

NORTH CAROLINA THE MASON

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

Volume 144 Number 5

Oxford, North Carolina

September/October 2019



Grand Master Dwight 'Mack' Sigmon (center) brings to an end the 232nd Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina on Sept. 28 in Winston-Salem.

Per capita increase passes; Bradshaw elected

By Beth Grace
Mason Editor

“We are keepers of the light!”

The roar of more than 1,100 voices could be heard outside the closed lodge doors and through the halls leading to the ballroom where the 232nd Annual Communication was in full swing.

“We are keepers of the light!”

Brotherly love was on full display as North Carolina Freemasons selected Right Worshipful P. Shaun Bradshaw as their new grand master, settled – for now – the ongoing debate over a per capita increase, welcomed a new Montfort Medal honoree, approved a budget, and spent a moment reflecting on

the meaning of Masonic charity embodied in a new video.

Some 1,133 voters from 332 lodges – about 30 lodges more than last year – reviewed a busy year and looked toward the future during the two-day event in a toasty Embassy Suites ballroom in Winston-Salem.

“I am touched and inspired by the confidence you have put in me,” Bradshaw said after the vote. “Without this organization, so many aspects of my life would be different.”

He was clearly moved when his son, Graham, strode to the stage to announce the results of the vote for Grand Master. Brothers had invited him as a surprise for his dad. The two shared a loving hug to resounding

applause. Both Bradshaws are members of Stokesdale #428.

“I thought I was going to be able to hold it together,” he said in his acceptance speech, “but having my son announce the results changed that.”

The incoming grand master reflected on his own role as a father as he prepares for installation.

“When my son was born, I knew I needed help with the difficult task of being a good father. In 1997, my search ended in fruition when I asked about becoming a Mason.”

He told brothers that his plan for the year, focusing on how the rituals

■ see ANNUAL page 2



GM-Elect Bradshaw (right) hugs his son, Graham, after the election results were announced to the crowd.

Photos by Michael Harding

ANNUAL, from page 1

and symbols of Masonry hold the key to great universal truths – is a natural follow to GM Sigmon's program.

"Brethren, we are keepers of the light. Think about that for a second. We constantly talk about light in our lodges, The Light – the universal, spiritual truths – are there, in our rituals, in our symbols, just waiting for each of us to do the work necessary to suss them out, to discover and understand them at a deeper level."

He announced a few changes to next year's Lion & Pillar program, including establishing Masonic book clubs as an activity in the Education category. Other new items will focus on keeping in touch with Masonic widows, reaching out to initiates who failed to progress through the degrees, and participation in public events that will bring positive attention to the Craft.

Attendance was higher than usual this year, with more voters – and more visitors. Grand Master Dwight "Mack" Sigmon and Grand Line officers were joined by a large contingent of friends – Masonic representatives from 12 states and the District of Columbia; and representatives of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of North Carolina, Masonic Service Association and from the North Carolina Scottish Rite, York Rite and Shrine.

"You've been awfully kind to me," Sigmon said of his travels throughout the state during his term of office. "I have tried to represent the office to the best of my ability."

He said he had promised to try to

leave the office better than he found it even though "my predecessors set an extremely high bar. But I never stopped trying."

He says his main concern for Masonry as his term winds down is the improper use of social media by some members, reminding Masons to be above the fray in upcoming election seasons.

"I strongly encourage you to work hard to refrain from engaging in any of the rhetoric that we will be facing in the coming months and next year, the extreme negativity we experience every four years. You have a choice to play in that negative arena or be a Mason and raise yourself to a higher standard and ignore that opportunity," he said.

Brothers also elected the following: R. David Wicker Jr., deputy grand master; Larry B. Thompson Jr., senior grand warden; and Kevan D. Frazier, junior grand warden. Brothers moving up in the Grand Line are: Donald E. Kehler, senior grand deacon; Robert W. Rideout, junior grand deacon; Steve

M. Norris, grand marshal; and Gilbert D. Bailey, senior grand steward.

Grand Master-elect Bradshaw appointed Michael Allen Register of Pilot #493, as junior grand steward. Brother Register, 58, is a field services representative for the NC Department of Justice. He was raised in 1986 and is also a

member of Lux Libertas #772 and Sophia #767.

He has twice served as a master, most lately at Pilot lodge from 2016-2017. He has served as a committee member on the Board of General Purposes, Board of Custodians and the Risk Management Committee, and currently is a



Newly appointed junior grand steward, Michael Register, left, sits on stage with his son, Christian, following the announcement by the Grand Master-Elect.

Code Amendments results

Outcome of proposals at 2019 Annual Communication



Amendment Group 1

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



PASSED

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



FAILED



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.



PASSED



Amendment Group 3

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



PASSED



Amendment Group 4

To require a majority vote to approve an Honorary Member.



FAILED



Amendment Group 5

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

WITHDRAWN

trustee at Lux Libertas.

He recalled the moment Bradshaw asked him to join the Line.

"It was the longest hour of my life," Register said.

Brother Register got a special surprise as his appointment was announced. His son, Christian, a brother at Pilot #493, came to sit with him.

In other action, the assembly decided on four of five proposed amendments. The fifth, a proposal to administratively suspend the membership of a member who has been charged with a felony, was withdrawn by the proposing lodge.

A repeat proposal to increase the Grand Lodge per capita \$5 to \$25 per Mason was approved, while a

substitute amendment proposing to increase the per capita \$5 this year, in 2022 and in 2025 failed to gain the required two-thirds majority vote. See sidebar for a list of how each amendment fared.

Brothers also reviewed and adopted a new budget for 2020, which anticipates a spending deficit of \$78,019 over income without any adjustment to the per capita.

A special honor was awarded during Annual Communication. Sigmon gave WB Hyler Wayne Cox of Atlantic #294 the Montfort Medal, the highest honor bestowed in NC Masonry.

The assembly also was treated to a debut of a new video created by

Bradshaw a proud Masonic esotericist

Grand Master-Elect has a story to share, but he also wants to listen to your story

*By Beth Grace
Mason Editor*

Everyone has a story, and Grand Master-Elect Shaun Bradshaw wants to hear yours – and share his.

The 48-year-old Clinton native was elected Sept. 28 at the Annual Communication in Winston-Salem. He has been on the Grand Line since 2012, when PGM Dewey Preslar appointed him grand steward, the junior brother in the progressive line to become Grand Master.

He says his year ahead, which will focus on the more contemplative side of Masonry, will be a little different, starting with his district meetings.

“I’m not big on making speeches, but prefer dialogue,” he says. “I will have a few things I will say at all of the meetings, I’m sure, but I want every meeting to be a little different. I will ask brothers to hear my story, which tells a truth about who I am and what I believe as a Mason and how that helps form how I am as a Mason. And I will ask them to share their stories. ... I think our stories reveal a deeper truth that helps us think more deeply about who we are

as Masons.”

He will also focus on rituals and symbols within Freemasonry.

“I’m a proud Masonic esotericist,” he says. “I’m a firm believer that our rituals and symbols hold deep truths and can have a transformative effect on us ... and take us to that next level that makes a good man better – often without our realizing it.”

He acknowledges that this is a different approach to Freemasonry than most of his predecessors, although he says MW Dwight “Mack” Sigmon’s year has laid the

perfect ground-work to continue to talk about the importance of ritual and symbols.

“Symbols speak to people in different ways. You have to take time to think about them, to reflect on what they really mean to you,” he says.

In short, he says, his initiatives and changes in the Lion & Pillar program (look for

a list in the November-December issue) really have a simple message:

Study the ritual & contemplate the symbols.

Open yourself to the little epiphanies of understanding that transform who you are.



Shaun Bradshaw asks attendees at the Annual Communication to tell their Masonic stories through their actions.

Engage in fraternalism.

Share your passion for the fraternity by telling your story.

Bradshaw has been a Mason for 22 years. He was raised at Stokesdale #428 in August 1997 and was proposed for membership by Ted Wright and Ray Comer. He also is a member of Wilkerson College #760, Sophia #767 and MESH #771.

He has logged countless hours in Masonic work. He particularly cherishes his time as an instructor for Wilkerson College – since 2005 – and his involvement in helping establish the Middle Chamber program in 2017.

In addition to lodge and Grand Line duties, he has served on many committees, including the boards of WhiteStone: A Masonic and

Eastern Star Community and the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford, Masonic Service Association, Grand Lodge Personnel Committee, Masonic Jurisprudence, Finance Committee, Ad Hoc Grand Lodge Transition Planning Committee, Ad Hoc Membership Committee and the Board of General Purposes.

He and his wife Sharon have two children and live in Greensboro. He is vice president and chief financial officer of Zenergy Technologies, a software delivery solutions firm in Greensboro.

The Grand Master-elect will be installed Dec. 7 at the Koury Convention Center located in the Sheraton Greensboro at Four Seasons. ♦

THE 411 ON BRADSHAW

Age: 48

Born: Clinton, NC

Resides: Greensboro, NC

Raised: Aug. 5, 1997 (Stokesdale #428)

Lodges: Stokesdale #428, Wilkerson College #760, Sophia #767, MESH #771

Appointed to Grand Line By: MW Dewey Preslar, 2012

Family: Wife, Sharon; 2 children

Occupation: Chief Financial Officer/Vice President, Zenergy Technologies, Greensboro

ALSO ELECTED

Grand Lodge members voted for these officers for 2020:



R. DAVID WICKER JR.
Deputy Grand Master



LARRY B. THOMPSON JR.
Senior Grand Warden



KEVAN D. FRAZIER
Junior Grand Warden



LEWIS R. LEDFORD
Grand Treasurer



T. WALTON CLAPP III
Grand Secretary

NORTH CAROLINA THE MASON

(USPS 598-260) is published bimonthly by The Grand Lodge of AF & AM of North Carolina, 2921 Glenwood Avenue, Raleigh, NC 27608.

Third class postage paid at Oxford, NC 27565.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The North Carolina Mason*, School Of Graphic Arts, Masonic Home for Children, Oxford, NC 27565.

Grand Master
Dwight M. "Mack" Sigmon

Board Of Publication
Kenneth Wayne Lambert, Chairman
John R. Beaman III
John S. Dodd
Adam Russell Cloninger
Dwight Stephen Decoskey II

Editor
Beth Grace

Good quality pictures are essential for suitable reproduction. The right to reject any submission not suitable for use is reserved. Pictures will be returned to the sender only if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Email submissions are welcome; high resolution, unaltered JPGs and Rich Text Format documents are preferred. Submissions and other correspondence should be sent to the editor at 2921 Glenwood Avenue, Raleigh, NC 27608 or <NCMason@glnc.us>.

Each North Carolina Mason is a subscriber to *The North Carolina Mason*. If you know a member who is not receiving the paper, please send us his full name, his complete address, and the name and number of his lodge. Masonic widows receive *The Mason* free upon request. Subscriptions are available to others at a rate of five dollars per year. Subscription inquiries and address changes only should be sent to: The School of Graphic Arts, Masonic Home for Children, 600 College Street, Oxford, North Carolina 27565.

Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of *The North Carolina Mason*, the Grand Lodge, or Board of Publication.

Grand Master Dwight M. "Mack" Sigmonmsigmon@glnc.us
Deputy Grand Master P. Shaun Bradshawsbradshaw@glnc.us
Senior Grand Warden R. David Wickerdwicker@glnc.us
Junior Grand Warden Larry B. Thompson Jr.lthompson@glnc.us
Grand Treasurer Lewis R. Ledford (PGM)lledford@glnc.us
Grand Secretary T. Walton Clapp IIIwclapp@glnc.us
Senior Grand Deacon Kevan D. Frazierkfrazier@glnc.us
Junior Grand Deacon Donald E. Kehlerdkehler@glnc.us
Grand Marshal Robert W. Rideouttrideout@glnc.us
Grand Steward Steve M. Norrissnorris@glnc.us
Junior Grand Steward Gilbert D. Baileygbailey@glnc.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



Who are we? #WeAreGLNC

Quick quiz: What was the first hashtag? The first hashtag was a hashtag asking others if hashtags should be put into general use.

Well ... #whoknew?

According to Wikipedia, which knows everything (or thinks it does), social technology expert Chris Messina is credited with the very first hashtag.

He posted the hashtag #barcamp on Twitter in August 2007. The whole tweet appeared like this: ?how do you feel about using # (pound) for groups. As in #barcamp [msg]??

Messina came up with the hashtag as a way to support online discussions regarding Barcamp, a worldwide series of user-generated tech conferences that are open to anyone interested. Now, hashtags are everywhere and are one of the most widely used identifying and search functions on the net.

Hashtags let you label a line of thought or discussion in social media and, as importantly, help you find it again by searching for all posts that include that hashtag. If you want to see everyone's input on one topic on social media, this is the way to find it.

And that's why, starting with this year's Grand Lodge, the Public Relations

Committee has launched a campaign for all of us to start using the hashtag #WeAreGLNC when we post news about NC Masonic doings on Instagram, Facebook or any form of social media you use for Masonic musings, memes or memories.

The committee of hard-working brothers kicked off the campaign, distributing t-shirts and car decals to brothers at Grand Lodge who promised to take the message back to their lodges and others.

According to a study by social media agency Radium One, almost 75 percent of people on social media use hashtags. NC Masons will work hard to raise that bar together.

Interested in seeing what information other hashtags might unearth? Try these:

#freemasonryritals #freemasonrysquared #freemasonrydaily #freemasonrytoday #thinkingfreemasonry #freemasonryhistory #freemasonrycares #esotericfreemasonry #irishfreemasonry #freemasonry #freemasonryworldwide #princehallfreemasonry #scot-

tishritefreemasonry #masonic #masonictemple #masonry #mason #grandlodge #shriners #masonman #masoniclodge #yorkrite #2B1ask1 #masonnation #freeandacceptedmason #bluelodge #masons #masoniclife #mastermason #masoniclight #masonicbrother #masonfamily



By Beth Grace
Editor

FROM THE GRAND MASTER



I'm glad our paths crossed

By Dwight M.
"Mack" Sigmon
Grand Master

As I write my last article for the *Mason*, I reflect on my year with deep appreciation for all who supported my efforts and goals for 2019.

While the grand master is the primary leader of our jurisdiction, it takes an entire team to be successful.

I would like to thank my team of officers, not just the Grand Line officers, but all who have served as district officers, board and committee members and each of you serving at your local lodges.

The Grand Lodge, as we have stated on many occasions, is not just the Grand Lodge officers or the Grand Lodge office. It consists of the approximately 36,000 Masons in our grand jurisdiction.

Our annual communication has just wrapped up and I have a few more events to attend, more Masons to meet and enjoy time with together. We have just elected and appointed a new slate of officers. I am confident that our Grand Lodge team will move forward with some new and exciting work. I ask that you continue to give them the support required to make North Carolina the best grand jurisdiction in this country.

Since 2007, I have witnessed each year the unofficial tradition of the changing of the guard of our Grand masters. The official change occurs on the first Saturday morning in December when the Grand Master-Elect takes his oath of office and becomes the new grand master.

The unofficial change occurs on Friday afternoon, prior to the official installation, at the meeting of the Board of General Purposes. This is the primary business board of the

Grand Lodge which is chaired by the Grand Master. It is a tradition I admire because of the respect given to our outgoing and incoming Grand Masters.

Some may view this event somewhat somber in nature since we are saying goodbye to one, but on a positive note, we are welcoming another. After the Grand Master conducts the business of this board for his final time, he makes some remarks, typically thanking those for their support and those who made this opportunity possible.

This is followed by someone paying a brief tribute highlighting his grand officer and Masonic journey and he then quietly exits the room.

The grand master-elect then assumes the chairman's seat and discussions center around brief comments of his programs for the coming year and final logistics of his installation.

We are fortunate to have a process in our jurisdiction that allows a Grand Lodge officer to work on a team for up to nine years. Because of this process we have solid continuity from one grand master to another.

Not all jurisdictions are able to enjoy that well-appreciated process. I am proud of this system because it works well and gives us a respectful and very appreciative changing of the guard.

Because we have an appointment system, I was given the rare opportunity to be able to serve as your 166th grand master of Masons in North Carolina for the past year. I was both blessed and honored to do so.

I would like to again thank Most Worshipful Robert E. Gresham Jr., PGM 2012, who appointed me to the Grand Lodge line at the annual communication on Sept. 24, 2011. I began this journey when I was installed on Dec. 3, 2011, as your newest junior grand steward. It has been a wonderful eight-year experience!

I thank my family for their support, espe-

cially Linda, my wife of 48 years. Her patience with all my absences due to a heavy travel schedule as Grand Master and previous Grand Lodge offices held is greatly appreciated.


As Grand Master, quite often you receive honors and recognitions on your journey. I do not take these lightly. I have been treated with respect and honor everywhere I have travelled. But, as I stated in my district meetings, the most important part of this journey has been and will always be the many wonderful people I have met along the way.

Without the connections we establish and maintain as the oldest and greatest fraternity in the world, it is likely most of us would have never met. That would have been sad for me.

If I can be remembered for one thing after my life's journey is over, I wish it to be that I was one who always treated others with kindness and respect and one always willing to help others in need. I encourage you to practice, as I try to do daily, the words so eloquently stated at the end of our officer's installation ceremony which says, "may kindness and brother affection distinguish your conduct, as men, and as Masons."

Always remember, each day we have the opportunity to make this world a better place to live. We also have the choice to be a Mason or just a member. No one can make these choices for us. Practice the teachings of Freemasonry in everything you do and say. Always be the example others would want to emulate. Be part of the solution for a better tomorrow.

You see *Life is a School, Masonry is Work*, but it is important work. My brethren, it is time that we as Freemasons lead the way in *Making a Difference* in this world. May God bless each of you and may God continue to bless this fraternity that we love so much.

So, my final words written for the Mason simply stated once more are, "I am glad our paths crossed." 

4-year tally shows Masons Can and Masons Do

NC brothers remembered others in need again this year at Annual Communication.

The "Masons Can" collection became the first of an annual event back in 2016.

Here's how it works: Brothers are challenged to bring 10 cans of food or give \$10 to help folks who are in need and don't have enough food for themselves or their families.

Since 2016, brothers have carted in about 11,400 pounds of food and donated \$16,020 in cash.

This year Masons brought in 600 pounds of food and raised \$2,600.



OUR MASONIC CHARITIES AT WORK

Carr becomes a charter member of Society

Foundation honors his support of children and Masonic charities while his wife gets a surprise honor

Brother Robert “Bobby” Broughton Carr made Masonic history in August when he was inducted as a charter member of the North Carolina Masonic Foundation’s *Bridge Builder’s Society*.

The honor recognizes significant charitable gifts given in support the Masonic charities in North Carolina. Carr gifted the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford with an endowment in 2018. The 60-year Mason was honored for his generosity at a special dinner and ceremony hosted by his brothers at Mingo Lodge #206.

Dunn Mayor Oscar Harris, a fellow Freemason and longtime friend, offered the keynote speech to honor Carr. Grand Master of Masons Dwight “Mack” Sigmon also attended and praised Carr for his loving support of the home.

Carr brought a surprise of his own to the event: He donated a

second endowment for the children’s home, in honor of his wife, Loray Carr, and in memory of her father, 50-year-plus Mason Roderick Flynn.

Members of Flynn’s Lodge, Coharie #279, helped with the surprise announcement, presenting Mrs. Carr with a framed picture of her father when he was master of the lodge.

The North Carolina Masonic Foundation has, since 1929, invested and safeguarded funds given to charity by some 36,000 Freemasons in 370 lodges statewide.

The foundation is charged with maintaining funding to keep NC’s Masonic charities – MHCO and WhiteStone: A Masonic and Eastern Star community in Greensboro – thriving.

Read more about NCMF and its charities at www.mfnc.org.



Loray Carr and her husband, Brother Bobby Carr, display their awards.



The whole family (and lots of friends) gathered to witness the festivities with Brother Bobby Carr as he was inducted into the Bridge Builder’s Society.



On hand for the special evening are, from left, NCMF Chief Development Officer Jeff Hensley, Brother Carr and his wife Loray, Dunn Mayor Brother Oscar Harris, PGM Gene Jernigan and NCMF Eastern Region Director of Development Chris Richardson.

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

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



WhiteStone shares big news with the Craft

Back in 1912, no one could have predicted the changes in healthcare and lifestyle that would increase the average lifespan, allowing all of us to live longer, healthier lives.

All that mattered that year to those who created WhiteStone as the very first continuing care retirement community in North Carolina was this: the care of aging brothers and sisters in need.

WhiteStone broke records even back then. Not only was it the first of its kind in North Carolina, it was the first Masonic fraternal home for the elderly in the United States.

It continues to set records today, providing a community with an unparalleled level of care and support for its residents – two-thirds of which are brothers or sisters.

But with time comes change. The demand for care is on the rise. The average Mason is now about 65 years old and demand statewide for senior

housing is soaring, creating the need for a larger community that focuses on healthcare and independent living.

“Guided by our fraternal values of friendship, morality and brotherly love, we strive daily to provide the best services possible to nurture seniors physically, spiritually and intellectually,” Past Grand Master Gene Jernigan, chairman of the WhiteStone Board of Directors, told brothers gathered at the 2019 Annual Communication.

Contributions from lodges, chapters, the NC Masonic Foundation and the Eastern Star Foundation and WhiteStone have provided nearly \$1.5 million in charitable assistance to brothers and sisters this past year alone. The home has seen its share of change during the years, but relief for the fraternal family has always come first. Today’s WhiteStone “is a success story, for us to celebrate as we move forward,

together,” he said.

To maintain WhiteStone’s excellence and to expand it to welcome more brothers and sisters, and offer the best healthcare around, the WhiteStone board has authorized an expansion and renovation of the popular Care and Wellness Center. This expansion creates a new assisted living unit with more memory-care space and construction of additional independent living units.

Much of the cost will be covered by other funding sources, but Jernigan and Campaign Chair PGM Speed Hallman asked brothers at the Annual Communication to support the campaign by raising \$1 million to help fund the healthcare portion of the expansion.

The board itself leads the pack in donations, already exceeding its own goal to contribute 10 percent of the \$1 million goal.

“It has been a generation since

we asked our brethren to help with brick and mortar needs at WhiteStone,” PGM Hallman said. “That’s when we built the Care and Wellness Center with the generous support of thousands of Masons and Stars. It’s time for our generation to step up.”

Expanding WhiteStone, he said, means “delivering more care and better care to those who came before us, to those who are counting on us.”

Lodges and brothers will be hearing more about the campaign in weeks to come.

WhiteStone Ambassadors – brothers who have volunteered their support and hard work – will be out speaking about the need for the expansion and the campaign.

For more information, contact Dee Blake, western region development director for the NC Masonic Foundation at dblake@mfnc.org or call 919-395-0959.

Grant to aid in paving road to adulthood

The Masonic Home for Children spent some time in August celebrating what they have achieved – and what is to come.

The 147-year-old home has received a \$40,000 grant from the State Employees Credit Union Foundation to help develop a comprehensive plan for the expansion of its Independent Living Program for youth ages 18-23 who are transitioning from foster care to adulthood.

The announcement was made during a districtwide SECU Advisory Board meeting hosted at the MHCO campus, where SECU Foundation Board Chair Bob Brinson presented the ceremonial check to MHCO officials.

“We are pleased to help the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford further their mission to assist children and young adults who need a stable, caring, and loving home,” Brinson said.

“MHCO has a long history and

proven track record of providing residential care services to children and families. We hope the Foundation’s grant will help them move forward with increasing their capacity and expanding ILP services to help address the needs of the foster care population.”

MHCO is one of the few facilities with a statewide reach to provide an independent living program for young adults in addition to offering residential care services and support programs for children from infancy to adulthood.

SECU Foundation’s grant will assist MHCO with assessing organizational strengths and growth areas, improving statewide marketing strategies and fundraising efforts for continued sustainability, training staff for program expansion, and obtaining a new ILP campus design.

“The Masonic Home for Children at Oxford is honored and humbled to receive this generous



MHCO Administrator Kevin Otis, second from left, accepts the SECU Foundation check from Foundation Chair Bob Brinson, to his right, at a special SECO board meeting held at the home.

and thoughtful gift from the SECU Foundation to address capacity issues,” said MHCO Administrator Kevin Otis.

“MHCO is North Carolina’s first children’s home, and more than 10,000 children have had an oppor-

tunity to learn, grow, and succeed at tremendous levels thanks to the support of our gracious donors. This tradition continues today as SECU Foundation and MHCO join together to brighten *our* children’s futures.”

Masonic records go digital with CardTurk

By Thomas Pope
Stedman #730

Freemasonry in North Carolina dates back to the Grand Lodge's charter in 1787. But some of those brothers from more than 230 years ago — men whose records were documented with ink and quill — have just gone digital.

The CardTurk program, which the Grand Lodge launched seven or eight years ago, is nearing completion.

Grand Secretary Walt Clapp, who oversees the program in which the oldest membership cards are transcribed by hand into a digital format, says nearly 300 brothers across the state have taken part in the process. Some have gone above and beyond the call of duty: almost three dozen N.C. Masons digitized the details of some 1,000 brothers each.

When the project is completed, “a lodge secretary will be able to know everybody who's ever been a member of his lodge” via the MORI lodge software, Clapp said.

The concept of getting every North Carolina Mason possible into a database has taken multiple steps. Based on the suggestion of Enable Labs, which developed the MORI software, a specific type of scanner was purchased. The scanner was able to scan 50 to 55 cards — cards

similar to those found in a Rolodex — per minute, front and back, and create a file for each brother.

Once the cards had been scanned, the files were sent to MORI and CardTurk was launched.

Between 3,000 and 4,000 cards were illegible, Clapp said, including those that had been created using a blue typewriter ribbon. Further complicating the process was the fact that not all of the membership cards were identical, Clapp said.

The image shows two overlapping membership cards. The top card is for Simeon McRae Gaddy, and the bottom card is for John Wilson Gaddy. The top card has the following information: Father's name in full: Simeon McRae Gaddy; Mother's name in full: Emma Ethyl Porter; Wife's maiden name in full: Helen; Occupation: Pro-Baseball, Insurance and Salesman; Citizen of United States?: yes; Date of Application: May 6, 1948; Date endorsed: May 10, 1948; Fee Paid \$: 50. The bottom card has the following information: Name: GADDY, John Wilson; Lodge: Stanly, No. 348; Initiated: June 25, 1948; Passed: July 16, 1948; Raised: Aug. 13, 1948; Place of Birth: Anson Co., N. C.; Date of Birth: 1914; Suspended: ; Died: May 3, 1966; Demitted: ; Expelled: ; Reinstated: ; Admitted: ;

“The guys back then would say, ‘We’re going to order 10,000 cards,’ and then when they’d run out of those, they’d order another 10,000 — but those might have extra lines on them for additional information, so not all of the cards were alike,” he said.

Also, in the early days of N.C. Masonry, a brother might take a degree at one lodge, then show up as a member of a different lodge for another degree as lodges became

inactive. All of the early membership cards were based on the names of members found in each lodge's annual return to the Grand Lodge.

“We’d lose a brother from a lodge over here,” Clapp said, “Then he’d show up over there on another lodge’s returns.”

After those types of hurdles were crossed, then it was time actually create the database that will eventually be accessible via MORI. That required the help of brethren (and some Grand Lodge staff) who volunteered to help glean the information from the 250,000-plus image files of the cards.

Enable Labs’ John Fitzpatrick pointed out that each brother’s card was actually input twice for a purpose.

“A card is accepted as transcribed when two separate member transactions agreed exactly,” Fitzpatrick said. “This protected the process from typos and other transcription errors. Members had the option to skip cards they didn’t understand or mark illegible cards they couldn’t read.”

Clapp had to regularly put out requests for help to complete the project.

“I was hoping it would go much quicker than it did,” he said, “and it developed a little bit of steam right there at the finish line.”

Army of volunteers uncovers clues to the past

By Thomas Pope
Stedman #730

For those who participated in the CardTurk project, the journey was akin to time-traveling.

“You’re looking at the history of Masonry in North Carolina. It was fascinating,” said Darrin Helton of Marion, a member of three lodges who topped all volunteers with 76,619 cards transcribed.

The project gave Helton, a registered nurse with Hospice of McDowell County, something to do in his free time. Helton and Jack Wood, a fellow member of Mystic Tie #237, combined to produce more than 104,000 cards.

“Jack and I said, ‘Hey, let’s do this,’ and there we went,” Helton said. “I tend to get a little OCD on stuff when I get started on something,

and I’ll go with it ‘til it’s done. If it’s not done, it’s driving me crazy.”

It didn’t take long for many of those involved to become intrigued by the story the cards revealed.

“If a brother died on a particular date, you knew where they probably were,” Grand Secretary Walt Clapp said. “If they died July 1-3, 1863, they were probably killed at Gettysburg. June 6, 1944, probably D-Day.”

“That’s the kind of thing that made you want to see the next card,” Helton added. “I had to keep telling myself, ‘Slow down and look at this, this is neat.’”

Paul Marshburn Jr., a retired banker from Wilmington and a member of St. John’s #1, input 11,342 cards. He said he enjoyed coming

across the occasional card of an acquaintance.

“I would see people that had been in St. John’s years and years ago that I might’ve remembered because I’ve been here all my life,” he said. “And it was interesting to see some of the occupations.”

Masons in North Carolina have covered virtually every job one could imagine — and some that one couldn’t, such as: neon sign fabricator; tourist court owner; professional square dance caller; picture show manager; salesman of macaroni products; farmer and U.S. Lighthouse Service; producer and shipper of sand; and even Marine Corps cryptographer.

They were born in no less than 13 foreign

■ see CARDTURK, page 9

Brotherhood Spotlight

Verville preserving history in real time

Brother Michael Verville, Junior Deacon at Eagle #19, is a true operative stonemason.

He works with drywall and plaster in his own construction business, but takes it a step further: he is active in the restoration of historic markers – everything from small tombstones to monuments weighing several hundred pounds.

While attending graduate school at UNC-Greensboro, he enrolled in an historic preservation field school taught by restoration craftsman Dean Ruedrich, with whom he later apprenticed. Most of Michael's clients are municipalities, historic groups such as the Daughter of the American Revolution, and private individuals.

Brother Michael said he finds it a real challenge working with "distressed" tombstones and monuments, restoring them to enhance the patina and beauty, and minimize the damage from years and weather.

This past spring, Michael received a scholarship from the Preservation Trade Network, an organization that provides education for those who preserve historic buildings.

The award allowed him to attend a summer program presented by Historic Environment Scotland at the Engine Shed in Stirling, Scotland, northwest of Edinburgh.

The Engine Shed is a building-

conservation center and a hub for professionals and the general public. Michael spent the first week of June attending lectures and workshops and visiting historic sites to learn the latest methods for historic stone preservation.

Before returning home, he had the opportunity to travel to the west coast town of Kilwinning. There he visited Masonic Lodge #0, the Mother Lodge of Scotland, and was treated to a tour of the lodge and its museum by Past Master David Kirk.

Michael recently returned after a two-week stint in New Bern, brought in at the request of the City of New Bern and the Craven County Questers to repair a 19th century tabletop monument and

several marble headstones and he is currently involved with a variety of projects at the Hillcrest Cemetery in Cary.

Michael said that one of the most challenging aspects of restoring historic monuments is sourcing materials that will make a repair

strong enough to last for a few hundred years without harming the original historic material.

"I've done my job well when a year or two after the repairs, the average person would be hard-pressed to find my work." ♦



STIRLING, Scotland – Everything old is new again – with help from restoration expert Brother Michael Verville of Eagle #19.

■ CARDTURK from page 8

countries, including Russia, China and Persia (now Iran). They belonged to lodges no longer in existence, but with interesting names: Tally Ho #393, Big Lick #475, Buggaboo #490 and Bee Log #548.

As for interesting names, there were plenty of those, too: A deceased brother whose last name was Pinchback, and those with first names Judithan and Septimus. Then there was Brother Price E. Ford (say it quickly, Chevy faithful).

There were initiation fees as low as \$5 (Red Springs #501) and as relatively steep as the \$60 charged in 1931 by Charlotte's Phalanx #31 — a figure that in 2019 would equate to \$936.

Then there was the eternal optimist of a lodge secretary, who recorded this on a brother's card in the slot for his wife's name. "No wife — as yet." ♦

■ ANNUAL from page 2

the North Carolina Masonic Foundation. The "Keep the Promise" video was created to honor the brothers who have given so much to support our two homes, and to ask them to keep the homes in their hearts and their giving plans, said Jeff Hensley, chief development officer of the foundation.

As the video, which featured WB Gene Lewellyn and MHCO graduate Devante Hicks, ended, Grand Master Sigmon took the

stage and announced that in October, he will send a letter to every Mason reminding him of his charitable obligation.

"Regardless of age each of us are only a breath or two away from being that person Worshipful Brother Gene mentioned when an illness or unfortunate circumstance can put you in desperate situations. If that happens to me, I sure hope the Masons of this fraternity are there for me. We made a promise," he said.

"We have hundreds if not thousands of more children to help. Most of us cannot truly imagine the difficult situations that some of these children face in their daily lives.

"Be proud to aid and assist in providing them a better tomorrow in order for them to become responsible adults, become parents, and leaders of their communities like Devante.

"We made a promise." ♦

TRAVELING THE TAR HEEL STATE



▲**SHAWBORO, NC** – Brothers in Virginia and North Carolina often visit each other's lodges. The tradition continued in August when Hall #53 in Shawboro hosted some brothers from southeastern Virginia lodges. Even with a broken air conditioner, 34 visitors attended, bringing the total number in lodge on August 7 to 52. Following the meeting, WM Henry Strickland (right) and Brother Moe Patrick of Lake Drummond #178 in Deep Creek, Va., (left) presented WB Scott Mathis (center) with a square and compass flag pole top.

MOUNT JEFFERSON

Summer is the perfect time for a get-together and Ashe #594 did just that, hosting the first 33rd District reunion in August. Many months were spent in the planning, traveling to the nine district lodges as well as to visit the Mouth of Wilson, Va., brothers to the north. Plans already are in the works for another district lodge to host next year's event.



NEWS FROM OUR LODGES



▲**EDENTON** – As it has become a July 4th tradition, the brothers of Unanimity #7 participated in a ceremony honoring Joseph Hewes, signer of the Declaration of Independence. The ceremony is held on the courthouse green. Unanimity lays a wreath at the monument. Hewes was born in Princeton, NJ, where he was a businessman. In 1763, he moved to Edenton, where he became a member of the legislature. In 1774, he became a delegate to the Continental Congress and was one of three North Carolinians who signed of the Declaration of Independence. Hewes' mother lodge is not known, but he is recorded as visiting Unanimity on Dec. 27, 1776, upon his return from the Continental Congress. The ceremony is hosted by the Edenton Tea Party Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Pictured left to right: Anne Rowe, NSDAR Regent Edenton Tea Party Chapter; Beth Taylor, Ceremony Chairman; WB Bill Potts; WB Mickey Spruill; Brother Blake Harmon; Brother Rick Howard; Brother Paul Vincent, WB Ben Roberts, Sr.; Brother Lester Channell; WB Ben Roberts, Jr.; Brother Dave Lindsey.



◀**ALEXANDRIA, VA** – Several North Carolina Masons traveled in August to see some Masonic sites, attend a degree and spend some time remembering those who have gone before. Brothers from all around North Carolina joined the trip. They visited George Washington's home at Mount Vernon, followed by a wreath laying ceremony at Washington's tomb. They also traveled to Arlington National Cemetery for a wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The wreath was placed by Most Worshipful Mack Sigmon, Right Worshipful David Wicker, Worshipful Brother James Puglsey, and Brother Matt Parker. They also toured the George Washington Masonic National Memorial and wrapped up the visit with an emergent communication of the Lodge of the Nine Sisters #773 in the North Lodge Room for the raising of Brother Joseph Meece to the sublime degree of Master Mason. The North Carolina Masons conferred an exceptional degree with Worshipful Brother Matt Moore presiding in the East during the first section and Grand Master Mack Sigmon presiding in the East for the second section. Plans are being made for a third annual raising at the memorial in 2020.

TRAVELING THE TAR HEEL STATE



▲ **GARNER** – Age is relative to a chef with hungry brothers. Brother Arnold Aiken, who at 96 is the oldest member of Garner #701, volunteered to cook dinner before the lodge's August stated communication and served sweet and sour pork over rice. Brother Aiken, who rarely misses a communication, also delivered the closing charge that night.



▲ **GREENSBORO** – A good round of golf paid off for brother and sister seniors at WhiteStone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Community. In early August, Fellowship #687 Past Master (and golf chair) Joe Hackett, right, presented a check for \$7,886.52 to Whitestone Administrator Mark Lewis.



Eastern Star sisters hit the tracks to visit WhiteStone

I hear the train a-comin', comin' round the bend ...

Johnny Cash knew a good thing when he heard it, and so did a band of Eastern Star sisters who made a big day out of it recently when they decided to tour WhiteStone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Community. The idea came after conversation one day revealed that none had ever visited the home for seniors.

About 10 sisters, accompanied by WhiteStone Ambassador Jerry Hart and Chris Richardson, NC Masonic Foundation eastern region development director, hopped Piedmont Train 75 leaving Cary and arrived in

Greensboro about 80 minutes later, ready for their adventure.

At WhiteStone, they were met by WhiteStone Administrator Mark Lewis and NCMF western development director Dee Blake for a tour, a filling lunch and some time just to chat and relax with residents at the senior home, including some old friends who live there.

The traveling sisters from Garner are: Rose Carroll, Amzie Hamilton, Laura Hawks, Ruth Jennings, Connie Liles, Susan Matney, Betty Poole, Alice Smith, Sammy Smith, and Harriet Wright.

NCMF video debuts

There were some misty eyes as the new video "Keep the Promise" debuted at Annual Communication 2019.

The 5-minute video, now available to all lodges, was produced by the North Carolina Masonic Foundation in honor of those brothers who have generously given to our homes – the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford and WhiteStone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Community in Greensboro.

It also asks viewers to consider a gift to keep the homes strong and thriving, especially as the holiday season approaches and as both homes prepare for fundraising campaigns in the coming months.

WB Gene Lewellyn of WhiteStone and Devante Hicks, an MHCO graduate, appear in the video that focuses on the promise Masons make at the altar to give to help those in need. Because of the generosity among NC Masons, North Carolina is one of only four Masonic states with both a children's and a senior home.

The video is available for download here: <https://youtu.be/adJhxsOVMhQ> or search YouTube for "keep the promise" and NC Masonic Foundation. You can also see the video on the home page of the foundation's web site: mfnc.org.

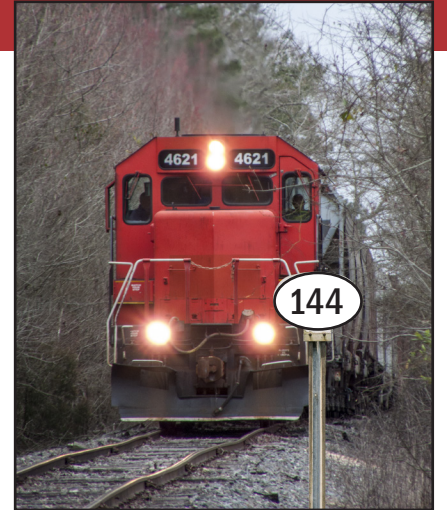
MILEPOSTS



▲ **NEWTON** – The Oasis Shriners in August hosted a black tie ceremonial honoring Grand Master Dwight “Mack” Sigmon. He was named class honoree for the ceremonial. As a member of the Oasis Ritual Cast, he filled the role of the Potentate and conferred the Ceremonial Ritual for 14 candidates. Five Past Grand Masters participated in the ritual ceremonial; the deputy grand master and senior grand warden were in attendance but did not have a ritual part. Before the ceremony, the Grand Master joined Potentate Kenneth Jarrett in presenting a special recognition plaque to the oldest living Past Potentate of Oasis, Walter A. “Sticky” Burch of Revolution #552. Burch, 100, is a 69-year member of the Craft. He served as Potentate in 1975. On hand for the honor was Burch’s son, Stephen (far left), followed by Potentate Kenneth Jarrett, Sticky and GM Sigmon.



▲ **CLEMMONS** – Brother Paul Richard Hamrick of Friendship #388 is honored by Grand Master Dwight “Mack” Sigmon for 70 years in the Craft. The ceremony was held at Clemmons #755 because Worshipful Brother Hamrick lives in Clemmons. He was master of Friendship Lodge in 1957. He became a member on July 8, 1949.



50 Congratulations
YEARS to our 50-year
members*:

Ernest F. Albritton, Grifton #243
Kenneth R. Rouse, Grifton #243

* As reported to The Mason

BOWLING GREEN, Ohio

John Strickland, past master of Hiram #98, won his fourth consecutive national championship in National Tractor Pullers Association competition in August. Competing in the 8,000-pound Super Stock Open division, Strickland won the final meet in Bowling Green, Ohio, to clinch yet another title. Strickland drives the GALOT II entry (Get A Load of This) for team owner and father-in-law Earl Wells, a former grand lecturer of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina. Strickland also drives a GALOT Camaro in drag racing competition across the country.



▲ **WILMINGTON** – Grand Master Dwight “Mack” Sigmon, left, and Brother Mike Faulkenbury of St. John’s #1, right, present Worshipful Brother Robert Dale Millar of Numa F. Reid #344 with his 70-year service award. They presented the award at Millar’s Wilmington home with many family and neighbors attending. Millar became a Master Mason in 1949 at Piedmont #681 and served as master in 1956. Piedmont Lodge later merged with Numa F. Reid Lodge.



◀ **HIGH POINT** – Grand Master Dwight “Mack” Sigmon awarded a 70-year membership certificate to WB Arnold J. Koonce Jr. at his home in High Point. Koonce served as Master of Numa F. Reid #344 in 1958. Proudly displayed in his living room was the Past Grand Master apron worn by his father, Most Worshipful Arnold J. Koonce Sr., who served as our 113th Grand Master in 1966. The Grand Master was joined by Koonce’s grandson, Brother Sam Hinnant (standing, left), a member of Snow #363 in Boone.

Hats off to a bald warrior doing good work

By Beth Grace
Mason Editor

To know J.T. Capps III is to wonder: Does this man EVER sleep?

Brother Capps, a member of Ocean #405, is at age 78 a force of good nature. He is dedicated to doing good for others – and having a little fun while he's at it.

He's also, arguably, one of the most famous bald men ever born ... but more on that later.

He joined Masonry only seven years ago, captured by the good works of the brothers he has met around his home in Morehead City. He had good role models: his brother, father, grandfather and great-grandfather had been raised before him.

"I wanted to follow in their footsteps, of course," he says. "I knew it as finally the right time that I could give the Masons my full commitment, and I knew it would give me the opportunity to be more than who I am, and to share that with others."

His raising was the latest iteration of the lifelong passion that drives him to give back – of his time, of his talent and of his treasure.

He took the first step in a lifetime of giving some 51 years ago, when he joined Rotary International. There isn't much he hasn't done for the 35,000-club global organization that believes members have a shared responsibility to take action on the world's most persistent issues, including promoting peace, fighting disease, providing clean water, sanitation and hygiene, saving mothers and children, supporting education and growing local economies.

He has traveled all over the world for Rotary, including at least 10 trips to India for humanitarian health clinics, installation of clean water wells, education/literacy projects and National Immunization Days for Polio Plus and later End Polio Now programs.

In 2006, the Rotary Club of Sivakasi named their Secondary School's Technology Center the John T. Capps Computer Center. The Polio Hospital in Trivandrum provided opportunities



J.T. Capps along with his wife, Jane. His early balding led him to later found a national organization just for men with balding pates.

for physical therapy each year by becoming a special place in John T.'s heart. Because of his commitment to humanitarian service in south India the Rotary Club of Trivandrum-North made John T. an honorary member.

His work has also been recognized back home.

Then-Gov. James Martin, a Mason himself, recognized John T. with the state's highest citizen honor the Order of the Long Leaf Pine.

But there's more to this story than the example he sets of charity in action and in deed.

There is, of course, the matter of his hair.

He has none.

And he has capitalized on that.

John T. is the proud founder of the national Bald Headed Men of America. There are more than 35,000 shiny pates out there that claim membership. His organization, which has been profiled on national television and written up in some of the nation's largest newspapers, celebrates the joy of no hair.

"I started to lose my hair at 15 and was completely bald at 20," he says. He wasn't bothered by it – after all, most of the men in his family had lost their hair early. But he knew it bothered others. And if there's one thing John T. can't stand it's an unhappy face.

So in 1974, at age 33, he founded the group and it took off. Members at one time included former President Gerald Ford, and actors Telly Savalas and Yul Brynner.

As membership grew, John T. – a printer by trade – printed up Bald is Beautiful stickers, stocked gag gifts like toothless combs.

He holds a convention each year where bald heads from all over compete for such awards as sexiest or smoothest, prettiest or most kissable.

He is a shameless punster, declaring they he is just trying to set a shining example (insert groan here) and admonishing members, "If you haven't got it, flaunt it."

He is a proud bald man living his best life, he declares.

"The Lord is just, the Lord is fair, he gave some brains, the others hair," he says.

He is married to Jane, an honorary Rotary member and past chair of The Salvation Army Advisory Board. The two are virtually inseparable, share a sharp sense of humor and a love of life.

John T. knows he has been blessed in life and believes strongly that he is, as a Mason and a Rotarian, accountable to share his blessings with others.

"Everything I have learned in my life has all been poured into a funnel that has made me me, he says. "I am an ambassador for life." ♦

Our Masonic History

How the 'Official Standard' came to be

By *Ludwik Wodka*
Grand Historian

Through the 18th and 19th centuries, North Carolina was like most jurisdictions in prohibiting the use of a written cypher for its ritual work.

A cypher, or an encrypted written version of the ritual, was essentially viewed as a violation of the Masonic landmarks as well as the first degree obligation.

The first printed cypher of an authorized ritual work in the United States was Daniel Parker's Masonic Tablet in 1822. Though its origins are obscure, it is believed to be the ritual used in and around New York City. However, Brother Parker was brought up on Masonic charges for publishing this and was subsequently expelled.

The widespread publication of exposés such as *Light on Masonry* (1827), *Avery Allyn's A Ritual of Freemasonry* (1853), and *Duncan's Ritual* (1866) made versions of the Webb ritual available to the general public.

When discussion about printing cyphers was brought up during the 1868 Annual Communication of the North Carolina Grand Lodge, it was vigorously denounced by the Grand Lecturers.

Nonetheless, in North Carolina, cyphers began to appear. The first known cypher was created by none other than Past Grand Master Robert W. Best, who oversaw the

revision of the ritual work during his term as Grand Master in 1868, but developed the cypher as a memory aid and printed several copies with the intent of selling them.

He was discovered and promptly expelled from Masonry in 1874, but re-admitted the following year after he agreed to destroy all copies of it.

Several copies of printed Masonic cyphers had been discovered in North Carolina dating to the mid-1880s and are in possession of the Grand Lodge; these were unauthorized publications and not sanctioned by the Grand Lodge. However, they do reveal that the work described therein is very close to the work we do today.

Around 1900, an odd practice took place in other jurisdictions when a couple of printed cyphers were published, but under a misleading title, such as *Ecce Oriente*, *Magician's Magic Movements and Ceremonies* or *Hindoo Theology for the Use of Missionaries*.

Grand Lodges quickly caught on to these shenanigans and formally condemned their distribution and use. Despite this, the proceedings of the North Carolina Grand Lodge mention the widespread use of unauthorized cyphers in the state between 1890s and the mid-1920s.

However, around the same time, other grand jurisdictions began adopting written cyphers of the ritual—by 1900, at least eight grand

jurisdictions had written cyphers. The Redding Masonic Supply Co. in New York City began printing out cypher versions of other grand jurisdictions as well, and it is likely that this company issued a cypher for the North Carolina work.

By 1928, printed cyphers were so widespread across the United States that the Grand Masters Conference discussed whether legal action could be taken to stop the dissemination of these cyphers. They took no action.

By the 1940s, North Carolina finally decided to prepare its own written cypher. Grand Master Thomas J. Harkins recommended in 1941 that "a physical standard, or code" be prepared so that the ritual work would be effectively standardized but also more easily distributed to the lodges.

The first version of the Official Standard of the Work (or "OSW" as it came to be known), adopted by the Grand Lodge in 1942, was a black book of 203 pages. It is now 276 pages. A separate accompanying volume, known as the "Vocabulary," contained a list of the words corresponding with the numbered letters in the cypher.

The OSW, while practically impossible to read except for those trained to read it (i.e., certified lecturers), was more successful in improving ritual proficiency in the lodges across the state than any previous method.

In 1949, a supplement was added that contained a series of additions and clarifications, most notably being the short form of the second section of the Master Mason's degree. A new edition of the OSW was published in 1966, which incorporated the material in the addendum of 1949, and included the change in wording from "special communication" to "emergent communication." This volume, though visibly thicker, is only 206 pages, which is to say only three pages longer than the first edition.

Additional modifications to the work were recommended in the 1990s, resulting in another supplement in 1993. These changes included the emergent form openings for the EA and FC degrees as well as several minor wording changes (e.g., "remove" instead of "detach"). The Board of Custodians formed a committee led by W.B. Luigi Ammons, to incorporate further changes and update the OSW. In 2001, the current edition of the OSW, which has been adopted for the ritual work in North Carolina, was released.

In 2001, the current edition of the OSW which has been adopted for the ritual work in North Carolina was released.

Reports vary, but between 38 and 46 of the 51 jurisdictions in the United States have some form of printed cypher, while only a few still prohibit them. ♠



Grand Marshal Robert Rideout is ready to lead the officers into the Annual Communication for truly grand entrance. ▶

◀ Grand Secretary Walt Clapp peeks around the corner to check out the crowd.



WELCOME OUR NEW BROTHERS

Daube, William Charles	1	St John's	Williamson, Ryan Kevin	207	Lebanon	Thornton, Bobby Shelton	379	Coharie	Hardin, Graham Keith	643	Proctorville
Sloan, Lucas Ray	1	St John's	Sasser, Jeffrey Goodson	208	Mt. Olive	Paschal, John Dudley	384	Jefferson Penn	Hinson, Fredrick Charles	654	Elberta
Foy, Darryl Bevel	8	Phoenix	Bryant, Dan Edward	214	Thomasville	Griffin, Terry Lee	401	Joppa	Bost, Holland Joseph	657	Keller Memorial
Peters, Stanley Louis	8	Phoenix	Widener Jr, Claude Raymond	214	Thomasville	Hall, Nathan Gregory	407	N. Wilkesboro	Hord, Matthew Jason	657	Keller Memorial
Quick, Dalton Worth	8	Phoenix	Allman, Ronald Lee	217	Catawba Valley	Baity, Turner Bryan	420	Harmon	Simmons Jr, Danny Harold	657	Keller Memorial
Betzer, Alexander Dale	8	Phoenix	Davis, Paul Edd	217	Catawba Valley	Blomquist, Jonathan Eric	429	Seaside	Bottoms, Timothy Ray	674	Acacia
Gonzalez, Alexander	8	Phoenix	Williams, Bryan Scott	217	Catawba Valley	Butt Jr, Terry Lee	429	Seaside	Pittman, Jason Michael	674	Acacia
Iacovone, Ray Jonathon	8	Phoenix	Johnson, Andrew			Pruitt, Kenneth Ray	454	Elkin	Biringer, Daniel Joseph	683	Rolesville
Kelly, Enrique Armando	8	Phoenix	Lewis Anthony	218	William G. Hill	Burbage, Charles Ray	462	South Fork	Wisser, Russell Paul	683	Rolesville
Groves, Matthew Ryan	10	Johnston Caswell	Williams, Andrew Brooks	230	Corinthian	Shehan, Scott Allen	462	South Fork	Anderson, Noah Daniel	688	Cherry Point
Ray, Maryland Michael	19	Eagle	Baggatta Jr, James John	261	Excelsior	Stillwell, Cody Lee	462	South Fork	Souther, David Michael	690	Mt. Moriah
Nicholson, Charles Dale	27	Statesville	Childress, Antoine	261	Excelsior	Kepley, Randall Todd	473	Lexington Memorial	Davis, Jonathan Murphy	699	Asheboro
Ward, Parker Cole	45	Liberty	Steen, Dustin Kyle	261	Excelsior	McDonald II, Roy Lawrence	473	Lexington Memorial	Weaver Jr, Eric Michael	699	Asheboro
Linton, Christopher Ryan	104	Orr	Call, William Robert	262	Hibriten	Drake, Hunter Lee	482	Polk County Unity	Holstein, Corey Robert	706	Newport
Miller, David Christopher	109	Franklin	Jones, Alan Clinton	262	Hibriten	Oates, Roger Adam	486	Lawndale	Hill, Randy	708	Crown Point
Davis, Ricky Lee	113	Person	Holmberg, Daniel Eric	263	Gaston	Parker, David Lee	486	Lawndale	Flowers, Joshua Ryan	709	Conover
Wise, James Robert	123	Franklinton	Waters, Kyle Scott	263	Gaston	Belcher, Timothy Michael	495	Rockingham	Eberly, James Calvin	710	Advance
Wilkins Jr, Floyd Ralph	126	Gatesville	Douglas, Aaron Jacob	271	Tabasco	Dawkins, Justin Duane	495	Rockingham	Mull II, Frank James	713	Stanley
Russell, Levi David	127	Blackmer	Tew, Joseph Earl	279	Wallace	Dowgul, Nicholas Joshua	500	Raleigh	Hall, Kyle Ethan	722	King
Lee, Corey Allen	147	Palmyra	Erickson, John Thomas	283	Eureka	Joseph, Freddie George	500	Raleigh	McLawnhorn, Justin Thomas	724	Berne
Dunn, Cody Wade	147	Palmyra	Greer, Christopher Michael	283	Eureka	Kealoha, Clifford Laipuni	500	Raleigh	Ferrand, Joseph Edward	730	Stedman
Bradley, Samuel Raymond	172	Buffalo	Lankford, Glenn Thomas	293	Vance	Pearce, Mark Tyler	500	Raleigh	Simmons, Kem Douglas	730	Stedman
Crocker Jr, George Everett	191	Granite	Collins, River Cordel	301	Clay	Lovelace, Ronald Forest	535	Hollis	Roberson, Richard Martin	735	James B. Green
Lee, Roger Blane	191	Granite	Long, Joseph Ryan	301	Clay	Long, Joseph Earl	563	Tabor	Andrade, Claudemir Luiz	737	Steele Creek
Lurie, William Robert	191	Granite	Hopkins, Nathaniel Lee	317	Eureka	Burgess, Joel Matthew	576	Andrew Jackson	Trautwein, James Arthur	737	Steele Creek
Stallings, Cameron Draper	191	Granite	Goode, Spenser Russell	331	Bayboro	Hall, Toby Gordon	596	Waccamaw	Ivester, Brent Owen	741	Crissie Wright
Tillerson, Ryan Prescott	191	Granite	Best, Deleon Nelson	374	Campbell	Marino, Matthew Adam	626	Cannon Memorial	Collins, Cody Wayne	763	Friendship
Bridges, Kevin Dale	202	Cleveland	Bowden, Thomas Kennon	379	Coharie	Meece, Joseph Dale	626	Cannon Memorial			
McKinney, Randy Scott	202	Cleveland	Rosario, Robert	379	Coharie	Robbins, Matthew Jeremy	626	Cannon Memorial			

Scenes from the 2019 Annual Communication



Left, District Deputy Grand Masters and others observing the proceedings.

Lower left, the view from the media control center.

Below, Grand Master Mack Sigmon provides the closing charge from the altar.

Photos by Michael Harding





page 3

Members elect next year's Grand Master

Woman's maiden name in full	Helen	
Position	Pro-Basethall,	
in of United States?	Yes	
of Application	May 6, 1918	
endorsed	May 10, 1918	
GADDY, John Wilson		
Lodge	Stanly	
June 25, 1918		Suspect
July 16, 1918		
Aug. 13, 1918		Died

page 8

NC Masonic records go digital



pages 14-15
Photographs from this year's Annual Communication

On the cover

Keep the Promise, a video about our Masonic charities, debuted at the Annual Communication. Read more about it on Page 11.

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.
AUTO
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
OXFORD, NC 27565
PERMIT NO. 56



NORTH CAROLINA
THE MASON
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2019