

NORTH CAROLINA THE MASON

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RAISING OF A DIFFERENT KIND: MONEY

Lodge fundraisers help charity, but also help Masons grow closer

By Beth Grace
Mason Editor

Giving comes naturally to North Carolina's Masons. But they are also exceptionally accomplished at creating giving opportunities for those in need.

Who, after all, can resist barbecue, pancakes or doughnuts? What competitive soul can turn down a hotly contested golf tourney, a fishing derby, or the sound of a gospel bluegrass festival? And how about ham biscuits like your mama used to make or an oyster roast that leaves you speechless?

Lodges in all but two of our 41 Masonic districts staged approved fundraisers in 2018, raising funds for our charities, for lodge maintenance and other charitable causes, according to the latest report of the Committee on Subordinate Lodge Special Activities.

Subordinate lodges in NC have been permitted to hold charitable and non-charitable fundraisers since 1994, says Jim

Medlin, chair of the Committee on Subordinate Lodge Special Activities. Until that time, lodges passed the hat if they wanted to raise funds for the Masonic Home for Children or WhiteStone, or for upkeep on their own lodges.

While it's not difficult to stage a fundraising event, the rules are clear and are outlined in the Code, chapter 43-12. (<http://grandlodge-nc.org/center-for-members/masonicCode/chapter-43>)

A fundraising event that asked the public to participate, requires prior approval from the Committee on Subordinate Lodge Special Activities, and a follow-up financial report

outlining what was raised and how funds were distributed. A fundraiser is defined as any event held outside lodge membership that asks the public to participate.

There are no limits as to how many fundraiser events a lodge may have in a given year. Lotteries, games of chance, gambling or any activities that would discredit Masonry are prohibited. Raffles are permitted as long as they conform to state law and no cash prizes are awarded.

WB Medlin, who oversees the application process, says the rules are there for a good reason: to make sure the event runs in accordance with federal and state laws and Masonic rules/guidelines and to protect lodges from possible liability. There's another reason. The Grand Lodge itself is required to keep and maintain records that prove it continually

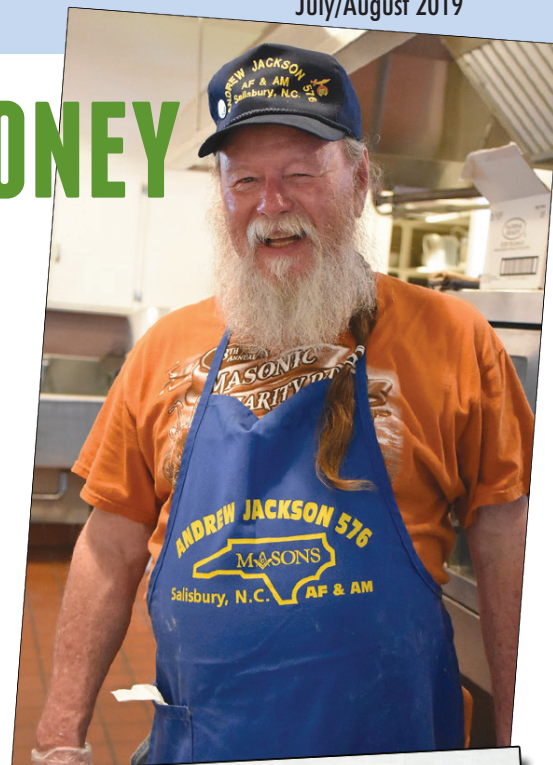
upholds its non-profit, 501(c)10 status, and lodge fundraisers are part of that.

"It's not the Grand Lodge that requires all the paperwork. It's

the IRS, which checks up on non-profits like us," he says. "If we don't have these records, our 501(c)10 status could be in jeopardy. One bad apple can ruin the whole barrel."

The process is relatively simple. Medlin reviews each application and will contact the lodge if he has questions or concerns. Otherwise, if the event is approved, he signs the form and sends it back to the lodge secretary and the event can go forward.

"I'm here to help protect you in your fundraising efforts, not to tell you what to do," he says.



MORE INSIDE

TIPS Making the approval process easier for you
THE NUMBERS 2018 lodge fundraising statistics

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Annual Communication focus: Our future

By Beth Grace
Mason Editor

Grand Master Dwight “Mack” Sigmon would like to have a word with you at this year’s Grand Lodge.

The word?

Invest.

Invest in the future of Masonry, invest in our charities, invest in our youth, invest and practice Freemasonry in everything you do and say. In other words, be the generation that ensures that the Masonry you know and love will thrive for generations to come.

The grand master says he hopes to bring that thought – and other messages he has shared in lodges all year – home at the 232nd Annual Communication, to be held Sept. 27-28 at the Twin City Quarter (Embassy Suites and Marriott Hotel) in Winston-Salem.

“My message this year has been to ask people to be a little kinder and more respectful, even when we have differences of opinion,” MW Sigmon said. “I have asked brothers to be better men, be better Masons ... be who we *say* we are. We can make this world a better place. It’s our decision.”

He also will bring a wider message of charity to the meeting.

“All lodges have been very charitable, holding events and fundraisers,” he said. “But I want to remind brothers that we, as individual Masons, need to be personally charitable to our three charities – the Masonic Home for Children, WhiteStone, and the North Carolina Masonic Foundation. We need to invest in our charities, and in the future of our Grand Lodge.

“I don’t want ours to be the generation that has to tell our kids and grandchildren that they cannot enjoy the Masonic life we have enjoyed. I want to be the generation that ensures they *can* have the same opportunities and services we have enjoyed.”

His remarks will be the highlight of two days of meetings, votes, fellowship and fun – and a vote on the next Grand Master.

The agenda is full, but with fewer proposed code amendments this year. Only five are up for a vote.

Proposed Code Amendments for 2019

Here are the proposed amendments to be considered at Annual Communication, Sept. 27-28:



Amendment Group 1

To raise the per capita rate owed to the Grand Lodge to \$25 from its current rate of \$20.

SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT: This amendment would increase the grand lodge per capita \$5 effective Dec. 31, 2019; \$5 effective Dec. 31, 2022; \$5 effective Dec. 31, 2025

Submitted by Grand Lodge Finance Committee



Amendment Group 2

To require the Grand Lodge to collect \$1 a year on all its per capita tax members on roll as of Dec. 31, for the George Washington Masonic National Memorial.

Submitted by Sophia #767



Amendment Group 3

To require brothers to immediately notify the Secretary of their lodge of changes in contact information.

Submitted by Mount Holly #544



Amendment Group 4

To require a majority vote to approve an Honorary Member.

Submitted by Stedman #730



Amendment Group 5

To administratively suspend the membership of a member who has been charged with a felony.

Submitted by Oak Grove #750

The amendment with the biggest buzz is the proposed per capita increase and substitute amendment. The per capita has not increased in six years. As of presstime, the main amendment would increase from \$20 to \$25. A substitute amendment that would increase the per capita \$5 effective Dec. 31, 2019; \$5 effective Dec. 31, 2022; and \$5 effective Dec. 31, 2025, is up for a vote and would support the Craft for a much longer period.

GM Sigmon strongly encourages brothers to search their hearts and invest in the future by passing this amendment.

“Think of those who gave us this

fraternity to grow and prosper,” he said. “It’s our turn to invest in our future. Every year, for the past several years, we have lost about \$18,000 in income from non-payment of dues and deaths, and 400 to 500 members achieving the 50-year milestone of membership. We don’t ever want to take that away, and the finance committee is continuing its hard work looking for areas to cut costs. We have recently negotiated a better rate on MORI and other areas. But it’s clear that you can’t offset an annual loss like we continue to experience without sacrificing something. It’s up to us.”

He also encourages approval of

the amendment allowing the Grand Lodge to collect \$1 a year on all its per capita tax members on roll as of Dec. 31 for the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. The monument in Washington, DC, is Mason-owned and maintained, and is considered the most important edifice in the nation that identifies the significance of Freemasonry.

More than 30 jurisdictions now give \$1 per member each year to maintain it. Our Grand Lodge has given about \$5,000 a year based on \$5 per initiate, but wants to increase the gift to join other generous jurisdictions.

Votes on Amendments 3 and 4 are tentatively set for be held on Friday; the other amendments will come up for discussion and vote on Saturday.

Other major events will include the return of the “Masons Can” drive – bring a can of food or a donation. Gifts will be collected at the hotel and given to groups in need.

Lion and Pillar honorees, including first-time Platinum-level lodges, will be specially recognized during the Friday session. Masters will be called forth to accept the honor and lodges can gather right after the session ends to have group photos made. ♣

ANNUAL COMMUNICATION

WHEN: Sept. 27-28, 2019

WHERE: Twin City Quarter, 425 N. Cherry St., Winston-Salem, NC 27101

SCHEDULE

Friday, Sept. 27

- DDGL Meeting, 8 a.m.
- Grand Lodge opens, 10 a.m.,

Grand Pavilion

- Grand Lodge reconvenes, 1:30 p.m., Grand Pavilion
- Grand Master’s reception, 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 28

- Grand Lodge opens, 9 a.m.

FUNDRAISING, from page 1

Most applications are approved, but some don't make it through – if lodges want to split proceeds between charity and their own lodge needs, that's an automatic rejection. The money raised must go to charity OR to an approved alternative. There's no wiggle room, Medlin says.



Jim Medlin

Lodges must be careful to honor donors, who believe their money is going to a charity. Never confuse the donor, he cautions. Transparency counts.

"The customer is always right. So you have to make a choice: In a single fundraising event either raise money for charity or raise money for the lodge building. You can't do both."

WB Medlin has seen it all in terms of charitable giving. He was named the Grand Lodge director of development in 1994 and has been involved in giving in the Craft ever since. ♠

Jim Medlin offers some tips to make the journey through the application process easier:

- Apply early. You have only 120 days to get the fundraiser approved, organized and held.
- Make your fundraiser unique – if you are having a spaghetti supper, make it different. Make it the best spaghetti recipe ever. Consider holding a fish fry – an old fashioned "Fish Camp" fish fry is rare these days.
- Watch what the most successful and lasting fundraisers do: the Carolina Pig Jig, the Brunswick Stew sale in Salisbury; Ham Day in Catawba.
- Get all of your lodge members involved – every last brother. That makes it more fun and keeps everyone involved.
- Set specific goals for the event, the fundraising goal, and the workload—remember, in goal setting, "SAM": be Specific, Attainable, Measureable.
- Marketing! Promote the event everywhere; use flyers, Facebook advertising, etc. Don't sneak up on your community.
- Don't be afraid to have a great event. WB Medlin is happy to answer questions – and he's available to speak at your lodge.

NC Lodge Fundraising By the Numbers 2018

200 Lodges participated in fundraising and reported as required

653 Applications and final reports processed

\$1.4 MILLION More than \$1.4 million earned by lodges at fundraisers in 2018

16 Event cancelations

10 Requests denied

2 Number of Districts not reporting any fundraising activity

\$884,303.⁰⁷

Net proceeds to charity and non-charity

\$147,185.⁰¹

Went to 82 lodge building funds/projects

522 Fund development designated charitable gifts to MHCO, MESH LLC at WhiteStone, NC Masonic Foundation, other charities

\$737,118.⁰⁶

Total value of the charitable gifts to the above designated funds



MHCO Homecoming set for Oct. 11-13

Friday, Oct. 11

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
9 a.m.-mid-afternoon	Chip Shots Golf Tourney	South Granville Country Club
Noon-5p.m.	BBQ Registration/Teams Arrive/Set-Up	"The Pit" at MHCO
5 p.m.	BBQ Contest - Cooks Meeting	Gymnasium at MHCO
5 p.m.- 6:15 p.m.	Music- DJ Jay Productions	"The Pit" at MHCO
5:30 p.m.- 7 p.m.	Concessions	"The Pit" at MHCO
6 p.m.- 8 p.m.	Museum Open – Reception	Cobb Center - Galleries
6:15 p.m.- 8:15 p.m.	Music – <i>The Tonez</i>	"The Pit" at MHCO
9:30 p.m.	Campus Closed – "The Pit" Closed – Parking Closed	

Saturday, Oct. 12

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
7:30 a.m.- 2 p.m.	Cottage Sales (Coffee and Doughnuts)	MHCO Main Campus
9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Cottage Sales (Merchandise and Snack Items)	
8 a.m.	Orphans Lodge	Masonic Center - MHCO
8 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Information Booth/Volunteer Check-In	Near Main Stage
9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Pre-Registration Pick-Up For Alumni	Front of Cobb Center
9a.m.- 3 p.m.	Alumni Registration	Cobb Center at Dunn Cottage
9:30 a.m.	Opening and Welcome	Main Stage at St. John's
9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Selected Games, Activities, and Entertainment	MHCO Campus
10 a.m.	Begin Pre-Sale of Lunch Tickets	Entrance to "The Pit"
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Museum Open	Cobb Center
10 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.	BBQ Turn-In/Judging	St. John's Building Alcove
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Gaming Unplugged Mobile Game Theater	MHCO Campus
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Ragland Production Inflatables	MHCO Campus
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Ted's Twisted Balloons	MHCO Campus
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Scrap Exchange Creative Time	MHCO Campus
11 a.m.	Shrine and Community Parade	Downtown Oxford to MHCO
Noon- 1:30 p.m.	"The Pit" Opens For Public Service	"The Pit" at MHCO
Noon	Announcement Homecoming Court	Main Stage at St. John's
TBD	Announcement of BBQ Contest Winners	"The Pit" at MHCO
Noon - 1:30 p.m.	Lunch – Under The Oaks	MHCO Campus
Noon - 2 p.m.	Open House Tours – Cottage (Shuttle Provided)	
Noon - 2:30 p.m.	Music – <i>The Tams</i>	Main Stage at St. John's
1 p.m. - 3 p.m.	Open House Tours	School of Graphic Arts
2:30 p.m.	MHCO Alumni Reflections at God's Half Acre	Cemetery
3 p.m.	Campus Closed	
3 p.m.	Wilkerson College Lodge 760	Orphan's Lodge
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.	Alumni Roast	MHCO Cafeteria
9 p.m. - midnight	Homecoming Alumni Dance	Granville County Shrine Club

Sunday, Oct. 13

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
10 a.m.	Worship Service	York Rite Chapel
11 a.m.	OAAA Annual Business Meeting	York Rite Chapel
Noon - 1:30 p.m.	Sunday Lunch Under The Oaks	Picnic Shelter
Noon - 2 p.m.	Museum Open	Cobb Center

SOURCE: Commission on Subordinate Lodge Special Activities, 2018 Annual Report to the Grand Master.

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Grand Master
Dwight M. "Mack" Sigmon

Board Of Publication
Kenneth Wayne Lambert, Chairman
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Dwight Stephen Decoskey II

Editor
Beth Grace

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Grand Master Dwight M. "Mack" Sigmonmsigmon@glncc.us
Deputy Grand Master P. Shaun Bradshawsbradshaw@glncc.us
Senior Grand Warden R. David Wickerdwicker@glncc.us
Junior Grand Warden Larry B. Thompson Jr.lthompson@glncc.us
Grand Treasurer Lewis R. Ledford (PGM)lledford@glncc.us
Grand Secretary T. Walton Clapp IIIwclapp@glncc.us
Senior Grand Deacon Kevan D. Frazierkfrazier@glncc.us
Junior Grand Deacon Donald E. Kehlerdkehler@glncc.us
Grand Marshal Robert W. Rideouttrideout@glncc.us
Grand Steward Steve M. Norrissnorris@glncc.us
Junior Grand Steward Gilbert D. Baileygbailey@glncc.us
Grand Tyler Guy E. Cline
Grand Chaplain Richard A. "Rick" Williams
Grand Lecturer Dalton W. Mayo (PGM)
Grand Historian Ludwik J. Wodka



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 MAN.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Beth Grace photo

Witnessing the magic of 'Lynch Lodge'

You're never too old...or too young...to believe in magic. Magic happens every time "Lynch Lodge" opens.

The brother leaned forward across his silver walker, smiling as he held court in the backyard shed-turned-Masonic-man cave. He chatted with the stream of visiting Masons and their families about a few of the thousands of items of historic interest surrounding him.

It wasn't his man cave, mind you. It was the special sanctum of his much-loved Masonic brother, Steve Lynch, who invites everyone in the fraternity he has loved for decades to visit his backyard "Lynch Lodge" a few times a year.

The man – and his audience -- brightened considerably as the door opened ... and a wee fairy princess entered.

Adorned with beads, rows of brightly colored bracelets, hot pink tutu and waving a wand (of course!), she gaped at the photos, statues and medals papering every wall, then twirled beneath the model helicopters that swayed above her from the ceiling.

Who had ever seen so many replicas of George Washington in one room???

This particular perfect princess was still celebrating her birthday – which had been days before. Her father explained that she so treasured the outfit she had gotten that day,

she had refused to take it off ever since ... except under protest for the occasional bath.

The brother leaned forward as she approached.

"Are you a princess?" he asked.

"Yes," she squeaked, making a face that suggested it should be pretty clear just by looking at her that she was a card-carrying member of fairy royalty.

Undaunted, the man asked, "And can you do magic?" She smiled at him as if he really HAD missed a memo about the wonders of wand-wielding fairy princesses.

"Of COURSE!" she replied.

"Then, can you make me well?" he asked. Kidding ... but maybe not. She didn't hesitate.

She peered into his eyes, raised her wand and tapped him gently on his arm. Then she stepped back, cradling the wand, admiring her own amazing powers.

Her patient closed his eyes and smiled. Smiled big. Magic. The child came packing some pretty powerful magic.

The brother may not have been truly cured, but every last person in that room felt healed. May the power of the magical wee fairy princess be with all of us, today and all days.

Happy summer!



By Beth Grace
Editor

FROM THE GRAND MASTER



Enjoy the journey, especially the people you encounter

By Dwight M.
"Mack" Sigmon
Grand Master

As I continue my travels across our grand jurisdiction, I reflect on the many wonderful events now behind me and those on the horizon. Each provides a unique opportunity to meet new friends and brothers and renew acquaintances.

One might think that the summer months provide an opportunity for some relaxation and a break from attending Masonic activities. That is far from reality as those months provide just as many opportunities to share in Masonic fellowship. And while the first half of my journey has been extremely busy, it has been extremely rewarding.

Through June, I had the privilege of presenting 11 70-year certificates, and many 25-, 50- and 60-year service awards at lodges, in homes and during my district meetings. I congratulate all who have or will be receiving service awards in 2019.

The annual installations of our North Carolina Shrine Divan officers were held in January. Linda and I attended each event and the hospitality extended to us was exceptional. My congratulations to Illustrious Sir Potentates Kenneth Jarrett (Oasis), Donald Slaughter (Amran) and Carl Smith (Sudan) and their officers for a successful 2019. I wish you safe travels on your journey.

In mid-February, our elected officers attended the annual Conference of Grand Masters of North America, held this year in the frigid climate of Rapid City, SD. What an honor to sit at the table with 64 other grand masters and participate in the business of this conference. I also had the opportunity to serve as an officer of the planning committee. Approximately 900 Masons attended the conference. This is an excellent venue to learn and share best practices with other jurisdictions. This was a bittersweet conference for me, as it was my last after attending for the past three years.

The Grand York Rite annual communication was held in Clemmons in mid-March. I appreciate the kind hospitality extended to me during their session. I offer my thanks to our outgoing leaders and congratulate the new

officers elected and appointed, especially Right Eminent Mike Daniels (Grand Commandery), Most Illustrious Kevin Wood (Grand Council) and Most Excellent Tom Bridges (Grand Chapter), who will lead our Grand York Rite for 2019-2020.

OUR FUTURE LEADERS

I attended the annual North Carolina Masonic Youth Leadership Conference at the Winston-Salem Masonic Center in late March. What a great experience to spend time with our future leaders. Anyone concerned about the future of our fraternity needs only to attend one of our youth meetings. You will have a different perspective after spending time with our Masonic youth. I had the privilege of witnessing the Rainbow Girls initiation and the DeMolay Degree. I was very impressed with the dedication and performance of their ritual work. Outstanding! On June 23, I attended and spoke at the 82nd Grand Assembly of NC, International Order of Rainbow for Girls in Raleigh. This was another great experience to be with our future leaders.

The annual Grand Encampment Easter celebration was held April 20-21. I had the opportunity on April 20 to participate in a wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington, Va., with members of our North Carolina Grand Commandery. The Easter sunrise service was held at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial the next day. I encourage all our members to visit our most famous Masonic Memorial.

In late April, I attended the Grand Lodge of South Carolina Annual Communication, and in early June, the Grand Lodge of Oregon. Both were excellent opportunities to witness how other grand jurisdictions conduct business and to renew friendships.

I was honored to be with the graduates of the Masonic Home for Children in Oxford at their annual Baccalaureate service on May 19. This was a unique experience for me, as it occurred nine days prior to the 50th anniversary of my 1969 high school graduation. I wish our four graduates a very successful journey, and I am thankful to the Masons of our grand jurisdiction for leading the way in ensuring their success.

The Grand Chapter of North Carolina,

Order of the Eastern Star held its annual meeting June 9-12. I was honored to offer remarks on behalf of our grand jurisdiction. A special thanks to Sister Debbie Owen and Brother Allen Hughes for their great year and congratulations to Sister Louise Taylor and Brother Cutler Dillon for their election to serve as leaders for the 2019-2020 year.

I attended the 145th annual Imperial Shrine Session in Nashville, TN, in early July. My thanks to our three Shrine Temples – Amran, Oasis and Sudan – for their warm hospitality. I was honored to be a part of a large number of Grand Masters supporting Shriners International at their annual session.

In mid-July, I attended the 82nd Great Smokies Summer Assembly in Maggie Valley. This year's event added a statewide Royal Arch Degree, allowing me the opportunity as Grand Master to fill the role of Principal Sojourner in the Royal Arch Degree on July 13.

The following Monday, I was honored to be one of several keynote speakers. Most Worshipful PGM William L. Dill (2010) gave the annual address at the Masonic Marker. Later this year, I look forward to conferring the Order of the Temple at a statewide event to be held at Castle McCulloch in October.

Our elected grand line attended the Northeast Conference of Grand Lodges in late July, as is customary each year. This year's session was held in Bangor, Maine. These conferences provide an opportunity to share best practices and understand the challenges/solutions other jurisdictions are experiencing. This was again bittersweet for me, as it was my last, but another opportunity to cross paths with grand lodge officers I have met on my journey.

WASHINGTON MASONIC MEMORIAL

In early August, I will attend the second annual Master Masons degree at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial hosted again by the Lodge of the Nine Sisters #773. It will be an honor to again participate in a wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

I will round out the month at the 2019 Biennial Session of the Supreme Council 33°, Southern Jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry in Washington, DC, where

■ see SIGMON, page 13

OUR MASONIC CHARITIES AT WORK

Get A Load of This! NCMF hosts night at the track

What's more fun than a night at the track, with free food, good friends and the chance to ride in some of the hottest cars on the circuit?

Nothing! That's what.

The North Carolina Masonic Foundation in May hosted a night at the GALOT Motorsports Park in Johnston County with food, fun and free rides sponsored by GALOT owner Brother Earl Wells.

About 60 brothers, wives, friends and families and Grand Master Mack Sigmon met at the park in Benson and had the run of the place, dining on good food provided by Wells and his staff and some tasty ice cream.

The big attraction: a ride in one of two racecars that took passengers from zero to more than 100 in a matter of seconds.

NCMF twice a year hosts special events for benefactors of our Masonic charities and those who are interested in making significant gifts to the foundation, which raises money and oversees investments to make sure our two charitable homes are safe and financially sound, provide special scholarships for sons and daughters of Masons, and maintain funds that help preserve historic Masonic lodges in North Carolina.

In the past few years, the NCMF has restructured and revamped its work to help raise awareness and support for all of Masonry, especially the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford and WhiteStone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Community in Greensboro. More and more brothers are joining the effort to keep the foundation and our charities strong and all are welcome to join the fun! For more information check us out at www.mfcn.org!



Photos by Beth Grace and Mike Harding



*Get your motor runnin'
Head out on the highway
Lookin' for adventure
And whatever comes our way
Born to be Wild*





Coming attractions: NCMF video focuses on our charities

It's a wrap! Work on videotaping the first North Carolina Masonic Foundation fundraising video, which began a few months ago, is done.

And now, work on making a two-minute tale of our charities has begun.

The team at Open Eye Creative, a small Durham-based company that specializes in video storytelling, has been working with our charities and the NCMF team to create a loving look at our charities and why it is

important for brothers and sisters to support them.

You will meet some wonderful people and hear directly from them how the Masonic Home for Children and WhiteStone have changed their lives.

Watch for the premier of the video at Annual Communication. Then watch the Grand Lodge and NCMF web pages for a free download site.

You can use the video for education within and outside your lodge.

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600 College St.
Oxford, NC 27565

Tel: 1-888-505-4357

We need to be both builders *and* caretakers

Shortly after I began working at the Grand Lodge, a landscaper in a truck and trailer pulled up the long driveway to the front door of the Grand Lodge. I watched him look over the front lawn. He then turned to the building and made his way up the limestone steps into the foyer where I met him.

Before I could say anything, he looked at me and said, “Your lawn looks like sh**.” Not being one to miss a beat, I asked him, “Can you make it look any better?” He quickly replied, “I can’t make it look any worse.” Having recently lost our long-time mower, I hired Frank to see what he could do, and he did not disappoint me.

A former Marine, Frank was a good salesman, observant, and obviously blunt. Within five minutes he pointed out several maintenance issues of which I was already aware, but just needed to hear from someone else.

As we walked the yard, he noted how our Grand Lodge office, prominently situated on the top of a hill on the one of the busiest streets in the capitol city just a mile from the interstate, probably represented most people’s perception of North Carolina Freemasonry.

He pointed out how bad our lawn looked, how overgrown the trees and shrubs were, and how dingy our building looked from the street. As we walked back inside, he said the interior could use some sprucing up, unless I liked it “looking like an old funeral parlor.”

His final question before he agreed to talk business and landscaping plans was, “Are y’all going to make it? Because it looks like you’re on hard times.”

Brethren, Frank’s assessment was eye-opening and shocking. We may not like to be judged by our appearances, but often our appearance is a reflection of who we are, and whether or not we take responsibility for ourselves, for others, and

for our communities. As I learned that day, our outward appearance dramatically influences the public perception of our fraternity.

Following Frank’s lead, we made a list of maintenance and improvement projects. We slowly repaired our basic needs like broken windows, rotted caulk, and peeling paint. After several years of small,

but noticeable improvements, we were able to show just how special our Grand Lodge building was—to our brethren, our community, and the state.

In 2011, with the help of the Board of General Purposes and Grand Master Ledford, we were able to firm up some of our larger plans and reframed the rear office windows (which had been boarded up for 30 years) and rebuilt the

back deck (which was removed in the 1970s). Our pride in our home helped us help others realize the importance and significance of our appearance and responsibility to the community.

Your Grand Lodge building is now a showplace FOR YOU to meet, work, and enjoy. And, though Frank has retired, our work is ongoing—it has to be in order to preserve our home for future generations. I hope our work here is a model for you to follow in maintaining and improving your local lodge.

Brethren, we have a serious public perception problem in North Carolina that is partly based on the appearance of our Masonic lodge buildings. The construction boom of the 1960s, ’70s, and ’80s illustrated that we are builders, but those buildings’ present condition often demonstrates that we fall short of being caretakers.

But, we have to avoid the vicious cycle of deferred maintenance, indifference, and, panic.

First, let’s identify what a lodge building is: It’s a place Masons meet to make Masons. It’s a sacred space, a safe space, and a space of inspira-

tion. Now, does this describe your lodge building? Are you and your community proud of your lodge building?

If this description does not define your lodge, why?

- Is your lodge’s paint peeling?
- Are there water stains on the ceiling?
- Does it smell musty and moldy?
- Is the grass overgrown and are the weeds taking over?
- Does your roof leak?
- Did you brick-up your windows instead of repairing them?
- Is your kitchen clean?
- Is your lodge room clean?
- Does your community utilize your building?
- Do you use your building for more than 5 hours for 1 or 2 meetings a month?
- What does that cost? And, is this the best use of your building?
- Do you spend more time worried about the condition of your lodge than enjoying the company of your brethren?

If any of these issues describe your lodge, let’s assume that complacency or money may be an issue. (If you haven’t done so, please read my last two articles about our being fraternal and the value you place on Masonry in the March/April and May/June issues of the North Carolina Mason).

So, what’s next? Let’s establish that the lodge building you possess now is probably going to be the best one you ever have. Do your dues cover the expenses of maintaining your lodge? If not, then you have to raise them. Regulation 77-1 states each lodge shall establish a dues amount capable of maintaining itself and discharging all its duties and obligations.

If your lodge looks abandoned and dilapidated, you aren’t fulfilling your obligation. If you need or want to improve your lodge you have to have money in the bank. Everything in your lodge depreciates over time. Each month, your HVAC system, roof, and basic components age.

What are your monthly bills? Put at least that amount back monthly to start building a reserve account. And, let us know what we can do to

help! We have tools that can help you calculate your lodge’s needed savings!

Recently, several NC lodges have found that years of deferred maintenance required them to find new quarters. While downsizing or moving is sometimes necessary, keep in mind the sale of a lodge building often creates a temporary financial windfall. I am saddened to hear lodges touting their new buildings to be less expensive and that dues won’t have to go up to pay for it.

This is simply never true.

Then, the cycle of deferred maintenance, indifference, and panic begins again. Brethren, you have to have money in the bank to pay for your lodge building. Don’t count on a building’s sale or wait for an inheritance. Save the money now.

Be mindful that urban areas are growing once again, and people are moving back into cities – large and small – and lodges can play a vital role in the development and redevelopment of our communities. Your lodge should be where your professionals gather to work, play, and serve.

Multiple lodges, too, work best when they share buildings, especially urban centers. Our community lost much of its relevance the day we began building single-use Masonic centers for singular lodges, outside of and away from our neighbors. If we fail to serve society, society will fail to see any value in our existence. Is this true in your community?

Brethren, buy the paint. Invest in your HVAC. Save extra money. Mow the lawn. Pick the weeds. Light your building, inside and out—whether through windows, illuminated signs, or accent lighting; make your building attractive and something you and your community can identify as a landmark, a landmark that makes you proud.

While Freemasons should not be judged by their external qualities, the external state of our lodges reflects our internal qualities. If we love our brethren, if we take pride in our lodges, then our buildings will reflect it.

Don’t be just a builder—be the caretaker. ♠



By *Walt Clapp*
Grand Secretary

NOCALORE

The tale of a short-lived lodge for Masonic research

By Jonathan Underwood
Assistant to the Grand Secretary

The rise and fall of the North Carolina Lodge of Research No. 666 has been a topic of debate, intrigue, and speculation almost since its inception. In spite of its contradictions and criticisms, much of the research it published was groundbreaking. The lodge was the first lodge of research in the United States and inspired the creation of dozens of other research lodges.

Yet, the lodge's fall from grace, its founder's reputation as an occultist and spiritualist, his abrupt departure from the fraternity, the lodge's distinctive numbering (666), and the scarcity of the lodge's publications continues to foster a paradoxical mystery for a lodge intended to foster illumination.

In 1930, several Masons from across North Carolina sought to create a lodge whose purpose was to explore the more academic aspects of Freemasonry – its meaning, history, legends, mysteries, myths, and rituals. Members were encouraged, if not expected, to conduct research and write papers on such topics.

The North Carolina Lodge of Research No. 666 (NOCALORE as it was affectionately known) was chartered on Jan. 21, 1931, in Monroe, and was very successful in attracting capable men seeking to illuminate the fraternity's knowledge of its own nebulous parts.

The lodge's principal founder, John Raymond Shute Jr., envisioned that the lodge proceedings, including members' research papers, would be printed as a resource for Freemasonry across the state, country, and world.

Shute's tireless drive to attract talent and build a library of Masonic scholarship did not disappoint. By the end of 1932, Shute collected, collated, edited, contributed to, and published a two-volume compendium of Masonic research touching on a range of subjects from the historic landmarks of Freemasonry

to the psychology of Masonic thought.

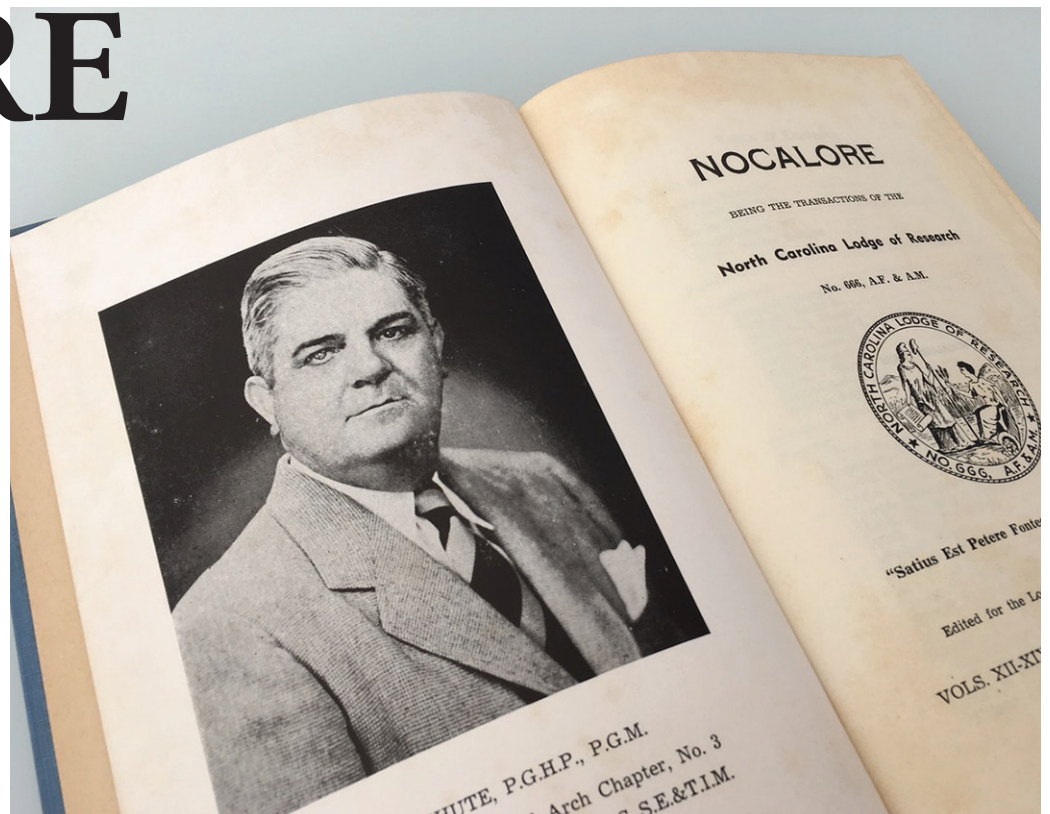
By 1949, Shute published 19 volumes of research papers, correspondence, and anecdotes on behalf of the lodge. Much of the research focused on North Carolina's Masonic history and legacy. Shute himself transcribed thousands of pages of original lodge and Grand Lodge records and wrote dozens of articles documenting all aspects of Freemasonry's heritage.

In spite of NOCALORE's pioneering research and publications, the lodge was not without its problems.

The lodge's creation sidestepped or contravened several regulations of the Code, including the prohibition of dual membership. Shute and his adherents argued that since the lodge would not perform degree work (something many perceived to be an irregular innovation), its dual-affiliated members would not be in competition with the jurisdiction of any other lodge.

Without offering an official opinion or proposing any amendments to the Code, Grand Master E.W. Timberlake Jr. endorsed NOCALORE's new model of operation and granted the lodge a dispensation to operate. However, in light of the lodge's new mode of operation, its dues and per capita became confused and raised the ire of several surrounding lodges that regarded the lodge as a place of refuge for those wishing to evade their financial obligations.

The lodge was born at the end of an era and generation fascinated by esotericism and the occult, and many of its members wrote and spoke on such topics. By the 1940s, those subjects were generally shunned by



Lodge principal founder John Raymond Shute Jr. led an effort to do deeper research on topics involving Freemasonry and saw to the publication of several works.

most Masonic scholars and authorities in favor of more civic- and community-centered topics and projects. The lodge's association with such "superstitions" made it a target of ridicule and derision.

Shute's commanding personality, forthrightness, and flair for the dramatic became a liability as the lodge's popularity waned. Shute was sometimes critical of North Carolina Freemasonry's transformation following World War II – inflated membership and the cultural shift away from small, intimate lodges of friends to a saturation of large, civically formulaic Masonic associations that competed with civic clubs.

Shute also overextended himself by founding and joining dozens of appendant bodies, traveling extensively to represent those bodies, and, as the sometimes head of one or another, calling himself Grand Master or Past Grand Master, though Shute was never Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of NC.

By World War II, the work of the lodge began to wane. Lodge attendance and submissions for publication dwindled. By 1950, creative differences among the lodge's leadership, poor attendance, and a shift in the fraternity's philosophy eroded the last functioning vestiges of the

North Carolina Lodge of Research.

Defeated and angry, Shute left Freemasonry to pursue other interests.

Following a damning report made by a committee of investigation in 1953, the lodge was charged with acting irregularly and in contravention to its own bylaws as well as The Code. The report revealed that in its last years, Shute and the few remaining members of the lodge would meet around his dining room table, situated around a miniature model of the lodge, and hold meetings. Its charter was arrested by the Grand Lodge on Dec. 31, 1954.

Shute remained a pillar of his community after his departure from Masonry. Interestingly, in 1986, the late David Hargett of Monroe coaxed Shute back into Monroe #244, two years before his death in 1988.

In 2018, the Grand Lodge's Library Committee chose to republish NOCALORE in the hope it will help redirect a light on some lost Masonic scholarship and inspire a new generation of Masonic thinkers, philosophers, and seekers of light. The books can be found on Lulu.com by keyword searching "NOCALORE".

TRAVELING THE TAR HEEL STATE



▲ **RALEIGH** – Cary #198 hosted a festive board in June at the Angus Barn Steakhouse in Raleigh. Brothers were joined by members of Millbrook #97, Holly Springs #115, James B. Green #735, Fuquay #258 and State College #770, along with DDGM Jonathan Underwood and Grand Secretary Walt Clapp. Organized by WB Tim Krist, Master of Cary #198, the event featured fantastic food and fellowship, complete with the Ceremony of Seven Toasts.



NEWS FROM OUR LODGES



▲ **ELIZABETH CITY** – WB Jonathan Underwood, Assistant to the Grand Secretary, traveled to Elizabeth City on June 5 to share historic tales of North Carolina Freemasonry at the Museum of the Albemarle. His presentation was part of the museum's "Blue Lodges of the Albemarle" exhibit, which opened in March and runs through the end of the year. The exhibit recognizes the Albemarle region's Freemasons and the charitable works they perform in and around their communities. Also on display is an exact replica of the historic Bucktrout Masonic Chair, which Unanimity #7 owned before sharing it with Colonial Williamsburg, where it now is displayed. Unanimity commissioned the replica, with is now kept at the lodge in Edenton.



▲ **ELIZABETHTOWN** – WB Job Connor, chair of the Masonic Home for Children committee at Bladen #646, and his fellow congregants at Windsor United Methodist collected more than \$6,000 in canned beans, meat and fruit, rice, juice and fresh fruit to donate to MHCO through the lodge. Connor's father, WB James Connor of King Solomon #138 in Burgaw, donated a 10-foot rental truck and use of his personal truck to transport the donation to MHCO on Father's Day.



◀ **SHELBY** – Eight Eagle Scouts from the Battleground District were honored with Grand Lodge certificates during a special evening hosted by the 35th Masonic District. A meal was served to more than 60 scouts, Masons and guests at the Cleveland #202 lodge.

TRAVELING THE TAR HEEL STATE



◀▲ **CONOVER** – A thing of beauty is a joy forever, as the poet says. He must have been gazing at the restored sign now hanging proudly in front of Conover #709. Senior Deacon Mike Matty reports that as the lodge grows in number, brothers have been motivated to the focus more on beautifying the lodge. One of the first projects: restoring the outside of the lodge brothers call home. Last year, brothers restored the front of the building and this year had the historic neon sign restored. Restoration will continue with plans to renovate the dining hall bathrooms and some other projects before the year ends. Matty passes along this advice to other lodges considering a facelift: “Get in touch with your city planning departments and see if they have any grant money available for your projects. Ours did.”



▲ **ELIZABETHTON, TN** – Brothers, family & friends from Cranberry #598 and Linville #489 in North Carolina and Tennessee lodges Hampton #750, Roan Creek #579 and Roan Mountain #566 gathered in June for food & fellowship. This event was orchestrated by Cranberry Master Mike Smith and Joe Sluder of Roan Mountain Lodge 566. The gathering was held to increase the harmony between the Brothers in NC District 37 and TN District 24. These districts are just a few miles across the state line from each other. It also provided a great opportunity for the Brothers in the Districts to meet each other. The event was such a success planning for a Fall event got under way soon after.

► **GREENSBORO** – Gate City #694 reports a great season for its new youth baseball team. The lodge sponsored a team – the Gate City Green Machine – for the first time this year. The team is made up of 11- and 12-year-olds. The squad did well, losing by only one run in the semifinal game of the tournament.



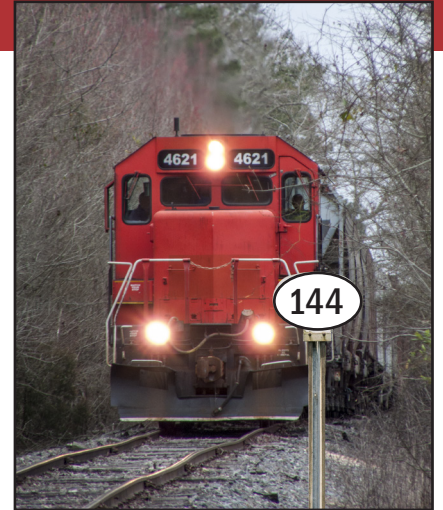
▲ **WILSON** – Four scholarships were awarded this year at Wilson #712’s annual T. Bruce Boyette scholarship banquet. Each year the lodge gives three \$1,000 scholarships to each local high school and one to Wilson Community College. Left to right, Nirrya Cleroyon Foster is entering Winston-Salem State University, W. M. Robert Worton and Alan Romero who is entering Wilson Community College. Not pictured is Vanessa Urieta-Robles, who is entering Pitt Community College. Wilson Community College will announce its recipient at a later date.



▲ **PILOT MOUNTAIN** – Pilot #493 Past Master Rick Smith presents a \$500 scholarship to East Surry High School senior Sharon Olivia Gaskill. Brothers have raised the funds for the scholarship from stated communication dinners and have given the award every year since 1986.



MILEPOSTS



Breaking Records: Brothers Reach Service Milestone

Worshipful Brothers James B. Kiser of Charles M. Setzer #693 and R. Glenn Capps of Creasy Proctor #679 are celebrating a rare status within NC Masonry: 50 years as a Class A certified lecturer.

Both brothers were honored recently by Grand Master Dwight "Mack" Sigmon for achieving the milestone few other brothers have attained. There are currently only 10 certified lecturers with 50 years or more on the rolls in North Carolina. The brothers are among only 23 Certified Lecturers to ever receive this award.

In the photo on the left, Brother Kiser (center), a 53-year Mason was honored July 7 at his home by GM Sigmon and Junior Grand Steward Gilbert Bailey (right). He was first certified on Sept. 18, 1969.

In the photo on the right, Brother Capps is a 52-year Mason. He was recognized July 9 by GM Sigmon at Creasy Proctor's stated meeting. He was first certified on Sept. 16, 1969 – just two days earlier than Brother Kiser. Brother Capps's wife Judy was on hand for the honor.

60 YEARS Congratulations to our 60-year members*:

John Boyd Fleming, Johnston-Caswell #10
Percy Horton, Green Level #277

50 YEARS Congratulations to our 50-year members*:

Mack Curtis West, Zebulon #609
Gary Bass, Lebanon #207

* As reported to The Mason



◀ **HERTFORD** – In late April, Perquimans #106 Secretary Zeb Daneker opened a handwritten envelope sent from Buffalo, Wyoming. Inside was a very old metal Masonic tag and card, contact information for Brother Eric Bower and a great story about why he was sending the tag along. The story begins when a friend of Bower's found the tag in an antique store. He knew Eric is a Mason – he is a member of Anchor #7 and a dual member with Glenrock Wyoming #22 – so he sent the 1915 tag to him. Eric sent it on to Perquimans #106. The inscription on the front asks that it be returned to R.B. Cox in Hertford, NC, to receive a reward. The back is stamped with A.F. & A.M., the Square and Compass and Perquimans #106. Brother Zeb contacted Grand Lodge of North Carolina for help. According to the records in GL files, R.B. Cox was raised on Oct. 4, 1898. He went NPD on Oct. 27, 1908, and was reinstated less than two weeks later. Lodge records show he served as master July 1919-June 1920. Perquimans brothers also found his picture on the wall with the other Past Masters of the lodge. No one is sure where this tag came from – but it ended up some 2,046 miles away and it took 115 years for it to make its way back home.



BADIN – Grand Master Dwight "Mack" Sigmon (center) presents Brother Harloe Omry Hicks (seated) with his 70-year service award. Brother Hicks was raised in April 1949 and is a member of Yadkin Falls #637. Several of his fraternity brothers were on hand for the presentation.

SIGMON, from page 5

delegates and Masonic leaders worldwide gather every two years to conduct business. Illustrious Ronald A. Seale, 33° will retire after 16 years as the Sovereign Grand Commander for the Southern Jurisdiction. We thank Illustrious Brother Seale for his many years of dedicated service to the Scottish Rite and to Freemasonry.

Each of these events and many more gave me the opportunity to cross paths with many members of our fraternity and their families. The best part of my journey has been, is now, and will forever be the people I meet along the way. Never take these opportunities lightly or for granted. Each occurrence is a special and unique opportunity.


As Grand Master, it is humbling to serve the members of our craft. I always thought I fully understood the respect that the office of Grand Master receives and have been blessed and fortunate to know many Grand Masters. That understanding took a more meaningful perspective in mid-March when I attended a special 70-year membership celebration at a skilled nursing facility. It was well-attended by lodge and district members.

What I thought would be a typical service award presentation

in honor of this esteemed brother turned out to be the most humbling experience in my entire Masonic journey of 44 years. The brother receiving his recognition was unable to walk, so assistance was required. I leaned down to shake his hand and introduced myself as the Grand Master.

At that moment, a huge tear ran down his face. I felt even more unworthy of holding an office that is held in such high esteem. The memory of this moment will remain vivid with me for the rest of my life.

Understanding that many of our craft never meet a Grand Master, it reminded me that I was elected to serve our craft and should support as many functions as my schedule will allow. While I consider myself just one of the Craft, I truly understand how important it is to others to cross paths with a Grand Master.

I am honored to serve as the 166th Grand Master of Masons in North Carolina and appreciate everyone I have crossed paths with during this journey. I hope you never underestimate the importance of crossing paths with others on your journey through life. I am especially glad our paths crossed. 

TRAVELING THE TAR HEEL STATE



▲ **BURLINGTON** – Take some time this summer to remember and visit our veterans. Bula #409 brothers Joe McCluskey, Master Jody Tyree, WB Bill Hayes, WB Bill Menikheim, and WB Roger Stutts recently made the trip to the North Carolina State Veterans Home in Salisbury and spent the day with brother veterans.

37 LODGES ROAR!

13 lodges take platinum in Lion and Pillar

Thirty-seven lodges have qualified as a 2019 Lion and Pillar Lodge of Excellence this year, including 13 that achieved Platinum status.

All lodges that applied this year qualified for the honor – a first in the three years the Lion and Pillar award has been in place.

The 13 lodges that qualified for platinum status took the program a step or two beyond. To be designated platinum, a lodge was required to meet all qualifications of the Lion and Pillar, plus complete one of two rituals. A lodge member or installed senior deacon must have given his first-ever Fellow Craft degree lecture or complete his first-ever Masonic graveside or memorial funeral service.

Since the program was launched three year ago, 71 lodges have received the honor at least once. In 2017, 56 lodges qualified. In 2018, 34 lodges were honored, including seven lodges new to the list that year.

This year, 12 lodges entered for the first time.

Here are Lion and Pillar lodges for 2019. The number in () designates years entered. Platinum lodges are specified.

2019 LION AND PILLAR RECIPIENTS

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Eagle #19 (3 years) | Greensboro #76 (1) Platinum |
| Thomas M. Holt #492 (3) | Statesville #27 (1) |
| Columbus #102 (3) | Royal White Hart #2 (1) |
| Mingo #206 (3) Platinum | Corinthian #230 (1) |
| Ashlar #765 (3) | Meadow Branch #578 (1) |
| William G. Hill #218 (3) Platinum | Riverside #606 (1) |
| Wilmington #319 (3) Platinum | Granite #191 (1) |
| Kenly #257 (3) Platinum | Waccamaw #596 (1) |
| Lux Libertas #772 (3) | Federal Point #753 (1) |
| Pilot #493 (3) Platinum | Walnut Cove #629 (1) |
| Oxford #122 (3) | |
| Albemarle #703 (3) Platinum | |
| Steele Creek #737 (3) Platinum | |
| Bald Creek #397 (3) | |
| Berne #724 (3) | |
| James K. Polk #759 (3) Platinum | |
| Semper Fidelis #680 (3) | |
| St. Johns #4 (3) | |
| Cannon Memorial #626 (3) Platinum | |
| Pleasant Hill #304 (3) | |
| Bula #409 (2) Platinum | |
| Stump Sound #733 (2) | |
| Copeland #390 (2) | |
| Acacia #674 (2) | |
| Mount Holly #544 (2) | |
| Forsyth #707 (1) Platinum | |
| Charles M. Setzer 693 (1) Platinum | |



Masons in History

How human nature impacts our history

*Steven Campbell**Blackmer Lodge No. 127*

Every day in our lives, events take place that influence decisions we choose to make. Human nature impacts each of us.

Witness a few instances in history displayed by two of our nation's foremost Freemasons: Theodore Roosevelt, and George Washington and family.

Since the time of the ancients, human nature has not truly changed. The traits of goodness, evil, kindness, courage, cowardice, anger, humility, avarice, greed, generosity, and indifference have always been present. Yet, what has changed is technology and the ability to further unlock the untapped treasures of earth and the heavens.

What truly influences man are those experiences in life that each of us are exposed to, the places, events and people who influence the actions that each of us take.

For example, we do learn from people in a positive and negative manner. We learn what to do or what not to do by their example. Positive life experiences guide us to do good and valued things. Unfortunate experiences perhaps harden our outlooks, actions and decisions.

Now, let us review examples of events and actions taken from historical figures we are acquainted with, and how the loss of loved ones, disappointment, expectations, success and uncertainty affected their actions:

George and Martha Washington's personal losses throughout their lives, the grief they shared, and how it tempered their resolve to move forward, preparing them for the difficult journey they shared while shepherding the founding of our Republic.

Theodore Roosevelt's life upon the world's stage was a never-ending challenge.

LOSS & PERSEVERANCE

As a boy of 11, George Washington's loss of his father, Augustine, in 1743, impacted his life. His



George Washington

mother, Mary Ball Washington, was an orphan and the second wife to George's father.

Mary was overprotective of her children, more so than her stepchildren, and was constantly concerned about money. She was somewhat overbearing and stern. When her husband died, she insisted that her son read his father's eulogy at his graveside.

At 16, George had actually planned, with the influence of his half brother Lawrence, to join the British Navy. But when Mary caught wind of this plan, she quickly halted his effort.

Meanwhile, George became a self-taught surveyor, and at the age of 17, left home and became his own man, earning his own money and obtaining tracts of land from the wealthy landowners for whom he surveyed vast tracts of western land (Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania).

The death of his beloved half brother, Lawrence, forever stayed with George.

Young Martha Dandridge had married wealthy Daniel Parke Custis, 20 years her senior. Together they would have four children, of whom only two would survive to young adulthood. The loss of her children and the death of her husband were hard on her, leaving her the wealthiest widow in the



Martha Washington

colony of Virginia, if not all of North America.

In January 1759, 27-year-old George Washington and 28-year-old Martha Custis began their 40-year marriage.

Unfortunately, Martha's daughter, Patsy (George's stepdaughter), suffered from epilepsy. On a June evening in 1773, while the family dined at Mount Vernon, Patsy suffered a seizure and died.

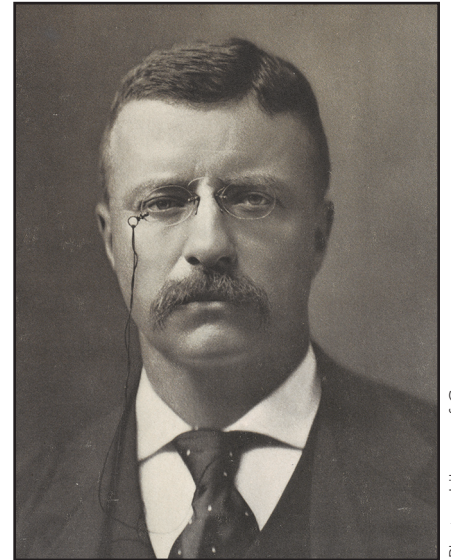
Martha's son, Jacky, in 1781 would accompany his stepfather George to Yorktown where he would witness Brother Lord Cornwallis' surrender before contracting a fatal case of typhoid. Jacky had married and produced a son and daughter, whom George and Martha would adopt and raise as their own upon the remarriage of Jacky's widow.

Meanwhile, George and Martha were involved in the armed revolt against the British government and shepherding the birth of a new nation.

The fortitude, strength and willpower to forge ahead each day was inspiring. So personal loss and the ultimate responsibility for so many others were determining factors in the decisions both George and Martha Washington made in their work to create a new republic.

AN UNCERTAIN WORLD

Theodore Roosevelt was born into



Theodore Roosevelt

wealth and the American ruling class. While he was a sickly child (asthma and poor eyesight), the later loss of his father hardened his exterior.

Upon breaking up with his long-time love interest (Edith Carow) he soon became enamored with the heiress Alice Lee Hathaway. The couple wed and within a year they ushered in the birth of their daughter, Alice.

Tragically soon after their daughter's birth, Theodore's wife and his mother would perish within two hours of each other on Valentine's Day 1884 in the same house. "The light has gone out of my life," he said.

Overwrought with grief, Theodore entrusted his daughter to the care of his sister and immersed himself in a rugged frontier life in the Dakota Territory, where he became a lawman. Living in the harsh terrain prepared him for future challenges.

Rekindling his relationship with Edith Carow, they wed in London. Meanwhile, Theodore entered into the New York State political world (youngest NY legislator) then went on to federal appointments (Civil Service Commission, Assistant Navy Secretary).

When war erupted with Spain in 1898 Roosevelt was pivotal in the forming of the First U.S. Volunteer

■ see HISTORY, page 15

WELCOME OUR NEW BROTHERS

Edmondson, Layton Thomas	4	St. John's	Barnes, Justin Keith	289	Salem	Hatchell Jr, Derek Allen	521	Manteo	Amburgey Jr, Bobby Thomas	695	Allen-Graham
Bronson, Forrest Matthew	8	Phoenix	Plemmons, Bryan James	289	Salem	Alvarado, Dario Angel	556	Neill S. Stewart	Nelson, Benjamin Christian	699	Asheboro
Blevins, William C	27	Statesville	Holder, Joshua Wayne	289	Salem	Campbell, Andrew Lee	564	Richlands	Bennett, Robert Michael	703	Albemarle
Briggs, Daryl Sheldon	32	Stokes	Pearman, Lukas James Holder	289	Salem	Durst, Robert Michael	568	Doric	Salyers, David Alan	703	Albemarle
Roman Jr, Luis Danilo	40	Hiram	Wesseling, Roelof Dirk	314	New Lebanon	Hudson, Bradford Charles			Swaringen, Joshua Daniel	703	Albemarle
Self, Daniel Robert	40	Hiram	Durren, Ricky Allen	317	Eureka	Blackwell Champlin	584	Apex	Parlier, Steven James	709	Conover
Brown, Jody Evan	45	Liberty	Winslow, Garrett Wayne	317	Eureka	True Sr, Matthew Allen	584	Apex	Gaddy, Christopher Thomas	710	Advance
Ellis, Jerry Thomas	45	Liberty	Booker, Beau Bradley	322	Granite	Jarvis, Cody Lynn	606	Riverside	Warden, Shane Edward	710	Advance
Hassell II, Douglas James	64	Kilwinning	Willett, Joshua Logan	352	Durham	Gurley, Dustin Colt	617	St Patrick's	Bass Jr, Hilton Thomas	712	Wilson
Maag, Alexander S	83	Lafayette	Sanchez, Nelson Dario	391	Lebanon	Mazzaro, Michael Lavirt	618	Union	Godwin, Steven Tyler	712	Wilson
Rivera, Jean Carlo Merced	83	Lafayette	Jones Sr, William Graham	405	Ocean	Christmas Jr, Franklin Jerrett	626	Cannon Memorial	Antinori, William Kyle	733	Stump Sound
Tingle, Taylor Channing Kane	83	Lafayette	White, Sean Thomas	428	Stokesdale	Potocnak, Stephen Francis	626	Cannon Memorial	Sylvester, Jeremy David	750	Oak Grove
Gisser, Michael Ian	102	Columbus	Johnson, Daniel Frank	429	Seaside	Martin, Brian O'Neil	646	Bladen	Benfield, Gary Joel	757	Denver
Gilstrap, Joshua	114	St. Alban's	Newman, Todd Gary	446	Biltmore	Weyer, Kevin J.	669	Kernersville	Steele, Eric Randolph	759	James K. Polk
Bertsch, Matthew Kyle	128	Hanks	Halbedl, Mark Gerald	454	Elkin	Dowless Jr, David Wayne	679	Creasy Proctor	Sollom, Derek Jon	770	State College
Cline, Stephen Walter	154	Scotch Ireland	Lee, Nicholas Wayne	493	Pilot	Mederos, Eric Patrick	680	Semper Fidelis	Lewis, Mark Brandon	771	MESH
Prewitt, Michael Scott	217	Catawba Valley	Saulnier, James Paul	496	Mooresville	Sharpe, Kyle McCoy	690	Mt. Moriah			
Day, Brian James	262	Hibriten	Black, Randolph Scott	502	Cookville	Mitchell, Julian Bernard	694	Gate City			
Hightower, James Kevin	262	Hibriten	Thomas, Mark Lewis	502	Cookville	Cashion, David Allen	694	Gate City			

HISTORY

from page 14

Cavalry – better known as the Rough Riders. He would rise to the rank of Colonel and be awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his bravery.

After the war ended in December 1898, the Colonel, as he preferred to be called, won election as New York's governor. The Republican Party later tapped him to run as President McKinley's vice president.

Upon McKinley's death, Roosevelt became the youngest man to date to become president. His administration brought reform, established regulations, established national parks, and even pursued equal pay for equal work for women.

Roosevelt lived life in the fast lane in an evolving nation. He was the first President to fly in an airplane, to embark upon a submarine and to win the Nobel Peace Prize (Russo-Japanese War 1906). Roosevelt realized the uncertainty of life, politics and human nature.

In his life of only 60 years, Roosevelt's successes far outnumbered his failures. The losses he sustained strengthened him.

Perhaps the stability of our fraternity and the values and beliefs we treasure and live by served Brothers Washington and Roosevelt in their successful lives.



SAVE THIS TREE!

Well, maybe not this specific tree – which guards the beautiful little cemetery at the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford. But help save all the other trees that shade our children, our families, our homes and the places we love.

How can you help save trees, big bucks and keep Masonic news coming? You can opt out of the paper issue and sign up to receive it online.

Hundreds of brothers so far have opted to go online to sign up for email delivery of the Mason and we thank all of you! It sure helps lower our budget.

If you sign up for online delivery – directions are below – you get the news first! We publish the online version on the first day of the months we publish (February, April, June, August, October and December.)

Here's what you need to do:

1. Surf to www.grandlodge-nc.org. Click on the blue NC Mason tab toward the bottom of the home page. Look for the tab on the right side of the Mason page that says "SUBSCRIBE." Fill that in and you're done with the first step.

2. Now send an email to ncmason@glnc.us and list your full name, your mailing address, and your lodge name and number.

3. That's it! We'll take you off the mailing list of the paper version and you have signed up for the online version.

Thanks for reading the Mason – in any form! We are happy to bring it to all in both forms for as long as there are brothers out there who read the paper.



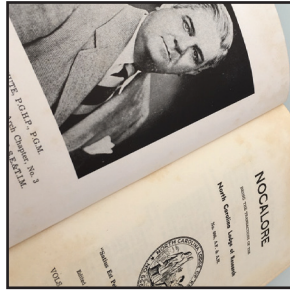
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Charitable fundraising
done correctly



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Masonic Foundation
hits the race track



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The story of a research
lodge that faded into
history

On the cover

It is nearly time for the 2019
Annual Communication at
Winston-Salem. Find out more
on Page 2.

Photo by Michael Harding

The North Carolina Mason
The Grand Lodge of North Carolina, AF&AM
600 College Street
Oxford, North Carolina 27565

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