

# NORTH CAROLINA THE MASON

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

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Michael Harding photos

Newly installed Grand Master Dwight M. "Mack" Sigmon gives the closing charge before dismissing the crowd at the installation ceremony.

## 'I am glad our paths crossed'

### Sigmon installed as our 166th Grand Master

By Beth Grace  
Mason Editor

At precisely 10 a.m. on Dec. 1, a state worker scrambled to the top of the state capital in Raleigh and hoisted a North Carolina flag. If you were watching, it would probably have looked like any other day. You couldn't have known that it was a special moment for North Carolina's 36,000-plus Freemasons.

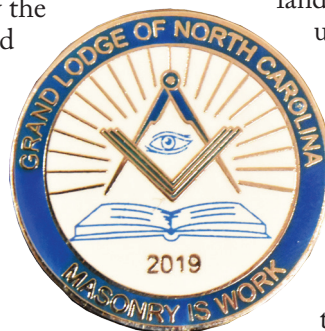
The flag was raised that rainy Saturday in honor of a man who at that exact moment, some 170 miles to the west, was being installed as North Carolina's 166th Grand Master of Masons. Before a capacity crowd that filled the Old Post Office Playhouse in the heart of Newton, NC, Dwight MacLauchlin "Mack" Sigmon placed his right hand over his heart and promised to faithfully, honestly, and impartially perform

the duties of Grand Master of Masons.

"You have been selected by your brethren to occupy the highest and most exalted position in Freemasonry, an office which carries with it all the power and authority to rule and govern the Craft without dictation or pressure from any source," said Installing Grand Officer Robert Gresham.

"By immemorial usage and the irrevocable landmarks of Masonry, you are invested, as Grand Master of Masons, with powers and prerogatives which are well-nigh absolute, but this office also carries with it tremendous responsibilities.

"You will not only rule and govern, but you must also be the servant of all. Upon your shoulders will rest the grave responsibility of seeing that peace and harmony prevail at all times; that the ancient landmarks, customs, and usages of the Craft are carefully preserved; that no innovations are allowed to interrupt the peace and good fellowship which must prevail in the Fraternity if it is to continue to command the trust and respect of all men everywhere."



The installation ceremony carried many special symbols and memories for the new Grand Master.

Brothers of his lodge, Catawba #248, served as pro tempore Grand Lodge officers, and the lodge

provided the Bible on the altar, square, compasses and staffs. Sophia #767, the first traditional observance lodge chartered in North Carolina and where the new Grand Master is a charter member, served as ushers.

At stage left, a candle burned in memory of brothers and mentors now gone, but who played a special role in the new Grand Master's Masonic journey, which began in 1975.

"There are many more Masons in my life not mentioned here, no longer with us, that I am glad our paths crossed. I thank each of them for the positive influence they had on my life during our time together.

He also gathered an historic assemblage of past Grand Masters – Grand Masters under whom he has served – as installing officers: PGMs Bob Gresham (who appointed him

■ see INSTALL page 2



Above, Dwight M. "Mack" Sigmon kneels for installation.



Left, a new Grand Master needs a new gavel and Jack Huskey, past master of Cliffside #460, takes care of that task on behalf of brother Wayne Millis, who could not attend.

More installation  
photographs on Page 15

## INSTALL, from page 1


to the Grand Line), Leonard Y. Safrit, Douglas Caudle, Dewey R. Preslar Jr., Bryant D. Webster and Gene T. Jernigan.

He said he is energized and excited about the year ahead.

"As I begin this special journey, I look forward to traveling across our state serving the Masons of our grand jurisdiction and encouraging each of us to reaffirm the many ritual lessons taught to us during our own Masonic journey," he said in remarks after the installation. "I truly believe that Freemasons can lead the way in teaching others how to live, act and treat each other with kindness and respect.

"Each of us have obligated ourselves to a higher standard and to walk and act as such in everything we do and say. We live in divided times. I challenge each of us to be the example, to be part of the solution in making this world a better place to live and avoid being part of the problem."

He encouraged all in attendance to think about the friendships that have formed for all brothers – and their families – because they are Freemasons. He said he thinks often about how he may never have met the brother so important to him had he not become involved in Masonry.

"So, before you leave today, I would encourage each of you to go up to anyone you don't know, introduce yourselves and let them know that you are glad your paths crossed," he said. 

## Longtime lodge secretary awarded Montfort Medal

A 63-year Mason who has served as lodge secretary for 57 of those years has been awarded North Carolina Masonry's highest service honor.

Worshipful Brother Fred Lee Sherrill Jr., secretary of Catawba #248 since 1962, became the first brother of newly installed Grand Master Dwight "Mack" Sigmon's tenure to be honored with the Joseph Montfort medal.

Montfort was treasurer of the Province of North Carolina, colonel of Colonial troops, a patriot, and ardent Freemason. Montfort was born in England in 1724 and died in North Carolina on March 25, 1776. He was a member of Royal White Hart Lodge at Halifax. His

exuberance for the fraternity led to his commission as Provincial Grand Master on January 14, 1771. His commission, which hangs in the Grand Lodge in Raleigh, was granted by Henry Somerset, the fifth Duke of Beaufort and Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of England.

During his short tenure as Provincial Grand Master, Montfort tirelessly promoted and organized the fraternity into an efficient and productive organization. He chartered at least 10 lodges, helped reorganize a half dozen more, and laid the foundation for the creation of the Grand Lodge in 1787.

Grand Masters may give three Montfort medals during his tenure.

Grand Master Sigmon praised Sherrill, past recipient of the Harris-Dudley Grand Secretary award, for the dedication he has shown in 63 years of service to the craft.

"Some people don't even work careers as long as that," Sigmon said as he pinned the medal onto Sherrill's chest before a packed crowd at the Old Post Office Playhouse in Newton, noting that Sherrill begins his 58th year after installation on Dec. 21.

Sherrill, raised in Catawba Lodge on Sept. 2, 1955, also is a past District Deputy Grand Master, and one of 50 who chartered Conover #709 in 1957, where he served as master in 1961.



Fred Lee Sherrill Jr. receives the Montfort Medal from newly installed Grand Master Sigmon.



Gilbert Bailey and his wife, Erin, flank their daughters following the 2018 Annual Communication where his appointment was announced.

## Bailey our newest Grand Line member

Gilbert De Verne Bailey, past master of Charles M. Setzer #693 and a 14-year Mason, is the newest member of the Grand Line.

Bailey, 49, was appointed to the Grand Line by Grand Master-elect Dwight M. "Mack" Sigmon.

Worshipful Brother Bailey was raised in 2004 at Charles M. Setzer lodge and rose through the chairs, serving as senior warden, secretary and trustee as well as master. He was also a member of the Grand Lodge Board of Custodians from 2012 to 2015 and has served on the board of directors of WhiteStone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Community, since 2014.

He has been a certified lecturer since 2007, coroneted 33rd degree in August 2015 and is the personal representative of the Sovereign Grand Inspector General of the Charlotte Scottish Rite Valley.

He and his wife, Erin, have two daughters, Lorelei and Isadora.

He is Vice President of the Analytics and Customer Engagement products business at Global Payments, a leading

worldwide provider of innovative software in the fintech space. He previously was one of four founders in the startup Beanstalk Data, which was later acquired by Heartland Payment Systems as they were being acquired by Global Payments in 2016.

During the '90s he was a Key team member of Software Express Inc. when it was twice placed on the Inc. 500 list.

He also has significant skills with a sword; he was a division 1 ranked foil fencer in the United States Fencing Association. He owned a global import and export fencing equipment business from 2001-2009 and sponsored two fencers who ultimately both medaled in the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

He is from Charleston, WV, and moved to Greensboro in 1987 to attend Guilford College, where he graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in Political Science with a concentration in Russian and Soviet Studies. He remains active at his alma mater, serving on the college board of trustees since 2011.

## Get ready for a district meeting coming near you during 2019

District meetings help remind us that we are a true fraternity with brothers throughout the state and beyond. Plan to attend one of these meetings with Grand Master Dwight M. "Mack" Sigmon.

NOTE: These dates and locations are subject to change throughout the year due to weather conditions or other considerations. Be sure to keep up-to-date at our website, [www.glnl.us](http://www.glnl.us).

DATE	DISTRICT	HOST LODGE	ADDRESS		
Jan	28	9	Concord 58	1601 Barlow Rd., Tarboro	
	29	5	American George 17	205 University Dr., Murfreesboro	
	30	1	Widow's Son 75	218 S. Hughes Blvd., Elizabeth City	
	31	3	Atlantic 294	80 Second St., Swan Quarter	
Feb	5	10	Richard Caswell 705	850 Greenbriar Rd., Kinston	
	6	4	Seaside 429	72 Old Hammocks Rd., Swansboro	
Mar	4	29	Meadow Branch 578	211 S. Stewart St., Wingate	
	12	26	Forsyth 707	4537 Country Club Rd., Winston-Salem	
	13	27	Thomasville 214	720 Salem St., Thomasville	
	14	22	Bingham 272	307 E. Center St., Mebane	
	20	20	Sanford 151	231 Charlotte Ave., Sanford	
	25	41	Robbinsville 672	33 Ingram St., Robbinsville	
	26	40	Sonoma 472	62 Birdsong Trl., Canton	
	27	37	Burnsville 717	23 Robertson St., Burnsville	
	28	33	Mt. Pleasant 573	206 Champion-Mt. Pleasant Rd., Wilkesboro	
	Apr	1	18	Fairmont 528	709 Getrude St., Fairmont
2		12	Waccamaw 596	2629 Old Stage HWY, Riegelwood	
3		17	Stedman 730	128 Carol St., Stedman	
10		13	John H. Mills 624	8057 Highway 39, Henderson	
11		15	State College 770	TBD, Raleigh	
15		24	Troy 718	220 Eldorado St., Troy	
17		28	Cannon Memorial 626	704 S. Main St., Kannapolis	
22		36	Mount Holly 544	332 W. Charlotte Ave., Mount Holly	
23		32	Charles M. Setzer 693	4217 Stacy Blvd., Charlotte	
May		14	38	Western Star 91	329 S. Main St., Rutherfordton
		15	34	Catawba 248	202 N. College Ave., Newton

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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 ENLIGHTENING PHILOSOPHICAL TENETS OF BROTHERLY LOVE, RELIEF, AND TRUTH, WHICH ARE EXPRESSED OUTWARDLY THROUGH SERVICE TO GOD, FAMILY, COUNTRY, AND SELF UNDER THE PATRONS OF THE BROTHERHOOD OF MAN.

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



# Giving thanks for Masons' giving nature

Not long ago, I had the opportunity to preach a Sunday sermon to a chapel filled with squirming first-, second- and third-graders. The lesson was about giving, in keeping with the season.

I told them a story about a king who was just plain mean. When his aide rushed in to tell him that the people of his kingdom were starving, the king grunted and looked at his dinner table, groaning with meat, bread, and other delights. "I have plenty," he said. "It's not *my* problem."

A few days later, the aide came back, telling the king that his people had no homes and would freeze in the cold air overnight. The king glanced around his mansion and moved closer to the fire. "I'm warm enough," he said. "It's not *my* problem."

Soon, everyone in the kingdom was acting like the king. Nobody helped, nobody cared. People were in need and no help was coming.

Until one day, when a fisherman came up with an idea. He decorated his boat and hired musicians and cooks to put on a big party. He

invited the king and his court to come and take a trip out onto the deep lake in the center of the kingdom.

The king, of course, couldn't resist.

So they all floated away in the beautiful boat out to the deepest part of the lake. It was then the fisherman pulled out a saw and began to cut a hole in the bottom of the boat. "What are you DOING?" The king cried. "We'll sink!"

The fisherman hopped into the small one-man dinghy he had brought along and said, "Well, I'm safe in this boat. So it's not *my* problem."

And that, I told the kids, was the day the king (after he swam back to shore, presumably) learned his lesson and he gave his subjects food and warm shelter and spent the rest of his days helping others.

If this had been a chapel full of Masons' kids, I would have added that the Masons have known this lesson for several hundred years. Masons spend a lot of time – almost



By Beth Grace  
Editor

## FROM THE GRAND MASTER



# Your Masonic journey ...

By Dwight M.  
"Mack" Sigmon  
Grand Master

**M**y Brethren,  
on Sept. 29, I  
stood before  
you and expressed my  
gratitude for being

elected as your 166th Grand Master of Masons in North Carolina. I still struggle to find the proper words to adequately express how honored I am to have been given this extremely important responsibility. This is a humbling experience and one that I take very, very seriously.

I would like to thank Most Worshipful Robert E. Gresham Jr. for the confidence he had in me as his selection as the Junior Grand Steward for 2012. Most Worshipful Gresham, you can be assured that I will do my best not to let you down.

As I began this journey in late 2011, I told you of my commitment to serve in each place and station, driven by the same dedication and devotion with every appointment and election that I had been privileged to have served. I am hopeful that by the grace and guidance of our Almighty Creator, I can continue to meet and even exceed your expectations as Grand Master.

It has always been my goal to serve any position in which I have been elected or appointed to the very best of my ability and in such a manner that it would leave that position better than when I started. Those who I now follow have set the bar extremely high. My commitment to meeting and exceeding this goal remains for this my final and most important station.

I look forward to serving the Masons of North Carolina as we begin this journey together — I stress the word together. Since many of you may not know me, I feel it is important to know your grand master.

The September/October issue of *The North Carolina Mason* touched on part of my early beginnings in our fraternity. I was raised on July 22, 1975, and became a member of Catawba Lodge #248 in Newton, NC. Since I became a Mason in 1975, I developed an immediate love of the ritual. I became a certified lecturer for the first time in 1977, served as District Deputy Grand Lecturer from 1979-1981, and Master of my lodge in 1980. Beginning in 1983, I began traveling with my work. I regretfully let my certification lapse, one of my very few regrets in life.

After 20 years, in 2003 I became active again. This coincided with the same time my best friend, the one who introduced me to this fraternity in early 1975, also became active again. His oldest son petitioned our lodge and I was asked to sign his petition and to give his third-degree lecture. I replied that it had been almost 20 years since I had last given a lecture, to which I was bluntly told to relearn it.

I started the process and to my amazement, with some dedicated effort, I was able to not only learn that lecture again, but four months later I was recertified as a Class "A" Certified Lecturer. I began studying the ritual with more meaning and passion.

At that time, as an older Mason, my studying of the ritual was different. As a younger Mason, I focused more effort on memorizing words. However, as an older, hopefully more mature Mason, I began to focus more on the meaning of the lessons of our various degrees.

During the past 15 years, I have concentrated more on a combination of the various Masonic rituals in combination with my Book of Faith to improve my life. I strongly feel this has made me a better man and Mason. Though my life, like many, will always be a work in progress, I am confident that the more I focus on the lessons of our many rituals, my self-improvement journey as a Mason will continue to advance in a positive direction.

I urge each of you to evaluate what impact


our ritual lessons are playing in helping to shape your life and actions. I believe it is a privilege to be a part of the world's greatest and oldest fraternity, the greatest self-improvement program available in the world today.

Remember, in today's world, someone is always watching, including and more importantly the Supreme Architect of the Universe — that "All Seeing Eye" represented so vividly throughout our fraternal bodies. Our forefathers left us a fraternity to grow and prosper and we can only attract the best men if they clearly see the true character of what we represent as Masons.

We will begin our district meetings in a couple of months. It should come as no surprise that much of my message will focus on our various Masonic ritual lessons. As Masons, each of us have a responsibility to set an example to others as how we should live our lives and how we should treat others.

Over the past several years, we have experienced difficult and divisive times. Our Masonic rituals are full of reminders of exercising a wholesome respect of others even if we experience disagreements. We are reminded in the charge to a newly installed Master to practice outside of our lodges those duties which are taught in it. When we do this, we not only become the example for others to follow but more importantly a potential attraction of what others may be looking for to become better men.

The way we carry ourselves is our best method of advertisement. In one of our Masonic degrees, we are taught that **Life is a School, Masonry is Work**. It is not easy to always live our lives as our many lessons teach but that, my brethren, is what sets us apart from all other organizations.

I look forward to serving as your grand master for the ensuing year and having additional discussions on being the type of Mason we say we are. 

## Look who's on Facebook now!

Want to be in the know? What's happening at lodges around the state? Where in the world is Grand Master Cobb these days and what is he saying in his latest on-the-road video?

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!



# OUR MASONIC CHARITIES AT WORK



Beth Grace photos

Grand Line officers welcome some good friends to this year's Homecoming at our Masonic Home for Children at Oxford.



"I've got the steering wheel, but what happened to the rest of the car?"



Charlene Matthews, president of the Oxford Orphanage Alumni Association.



Red Noses apparently can also make a fashion accessory for the ears.



Past Grand Master Gene Jernigan, then-Grand Master Speed Hallman and Past Grand Master Bob Gresham "noses" how to have fun at Homecoming!



◀ Cornerstone for the new swimming pool was dedicated at Homecoming by Grand Lodge officers.

# Lion and Pillar inspires lodge's coin box project

ELKIN – Small change inspired a big idea for Louis Jeroslow, worshipful Master at Elkin #454.

Inspired by Lion and Pillar goals, he bought 50 coin banks at the beginning of the year, applied Masonic square-and-compass decals and created an initiative he calls *Spare Change Can Change Lives*.

He asked brothers to take one, fill it with pocket change at the end of each day and bring it back to lodge when it was full. To date, about \$400 has been collected from the 30 banks that were handed out, and more is expected by the end of the year.

Proceeds will go to the North Carolina Masonic Foundation, which helps fund our charities – The Masonic Home for Children at Oxford and WhiteStone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Community.

But they also decided to branch out a bit beyond the lodge room. Coin boxes have also been placed at shops around town, creating new opportunities to share



**NEW AND NOTEWORTHY IDEAS  
FROM LODGES ACROSS THE STATE**

the news about our charities and what they do.

Jeroslow says he has been “very inspired by the Lion and Pillar program to guide Elkin Lodge to aspire and achieve a higher level of success and the expectation for the next brothers in line to continue this work. The program has been a wonderful road map to guide me and I am very grateful.”



## NCMF releases book honoring our historic lodges

Sometimes, a great idea is more than just a great idea.

After a year of work, the North Carolina Masonic Foundation is proud to release a coffee table book designed to honor our Craft and recognize the historic beauty of the

lodges that we call home.

*Sacred Retreats: A Tour of Historic Lodges of North Carolina Freemasonry* was released at this year's Annual Communication and is now on sale online.

The book, photographed and



## Annual reports show how our Masonic charities are doing

Lodges should keep a share eye on the mail – there is some interesting news on the way!

All three Masonic charities have released their annual reports and have either arrived at your lodge or are on their way.

It takes many hours and lots of person-power to produce a report on how your charities have fared in the past year and what their plans are for the year to come. All brothers are more than welcome to take a look at the original when it hits your lodge or settle in for a good read by linking to each report online.

In this year's report from the Masonic Home for Children, read about the strategic plan developed early last year and how it has been implemented to make the home stronger and keep kids safe and sound. The WhiteStone report features a profile on new Administrator Mark Lewis and a loving remembrance of a brother who this year left the largest gift WhiteStone has ever received.

The NCMF report looks at new programs that have given lodges a way to invest their money to endow long-term gifts to our charities, the creation of a new legacy gift program, the successful campaign to help MHCO raise funds to build a new pool and special plans to recognize St. John's Day next year.

Your feedback on these reports – and your great ideas – are welcome. Contact information is available in each report.

Here are the links:

Masonic Home for Children at Oxford

<https://mhc-oxford.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/AR-2017.pdf>

North Carolina Masonic Foundation

<https://mfnc.org/storage/components/annual2018-online.pdf>

WhiteStone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Community

<https://www.liveatwhitestone.org/app/uploads/annual-achievement-report-2016-2017.pdf>

designed by Melody McBride of Flashbacks by Red and edited by Beth Grace, NCMF's communications director, is a loving look at some of our most

■ see BOOK, page 15



# LION AND PILLAR 2019

There are a few new ways to qualify for the Lion and Pillar Lodge of Excellence in 2019.

Grand Master Dwight M. "Mack" Sigmon has released the updated program list, which includes a new level of excellence: **The Platinum Award**. Lodges interested in the award must meet all qualifications for the Lion and Pillar honor, and complete one of two rituals.

To reach Platinum level, a lodge member or the installed senior deacon **must**, between July 1, 2018, and June 30, 2019, either:

✦ Give his first-ever **Fellow Craft Degree lecture**. This can be accomplished in his own lodge (preferable) or at another lodge within his district if his lodge experiences no such degree work during the qualifying period.

✦ Or a member of your lodge must conduct his first-ever **Masonic graveside or memorial funeral service**. This also can be accomplished in his own lodge or at another lodge within his district if his lodge experiences no such requests during the qualifying period.

To be eligible for the 2019 award, all tasks/projects must be completed between July 1, 2018, and June 30, 2019. Application deadline is June 30, 2019.



## CATEGORY 1

### EDUCATION

COMPLETE 2  
OF 5 ITEMS



1. Implement the Lodge System of Masonic Instruction as a subordinate lodge or as a district, with participating lodges receiving credit. DDGMs will certify lodge participation.
2. Host a speaker from the Grand Lodge Speaker's Bureau, a member of the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Education, a faculty member from Wilkerson College, a faculty member from the Davie Academy or a faculty member from the Middle Chamber for a program at a stated communication.
3. Have a deacon graduate from Wilkerson College.
4. Have a member complete a Davie Academy session.
5. Have a member complete a Middle Chamber session.

## CATEGORY 2

### PATRIOTISM

COMPLETE 3  
OF 8 ITEMS



1. Organize a lodge visit to veterans in a nursing home. Do not limit visits to Masonic veterans.
2. Visit veterans in a VA hospital in Salisbury, Fayetteville, Durham or Asheville.
3. Contact and offer to assist the local Masonic Service Association of North America (MSANA) Hospital Visitation volunteer in a VA hospital.
4. Host a National Sojourners member for a program at a stated communication.
5. Host a non-Mason veteran for a program at a stated communication.
6. Hold a Masonic education program on the MSANA's Hospital Visitation and Disaster Relief initiatives.
7. Host a meal for veterans and active military personnel at your lodge separate from a regular stated meeting. Include non-masonic veterans, active military personnel and local high school youth/JROTC interested in military careers at this event.
8. Support a "Wreaths across America" or similar veterans projects.

## CATEGORY 3

### PHILANTHROPY

COMPLETE #1  
AND 2 OF  
REMAINING 5



1. Contribute an average of \$5 per member to (each) MHCO, North Carolina Masonic Foundation and MESH Foundation LLC (which benefits qualified Masonic and OES residents at WhiteStone) between the periods of July 1, 2018 through the June 30, 2019 application deadline. Copies of checks should be provided with the application to help expedite the approval process. (NOTE: Community charitable projects are covered under Category 5)
2. Contribute \$1 per member to the George Washington National Masonic Memorial or to the Masonic Service Association of North America by the June 30, 2019 application deadline.
3. Host a North Carolina Masonic Foundation development officer for a program at a stated communication or attend the Davie Academy session on philanthropy.
4. Host a MHCO or WhiteStone development officer for a program at a stated communication or attend the Davie Academy session on philanthropy.
5. Hold a lodge meeting at WhiteStone or MHCO under dispensation from the Grand Master, and schedule a tour of the home, meeting with the director or his designee, and visit with residents.



REMEMBER, IF YOU WANT TO QUALIFY FOR THE PLATINUM AWARD YOU MUST FULFILL THE REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL FIVE CATEGORIES FIRST

See the RED type? That means it is a new option for 2019!



CATEGORY 4

# MASONIC MEMBERSHIP

COMPLETE  
#1 AND 4 OF  
REMAINING  
9 ITEMS



1. Contact no less than 50% of each inactive member, a minimum of once per year, either by phone (voice contact, voice messages do not count) or make a visit to their residence. [An inactive member for this purpose is any member who has not attended a meeting within a twelve-month period.] Provide a list of names and dates when contacted.
2. Hold an appreciation dinner for lodge families and widows.
3. Improve your outreach to lodge widows. Describe your outreach in 2018 and how you will improve it in 2019.
4. Confirm valid email addresses, phone numbers and occupation information in MORI for at least 75 percent of lodge members.
5. Adopt and use the Our Lodge Page function in MORI. Hold a Masonic education program to explain OLP to members.
6. Help plan and participate in a district-wide event such as a fundraiser for Masonic charities, a Masonic education event (not including a School of Instruction, Lecture Service or Grand Master district meeting), a district-wide degree, a district-wide funeral service, a district-wide fellowship dinner with Masonic education speaker, or a district-wide community service project.
7. Engage new brethren at the lodge or district level. Form an Under 5 degree team consisting of Masons with less than five years in the Craft or require new members to deliver papers or Masonic education programs within three months of raising.
8. Plan an observance of the Feast of St. John the Baptist on or near June 23 as a lodge or a district, with a meal and Masonic speaker. Submit your event announcement, flyer or other advance event publicity to qualify.
9. Host a member of the Grand Lodge Masonic Renewal Committee for a program at a stated communication.

CATEGORY 5

# AFFILIATED CONNECTIONS

COMPLETE  
4 OF 12  
ITEMS



1. Host an appreciation meal for local fire fighters, police officers and/or rescue personnel/EMTs as a district or lodge.
2. Hold a lodge Open House and invite the community.
3. Contribute a minimum of \$5/member to support a charitable cause in your local community.
4. Participate in a Habitat for Humanity Program in your community by providing labor to support one of their projects. Donations only do not count towards this item.
5. Partner with a local public school on literacy. Read to students, contribute to a school library or book drive, or establish a Bikes for Books-type reading reward program as a lodge or district ([www.masoniccharitablefoundation.org/programs/Masonic-bikes-books/](http://www.masoniccharitablefoundation.org/programs/Masonic-bikes-books/)).
6. Grow the Masonic family by having at least one lodge member join the York Rite, Scottish Rite, Shrine, Order of the Eastern Star or Amaranth, or contribute to the formation of, or support for existing DeMolay or Rainbow Girls organizations in your lodge or district.
7. Utilize the MHCO Print Shop for printing requirements in your lodge or a District event coordinated by your lodge.
8. Sponsor a Blood drive in your community.
9. Sponsor a cooking team for the MHCO Homecoming Festival or the Pig Jig.
10. Sponsor a youth organization (Little League, Soccer, Volleyball, etc.) in your community.
11. Attend a Masonic and/or Eastern Star function at Camp Gray Rock.
12. Support a School Project, "Stuff the Bus", "Backpack Program for summer food support to the needy" or other similar programs.


# MY LODGE'S SCORECARD

(Not an official application)


Keep track of how your lodge is doing toward winning an award in 2019


## Category 1: EDUCATION


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 \_\_\_\_\_


## Category 2: PATRIOTISM


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## Category 3: PHILANTHROPY


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## Category 4: MASONIC MEMBERSHIP

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## Category 5: AFFILIATED CONNECTIONS

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To apply, submit an official application or write a letter of application listing the items your lodge chose to complete. Provide details about your lodge's performance on or plans for completing each selected item. Send your letter to Past Grand Master A. Gene Cobb, Jr. by email to [gcobb@glnc.us](mailto:gcobb@glnc.us). Recipients will be notified by Aug. 1, and will be recognized during the Sept. 27-28 Annual Communication in Winston-Salem.



# TRAVELING THE TAR HEEL STATE



▲ **ASHEBORO** – Asheboro #699 has a trio of three new Entered Apprentices in the Williams clan. O'Neil Williams and his two sons Joshua and Jacob Williams, left, along with their coach Travis Ballard are pictured. (Pictured from left are: Jacob, O'Neil, Travis and Joshua.) O'Neil and the boys say this is something very special to take this journey together.



## NEWS FROM OUR LODGES



▲ **CREEDMOOR** – It's more treat than trick every Halloween on the main drag of Creedmoor, as local Masons join local businesses in opening their doors during the annual Trunk or Treat night. About 15 brethren and their spouses from Creedmoor #499 handed out treats to several thousand costumed kids from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., says Secretary Steve Haskins. Brothers also welcomed folks into the lodge for tours and as a rest stop.



▲ **OXFORD** – While pool construction continues, the official cornerstone for the new facility at the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford has been dedicated. Grand Master Speed Hallman, joined by fellow Grand Line officers, started the day at the annual MHCO Homecoming with the ceremony not far from the site where the pool will be up and running by next swim season.



◀ **SELMA** – In August, Selma #320 presented checks to the SECU Hospice House and to Edgerton Memorial United Methodist Church Food Bank in the amounts of \$1,442.40 each. The checks represented the net proceeds from the lodge's annual raffle fundraiser. Funds normally go to providing scholarships for graduating high school seniors, but this year the lodge voted to raise funds for organizations in the community, in addition to providing two \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors. Pictured, Brother Roger Diegele (center) presents a check to David Dennis, left, and Mrs. Sol Halliburton for SECU Hospice House and Brother Michael Mooney, far right, presents a check to Mrs. Ann Creech for the Food Bank.

## TRAVELING THE TAR HEEL STATE



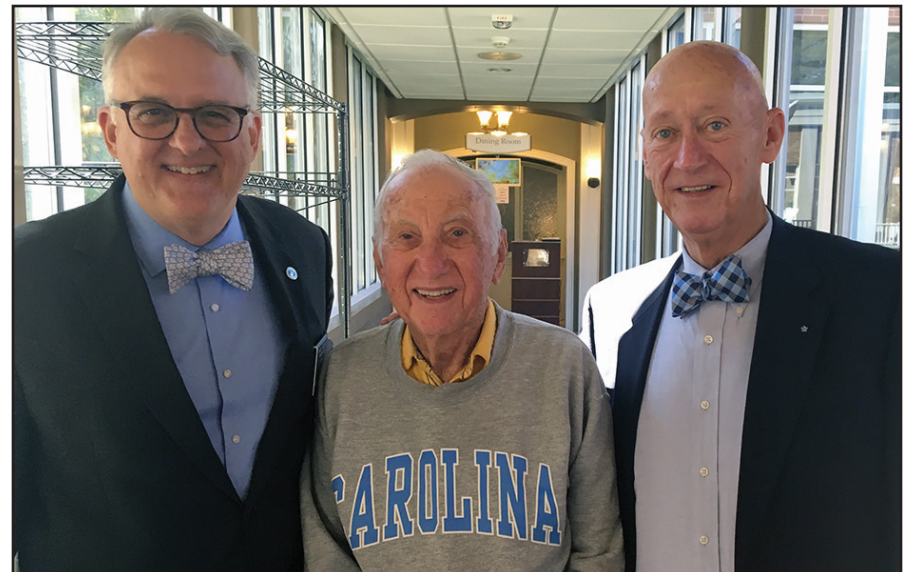
▲ **ELIZABETH CITY** – More than 100 brothers were on hand at the Elizabeth City Shrine Club to hear Worshipful Brother Billy Mutter, right, past master of Drummond #178 and member of the Grand Lodge of Virginia Lodge Service Committee, urge them to consider making blood and organ donations. He told the First District quarterly meeting that the life of his daughter, Stephanie, was saved when she was 10 when the parents of a 10-year-old boy chose to donate his heart. Twenty years later, she needed and received a second heart. Sadly, due to complications, Stephanie passed away in May 2016. Brother Mutter has made it his mission to educate others about the gifts of blood and organ donation. Mutter spent some time with Worshipful Brother Jimmy Nash, left, of New Lebanon #314, who is a heart transplant recipient.



▲ **WILMINGTON** – Taking a tragic loss and honoring the memory of a fallen Brother, the members of Wilmington #319 enlisted the charity and trust of over 28 lodge members, Masons, businesses, and friends to collect more than \$11,000 in donations for the pool project at the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford. This major gift was given in memory of Wilmington's WB James "Bill" William Haines III, who died in a motorcycle accident last spring. The husband, father, and past master of Wilmington #319 was remembered through this gift for the children of Oxford and in turn, the Children's Home and NC Masonic Foundation honored the Lodge, presenting a token of appreciation for the generosity, time, and care given by the lodge and in remembrance of WB Haines. Pictured is Master Jimmy Moore, center; Chris Richardson, NCMF eastern region development director, right; and lodge Secretary Michael Hoff. The official dedication of the MHCO Pool is tentatively scheduled for next spring; a special memorial dedication will be held for WB Haines, including his wife and children.

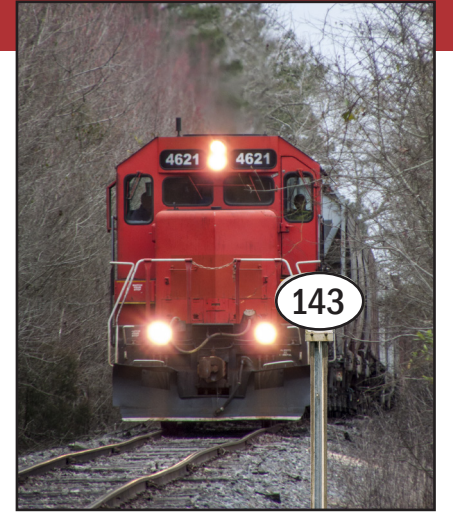


◀ **OXFORD** – William R. Watson, 86, and a member of Lucama #527 for 50 years, has since the early 1980s written a check every single month to the Masonic Home for Children. He got some special thanks in November for that generosity recently with a night of recognition at the lodge. Among the guests: Mrs. Mary Helen Parrott of MHCO, who has processed every one of Brother Watson's gifts to the home – but never met him in person. Following a catered dinner, Mrs. Parrott gave Brother Watson a much-deserved hug and pointed to him as an example of a Mason whose legacy of giving extends beyond being a member, to one who accepted his obligation and fulfilled it with passion and commitment. Gifts from MHCO, including a blanket and tie tack, were presented to Brother Watson as a token of thanks. Worshipful Master Tony Ferrell recognized Brother Watson as a true "Masons' Mason," and said the lodge is grateful to have him as a member and as a generous, kind brother.



▲ **GREENSBORO** – Lux Libertas #772 on Nov. 10 treated WhiteStone residents and friends to some Stamey's Barbecue and football as they gathered at the home in Greensboro to watch the Carolina-Duke game. The Heels came up short on the field but it was a win-win for the home and the lodge. The lodge in 2016 and 2017 took children from Oxford to games in Kenan Stadium, and then decided to rotate annual game-day events between MHCO and WhiteStone. Lux Libertas's founding master was Past Grand Master Gene Jernigan, who serves WhiteStone as chairman of the board of directors. Joining the fun are from left, then-Grand Master Speed Hallman, WhiteStone resident Carroll Davis, and WB Johnny Surles.

# MILEPOSTS



◀◀ **KERNERSVILLE** – It has been a busy time at Kernersville #669. Tyler Shrewsbury graduated from Walkertown High School, received his Third Degree from Kernersville #669, returned his Third Degree catechism, and has joined the United States Navy. Tyler's father and current Master of the Kernersville Masonic Lodge, Clifford Shrewsbury, says Tyler is currently completing his training in the Navy. Meanwhile, in October, brothers celebrated when Bob Vandy was raised to the sublime Degree of a Master Mason. His 94-year-old father, Jack Weiss, was there and raised his son.

**50 YEARS** Congratulations to our 50-year members\*:

- Wilse Burgess, Hall #53
- Tommy Everitt, Gatesville #126
- Richard Conley Greene, Hominy #491
- Edgar Lee Mitchell, Hall #53
- Lee Moody, Derita #715
- Herbert Mullen, New Lebanon #314
- Ben Roberts Sr., Hall #53
- Ron Smith, Derita #715
- Ben Stallings, New Lebanon #314
- Ralph Wilkins, Gatesville #126

\* As reported to The Mason



▲ **CHAPEL HILL** – University #408 held a unique ceremony this fall, recognizing new Eagle Scouts in Mawat District, BSA. This event was held Aug. 6 in conjunction with the lodge's monthly fellowship dinner. 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.

◀ **GREENSBORO** – Good fences make good neighbors – and a great fence around the new pool being built at the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford will help keep everyone safe. Each MHCO board member donated funds to pay for the fence as part of the "Make a Splash" campaign to raise money to replace the old pool that has aged beyond repair. At left, Jeffrey Hensley, chief development officer of the North Carolina Masonic Foundation, presents a plaque recognizing the board's generosity to board Chairman and Past Grand Master Dewey Preslar.

**OXFORD** – Who turned out the best BBQ in the business at this year's Masonic Home for Children Homecoming? Here's the list of winners!

- PORK CATEGORY**
1. Eagle Lodge 19
  2. Raleigh Lodge 500
  3. 13th Masonic District
  4. Sudan Shrine

- CHICKEN CATEGORY**
1. Orphan Lodge 761
  2. Sudan Shrine
  3. Keller Memorial Lodge 657
  4. Granville Spice Co.

- OVERALL GRAND CHAMPION**
1. Sudan Shrine
  2. Eagle Lodge 19
  3. Orphans Lodge 761
  4. 13th Masonic District

# When the going gets tough, brothers help

By Beth Grace  
Mason Editor

There are angels among us.

If you need proof, ask the dozens of brothers, lodges and others who learned what brothers can do to help in the wake of Hurricane Florence. Cards and calls from those helped by a new disaster fund create in the wake of the storm are pouring into the Grand Lodge.

"I have no words to express my deep gratitude to all of you," wrote Sylvia, an eastern North Carolina woman who received a gift from the Masonic Disaster Fund created after the storm. "I have had many struggles in my life, but at 80 years of age, I cannot describe the emotional toll this has taken.

"It is a terrible feeling knowing you are literally homeless, and everything is gone – piled in a heap by the side of the street. However, due to the kindness of so many people, I am slowly healing."

Names of those in need were gathered and vetted by District Deputy Grand Masters and submitted to a committee of brothers who reviewed requests and made gifts based on need, ranging from \$1,000 for individuals to \$3,000 for lodges.

Money for the fund came from several sources, including individual donations, gifts through the Masonic Services Association (the Texas Grand Lodge contributed \$100,000) and contributions of \$25,000 each from the NC Grand Lodge and the North Carolina Masonic Foundation.

As of presstime, total contributions to the disaster fund hit \$393,000; about \$328,000 had been distributed.

Members of the committee are: PGM and Grand Treasurer Lewis Ledford; 18th District DDGM William McRae; 7th District DDGM Bobby Meadows; 4th District DDGM Rob Morrell and WM Johnny Surles, chairman of the Grand Lodge Charity Committee.

The fund is just a small part of the Craft's work to help those who



The floodwaters in New Bern did not spare the Sudan Shriners' building, forcing the group's annual ceremonial in January to be moved to Goldsboro.

faced devastation in the wake of the storm. Brothers brought toiletry and cleaning supplies for flood victims to the Annual Communication; Brother Johnny Surles led a team who distributed the gifts to those most in need.

Brothers also chipped in about \$4,800 for victims when the hat was passed at Annual Communication.

The gifts mean the world to those who have lost everything.

One brother from Hampstead, NC, wrote to thank the Craft for a gift of cash – and said he had learned a loving lesson.

"Over the years, I have modestly

contributed as special or routine needs have arisen, placing my few dollars in the hat as it passed around the lodge. It had never been my lot to require assistance," he wrote.

"I did not, however, until now, have much appreciation of how big a difference it makes to be able to get through something like this because of the help and generosity of others. ... It has made a great difference to us."

The money also will come in extra handy for a Wallace mom who lost her house and has been working to get life back to normal for her two kids.

"We lost our home; it was no mansion," she wrote. "There was two and a half feet of water. I am a single mother trying hard to keep it afloat. We will use this money for Christmas."

Brothers around the state also pitched in at individual lodges and gathered supplies and donations for their local communities.

Brother Mark White of Currituck #463 and other First District Masons pitched in after they heard calls for help. He sent a message to his contacts saying that he would be accepting donations on Sept. 22, and word spread from there.

Masons from the First District donated non-perishable food, water, cleaning supplies, bug spray and clothes.

The day after the collection deadline, Mark and his wife drove a 16-foot trailer to Grifton, NC, loaded with donations from DMV Spartan Nash (a supplier of commissary goods to military installations), and as many other donations as they could carry.

Grifton sits between Kinston and Pitt County and has a population of 2,600. Organizers specifically chose to deliver items to small, rural communities that might otherwise not see many donations.

Gifts from across the Craft were overwhelming – even to those who already give of themselves.

"There are angels among us," Brother Surles said in a recent Facebook post. "I hear every day a story of someone receiving a donation from someone they have never met. ..."

"I'm reminded of what Albert Pike said: 'What we do for ourselves dies with us. What we do for others and the world remains and is immortal.' Do something for someone tomorrow, if it's just a hello, make someone smile, trust me, if you do, you will smile too. Imagine the whole world with a smile on everyone's face."

## How hurricane fund money was distributed

Funds were donated through various venues, including individual personal contributions, individual states jurisdictions, major gifts from the Masonic Services Association (representing gifts from other Grand Lodges and individuals), and our Grand Lodge, and the North Carolina Masonic Foundation each contributed \$25,000.

A committee of brothers – all District Deputy Grand Masters from the impacted region – was appointed by the Grand Master. Each DDGM was responsible to identify brothers and others in need in their areas, confirm their need and vouch for them to the full committee.

The full committee unanimously approved each confirmed request for funds at weekly conference calls.



*From the Courier's Case*

## Blackmer Lodge polishing wisdom and light

*Steven Campbell  
Masonic Historian*

Earlier this year a new era began in Montgomery County's oldest Lodge.

On the afternoon of April 7, members of Blackmer #127 in Mount Gilead hosted scores of Masons and fellow citizens in the rededication of their Lodge meeting room.

In its 168-year history, the Lodge has met in five various buildings. In 1948, in partnership with the Marvin Moore American Legion Post, Lodge members assisted in

building the School Street structure.

Ever seeking wisdom, current members approved a Lodge Library and Archives. It was upon this effort that Brothers Randy Browning, Shawn Brown, Dale Goforth and Ben Wallace envisioned, presented, coordinated and crafted a newly designed Masonic setting for the Lodge meeting room.


The countless hours of actual hands-on work was complemented by tireless and tasteful fundraising.

Numerous lodge members stepped up to contribute both time

and money.

Masonic artist Ryan J. Flynn's toils resulted in a true masterpiece of Masonic themed murals, bringing the Craft to life.

Highlighting the setting is an LED canopy of stars, directly above the lodge's alter, depicting the constellations during the month of December 1850 when Blackmer Lodge received its charter from the Grand Lodge of North Carolina.

Everyone is invited to visit Blackmer Lodge, which meets the first and third Tuesdays of each month. 



Photos by Bro. W. Gil Haywood

### THANKS from page 4

all their time – working on behalf of those in need, especially for widows and orphans. They hardly even have to think twice about it. If they come across someone in need, it IS their problem. They do something about it.

They did a LOT about it this fall after Hurricane Florence slammed the eastern coast of North Carolina and left devastation and heartache behind.

Masons from one end of the state to the other began to arrange fundraisers, the Grand Lodge contacted the Masonic Services Association, and brothers began collecting food, supplies and sundries for victims. Masons from around the country

chipped in and soon, the North Carolina Masonic Foundation and the Grand Lodge each donated \$25,000 and launched a fund for flood victims.


DDGMs and masters around the state gathered names and requests from those in need; a team of brothers assembled and allocated money. Each request was vouched for and hundreds of thousands of dollars were allocated to brothers and sisters who lost homes, lodges that were flooded and individuals who couldn't afford food for their families or a place to stay until they could get to their homes to determine the damage.

This good deed has not gone unno-

ted or unrecognized. For weeks, the Grand Lodge has been receiving notes and cards expressing thanks and love from the people this Craft has helped in a true time of need. I'm sharing a photo of just a small selection, filled with stories of recovery and gratitude

So as we head into a new year and end another holiday season of giving and thanksgiving, here's to the good guys.

Here's to good men who know that it is their problem – it's *our* problem – when someone's in trouble.

Here's to the brothers who always walk the walk, and never, ever let someone in need walk alone. 

Be sure to take a closer look at the new Lion & Pillar rules on pages 8-9!



# WELCOME OUR NEW BROTHERS

Kurtz, Peter Joseph	8	Phoenix	Sparnon, Joel Howard	176	Williams	Herring, James Robert	429	Seaside	Curry, Kevin Brian	562	Waxhaw
Dotson, Clark Daniel	27	Statesville	Delano, Mark Richard	191	Granite	Blackmon, Timothy Andrew	446	Biltmore	Teague, Devin Curtis	573	Mt. Pleasant
Hamilton Jr, Terry	32	Stokes	Messer, Eric Brandon	259	Waynesville	Robertson, Douglas Warren	446	Biltmore	Gibson, Johnathan Wayne	590	Lowell
Taylor, Adam Lockhart	64	Kilwinning	Cefiner, Ibrahim Fethi	261	Excelsior	Greene, Christopher Lance	460	Cliffside	Hammer, Richard David Lee	593	Stony Point
Davis, Bryan Christopher	76	Greensboro	Kocaj, Christopher	261	Excelsior	Henson, Johnathan Quay	460	Cliffside	Stout, Jonathan Allen	594	Ashe
Splawn, Justin Heath	91	Western Star	Hayes Jr, Roger Dale	271	Tabasco	Little, Burton Joshua	460	Cliffside	Ayers, Joshua Matthew	618	Union
Pridgen, Russell Holden	92	Joseph Warren	Facemire, Timothy Isaiah Morgan	272	Bingham	Erwin, Gary Thomas	462	South Fork	Gann, Cody Scott	618	Union
Donaldson, Lyle William	102	Columbus	King, Gabriel Lee	272	Bingham	Swaim Jr, David Clinton	463	Currituck	Layne, David Andrew	627	Belmont
Taylor, Jonathan Carl	104	Orr	Turner, Joshua Coy	272	Bingham	Hayes, Raymond Alvin	483	Traphill	Robertson, Charles Edward	667	Ft. Bragg
Woolard, Marshall Neilson	104	Orr	Mastroioto, Michael Egan	289	Salem	Holder, Patrick Brock	484	Southern Pines	Vandy, Robert	669	Kernersville
Mosier, Kent Leland	109	Franklin	Russ, Nicholas Anthony	294	Atlantic	Long, Adam Levon	495	Rockingham	Shinabarger, Drake Donovan	679	Creasy Proctor
Butterfield, Brad Aaron	118	Mt. Hermon	Hurin, Geoffrey Lee	300	Aurora	Shockley, Randall Lee	495	Rockingham	Steffen, Christopher Michael	693	Charles M. Setzer
Corley, James Arnold	118	Mt. Hermon	Moore, Stephen Glenn	322	Granite	Tyler, Charles Johnathan	495	Rockingham	Nance II, James Melvin	694	Gate City
Hurst, Daniel Ira Delaney	118	Mt. Hermon	Harper, Will Lane	331	Bayboro	Carlow, Michael Earl	496	Mooresville	Hooper, James Levi	695	Allen Graham
Jones, Grant Wynn	125	Mill Creek	Farmer, Stafford Swain	339	Fairview	Kiser, Joshua Aaron	505	Cherryville	Townsend, Benjamin Scott	695	Allen Graham
McCullen, Benjamin Allen	125	Mill Creek	Yarbro, Eric Ryburn	339	Fairview	Thomas, Hunter Dean	505	Cherryville	Carroll, Claude Bradley	742	Mint Hill
Leonard, Matthew Lynn	134	Mocksville	Chaney, Gregory Jay	359	Mount Vernon	Lineberger, Noah Dawson	515	Whetstone	Connor, Edward Dell	742	Mint Hill
Blackard, James Ray	136	Leaksville	Inclenrock III, Gerald	391	Lebanon	Lineberger, Tyler Harrison	515	Whetstone	Hair, Zackery Mikel Wayne	759	James K. Polk
Willard, Joseph Grey	136	Leaksville	Honeycutt, Michael Keith	397	Bald Creek	Smith, Christopher Michael	515	Whetstone	McDill, Belk Alexander	770	State College
Berry, Lynden Troy	137	Lincoln	Burns, Carter Thornton	404	Denton	Jordan, Kelvin Lee	529	Andrews			
Karriker, Joseph Robert	176	Williams	Eubanks, Ryan Edward	409	Bula	Bouck, Gregory Paul	552	Revolution			



The *Heroes of '76*, left, present the colors as a capacity crowd gathers, center, for installation of Grand Line officers at the Old Post Office Playhouse in the heart of Newton, NC.

At right, the crowd chuckles with newly installed Junior Grand Warden Larry Thompson, as he adjusts his beard to accommodate his jewel of office.

Photos by Michael Harding



## BOOKS, from page 7

historic lodges, narrated by many brothers you know and love.

The book was proposed by Speed Hallman as he began his year as Grand Master. A piece he wrote about his own lodge, Eagle #19, leads readers on a journey of brotherly love and fellowship.

“The building is not the lodge,” he writes.

“It is a setting for warm memories of departed brothers; a classroom for insight; a laboratory for self-awareness. The lodge is my diverse and loving brethren who lift me, celebrate with me, and accompany

me on this journey to becoming a better person. So mote it be.”

The title was an easy one to choose. It comes from the closing charge as brothers declare they are about to ‘leave this sacred retreat of friendship and virtue.’

Take a peek at the book and order

one or more for yourself, your lodge, your brothers.

All proceeds benefit the Historic Masonic Properties Fund.

Cost per book is \$75 and you can order it here: <http://www.blurb.com/b/8882935-sacred-retreats>.



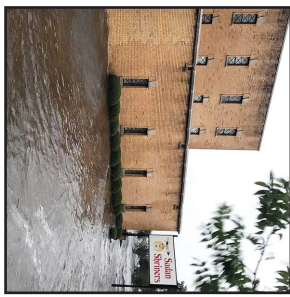
page 3

Meet the newest member of the Line



page 6

Glorious day for a Homecoming!



page 13

Masons helping those under Florence's water

*On the cover*

The installation of the 2019 line of Grand Officers was conducted at the Old Post Office Playhouse.

Photo by Michael Harding

**The North Carolina Mason**  
The Grand Lodge of North Carolina, AF&AM  
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Oxford, North Carolina 27565

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**THE MASON**

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2018