



NORTH CAROLINA THE MASON

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

Volume 143 Number 5

Oxford, North Carolina

September/October 2018



Michael Harding photos

Grand Lodge members vote in the Saturday session of the 2018 Annual Communication to approve the 2019 budget, section by section.

Per capita increase fails; officers elected

By Beth Grace
Mason Editor

WINSTON-SALEM – North Carolina Freemasons elected a new grand master, received a new member of the Grand Line, rejected a plan to increase the per capita and welcomed two new Montfort Medal winners at the 231st Annual Communication.

Shortly after the vote for the 166th Grand Master, Dwight MacLauchlin Sigmon told the assembly, “I stand before you today

extremely grateful.”

He challenged each person attending to use the tools of Masonry to bring positive change to the world.

“We can choose to be a Mason or just a member,” he said. Sigmon will be installed on Dec. 1. (See sidebar on our new Grand Master on page 2)

Sigmon also announced his addition to the Grand Line,

■ see ANNUAL, page 3



Passing the bucket Saturday to aid those affected by Hurricane Florence.

Sigmon elected as our next Grand Master

By Beth Grace
Mason Editor

"The exalted station to which the free choice of your Brethren has called you, involves great responsibilities. It elevates you to a position from which the power and prerogatives may depart with the expiration of your term of service, but the honor and dignity, except by your own act, never."

Dwight MacLauchlin Sigmon will become the 166th Grand Master of Masons of North Carolina in December, capping a 43-year journey of brotherly love and hard work.

Better known to his brethren as "Mack," Sigmon was raised in 1975 at Catawba #248, and served as its Master in 1980 but his journey to the Grand Line was not direct, nor continuous.

And that's the foundation of one of the messages he will share with his brethren as Grand Master.

"For the first eight years of my Masonic journey, I was very active," he says. "I call the next 20 to 21 years my 'card-carrying Mason' period even though I have never liked this term. I prefer it to be known as an inactive Mason. I paid my dues, but otherwise, I was pretty inactive. I spent a lot of time working with the Boy Scouts and band boosters because of my son's involvement. I value that time even more since my son and family now live in Asia."

It was a request from his best friend, Mike Butler, a fellow Mason who also had drifted away, that brought Sigmon back into active Masonry. Butler asked Sigmon to sign his son Garry's petition, and to deliver the third-degree lecture when the time came. That renewed Sigmon's love and respect for ritual



Members of the Grand Lodge elected "Mack" Sigmon to be their next leader.

and drove him to renew his ritual certification and do more.

He reached out to his District Deputy Grand Lecturer and volunteered to take that post when the incumbent was ready to step down. From there, he later was appointed to the Board of Custodians by then-Grand Master Gene Jernigan. He would serve three three-year terms, including secretary for seven years. This position was the one that gave him statewide exposure to many. Always remember that the greatest part of this journey is the people you cross paths with along the way.

His journey is like that of many brothers who join, then fade away. He wants brothers to know that there is always a second – or third or fourth – act.

"Our dues cards say that you are a member of a lodge. It doesn't say you are a Mason," he said. "It takes hard work and dedication to the things we Masons believe to be a true member of Masonry.

"We have to earn the important

title of Mason everyday by our words, actions and appearance. As Masons, we need to hold ourselves to a higher standard if we are to attract the best the world has to offer to our fraternity. If not, we can just as easily make their decision not to join an easy one."

Following his service as grand lecturer in 2011, Grand Master Bob Gresham appointed Sigmon as grand steward and he was installed in December 2011. He also is active in numerous other bodies, including the Scottish and York Rites, Order of the Eastern Star and Oasis Shrine where he serves on the ritual cast for all.

Sigmon was born July 18, 1951, in the Catawba County town of Newton. He and his wife of 47 years, Linda, have one son, Charles. Charles lives with his wife and three children in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

After working in the automotive and electronics industry for about 11 years, he retired as a Commercial Segment Leader in Sales/Marketing

for General Electric's Energy/Transformer Division in December 2012 after more than 32 years.

A lifelong member of the Lutheran faith, he has been an active member of his community. He served as assistant scout master of Troop 333 in Newton for five years and currently is merit badge counselor for the Lakeland District of the Piedmont Council.

That experience sets up a second message for his year as Grand Master: Lodges should get involved in their communities. Not just by holding fund-raising events, he says, but by joining in community activities. Let your neighbors and friends know who makes up the lodge and what Masons do. He will make community interaction part of the updated list of requirements for lodges seeking Lion & Pillar designation in 2019.

Finally, he says, his overriding message of the year is a simple but powerful one: Be kind and respect each other.

"I love ritual, but more importantly, I love the lessons it teaches. At first, I memorized the words, but as I got older, the meaning became more important. I dislike nobody, and I have no hate in my heart," he says.

"My true message to all this year will be to treat each other well and with respect, and in accordance with the lessons we learn as Masons. You can disagree and have differences, but you can still respect each other. As Masons, our ritual lessons should be guiding us in everything we do and say, it certainly drives my actions."

Sigmon will be installed Dec. 1 at the Old Post Office Playhouse in Newton. ♠

ALSO ELECTED

Grand Lodge members voted for these officers for 2019:



P. SHAUN BRADSHAW
Deputy Grand Master



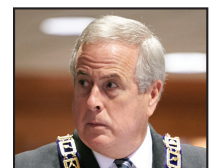
R. DAVID WICKER JR.
Senior Grand Warden



LARRY B. THOMPSON JR.
Junior Grand Warden



LEWIS R. LEDFORD
Grand Treasurer



T. WALTON CLAPP III
Grand Secretary

ANNUAL

from page 1

naming Worshipful Brother Gilbert DeVerne Bailey of Charles M. Setzer #693 as junior grand steward. Bailey was raised in 2004 and served as senior warden, secretary, trustee, and master of the Charles M. Setzer lodge and also has served on the Board of Custodians and currently is a member of the WhiteStone Board of Directors.

A total of 1,007 delegates also tackled 10 amendments, completing voting on the first day of the communication. They rejected a proposal to revamp endowed memberships and to open lodge on the first degree.

They approved proposals that allow a lodge to meet on another day and to hold its annual meeting on an alternate date in cases of hazardous conditions. Several other proposals were ruled out of order or withdrawn.

Brethren voted overwhelmingly to reject a proposal to increase the per capita by \$5. On Friday, the body took up the proposed budget for 2019, which forecast a deficit of more than \$53,000. After discussion, the budget was approved as proposed.

“Please be aware, we don’t prepare the budget in a vacuum. We live in the real world,” said Kevin Combs, chairman of the finance committee. “Lots of things about Masonry are unique and require funds to carry out.”

As a part of the budget presentation, Senior Grand Warden Shaun Bradshaw gave a brief overview of a proposal called “3 by 5.” Under the plan the per capita would increase gradually and on a predictable schedule.

Bradshaw said the finance committee felt a vote on that plan this year would be premature. Grand Master Speed Hallman conducted a straw vote, asking the representatives of the lodges whether they might favor such a plan. A substantial majority raised their hands in support of the idea. Bradshaw and other Grand Line officers want to visit lodges to discuss the plan.

Business turned to celebration during the two-day session as

Grand Master Hallman announced two Montfort Medal recipients: Worshipful Brothers Gary Handy and Jim Medlin.

Brother Handy is a member and Past Master of Walnut Cove #629 and has been employed as a purchasing agent for Stokes County since 1994. He has taken on many jobs within the Craft – not the least of which is his work to stage a seamless Annual Communication every year. He was raised in June 2003 at Walnut Cove Lodge and is affiliated with Wilkerson College #760,

Sophia #767, Lux Libertas #772 and Kernersville #669.

He’s a Past DDGM of the 26th district. He also is General Secretary to the Valley of Greensboro Scottish Rite and is active in the York Rite, along with Oasis Shriners in Charlotte. He says he has loved all of this work but the work he most treasures is acting as secretary and instructor to Wilkerson College.

He has served on the Board of General Purposes, as well as the Charter and Finance Committees of the Grand Lodge. Brother Gary

lives in Walnut Cove, along with his wife Jennifer and has one daughter and two grandchildren.

Brother Medlin is a native son of Kings Mountain and is Past Master of East LaPorte #358. He also is a member of Fairview #339 and Wilkerson College #760.

He is a 33rd degree Scottish Rite member, Valley of Asheville; an Oasis Shriner; York Rite, North Carolina Grand York Rite Body; and a National Sojourner in the Fayetteville and Raleigh chapters.

■ see MORE ANNUAL page 9

How did the amendments fare?

Outcome of the 10 Amendment Groups put before the Annual Communication



Amendment Group 1
Would have stopped the purchase of new Endowed Memberships and create a new type of membership, Legacy Membership.



Amendment Group 6
Would raise the per capita rate owed to the Grand Lodge to \$25 from its current rate of \$20. Per Capita pays for the operation of the Grand Lodge and was last approved in 2013.



Amendment Group 2
Allow a lodge to reschedule a stated communication in the event its regular stated communication was cancelled due to inclement weather or hazardous conditions.



Amendment Group 7
Requires the lodge treasurer to make a report to his lodge at least quarterly.



Amendment Group 3
Requires members appointed to the Code Commission to be a Past Master or Secretary.



Amendment Group 8
Allows a lodge to be able to hold its annual meeting (election of officers) on another date due to cancellation of a stated due to hazardous conditions. This amendment does require membership notification of a date other than a stated communication.



Amendment Group 4
Would automatically “suspend” the membership of a member who has been charged with a felony. Once his charges have been adjudicated and he is found not guilty, his record is expunged and he is a member in good standing. If found guilty, his case is forwarded to the Judge Advocate for formal Masonic charges.



Amendment Group 9
Would have allowed a lodge to open lodge on the First Degree and conduct its business.



Amendment Group 5
This amendment would state that a master may, but is not required to, order a petition of application withdrawn and returned if he discovers after it has been received that the petitioner or applicant answered any question in the petition or application falsely.



Amendment Group 10
Further defines forbidden obstructive motions.

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Speed Hallman

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- Grand Chaplain James G. Jones
- Grand Lecturer Donald M. Helton



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

Devoted Bro. Brantley had a servant's heart

Being the center of attention never held much appeal for WM Michael Brantley. He much preferred working from the sidelines ... lecturing about history, teaching the catechism to men working their way through the degrees, shooting photos in the world capitals he loved to visit, or sharing his love of music through the French horn.

The role he chose was to be the brother who always had your back, was always teaching, always moving things forward, always bringing the best of Freemasonry into the light. He had a servant's heart, to the very end.

While the limelight was not his natural habitat, I have to believe he would have truly appreciated the symbolism, the words, the ritual, the brotherly love on display when some 200 Masons and others gathered in late August for a memorial service at Raleigh #500, one of the lodges he led and nurtured in life.

The Troy, Ala., native passed away Aug. 15 at age 80. He did not go without fighting the good fight: dealing with failing eyesight and the throat cancer that stole his ability to speak.

Michael was, as Past Grand Master Gene Cobb said, "quite possibly the most well-known Mason in North Carolina." In 37

years in the Craft, he labored on behalf of his brothers in many roles.

His sisters, Betsy Gresham and Tina Anderson, and their husbands attended the service, nodding and smiling as the brethren remembered a man they described as a friend, a teacher, a hero ... and a unique man among good men.

Grand Master Speed Hallman, standing next to the altar where Brother Michael's remains were lovingly held in a perfect ashlar, celebrated his brother's unique ability to teach while also pursuing scholarly knowledge.

"Michael was the whole package. He had it all. He was a unicorn," he said.

Michael earned his undergraduate and master's degrees at the University of Alabama. After receiving a Fulbright Scholarship, he studied medieval history at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. Soon after, he received a Ph.D. in European Art History from Louisiana State University.

He was a professor of history at Spring Hill College in Mobile, Ala., and at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He was considered an authority in the field of art history.

■ see BRANTLEY, page 14



By Beth Grace
Editor



A perfect ashlar anchors displays of memorabilia from Michael Brantley's well-lived life.

Dan Hopping photo

FROM THE GRAND MASTER



By Speed Hallman
Grand Master

An old-timer said to me one night after a meeting, “Every time you go to lodge you get a blessing.” I haven’t totaled the

number of meetings I’ve attended so far, but the blessings are off the charts.

This year I’ve talked about time, and how quickly sand races through the hourglass, and how every minute is precious. Today I’m struck by how rapidly a year passes. That big lap around the sun seems to take less and less time with each rotation. And so it has been this year, as I prepare to hand the Grand Master’s jewel to my immensely capable successor.

I had the opportunity to observe Grand Masters at work as I moved through the officer line and I was familiar with the Grand Master’s duties. But this year I’ve experienced a great deal of Masonic serendipity and I received blessings I didn’t anticipate. Some examples:

- Shaking the hands of brethren who survived Pearl Harbor, landed at Normandy Beach and endured the Bataan Death March;
- Signing a petition for the son of an incoming lodge master just before the father’s installation, and watching the son present it to his newly installed father in the East;
- Hanging out with the brethren frying shrimp and oysters at Manteo Lodge before our district meeting, eating way too much, and loving it. Repeating the experience with flounder and hush puppies before a meeting at Hanks Lodge, and loving it;
- Heading home from a meeting in Raleigh, being passed by a truck and getting a big thumbs-up out of the passenger window. When I got home I had a Facebook message: “I believe I just passed you on US-1, Most Worshipful. I was the one in the work truck;”
- Seeing my Eagle Lodge brethren working tirelessly and giving generously to prepare for the Grand Lodge installation;
- Riding at the front of a 22-mile tractor parade, and attending a tractor pull with a group from our Children’s Home;
- Getting a call from a brother who knew I was on the road late at night, just to ask how I was doing and how far I was from home;
- Talking with the Tyler while we waited to

alarm the door at every lodge that received me;

- Helping with degrees in a 90,000 square-foot railroad shop, at the bottom of a quarry, on a battleship and in the George Washington Masonic National Memorial;

- Working in the kitchen with members of Thomasville Lodge, who handed out 1,900 hot dogs to townspeople on Memorial Day and returning for the third degree of one of those brethren a month later;

- Planting two dogwood trees in God’s Half Acre at Oxford with members of Andrew Jackson Lodge;

- Attending the Friday afternoon Wine Down at WhiteStone and realizing it would be a great place to spend my golden years;

“Today I’m struck by how rapidly a year passes. That big lap around the sun seems to take less and less time with each rotation.”

- Watching members of Clemmons and West Bend lodges give 10 new bikes to champion elementary school readers through the Bikes for Books program;

- Giving blood at the 29th annual Masonic Blood Drive in Statesville, one of the largest one-day drives in the country, and meeting brethren who love serving their community and practicing their Masonry;

- Attending Cherokee and Montgomery lodges, the westernmost lodges in the state; visiting Blue Ridge Lodge, the highest in the state; touring that beautiful corner of North Carolina and zipping all over Hiwassee Lake on an aptly named Bullet boat. Thanks, WBs Derek, Rory and Dave;

- Attending Kilwinning Lodge the day Susan and I moved back home, experiencing instant brotherhood and finding an excellent traveling companion for this year. Thanks, WB Pete;

- And stopping for an ice cream cone at Pee Dee Orchards on an eastbound trip and finding fresh peaches at my back door when I got home. Thanks, WB Chesley.

Every Grand Master will have his own chronicle of the high points and grace notes that enriched his year. These are just a few of mine.

I also encountered a phenomenon every Grand Master experiences. There is a tremendous amount of respect for the office and love for the fraternity. It is powerful, it is pervasive and it is immensely humbling.

I’ve experienced an incredible outpouring of brotherly love and friendship and I’ve met Masons who are living their obligations and serving with freedom, fervency and zeal. To those Masons and to those of like mind I say: To have been elected by men like you to serve as the 165th Grand Master of the great state of North Carolina is the highest achievement I can imagine, and, with one eye on that hourglass, I’ve done my best to help you build our beloved fraternity, and prepare to hand it to the next generation better and stronger than it was before.

Some thoughts for your consideration:

- Good men who want what Masonry offers are all around us. They just don’t know who we are. Live your Masonry in your community. Be active, be visible and check your lodge’s curb appeal. Good men will find you.
- Be mindful of numbers and watch membership trends, but be more concerned about the quality of men on your lodge rolls than the quantity. I’d rather have 10,000 Masons than 100,000 members.
- How many good men does your lodge lose after the first degree? Or in the first three years? Ask them, ask yourself, ask your lodge, why?
- I’ve heard too many NPD horror stories. Make every effort to contact men before excluding them. Find out what’s going on in their lives and ask how you can help. It’s the right way to treat a brother. It’s also good lodge management. Remember the adage that keeping a current customer is easier than recruiting a new one. The brother who doesn’t respond to notices may have moved to a nursing home, or he may be embarrassed that he can’t pay his dues. He is a brother. Find out.
- Have you heard the old saying that some people know the price of everything and the value of nothing? The price of Masonry is what you pay to carry a dues card. What is Masonry’s value in your life? I’m writing this before our Annual Communication, when we’ll

■ see HALLMAN, page 7

OUR MASONIC CHARITIES AT WORK



Keeping it cool at the pool, welcoming visitors

WORK PROGRESSING ON NEW POOL

Plan now to be on hand at 9 a.m. Oct. 13 for a cornerstone and dedication ceremony at the site of the new pool being built at the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford! While weather and other factors, including erosion issues, have caused some delays, work is progressing at the pool. The existing pool and pool house have been demolished, the shell has been poured and tiling has begun. Timelines for completion are not definite. Once construction is complete, gifts of \$500 or more will be displayed on a lighted recognition piece on the pool house — so there's still time to get your donations in! To date, roughly half of the funds have been received or pledged for construction. Please consider helping with this important project. In doing so you will make a big splash for our children!

KIDS HAVE FUN AT ANNUAL PARTY

The 18th Annual Spencer Pool Party went off without a hitch — and without a pool — in late August. Once again, John Hatley and the brothers of Spencer #543

and Spencer OES Chapter #31 provided a wonderful day of fun in the sun. With the absence of a pool, kids enjoyed an exciting morning filled with field activities and competitions. The sponge relay race was a splash for all, but the egg toss ended as a slimy mess for quite a few. The games of tug of war and kick ball were intense as the children worked hard to take the win for their team. Russell Ragland provided bounce houses and a rock wall, the Oxford Fire Department provided sprinkler systems for the slip-n-slides, and DJ Jay Rogers was on site to provide hours of entertainment for all. The home thanks John Hatley and his crew for the delicious lunch, beautifully designed T-shirts, and haul of school supplies that increases year after year.

OLDEST ALUMNA GETS BIRTHDAY WISH

Ms. Josephine Pruitt, alumnae of Oxford Orphanage Class of 1935, turned 101 in August. Her birthday wish: to return to her home and visit. Her granddaughter Heather fulfilled her birthday wish. The day was filled with stories of her youth, touring the archives, and

seeing all the changes that have occurred since she last visited more than 75 years ago. Ms. Josephine smiled, laughed, and was impressed with the archives so eloquently sharing the history and the children's stories. She was also amazed at all the changes that have taken place.

HOMECOMING COMMUNICATION SET

Orphans #761 plans a special stated communication to kickoff Homecoming on Oct. 12 that will be conducted with Past Grand Masters sitting in the chairs. Presiding in the East will be PGM Leonard Safrit. The remaining chairs will be filled by PGM Gene Jernigan SW; PGM Dave Cash JW; PGM Dan Rice SD; PGM Dewey Preslar JD; PGM Dalton Mayo SS; and PGM Doug Caudle JS. All are charter members of Orphans Lodge. Lodge begins at 8 a.m. Andrew Jackson #756 will provide breakfast beginning at 7 a.m. in Shipman Cottage, where lodge is also held. Please consider arriving early as parking will be limited and you may need to be shuttled from the fields.

New society recognizes bridge builders

NCMF honors donors of \$20K and more with special award

Become a true builder. Become a member of the North Carolina Masonic Foundation's new Bridge Builder Society, a select group of donors who contribute \$20,000 or more to the North Carolina Masonic Foundation for our Masonic charities. Each member receives a beautiful sterling silver Tiffany pocket compass, hand-etched with the NCMF logo.

Join these founding members in building a strong foundation for the future of our charities and of North Carolina Freemasonry:

Robert Broughton "Bobby" Carr, Mingo #206

William Pete Franklin, Charles B. Newcomb #740

For more information, contact Jeff Hensley, NCMF's chief development officer at jhensley@mfnf.org, or any member of the NCMF development team.



The Bridge Builder

An old man going a lone highway,
Came at the evening, cold and gray,
To a chasm, vast, and deep and wide,
Through which was flowing a sullen tide.

The old man crossed in the twilight dim;
The sullen stream had no fear for him;
But he turned, when safe on the other side,
And built a bridge to span the tide.

"Old man," said a fellow pilgrim, near,
"You are wasting strength with building here;
Your journey will end with the ending day;
You never again will pass this way;
You've crossed the chasm, deep and wide—
Why build you this bridge at the evening tide?"

The builder lifted his old gray head:
"Good friend, in the path I have come," he said,
"There followeth after me today,
A youth, whose feet must pass this way.

This chasm, that has been naught to me,
To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be.
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim;
Good friend, I am building this bridge for him."

by Will Allen Dromgoole

HALLMAN from page 5

ask delegates to approve an increase in the per capita. A \$5 increase is less than a dime a week. I say this with all due respect: A Mason who can't afford an occasional modest increase needs our charity. A man who opposes such an increase on principle needs to examine his own values. What is Masonry worth to you?

● A coarsening in society is intruding into our sacred retreat and eroding our bonds with one another. Remember your obligations. Heed our closing charge.

● Masonry is rare. It is special. It is not for everyone. And it has been

entrusted to us for only brief time. Our fraternity needs our very best efforts before our time is up, and before we hand Freemasonry to the next generation.

● Your Grand Lodge is fortunate to have a cadre of line officers who are smart, hard-working and focused on the good of Masonry. Each brings a strong skill set and individual talents. Together they mesh into an effective and highly qualified team that is dedicated to excellence in all we do. Any success I have had this year I share with them, and every mistake and shortcoming is all mine.

● Every Mason and every lodge is well served by our outstanding, professional and dedicated staff. This year I discovered how utterly indispensable each member of the team really is to the orderly and efficient functioning of this sprawling and complex enterprise of 371 lodges and 38,000 members. Thank you Walt Clapp, Jonathan Underwood, Cornelia Doherty, Vicki Lam and Hayley Moll.

Finally, from Brother Goethe, a quote I've carried with me all year: "We are tied together, seeking that truth which none may learn for another, and none may learn alone.

If evil men can drag us down, good men can lift us up. No one of us is strong enough not to need the companionship of good men and the consecration of great ideals. Here lies, perhaps, the deepest meaning and value of Masonry; it is fellowship of men seeking goodness, and to yield ourselves to its influence, to be drawn into its spirit and quest, is to be made better than ourselves."

May the blessing of heaven rest upon us and all regular Masons! May brotherly love prevail, and every moral and social virtue cement us. So mote it be. ⚔

DID YOU KNOW? You can find The Mason on Facebook!

Just link to <http://bit.ly/2irdm6m> or search for The North Carolina Mason. Read and post! And share your good news and charitable successes news with your fellow Masons!





Grand Master Speed Hallman celebrates the conclusion of the 2018 Annual Communication in Winston-Salem with a toss of his hat into the air



Grand Marshall Donald E. Kehler escorts WB Gilbert Bailey to the East following the announcement of his appointment to the 2019 Grand Line as Junior Grand Steward.



▲ Tellers tally up the written votes during elections for 2019 officers.



◀ Among the many guests at the Annual Communication were representatives of our youth organizations in North Carolina, Summer Clifford, Grand Worthy Advisor for the Rainbow Girls, and State Master Councilor Quentin Surace for DeMolay.

Annual Communication photographs by Bro. Michael Harding



A total of 297 lodges were represented, despite lingering hurricane effects.



Worshipful brothers Jim Medlin, left, and Gary Handy, stand to receive the Joseph Montfort Medal, the highest honor among North Carolina Masons.

■ MORE ANNUAL, from page 3

He holds two bachelor's degrees from Western Carolina University, and an MBA.

He was a member of the U.S. Air Force from 1967 to 1971 and is a veteran of the Vietnam Conflict.

He enjoyed a successful 36-year business career as an executive senior vice president and national sales manager in the outdoor power equipment industry.

He was also CEO of three major charitable foundations, is a Certified Fundraising Executive and is a licensed insurance broker and agent.

Each Grand Master may give three Montfort medals during his tenure. GM Hallman's first medal went to Past Grand Master Gene Cobb. Joseph Montfort was the only Provincial Grand Master for America. He died before the American Revolution began and is buried in front of Royal White Hart #2 in Halifax, where he was a

member.

The assembly also took some time to remember those in need. The third annual "Masons Can" food drive netted about \$1,610 in cash donations and about 1,600 pounds of food, and brothers chipped in about \$4,800 in cash, in addition to cleaning and other supplies, for Hurricane Florence victims.

The Board of General Purposes, in a meeting Thursday, voted to contribute \$4,000 to the Grand Lodge of South Carolina to help brothers and lodges hit by the hurricane.

Meanwhile, the Masonic Services Association presented a check for \$181,500 donated by lodges and Shriners around the country for brotherly relief in North Carolina. Of that amount, the Grand Lodge of Texas contributed \$100,000.

Bro. John Pea of Gastonia #369 contributed to this story



"My boy's grown up," said PGM Robert Gresham Jr. following the announcement of Sigmon's election as the 166th Grand Master of North Carolina Freemasonry. Greshman appointed Sigmon to the line.

34 lodges take home 2018 Lion & Pillar Honor

The following lodges have received the 2018 Lion and Pillar Award:

- Eagle 19
- Zion 81
- Jerusalem 95
- Fulton 99
- Columbus 102
- Mt. Lebanon 117 *
- Oxford 122
- Mingo 206
- William G. Hill 218
- Kenly 257
- Bingham 272
- Pleasant Hill 304
- Wilmington 319
- Granite 322 *
- Campbell 374 *
- State Line 375
- Jefferson Penn 384
- Bald Creek 397
- Bula 409 *
- Elkin 454 *
- Thomas M. Holt 492
- Pilot 493
- Mooresville 496 *
- Mount Holly 544 *
- Andrew Jackson 576
- Cannon Memorial 626
- Semper Fidelis 680
- Piedmont-Pioneer 685 *
- Albemarle 703
- Berne 724
- Steele Creek 737
- Mosaic 762
- Ashlar 765
- Lux Libertas 772

* denotes first-time recipient



TRAVELING THE TAR HEEL STATE

LOUISBURG

The brothers of James A. Johnson #413 go to the head of the class for a project to raise funds to buy bookbags and supplies for two local schools. The brothers recently presented 50 bags each to Louisburg Elementary and Laurel Mill Elementary. This is the second year the lodge has taken the task on and plans are to continue for years to come.

OXFORD

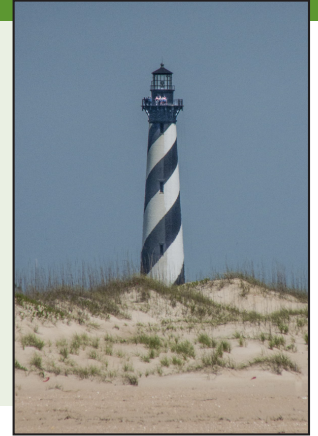
On Friday, July 6, the brothers of Perquimans #106 and Gatesville #126 set out to deliver a truckload of fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables to the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford. Mechanical issues sidelined the original delivery truck, and Plan B (Old Betsy) saved the day. Once back on the road, they received word the campus was on lockdown, due to a bear sighting. They were finally able to deliver peaches, watermelons, canary melons, sweet corn, cantaloupes, cucumbers, yellow and white squash to MHCO Food Services.

SHAWBORO

It has become an annual tradition that several lodges from the Tidewater, Va., area visit Hall #53 in Shawboro at the August stated meeting. This year, Hall hosted 57 visiting brothers with a covered-dish meal. After dinner, everyone adjourned to the lodge room where two DDGMs and four lodges from Virginia were recognized: Great Bridge #257, Indian River #252, Kempsville #196 and Lake Drummond #178. Master Guary Kight also recognized three Eagle Scouts in attendance: Guary Kight (1987) and Ben Roberts (1991) from Hall #53 and Adam Board (2014) from Kempsville #196. All 78 brothers who attended enjoyed the meal, the meeting and especially the fellowship. Hall Lodge traditionally visits the Virginia Lodges in the Fall.



NEWS FROM OUR LODGES



EDENTON – Unanimity #7 in June raised more than \$3,000 for the Masonic Home for Children and WhiteStone at the lodge's third Annual Car Show. Twenty-five cars were entered. Best in Show was awarded to a 1966 Stock Chevy Pickup owned by Timmy Tynch. Brother Rick Howard was among the attendees with his 1934 five-window Ford Coupe. ▶



◀ **KANNAPOLIS** – Allen-Graham #695 is making sure area veterans know they're cared for – and well fed. The Lodge has been participating in an ongoing food drive and made its first delivery to the Cabarrus County Veterans Services Food Pantry in Concord in late July. The drive will continue indefinitely, brothers say.

TRAVELING THE TAR HEEL STATE



CASAR – Brothers of Casar #579 held an outdoor Scout 3rd Degree in early September. The second section was put on by active Scout leaders and Eagle Scouts. Brother Floyd Williams opened part of his property for the degree as brothers welcomed Jake Beatty and Chris Childers as the newest members of Casar Lodge.

HILLSBOROUGH – Members of Eagle #19 are sharing their story and the message of Masonry in a special exhibit on display at Hillsborough's Visitor Center. Brother Michael Verville says the lodge produced the display under a grant from the Hillsborough Tourism Board and the Alliance for the Historic Hillsborough. Brothers Verville, Rick Ashby and Grand Master Speed Hallman, a member of the lodge, worked together to research and write the narrative and select appropriate images. The panels will be in display at least through the end of the year. ▶

▼ **DAYTONA BEACH, Fla.** – Grand Master Speed Hallman spends some time clowning around with the Sudan Dunn Clowns at the Imperial Session of Shriners International in July. The Dunn Clowns attended the event, competed and had the opportunity to share a lunch with the Grand Master and Sudan Potentate, Illustrious Sir Edwin "Teeny" Jones (w/o the Red Nose). The Clowns are members from the Masonic bodies in the Dunn and Harnett County area.



#19 & #71

EAGLE LODGE

Technically Freemasons meet as a lodge, not in a lodge.

In this context, the word lodge refers to a local chapter of Freemasons who meet as a body, not the building where they meet. Eagle Lodge No. 19, chartered in 1791, was one of the first Masonic lodges formed under the Grand Lodge of North Carolina.

Making Good Men Better

In 1793, members of Eagle Lodge helped lay the cornerstone of the Old East building at the University of North Carolina in a ceremony marking the birth of public higher education in the United States. The lodge became dormant in 1799. Activity resumed in 1819 and the lodge reformed as Eagle Lodge #71. In 1933 the lodge applied for and was granted its original number 19.

Through the years, Eagle Lodge members have included UNC's first president Joseph Caldwell, Hillsborough Mayor Ben Johnston, Orange County surveyor George Tate (right), Hillsborough High School principal Grady Brown, and five Grand Masters of North Carolina.




Masonic lodges are members chronologically based on when they were chartered within their jurisdiction. This commemorative plaque shows the names of WWI veterans who were members of Eagle Lodge #19.

OPT OUT?

HIRAM'S WHISPER



Hiram's Whisper is a vocabulary app for the Freemasons of North Carolina.

You must be a member in Good Standing of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina in order to access this app. You will be required to submit your name and membership number to verify your affiliation.

You may then access up to 10 words within a 24-hour period.



Rather get The Mason online rather than in your mailbox? It's simple. To stop the mailed paper, send an email to ncmason@glnc.us with your name, lodge and the words: OPT OUT. That's all you need to do.

MILEPOSTS



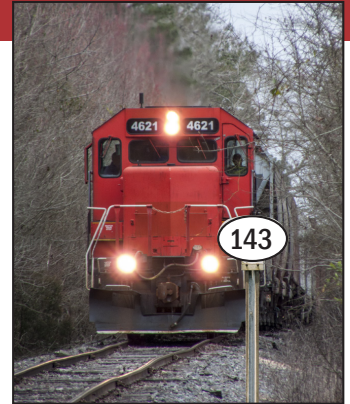
▲ **GREENSBORO** – The past, present and future all came together for Oxford Orphanage alumna Terri Lawson recently when her son Matthew Walker went through his 3rd degree at Revolution #552. Ms. Lawson, also secretary of Oxford's Alumni Association, grew up at the Masonic Home for Children from 1970 to 1980. She says the day was all about family. Several of her orphanage brothers, all Masons, were among those who attended. She shares a favorite shot from the event of Past Grand Master Dan Rice, left; Matthew Walker, center, and Deputy Grand Master Mack Sigmon.



▲ **WILSON** – Wilson #712 awarded three \$1,000 scholarships to high school students this year at its annual T. Bruce Boyette Scholarship banquet. From left, are scholarship winner Tyler Keith Wells (attending Barton College); Robert Worton, Master of Wilson #712, and scholarship winner Taylor Danielle Jenkins (East Carolina University). Not pictured is Jessica Amelia Armstrong, who will attend Appalachian State University.



◀ **CHAPEL HILL** – University #408 in August recognized recent Eagle Scouts in Mawat District, BSA. This event was held in conjunction with the monthly fellowship dinner, so scouts and their families were treated to dinner as well as formal recognition for their accomplishments. A Grand Lodge committee chaired by Worshipful Brother Ludwik Wodka is exploring ways to honor scouts and build better ties between masonry and scouting. Currently, scouts earning the Eagle award can be given a certificate from Grand Lodge congratulating them on their achievement. Plans are being developed for how best to roll this program out statewide. Worshipful Master Jeffrey Troccoli sat in the East for the ceremony. Scouts were invited to lead the lodge in the Pledge of Allegiance, then were presented with their certificates. Worshipful Brother Dick McCollum spoke to the Scouts, showing them his collection of Woodbadge beads earned through years of leading sessions of BSA's premier adult leadership course.



50 Congratulations
YEARS to our 50-year
members*:

Mac Brawley, Cherryville #505
Cone Carpenter Jr., Cherryville #505
Lee Moody, Derita #715
Ron Smith, Derita #715
Joseph Thomas Briggs Jr., Henderson #229
Lowel Darwin Brown, Henderson #229
Charlie Hugh Cates Jr., Henderson #229
Herman Attwood Davis, Henderson #229
William Blanton Hartness, Henderson #229
Herman Ronald Jones, Henderson #229
William Lee Wilson Jr., Henderson #229
John Elton Woodlief, Henderson #229

* As reported to The Mason

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.

MILEPOSTS



LAURINBURG – The brethren of Laurinburg #305 and the local community recently celebrated and acknowledged their newest “centenarian,” Worshipful Brother Harold C. Gibson of Scotia Village. Gibson has been a brother for more than 66 years, and served as secretary for more than 26 years. He also is a past master and a World War II veteran. On hand for the celebration are, l-r, Worshipful Master Michael Nobles; District Deputy Grand Master 21st District, and current Secretary Paul Tate, Worshipful Brother Harold Gibson, Brother Alan Roblee, and Past Master Glenn Beane.



▲ **GOLDSBORO** – Grand Master Speed Hallman was on hand in August to celebrate Goldsboro #634's 100th anniversary and to present a special honor to a long-serving District Deputy Grand Lecturer. Grand Lecturer Don Helton was also in attendance for the presentation to Brother Charles Southerland, who has served as a DDGL for 50 years. Celebrating the Milepost, from left, are Brother John Lancaster, Senior Deacon; Brother Helton; Brother Southerland; Grand Master Hallman and Goldsboro #634 Master George Raecher.

Welcome to the new age: Virtual lodge meetings

By Marcus Orr
Senior Deacon, Mosaic #762

Have you ever wondered what different shapes Freemasonry might take as technology advances and the world around us changes?

On Aug. 29, brethren from University #408, Mosaic #762 and Fellowship #687 gathered at University Lodge in Chapel Hill to participate via web in the regular meeting of Castle Island Virtual Lodge (CIVL).

Our brethren received a glimpse into how CIVL is utilizing internet technology to bring together Masons from around the world.

A live video and audio link were established in the lodge room and our brethren joined in the meeting with 98 Masons from around the world.

There were three Grand Masters in attendance, including our own Most Worshipful Brother Speed Hallman.

CIVL is a regularly constituted lodge of education founded in 2012 under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba. The lodge developed out of a vision to provide a platform for brethren around the world to meet and enjoy quality Masonic education.

Attendees must be vetted and receive an invitation prior to the meeting. The virtual meeting proceeds much like those we are familiar with in our own lodges with ritual opening, business, education and ritual closing. However, the main thrust of the meeting is the educational presentation.

In this particular meeting, brother Jack Aquilina, Junior Warden of Brunswick United #924, United Grand Lodge of Victoria, and State President of the Blue Lounge Social Club of Victoria, delivered a research paper titled “Completing Our Allotted Task Whilst It Is Yet Day: A qualitative and quantitative analysis of the impact of contemporary 21st Century society on Freemasonry and the principles that should underpin the fraternity’s future relevance in the lives of man.”

Following the presentation, an opportunity was afforded to engage the speaker in a period of questions and answers, which resulted in an enlightening discussion from the brethren and offered a unique glimpse into masonic perspectives from cultural contexts outside of our own.

Visit CIVL on the web at <http://civlodge190.ca/> for more information, or to plan your own virtual visit.

60 Congratulations to our 60-year YEARS members*:

Yates McGinnis, Cherryville #505
Efton Sager, Goldsboro #634
Floyd Foster Bowser, Henderson #229
Paul Washington Parrish, Henderson #229
Donald Clemens Seifert Sr., Henderson #229
Ellis Outlaw Weathers, Henderson #229
Carl Graham William Jr., Henderson #229
Rodney Graham Brown, Wendell #565

* As reported to The Mason

From the *Courier's Case*

Masonic response distressed the Gray Ghost

By Steven Campbell

For more than two years of the Civil War, Col. John Singleton Mosby – the “Gray Ghost” – led an independent command known as Mosby’s Rangers. Though never numbering more than a few hundred, this partisan unit controlled an area in Northern Virginia called “Mosby’s Confederacy.” So harried were federal commanders with his exploits, thousands of U.S. troops were required in the region.

In September 1864, while operating near the small town of Front Royal, Va., six of Mosby’s Rangers were captured by federal cavalry. In retaliation for a recent federal officer’s death, four of these rangers were shot and two were hung, one with a placard pinned to his body: “Such is the fate of Mosby’s men.”

In November at the village of Rectortown, a lottery was held among federal prisoners that had been captured by Mosby’s command. Those selected in the lottery would be executed in retaliation of Mosby’s



Brother Capt. Richard Montjoy

men who had been killed in Front Royal. A hat was passed with slips of paper. When a drummer boy drew a “winning slip,” Col. Mosby excused him and another federal prisoner was selected.

The prisoners were marched through Ashby’s Gap (present day U.S. 50) closer to federal headquarters. While on this march, another unit of Mosby’s command under Brother Capt. Richard Montjoy

passed. Seeing Capt. Montjoy’s Masonic pin, two of the prisoners offered the Masonic distress sign.

Their Masonic Brother excused these two prisoners and replaced them with two prisoners his unit had captured. When the “Gray Ghost” learned of this substitution, he admonished his popular captain stating: “Remember, Captain, in the future that this command is not a Masonic Lodge.” In the rain-soaked night, four of the seven prisoners escaped the fate of the lottery. The retaliations ceased, and in six months the war would be over.

As for Capt. Montjoy’s fate, he would be killed in action later that month, fondly remembered by both Masons and non-Masons. The “Gray Ghost” lived until 1916, after an illustrious career as a barrister, U.S. Consul to Hong Kong, and Department of Justice attorney prosecuting ruthless land barons of the Old West. ☘

Tribute to a Sage Michael W. Brantley

1938 – 2018

Historians march to a different drum. We are explorers of the past, which in itself is not unlike a foreign country. For in the past things were different. One thing, however, that does not change is human nature. It is we who make history.

In his nearly four-decade Masonic career, Michael recognized this and contributed to, recorded, and reported our history. Upon my appointment to serve as your Grand Historian in 2015, one of my first acts was to speak to Dr. Brantley. Along with his congratulations, he offered me several insights pertaining to the position. Yet, it was his closing remark that has ever resonated with me: “Follow your passion.” Thank you, sir, for all of the valued contributions you made to North Carolina Freemasonry.

Steven Campbell
Past Grand Historian
Blackmer #127

BRANTLEY from page 4

That knowledge led him to become the director of the Tryon Palace in New Bern and later the director of education of the North Carolina Museum of Art.

An avid traveler and active churchman, he dedicated endless hours to his Masonic brothers. The Joseph Montfort medal winner was Past Master of Raleigh #500, James B. Green #735, and State College Lodge #770; a member of the Lodge of the Nine Sisters (under dispensation); and an honorary member of Hiram #40, Millbrook #97, William G. Hill #218, and William T. Bain #231.

This year, he was serving as Grand Historian of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina and a member of the Library Committee.

Robin Turner, master of Raleigh #500, remembered him as an unassuming hero.

“We simply knew him as Michael,” he said.

James B. Green #735 Master Terry Washam asked the brothers in the room who had learned catechism from Brother Michael to raise their hands. Hardly a man did not have his hand up.

“Of all the accolades there can be ... the one I’d like to give Dr. Michael Brantley is friend,” he said.

PGM Cobb reminded the brothers that friendship lasts forever.

“That voice may be silent in our ears, but it will never be silent in our hearts.” ☘



All the news that fits on the web

Love the Mason but miss the news in between issues? The Board of Publications has some news for you!

Starting in mid-October, the board and some helpful volunteers from the Craft will be producing and sending a monthly e-newsletter with timely stories and items about upcoming events.

There’s a real need for more deadline-driven news during months when the NC Mason doesn’t publish, says board Chair Kenneth Lambert. Among other duties, the board partners with Editor Beth Grace in overseeing publication of the Mason.

“With its every-other-month printing schedule, the NC Mason can’t run items about events that are coming up before the paper hits your mailboxes,” he says. “This newsletter will help and enhance the coverage in *The Mason*, and keep brothers informed in between issues.”

Brother Dwight Decoskey, a member of the board and senior deacon at New Lebanon #314, will head the effort to produce the newsletter, along with brothers who have volunteered to help with reporting and writing. The full board of publications will act as editor and publisher.



WELCOME OUR NEW BROTHERS

Vadella, Gregory Charles	1	St John's	Laar, David Wayne	218	William G. Hill	Cody, Charles Devan	427	Oconee	Ferson, Ryan Michael	626	Cannon Memorial
Pierce, Nathan Yakim	1	St John's	Davis, Rodney Kenneth	248	Catawba	Stiles, Robert Floyd	427	Oconee	Katanguri, Srujan Kumar Reddy	626	Cannon Memorial
Edwards, Shawn Anthony	8	Phoenix	Bowron, William Francis	249	Pythagoras	Wiggins, Robert Glenn	427	Oconee	Garrett, Josiah Matthew	637	Yadkin Falls
Rolofson, Samuel Paul	8	Phoenix	Melton, Danlin Burke	249	Pythagoras	Cates, Earl Monroe	431	Relief	Stark, Alexander Edward	658	Beulaville
Spooner, Luke Thomas	8	Phoenix	Bailey, Tyler Anthony	257	Kenly	House Jr, Anthony Wallace	431	Relief	Duncan, Connor Leoso	663	Black Mountain
Kovic, Jaffer Jeffrey	31	Phalanx	Hernandez, David A.	258	Fuquay	Vinson, Donald Kevin	435	Blue Ridge	Haradij, Majid Ruben Galvez	667	Ft. Bragg
Miller, Donald Joseph	31	Phalanx	Griffin, Joseph Robert	263	Gaston	Alley, Robert Jay	446	Biltmore	Hason-Hussein, Sincere Salam	667	Ft. Bragg
Blevins, Franklin Dean	45	Liberty	Hooper, Chad Gwen	263	Gaston	Freeman, Caleb Andrew	446	Biltmore	Orr, Jake Landon	672	Robbinsville
Cooper, Jonathan Anthony	53	Hall	Measmer, Matthew Blair	263	Gaston	Golden, Tyler Adam	446	Biltmore	Scott, Michael Steven	676	Temple
Ervin, John Leslie	81	Zion	Greeson, Steven Lee	271	Tabasco	Markle, Robert Stephen	446	Biltmore	Bartlett, Edward Hoston Barefoot	679	Creasy Proctor
Hawkins, Jonathan Eric	81	Zion	Twiford, Trenton Cole	317	Eureka	Arehart, Reese Christiano	473	Lexington	Hyde Jr, Burton Eugene	679	Creasy Proctor
Lee, Michael Todd	81	Zion	Moszcieski, Ryan Allen	319	Wilmington			Memorial	Black, Chance Logan	688	Cherry Point
Pridgen, Daniel Steven	81	Zion	Harbin, Roy Anthony	339	Fairview	Livingood, David Harris	491	Haminy	Hawley, Rondal Glenn	699	Asheboro
Hayes, Shawn Matthew	83	Lafayette	Mau, Donald Glenn	359	Mount Vernon	Bellingham, Daniel Ross	492	Thomas M. Holt	King, Jason Lynn	699	Asheboro
Maldonado-Rivera, John Anthony	83	Lafayette	Harmon Sr, Michael Steven	369	Gastonia	Gray, Austin Guy	493	Pilot	Esposito, David Franklin	703	Albemarle
Craft, Dewayne Addison	104	Orr	Harris, Ward Vincent	369	Gastonia	Harding, Peter Keith	532	Hamlet	Roberts, Nathaniel Shay	709	Conover
Cockerham, Adam Michael	113	Person	Hodges, Richard Bond	377	Youngsville	Walker, Robert Matthew	552	Revolution	Posadas, Christopher Victor	733	Stump Sound
Wright III, Joe Griffin	113	Person	Matthews, Jesse LaDean	379	Coharie	Willis, Jacob Warren	554	Vesper	Anderson, Charlie Marvin	737	Steele Creek
Bedino, Ryan Louis	115	Holly Springs	Ellis, Nathan Carson	380	Granville	Best, Michael Eric	568	Doric	Lewis, Ronald Patrick	737	Steele Creek
Fluke, John Christian	122	Oxford	Harkless, Trevor Ray	381	Forest City	Mazzaro, Francis Nicholas	576	Andrew Jackson	Mullis, James Gaither	749	Truth
Wood, Justin Lee	125	Mill Creek	Beere, James Francis	391	Lebanon	Brackett, Richard Keith	579	Casar	Skinner, Jason Hyatt	755	Clemmons
Shepard, Seth Thomas	143	Mt. Vernon	De Water Jr, Chris Van	391	Lebanon	Beatty, Stephen Jacob	579	Casar	Loguee, Robert Paul	758	Oak Island
Barnes, Jeffrey Patrick	145	Junaluskee	Ostendorf, Robert Kyle	391	Lebanon	Childers, Christopher Glenn	579	Casar	Chaney, David William	759	James K. Polk
Halpin, Leslie Marvin	147	Palmyra	Kallam Jr, Dennis James	409	Bula	Sibelius Jr, Gilbert Tuangco	584	Apex	Fisher, Michael Aaron	759	James K. Polk
Tart, Kendall James	147	Palmyra	Boncek, Christopher Michael	413	James A. Johnson	Hart, Phillip Speight	616	Round Peak	Taper, Colin Rendell	765	Ashlar

Brotherly connection helps mourning family

By Thomas Pope

Few things in life – and death – are as strong as the connection of brother to brother.

Just ask Fayetteville's Bob Renegar, who has been a licensed mortician for 57 years. Renegar, who was raised in 1964, is a member of Creasy Proctor #679.

He started in the business in 1961 but left it about eight years later to pursue a career with Nationwide insurance.

He kept his state mortician's license updated throughout his other career, and he has spent the past 15 years working part-time at Sullivan's Highland Funeral Service in Fayetteville.

In early April, he got a call from a woman whose husband had died. Her first question: Is this mortuary owned by a Mason?

"No, ma'am, the owner is not a Mason," he said. "But we have one on the staff."

Her husband, she said, had always insisted that his arrangements be handled by a mortuary with a Masonic connection. Masonry runs strong in this family. Her late husband, their son and their son-in-law were all Masons.

"Maybe 5 percent of the services

we do involve Masonic rites," Renegar said, adding that he'd only witnessed "maybe 25, 30" such services.

That's a surprisingly low number, considering there are more than 36,000 Freemasons in North Carolina.

Masons in North Carolina qualify for Masonic burial/memorial rites as soon as they have become Entered Apprentices. (Brethren who have been suspended lose their eligibility until such time as they are "healed" with their lodge.)

But nothing happens if a brother doesn't make his wishes — his final wishes — known to those closest to him.

The Grand Lodge has a way to simplify the process.

A form on the Grand Lodge website (grandlodge-nc.org) under the "Educational Resources" tab covers a variety of topics, including: where a brother wishes for his Masonic rites to be held; active and honorary pallbearers; the disposition of his apron and Masonic jewelry, and much more.

Access the form here: <https://tinyurl.com/yamwzvhh>

"It's critical that close family members are informed and

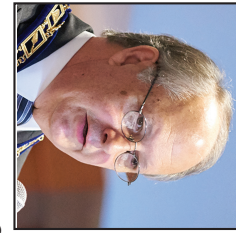


Brother Bob Renegar was in the right place at the right time when the wife of a brother called for help.

understand the importance of the ceremony to Masons," said Grand Master Speed Hallman. "I suggest the brethren review the ceremonies in the Grand Lodge Funeral Manual and the Masonic Ceremonies booklet, and provide written instructions to family members, religious leaders and lodge secretaries."

Making your wishes known offers comfort to a Mason's family and helps them know how best to honor the wishes of their husband, father, son or brother.

It also gives each brother the chance to make a final, lasting statement to the world by making Masonic funeral rites part of going home. ♀



page 2
Grand Lodge elects Mack Sigmon as next GM



page 8
What lodges earned coveted award?



page 14
Captain's response displeased his superior

On the cover
Grand Master Speed Hallman uses the big gavel to declare this year's Annual Communication closed.
Photo by Michael Harding

The North Carolina Mason
The Grand Lodge of North Carolina, AF&AM
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SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2018

