension grew between the American Colonies and Great Britain, George's role expanded from a member of Virginia's House of Burgesses to the Continental Congress to America's first Commander-in-Chief (1775-1783). During the eight-year War of American Independence, he would only return home once.

## Independence won

Without a Constitution, the fate of the new nation hung in the balance. Under the leadership of Citizen George Washington, the Constitution was written and adopted, and in 1789, he became the first President of the United States. Personal loss, health issues and life in general took a toll on George and Martha, and when his second term ended in 1797, George retired to his estate, where he would die two years later.


He was laid to rest along the banks of the Potomac River at Mount Vernon, where Martha would once again join her "old man" less than three years later.

Many legends circulate about the Masonic activities of George Washington.

*Information in this article is part of a program available for Masonic Lodges. Contact Steven Campbell.*



This is a list from the George Washington National Masonic Memorial of documentable Masonic occurrences within Washington's lifetime. He owned at least two Masonic Aprons, three Masonic Constitutions and a Masonic Jewel.

1752	Nov. 4	Fredericksburg #4, initiated as Entered Apprentice.
1753	March 3	Fredericksburg #4, passed to Fellow Craft.
1753	Aug. 4	Fredericksburg #4, raised to Master Mason.
1778	Dec. 28	St. John the Evangelist Celebration, marched in Masonic procession.
1779	June 24	St. John the Baptist Celebration, marched with American Union Military Lodge at West Point, NY.
1779	Dec. 20	Proposed by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania as General Grand Master of the United States; Never enacted.
1779	Dec. 27	St. John the Baptist Evangelist Celebration, marked with American Union Military Lodge at Morristown, NJ.
1782		Brothers Watson and Cassoul of Nantes, France, present Washington with silk Masonic Apron.
1782	June 24	St. John the Baptist Celebration, marked with American Union Military Lodge at West Point, NY.
1782	Dec. 27	St. John the Evangelist Celebration, marked with Solomon #1, Poughkeepsie, NY.
1784	June 24	St. John the Baptist Celebration, marked with Alexandria #39, Alexandria, Va. (Now Alexandria-Washington #22.)
1784	June 24	Made honorary member Alexandria #39.
1784	August	Presented with Masonic Apron by General and Brother LaFayette.
		 Photo from Mount Vernon Collection
1785	Feb. 12	Walked in Masonic Funeral Procession for Brother William Ramsey, Alexandria, Va.
1788	April 28	Named Charter Master of Alexandria #22 under Charter of the Grand Lodge of Virginia.
1788	Dec. 20	Unanimously re-elected Master of Alexandria #22.
1789		Elected an Honorary Member of Holland #8, New York, NY.
1789	April 30	Inaugurated President of the United States using a Bible from St. John's #1, New York, NY.
1791	April 15	Received by St. John's #2, New Bern, NC.
1791	May	Received the greetings of the Grand Lodge of South Carolina from Grand Master Gen. Mordecai Gist, Charleston, SC.
1793	Sept. 18	Acting as Grand Master of Maryland, laid the cornerstone of the United States Capitol, District of Columbia
1794		Sat for William Williams Portrait
1797	March 28	Received a Masonic delegation from Alexandria #22.
1798	April 1	Attended Alexandria #22 and proposed a toast at banquet.
1799	Dec. 18	Buried at Mount Vernon with Masonic Rites conducted by Alexandria #22.





# WELCOME OUR NEW BROTHERS

Hall, Christopher Matthew	1	St John's	Fissel, Jeffrey Robert	176	Williams	Poling, Weldon Lee	387	Kedron	Smith, James Carl	626	Cannon Memorial
Orrock, Nathan Michael	1	St John's	Johnstone, Jordan Daniel	181	Carthage	Espitia, Jesus	391	Lebanon	Clark, Gregory Eugene	654	Elberta
Aitz, Leroy Cuthbert	8	Phoenix	McCarn II, John Michael	181	Carthage	Hall, Jeremiah Timothy	391	Lebanon	Ruben, Aaron Mills	654	Elberta
Blumer, Jory Daniel	8	Phoenix	Robinson, Greg Franklin	181	Carthage	Ostendorf, Robert Lee	391	Lebanon	Evans, Joseph Peter	679	Creasy Proctor
Neilsen, Marc Joseph	8	Phoenix	Mayo, Randell Edward	191	Granite	Merrill, Jacob Edward	397	Bald Creek	Miller, Ryan Thomas	680	Semper Fidelis
Rice, Colby Scott	11	Caswell Brotherhood	Freeman, Anthony Allen	198	Cary	Harvey, Jeffrey Wayne	405	Ocean	Gardner, Jonathan Gray	691	Renfro
Prosseda, John Battista	19	Eagle	Campbell, Rondal Allen	217	Catawba Valley	Bradshaw, Graham Stone	428	Stokesdale	Eagle, Joshua Eugene	695	Allen Graham
Holan, Douglas Michael	32	Stokes	Simmons, Donald Aaron	229	Henderson	Roche, James Michael	429	Seaside	Hilton Jr, Jeremy Scott	695	Allen Graham
Cleary, Jonathan Chance	45	Liberty	Pully, William Arrington	230	Corinthian	Caldwell, Adam Blake	431	Relief	Cuthrell, Delma Douglas	706	Newport
Brinson, Joshua Michael	83	Lafayette	Nuss, Henry Edward	240	Wicacocon	Neighbors, William Michael	431	Relief	Corbett, Carl Edward	706	Newport
Coggin, Ryan Wesley	85	Morning Star	Sasser, Donald Clifton	240	Wicacocon	Norris, Leroy	431	Relief	Stuart, Jacob Blake	708	Crown Point
Cormier, Kevin Clark	97	Millbrook	Pribble, Jimmy Dan	259	Waynesville	Neaves, Justin Michael	434	West Bend	Walters, Matthew Lee	708	Crown Point
Keith, Dennis Kirk	97	Millbrook	Stemmler, Freddie	262	Hibriten	Dixon Jr, Donald David	463	Currituck	Wordsworth, Brice Alan	708	Crown Point
Brewer, Rodney Keith	98	Hiram	White, Jason Wesley	262	Hibriten	Bassett, Jeffrey Dean	473	Lexington Memorial	Joyce, Stephen Lorimer	713	Stanley
Bass, Billy Bryan	114	St. Alban's	Cronan, Michael Anthony	271	Tabasco	Cook, Roger Brian	473	Lexington Memorial	Cannupp Lowe, Justin William	715	Derita
Prevatte Jr, Jimmy Alton	114	St. Alban's	Faircloth, Curtis Dean	282	Wake Forest	Johnson III, Johnny Richard	473	Lexington Memorial	Boyd, Sidney Alexander	734	William Pitt
Draper, David Aller	115	Holly Springs	Thuku, William Gichuhi	282	Wake Forest	Stepp IV, James Franklin	482	Polk County Unity	Apple, Jonathan Brett	735	James B. Green
Alexander, Joshua Ross	118	Mt. Hermon	Pennington, Joshua Sheridan	289	Salem	Overbey, Gary Wayne	492	Thomas M. Holt	Collins, Jonathan David	735	James B. Green
Lynch, Gregory Lee	118	Mt. Hermon	Klakken, Steven Earl	304	Pleasant Hill	Palmer, Billy Jason	493	Pilot	O'Rear, Dwayne Joseph	737	Steele Creek
Short, Nicholas Hazelton	118	Mt. Hermon	Lunceford, David Ray	363	Snow	Jones, Terry Wayne	515	Whetstone	Vaughan, Stephen Farris	737	Steele Creek
Wells, Hiram Michael	118	Mt. Hermon	Messer, Clayton Michael	381	Forest City	Adams, Chandler Steele	573	Mt. Pleasant	Leinbach, Andrew Grayson	751	Old Town
Christie, Charles O'Neil	123	Franklinton	Walker, Nicklaus Adam	381	Forest City	Roberts, Bradley William	592	Maiden	Cothran, Rodney Alan	759	James K. Polk
Herring, Andrew Garrett	125	Mill Creek	Wallenburg, Ronald Conrad	381	Forest City	Sipe, Ryan Lee	592	Maiden	Trexler, David Duane	767	Sophia
Denning, Robert Allen	125	Mill Creek	Durham, John Randall	384	Jefferson Penn	Mayes, James Madison	616	Round Peak			
Leonard, John Tyler	128	Hanks	Preble, Marvin Atwell	384	Jefferson Penn	Roberts, Paul Lewis	616	Round Peak			
Schultz, Erik Ernst	128	Hanks	Baxley, Jason Walter	387	Kedron	Baker, David Keith	626	Cannon Memorial			

## Making kids smile with Bikes for Books

Lodges around North Carolina have given dozens of bikes to well-read school kids – or have plans for bike presentations coming up – as part of the popular “Bikes for Books” program.

The program, which has found a home in Masonic lodges around the country in the past couple of years, works like this: Kids agree to read at home for 20 minutes a day. Once they hit 500 minutes, their names go into a hat. By random draw from a hat, one student in each grade from kindergarten through fifth grade wins a brand new bike, provided by the brethren of the local Masonic lodge.

Among the North Carolina lodges around the state participating in the program, the lodges of the Masonic Center of Winston-Salem in May made some kids smile at South Fork Elementary School in Winston-Salem. Lodges participating included Salem #289, Piedmont-

Pioneer #685, Forsyth #707 and Winston #167.

Sponsoring the program locally is all about supporting community, something Masons love to do.

“Someone asked me recently ‘what do Masons do anyway? I know you do BBQs and you have an orphanage in Oxford and a retirement home in Greensboro, but do you do anything for the community?’ said George Troxler, past master of Salem #289.

“Any day you can give a child a reason to smile is a good day. Any day you can provide a lasting memory and let that child know about a brotherhood called Freemasons that really cares about them is a great day.”

At South Fork, each student received a new bike selected for its appeal to girl or boy, a new helmet and cable lock. At South Fork, with more than 600 students comprising 24 different cultures, the prize



How do you reward kids for reading on their own time? Bikes for Books is a hit all over North Carolina!

meant a lot to the student and the whole family, Troxler says.

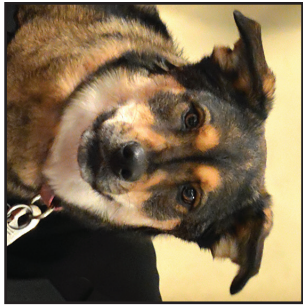
Parents often work two or three jobs and don't have time or the money to buy a new bike. Many of the kids are from war-torn countries, where they lost friends and family and came to this country with nothing. They cherish what they get and being in a safe place to learn

and grow. They work very hard to improve.

Interested in taking this on in your lodge?

Troxler invites a call and he will happily share details. Contact him via the Masonic Center, 4537 Country Club Road, Winston-Salem, NC, 27104 or call (336) 722-6441.





page 3

Two furry friends join their master in the East



page 7

Getting their hands dirty at the Home

*On the cover*

The road is never long when you're with friends! More than 206 motorcycles hit the road in April during the fifth annual Uwharrie Mountain Rumble in Mount Gillead. This was Blackmer #127's annual motorcycle ride for charity (all proceeds from the event go to our NC Masonic Charities). Participants received an event t-shirt and were treated to a leisurely ride through the Uwharrie National Forest with a single planned stop in Eldorado, where, as in years past, there was a Big Foot "sighting." Riders enjoyed music and good eats at the ride's end.

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**THE MASON**

MAY/JUNE 2018

**Making a Splash!  
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