



NORTH CAROLINA THE MASON

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

Volume 146 Number 4

Oxford, North Carolina

July/August 2021

Take a bite at lodge excellence

Lion & Pillar winners announced as 2022 requirements revealed; third level added

By Beth Grace
Mason Editor

Excellence: A quality or talent that is unusually good, that surpasses ordinary standards. A word derived from the Latin *excello*, meaning to elevate, to exult, to raise.

For lodges around North Carolina, the word “excellence” is a word brothers know well and strive for on a regular basis.

And since 2017, every year around this time, it’s a word that appears on a certificate given to lodges that meet or surpass the stringent requirements needed to win designation as a Lion and Pillar Lodge of Excellence.

This year, 19 lodges have been honored; 13 of them reaching platinum status – a level reached by adding approved activities above and beyond the standard L&P criteria.

That’s not a bad showing, considering these lodges achieved their goals during a global pandemic that shuttered lodges and cancelled fundraisers and other good works for more than a year, says Most Worshipful Past Grand Master Gene Cobb.

MW Cobb steps down this year as head of the program he conceived and launched in 2017. He has groomed and put in place a committee of brothers who will take the lead on the program going forward.

“I am so pleased that this program has taken off as it has,” he said. “I honestly never thought it would last more than a couple of years. But as we learned, we changed things and made it better. Now, we have a new team in place to help this last longer than we ever could have

hoped.”

Here is the new team:

►East: Jason Caldwell (Semper Fidelis #680) and Marty Hunt (Ashlar #765).

►Central: Raul Herrera (Eagle #19) and Albert Hopping (William G. Hill #218)

►West: Chris Canipe (Cleveland #202) and Michael Wright (Statesville #27)

The requirements for L&P 2022, which includes a new Grand Master level of honors, have been released to lodges and are posted on the Grand Lodge Web page as well as in this issue of the Mason. The Grand Master level will change every year – based entirely on the goals each new Grand Master announces in his acceptance speech at Grand Lodge.

It’s not easy to take honors within the program. It takes time, effort and planning to meet the requirements of the five categories.

“This is all about pursuing excellence,” Cobb said. “It’s not just about checking off boxes. Most of the requirements are things lodges should be doing regularly anyway. And they are all geared to make the lodge, the brethren and Masonry stronger.”

A sampling of the work achieved by this year’s winners show that lodges took on technology with gusto. To be honest, they had to if they were to maintain communications during the pandemic shutdown.

But these lodges did more than learn how to make a Zoom call. They

LION & PILLAR 2022
Requirements for the Lion and Pillar Lodge of Excellence award for 2022. This year's requirements consist of the Lion and Pillar Committee's 2022 Annual Report of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina.

CATEGORY I: EDUCATION (COMPLETE 11 OF 11 ITEMS)

1. Implement the Lodge System of Award Certificates as a subcategory of the Lion and Pillar award.
2. Award Certificates to all members of the Lodge.
3. Award Certificates to all members of the Lodge who are active in the Lodge.
4. Award Certificates to all members of the Lodge who are active in the Lodge.
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11. Award Certificates to all members of the Lodge who are active in the Lodge.

CATEGORY II: PHILANTHROPY (COMPLETE 11 OF 11 ITEMS)

1. Award Certificates to all members of the Lodge who are active in the Lodge.
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11. Award Certificates to all members of the Lodge who are active in the Lodge.

CATEGORY III: PATRIOTISM (COMPLETE 11 OF 11 ITEMS)

1. Award Certificates to all members of the Lodge who are active in the Lodge.
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11. Award Certificates to all members of the Lodge who are active in the Lodge.

CATEGORY IV: MASONIC MEMBERSHIP (COMPLETE 11 OF 11 ITEMS)

1. Award Certificates to all members of the Lodge who are active in the Lodge.
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11. Award Certificates to all members of the Lodge who are active in the Lodge.

PLATINUM LEVEL (COMPLETE 11 OF 11 ITEMS)

1. Award Certificates to all members of the Lodge who are active in the Lodge.
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NEW LEVEL (COMPLETE 11 OF 11 ITEMS)

1. Award Certificates to all members of the Lodge who are active in the Lodge.
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11. Award Certificates to all members of the Lodge who are active in the Lodge.



FIND THE COMPLETE LIST OF 2022 REQUIREMENTS ON PAGES 6-7

managed to buy and install some new equipment – from a basic wireless router to cameras and the higher tech needed to host a district meeting during Annual Communication – the first-ever virtual Grand Lodge in history. Our lodges may be more connected than ever before, as a result!

One lodge connected a brother in need with the Fraternal Friendship Program, a Mason-run Outreach program that offers short-term help and resources to senior brothers and Eastern Star sisters in their own homes. A few lodges did home repairs for widows of brothers who have passed and some held dinners for widows and for local veterans.

■ see LION & PILLAR, page 2

2021 WINNERS

- PLATINUM LEVEL**
- Lux Libertas Lodge #772
 - Semper Fidelis #680
 - Fuquay-Varina #258
 - Eagle #19
 - Thomas M. Holt #492
 - Zion #81
 - Kenly #257
 - Ashlar #765
 - William G. Hill #218
 - Cannon Memorial #626
 - Mingo #206
 - Bula #409

- STANDARD LEVEL**
- Shallotte #727
 - Cleveland #202
 - Wilmington #319
 - Guilford #656
 - Oxford #122
 - Corinthian #230
 - Hibriten #262

Plans continue for Homecoming this year



EDITOR'S NOTE: *Out of an abundance of caution, the MHCOC board will vote Aug. 13 on whether to proceed with Homecoming.*

The Masonic Home for Children Campus will be teeming with visitors and activities when the celebration of the 10th Annual Masonic Homecoming Festival gets under way, Oct. 8-10.

The festivities begin Friday morning with the annual Chip Shot for Children Charity Golf Tournament, presented by the MHCOC Alumni Association at South Granville Country Club and Golf Course. The tournament is open to the public and all proceeds benefit MHCOC.

Later in the day, the "Yard Party" will provide a laid-back atmosphere to relax, hear good music, enjoy great food, and fellowship with one another. Music will be provided by DJ Jay Productions, followed by The East Coast Rhythm & Blues Band.

Food choices on Friday evening will include a big favorite: Lumpy's ice cream. Food will also be available for purchase from Andrew Jackson

#576.

The Yard Party ends at 9 p.m., when a host of BBQ teams get down to business cooking all the wonderful chicken and pork for Saturday morning's contest. Visitors will be able to enter the "Pit" and sample all they can eat from the contestants' entries.

New to the Festival this year will be the introduction of food trucks to offer delicious lunch entrees and sweets. Guests will be able to purchase the meal of their choice from the selection of food trucks on site.

The biggest and best Shrine Parade in North Carolina will step off at 11 a.m. Saturday in front of the Fire Department and proceed up College Street and end at MHCOC. Local community groups and marching bands will also participate in the parade, as well as a host of dignitaries.

There will be activities all over the MHCOC campus with giant inflatables, a video gaming trailer, and other activities and crafts for kids of all ages.

Enjoy the music from popular

2019 Carolina Beach Music Hall of fame inductees Too Much Sylvania, who play beach music and other popular tunes.

Open house tours will be available during certain hours throughout the day for visits to cottages on campus, the School of Graphic Arts, and the Museum and Gallery located in the Cobb Center.

The Alumni of Oxford Orphanage, MHCOC, and their families have a full slate of homecoming activities especially tailored for them, including the annual Homecoming church service and OO/MHCOC Alumni Association business meeting. Their reunion will conclude with lunch Under the Oaks on Sunday.

The weekend promises to be fun! Everyone – alumni, Masons, Shriners, residents, staff, and visitors from near and far come together to enjoy this weekend back Home.

Check this website <https://mhc-oxford.org/masonic-homecoming-festival/> and Facebook pages of the Home for up-to-date information, including weather and parade details. ❖

LION & PILLAR, from page 1

Once COVID restrictions were loosened, several lodges brought back their most successful fundraisers – and one even launched its first: a bass fishing tournament. Others got more involved with their communities, donating a memorial brick honoring Masons in support to a veteran's museum. A lodge invited an American Legion commander to offer education during dinner, another held a canned food drive and held an open house as part of a local community food drive.

A couple of lodges brought dinner to local firefighters, one hosted a trip to Charlotte for some kids from the Masonic Home for Children and another sponsored a hole at a local golf tournament fundraiser.

Interested in trying your luck this year? Check out the requirements here: www.grandlodge-nc.org/center-for-members/lion-and-pillar-lodge-of-excellence ❖

WELCOME OUR NEW BROTHERS

Patti, Samuel Edward.....104.....Orr	Forehand, John Thomas.....340.....Harmony	Evans II, William Richard.....527.....Lucama
Sedlacek, Eric Steven.....104.....Orr	Harman, Robert Joshua.....352.....Durham	Gulledge, Mark Barringer.....532.....Hamlet
Jackson, Kos Stephens.....106.....Perquimans	Ammons, Keanu J.....358.....East LaPorte	Hopkins II, Stanley Ernest.....532.....Hamlet
Cox, Alfred Ballard.....113.....Person	Cauthran, Brandon Michael.....369.....Gastonia	Ashburn Jr, Jimmy Nelson.....558.....Ararat
Reid, Duncan Anthony.....118.....Mt. Hermon	McDonald, Steven Laughlin.....379.....Coharie	Lawson, Jason Paul.....558.....Ararat
Smith, Phillip Cody.....125.....Mill Creek	Boughter, Timothy Scott.....387.....Kedron	Runkle, Donald Ray.....579.....Casar
Leonard, Ryan Nowell.....129.....Dan River	Costly, Maxwell Lee Lamon.....391.....Lebanon	White Jr, Ernest Garland.....583.....Ionic
Tucker, Tyler Travis.....129.....Dan River	Murray III, William Morgan.....391.....Lebanon	Gurkin, Michael Steven.....617.....St Patrick's
Sizemore, James Lee.....145.....Junaluskee	Lohr, Kevin John.....391.....Lebanon	Garmon, Edmon David.....669.....Kernersville
Owens, Paul Michael.....158.....Knop Of Reeds	Swann, Austin Patrick.....397.....Bald Creek	Hynek, Matthew Roberts.....669.....Kernersville
Wrench, Justin Aaron.....206.....Mingo	McLawhorn, Billy Sheppard.....433.....Vanceboro	Maes, Anthony Vinicius Joseph.....669.....Kernersville
Wrench, Zachary David.....206.....Mingo	Brown, Caleb Allen.....435.....Blue Ridge	McElwaney, Eddie Dwayne.....680.....Semper Fidelis
Moody, Joseph Brandon.....271.....Tabasco	Bishop, Dustin Lee.....459.....Dillsboro	Rains, Daniel Wade.....680.....Semper Fidelis
Ward Jr, Rodney Dale.....271.....Tabasco	Berry, Michael Joseph.....462.....South Fork	Reichert, Timothy John.....686.....Angier
Castelda, Christopher Joseph.....272.....Bingham	Borel Jr, Raymond Hyde.....462.....South Fork	Tippett IV, Wilfred Townshend.....686.....Angier
Garrison, William Lloyd.....276.....Beaver Dam	Cassidy, Charles Thomas.....462.....South Fork	Childress, Brandon Kyle.....688.....Cherry Point
Garrison, William Lloyd.....276.....Beaver Dam	Caudle, John Mason.....462.....South Fork	Callahan, Mark Anthony.....722.....King
Rauf, Aaron Day.....276.....Beaver Dam	Russell, William James.....462.....South Fork	Casey Jr, John Jerome.....727.....Shallotte
Earley, Garrett Jeffrey.....283.....Eureka	Summitt, Dwayne Lindsey.....462.....South Fork	O'Daniels, Shawn Dale.....727.....Shallotte
Harper, Cannon Eugene.....289.....Salem	Trull Jr, David Brian.....462.....South Fork	Simmons, Matthew Logan.....727.....Shallotte
Jones, Steven Daniel.....302.....Lillington	Waters, Timothy Warren.....462.....South Fork	Kozel, Kurtis Grant.....734.....William Pitt
Isom, Kyle Marc.....314.....New Lebanon	Shope, Kelby Ryan.....491.....Hominy	McNeil Jr, Michael Thomas.....757.....Denver
Cook, Gary Lynn.....317.....Eureka	Taylor Jr, James Earl.....497.....Royal Hart	

Scheduled District meetings

Date	District	City	Date	District	City	Date	District	City
Aug. 2	District 41	Franklin	Aug. 4	District 34	Hickory	Aug. 10	District 25/26	Elkin
Aug. 3	District 39	Asheville	Aug. 9	District 33	Boone	Aug. 11	District 13	Oxford
						Aug. 16	District 19	Durham

Proposed Code Amendments for 2021

Here is the final list of proposed Code amendments to be presented for consideration at Annual Communication in September. Several proposed amendments were held over from 2020. Voting was restricted last year due to the pandemic and the structure of the virtual Annual Communication. Those amendments are indicated with the label **(Held over)**.

AMENDMENT GROUP 1

(Held over from the 2020 Annual Communication)



Submitted by the Board of General Purposes

This amendment would require lodges to fully insure their property as per North Carolina law. Failure to do so would disallow any lodge to seek assistance from other lodges.

AMENDMENT GROUP 2 (Held over)



Submitted by Cannon Memorial #626

This amendment would allow a lodge to vote on petitions for the degrees collectively.

AMENDMENT GROUP 3 (Held over)



Submitted by the Grand Secretary

This amendment would allow a lodge, if it wanted to, to open on the First Degree and conduct its business.

AMENDMENT GROUP 4 (Held over)



Submitted by Eagle #19

This amendment proposes to resolve a conflict in The Code concerning motions to close debate in a subordinate lodge.

AMENDMENT GROUP 5 (Held over)



Submitted by the Grand Secretary

This amendment would require consolidating lodges to deed its property to the consolidated lodge. It would also allow the lodge trustees to fulfill their roles as executors of the lodge's property until all property is sold or transferred.

AMENDMENT GROUP 6 (Held over)



Submitted by William G. Hill #218

These amendments would allow the estate of a deceased member to purchase an endowed membership for the member. It also increases the costs of Veteran's and Memorial Endowed memberships.

AMENDMENT GROUP 7



Submitted by Past Grand Master P. Shaun Bradshaw

This amendment would raise the minimum initiation fee in order to provide more charity as the current fee structure was set over a century ago. This proposal does not affect the Grand Lodge per capita assessment, but rather the "petitioner's fee" due at the time of initiation.

AMENDMENT GROUP 8



Submitted by Past Grand Master P. Shaun Bradshaw

This amendment would raise the minimum initiation fee to \$125.

AMENDMENT GROUP 9



Submitted by Past Grand Master P. Shaun Bradshaw

This amendment would remove certain outdated and poorly phrased Masonic offenses from The Code.

AMENDMENT GROUP 10



Submitted by Past Grand Master P. Shaun Bradshaw

This amendment would make obsolete sections of The Code deeming professional gambling, legal gambling, or operating a business where legal gambling takes place a Masonic offense. It would also make it a Masonic offense to cast a negative ballot against a petitioner due to his race, color, creed, or nation of origin.

AMENDMENT GROUP 11



Submitted by Semper Fidelis #680

The amendment states that all service awards shall be presented by the Grand Master or his representative.

AMENDMENT GROUP 11 SUBSTITUTE



Submitted by the Grand Secretary

This amendment aligns the process of creating, delivering, and presenting service awards to lodges and members into current practice.

AMENDMENT GROUP 12



Submitted by the Grand Secretary

This amendment creates a Grand Lodge Committee on Philanthropy to review and report all aspects of the Grand Lodge's charitable and philanthropic endeavors to the Grand Lodge.

AMENDMENT GROUP 13



Submitted by Grand Secretary

This amendment consolidates subordinate lodge committees on the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford and the Committee on WhiteStone into one committee, and further makes the subordinate lodge committee on DeMolay optional.

AMENDMENT GROUP 14



Submitted by Allen Graham #695

This amendment permits any Mason to object to the passing or raising of a candidate in any lodge.

AMENDMENT GROUP 15



Submitted by Lux Libertas #772

This amendment deal with virtual meetings and permits some brothers to attend stated communications virtually.

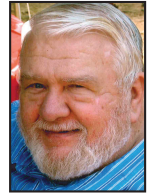
This year's Cathey Scholarship winners selected

Fifteen students have been awarded the Charles Edward Cathey Scholarship for 2021. Each student receives a scholarship of \$1,000.

In 2000, Grand Master Charles Cathey initiated a drive to raise money for scholarships that could be awarded to deserving North Carolina students.

NC Masons generously supported his call to help send graduating high school seniors to college. Winners are:

- Reece Bridges, Valdese; Draughn High
- Savannah Buck, Emul; West Craven High
- Dawson Corbett, Newton Grove; Hobpton High
- Colby Davis, Murphy; Hiwassee Dam High
- Mason Fuller, Ocracoke; Ocracoke High
- Ella Gamble, Cullowhee; Smoky Mountain High
- Madison Grigsby, Chadbourn; South Columbus High
- Kristen Hall, Tryon; Polk County High
- Ava Hayes, Pfafftown; Ronald Wilson Reagan High
- Elijah Lemons, Fuquay Varina; Harnett Central High
- Brianna Martin, State Road; East Wilkes High
- Bryce Rogers, Franklin; Franklin High
- Carson Satterwhite, Southport; South Brunswick High
- Jon Soderena, Wilmington; E.A. Laney High
- Morgan Walker, Lawndale; Burns High



SAVE THE DATE! The Grand Lodge will hold an emergent communication on Saturday, Oct. 2 at 10 a.m. at Roanoke Rapids High School to open, re-seal, and rededicate the Masonic cornerstone on the school's 100th anniversary. The event is preceded by a parade. Bring your apron! Details: www.rrgsd.org/article/490288.

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.

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

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THE MISSION OF FREEMASONRY IN NORTH CAROLINA IS TO RAISE THE MORAL, SOCIAL, INTELLECTUAL AND SPIRITUAL CONSCIENCE OF SOCIETY BY TEACHING THE ANCIENT AND ENDURING PHILOSOPHICAL TENETS OF BROTHERLY LOVE, RELIEF, AND TRUTH, WHICH ARE EXPRESSED OUTWARDLY THROUGH SERVICE TO GOD, FAMILY, COUNTRY, AND SELF UNDER THE FATHERHOOD OF GOD WITHIN THE BROTHERHOOD OF MAN.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Zion rises above the floods with a lot of hard labors

EDITOR'S NOTE: Every Masonic lodge in North Carolina has a story to tell. The stories are often ones of trial and loss ... and back again. Staring down adversity when the odds are against you has a way of making things interesting. From time to time, I'll tell the story of a lodge that simply refused to give in.

Picture it: Eastern Carolina. 2018. Hurricane Florence hits. Refuses to leave for days. Finally goes. At the lodge: Water. Everywhere. Floors ruined. Furniture warped. Kitchen swamped.



By Beth Grace
Editor

Mother Nature's mayhem. What do you do? Well ... If you are the brothers of Zion #81, you gather and meet anyway. Perched on soggy chairs properly placed to the East, to the West and to the South in ankle-deep water, you start the work of recovery.

Masonic lodges are not given to giving up. Zion is no different. The pride is palpable. Just take a walk through the lodge with Past Masters and DDGMs Bobby Meadows (currently the Secretary) and Johnny Surles and hear the stories.

This impeccably cared-for modest brick building just 80-some miles northeast of the town where Masonry got its start in 1730s North Carolina has seen its share of history – and has made some in the process.

During the Civil War, a set of silver officer's jewels were stolen from the lodge meeting room at the local courthouse. A fellow Mason from Connecticut came across the jewels among the thieves' belongings some time later and took them for safekeeping.

That soldier never made it home, but his family found the jewels – and a note about their provenance – in his effects. They kept them safe until they could be

returned in 1865. Just six years ago, brothers from Wyllys-St. John #4, West Hartford, Connecticut, revisited Zion #81 to commemorate that on the 150th anniversary of that return.

The lodge has faced a flood once before – Floyd left six inches of water and took out the floor and the old HVAC system. A good lesson learned. The lodge replaced the system – but installed it above the lodge room. Florence didn't touch it, and neither should any future flood. The linoleum tile covering didn't survive, so they replaced that with real black and white tile in the traditional checkerboard pattern.

History shows, though, that when the going gets tough, other brothers reach out a helping hand. For example, the lodge furniture was ruined by Florence. The cost of replacing that is exorbitant. Unless someone comes to the rescue.

Then Grand Secretary Walt Clapp called Brother Surles one day from an event he was attending in Virginia and told him he knew of a lodge that was replacing its furniture and would be happy to give the old pieces to Zion.

"We thought the furniture was coming from Virginia. Turns out," he said with a laugh, "It was coming from Vermont!" It took months and endless patience to finally get the furniture shipped – the moving company handling the work was not so committed to meeting actual delivery times. Or days. Or months.

The furniture now fills the beautiful, redone lodge, and life has returned to normal ... well, post-COVID normal, anyway.

The dedication this lodge has shown to preserving its Masonic history is not unique to Masonry in North Carolina. Similar stories abound statewide. It inspires admiration.

"By rights, we really shouldn't be sitting here," says Brother Meadows. "But we all worked together and got it done."

The story inspires something else: well-placed pride.

"One thing we know for sure now," says Surles. "We can handle anything." ❖



FROM THE GRAND MASTER



WhiteStone legacy continuing

By R. David Wicker Jr.
Grand Master

When I last discussed the tenants of a Mason's profession, my focus was on the past,

present and future of the Masonic Home for Children in Oxford.

Today, I will address WhiteStone, our retirement community in Greensboro. My brothers, the purpose of my article is twofold. The first is to provide you with a history of the development and operation of your home. The second is to dispel certain rumors that the home is no longer owned, occupied and operated by the Masons and Eastern Star of North Carolina.

At the 1904 Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina, Brother L. M. Clymer introduced a resolution which stated in part that:

"Whereas, Charity is one of the cardinal principles of Masonry; and

"Whereas, We feel that we should have an institution for the care of our aged and indigent brethren; therefore, be it,

"Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed by this Grand Lodge to inquire into the advisability and expediency of establishing such an institution in the near future, and said committee be instructed to report at the next session of this Grand Body."

Brother Clymer's Resolution was adopted and a "Committee on Home for Aged, Infirm and Indigent Masons" was established.

In 1905, the committee reported that a home should be established at the earliest possible moment. However, because the Grand Lodge was building a Masonic Temple in downtown Raleigh, the Committee recommended that any work on a home for the aged be delayed until surplus funds from the Temple construction became available. The committee would begin to inquire into a suitable location for the Home.

The committee continued its work during 1906 and 1907 by communicating with the Craft regarding the need for the home and gauging their support of such a project.

In 1908, the Committee reported that several offers of land had been received on which to locate the home. The committee was then charged with receiving, considering and recommending to the Grand Lodge the offers

to locate the home.

In 1909, the committee reported that they had \$1,100 cash on hand and pledges of another \$900 for construction of the home. The committee recommended that the home be incorporated and that construction begin when the committee secures \$5,000.

In addition, the committee reported that it had received communications from the Grand Chapter of the Order of the Star to combine a Home for the Aged and Indigent Masons with a Home for the Aged and Indigent Wives and Widows of Masons. A subcommittee was authorized to be formed with representatives of the Eastern Star to consider plans for the home.

The following year, the committee reported at Annual Communication that the incorporation of the home had been postponed until a vote of approval to do so was taken by the delegates at Grand Lodge. Committee members felt that such an action, without the delegates' approval, would have exceeded their authority. They also informed the delegates that after conferral with representatives of the Eastern Star, the two bodies should unite and cooperate in the construction and maintenance of the home.

They further reported that they had received an offer of 11.5 acres of land to locate the home in Mooresville. The delegates approved the incorporation and elected the first five directors of the Masonic and Eastern Star Home.

On June 18, 1910, the North Carolina Secretary of State recorded docket number 8159, the Articles of Incorporation for the Masonic and Eastern Star Home Inc., since known to many of us as MESH. The original stated purpose of the corporation is "to build, operate and maintain a home for aged and indigent Masons, aged and indigent wives and widows of Masons and such other relatives of Masons as the By-laws shall provide for."

At the 1911 Annual Communication, the board reported that it had considered several sites and at the Oct. 7, 1910, board meeting in Salisbury accepted the proposal to locate the home in Greensboro. The Masons and citizens of Greensboro agreed to donate 25 acres of land and \$5,000 for construction of the home. The firm of Hooks & Rogers was selected as the architect and the estimated cost of construction of the home was \$15,000.

The following year it was reported that great progress had been made toward the completion

of the home, but that nearly half of the lodges had not "subscribed or paid a single dollar toward the accomplishment of this great work."

The committee went on to report that the failure of the lodges to donate to the project or timely pay their pledges created a situation where the board of directors was unable to pay construction costs on time. The board was forced to borrow funds to proceed with construction.

By the end of 1913, construction had been completed, with a final construction cost of \$22,000. It was again reported that over half of the lodges had not made any contribution and that the board was forced to borrow \$12,000 to complete the project.

The board asked "what, my brethren, can be the reason for this indifference and apathy? ... An opportunity of doing great good is at hand. How much better it is to provide a home where your aged and indigent brothers can spend their last few remaining years in peace and comfort, and in the congenial society of brothers and friends, than it is to have small charity doled out to them by their home lodge and individual friends."

The board also reported that the first administrator of the Home had been hired, Brother M.W. White of Mooresville.

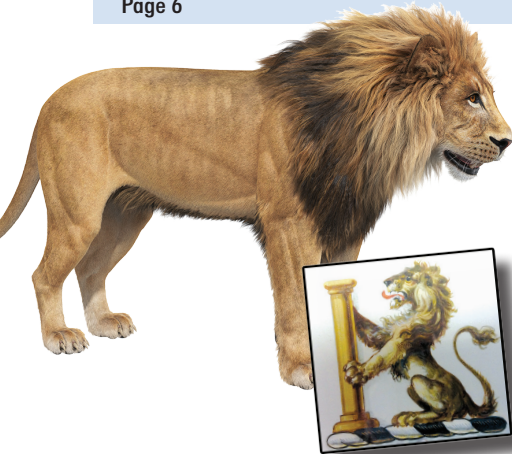
At the 1914 Annual Communication, it was reported that the home had completed construction of a water and septic system, installation of electric lights and a power plant. The board acknowledged the generous support of the appendant bodies in the cause of constructing the home. It was reported that the Scottish Rite Bodies, York Rite Bodies and Oasis Shrine had contributed almost \$1,800.

On Jan. 12, 1914, the home received its first residents, Brother F.M. Stone and his wife from Rolesville #156.

At the 1915 Annual Communication, the board recognized that, although the home was located in the county, as the city of Greensboro continued to grow, additional land would be needed to support the home. The board recommended that additional land adjacent to the home be purchased from J. Van Lindley and Paul Van Lindley.

The land was necessary as MESH, much like the Children's Home in Oxford, had an active farm to support the residents. The proceedings showing that the home had three milk cows,

■ see WICKER, page 8



LION & PILLAR 2022

Roar ahead on your lodge's quest to qualify for the Lion and Pillar Lodge of Excellence Award for 2022! You can identify new or changed requirements by looking for the **RED** type. Notice the boxes to the left of each item. Use them like a scorecard to check off what you've accomplished this year. *This year in Categories 1, 2 & 3 in the event of Pandemic, natural disaster or other extenuating circumstances, contact the Lion and Pillar Committee no later than April 15th of the ensuing year and request special dispensation. The Chair of the Committee will respond for the Committee after consultation. Application deadline is June 30, 2022.*

CATEGORY 1

EDUCATION

COMPLETE 3
OF 8 ITEMS 

- 1. Implement the Lodge System of Masonic Instruction as a subordinate lodge or as a district, with participating lodges receiving credit. DDGMs will certify lodge participation.
- 2. Host a speaker from the Grand Lodge Speakers Bureau, a member of the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Education, a faculty member from Wilkerson College, a faculty member from the Davie Academy or a faculty member from the Middle Chamber for a program at a stated communication.
- 3. Have a deacon graduate from Wilkerson College.
- 4. Have a member complete a Davie Academy session.
- 5. Have a member complete a Middle Chamber session.
- 6. Establish a Masonic Book Club for the lodge and have members regularly provide a review and/or personal reflection of a book on Masonic Ritual, Symbolism, or Philosophy.
- 7. As a regular part of the stated communication of the lodge, have a member read a portion of the ritual, invite the brethren in attendance to contemplate and discuss what it means, and encourage them to consider it at a deeper, more personal level.
- 8. Document three lodge members viewing videos if produced by The Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Education, Wilkerson College, Davie Academy, or Middle Chamber and posted or approved by the Lion and Pillar Lodge of Excellence Committee.

CATEGORY 3

PHILANTHROPY

COMPLETE #1, #2 AND
TWO OF REMAINING 9 

- 1. Make a donation and send a copy of your check or receipt to ALL THREE following Masonic Charities of any amount
 - a. North Carolina Masonic Foundation
 - b. WhiteStone, A Masonic and Eastern Star Home
 - c. Masonic Home for Children at Oxford
- 2. Document a contribution to a charity of your choice IN YOUR COMMUNITY
- 3. Host a North Carolina Masonic Foundation development officer for a program at a stated communication,
- 4. Attend or host a program that includes a NCMF, MHCO, or WhiteStone development officer for a program
- 5. Document at least three members of your lodge visiting the campus at Oxford or Greensboro, taking a tour of the home, and making contact with at least one resident. Documentation should include photographs.
- 6. Assist a brother or his widow in getting financial assistance from the MESH LLC Outreach program (336-601-5593).

CATEGORY 2

PATRIOTISM

COMPLETE #1
AND 4 OTHERS 

- 1. Recognize veterans at every meeting.
- 2. Organize a lodge visit to veterans in a nursing home.
- 3. Visit veterans in a VA hospital in Salisbury, Fayetteville, Durham or Asheville.
- 4. Have a Masonic Education on Masonic Service Association of North America (MSANA) Hospital Visitation OR volunteer in a VA hospital/clinic
- 5. Host a member of the National Sojourners for a program.
- 6. Hold a Masonic education program on the MSANA's Disaster Relief initiatives or contribute to the Disaster Relief as a lodge.
- 7. Host a meal for veterans and active military personnel at your lodge separate from a regular stated meeting. Include non-Masonic veterans, active military personnel, and local high school youth/JROTC interested in military careers at this event.
- 8. Support a "Wreaths Across America" or similar veterans projects.
- 9. Document three lodge members viewing videos produced by MSANA regarding VA Hospitals, National Sojourners, and the George Washington National Memorial in Alexandria and posted or approved by the Lion and Pillar Lodge of Excellence Committee.
- 10. Participate in a visible community-wide Memorial or Veteran's Day observance or remembrance program.
- 11. Be creative. Request approval for your idea in this category from the Lion and Pillar Team.



- 7. Contact the Masonic Home for Children and agree to sponsor a cottage for Christmas, a summer trip, send birthday cards throughout the year, or offer another service as directed by the MHCO.**
- 8. Contact WhiteStone and agree to sponsor a resident receiving financial assistance for a minimum of 1 year.**
- 9. Document three lodge members viewing videos if produced by NCMF, MHCO, and WhiteStone: posted and approved by the Lion and Pillar Lodge of Excellence Committee.
- 10. Present, participate, or donate to a scholarship to a High School or College Student as a lodge sponsored through the NC Masonic Foundation.
- 11. Be creative. Request approval for your idea in this category from the Lion and Pillar Team.

**The Masonic Home for Children and WhiteStone will provide the lodge with the information related to the financial obligations necessary to complete this item.

CATEGORY 4

**MASONIC
MEMBERSHIP**

COMPLETE #1
AND FOUR OF
REMAINING
14 ITEMS



- 1. Contact no less than 50% of your inactive members, a minimum of once per year, either by voice contact via phone (voice messages do not count) or an in person visit. Provide a list of names and dates when contacted. [An inactive member for this purpose is any member who has not attended a meeting within a twelve-month period.]
- 2. An appreciation dinner for lodge families and widows.
- 3. Identify and contact widows, by phone or visitation, at least two (2) times prior to June 30, 2022. Provide any assistance they may need and record the nature and outcome of the outreach. *See calling tree sample or contact Lion and Pillar Team*
- 4. Grow the Masonic family by having at least one lodge member join the York Rite, Scottish Rite, Shrine, Order of the Eastern Star or Amaranth, or contribute to the formation of, or support for existing DeMolay or Rainbow Girls organizations in your lodge or district.
- 5. Have your Lodge Secretary validate full use of the Grand Lodge approved database: currently MORI. *Counts as Three Credits*
- 6. Confirm valid email addresses, phone numbers, and occupation information in MORI for at least 75 percent of lodge members.
- 7. Adopt and use the Our Lodge Page function in MORI. Hold a Masonic education program to explain OLP to members.
- 8. Help plan and participate in a district-wide event such as a fundraiser for Masonic charities, a Masonic education event (not including a School of Instruction, Lecture Service or Grand Master district meeting), a district-wide degree, a district-wide funeral service, a district-wide fellowship dinner with Masonic education speaker, or a district-wide community service project.
- 9. Engage new brethren at the lodge or district level. Form an Under 5-degree team consisting of Masons with less than five years in the craft or require new members to deliver papers or Masonic education programs within three months of raising.
- 10. Plan an observance of the Feast of St. John the Baptist on or near June 23 as a lodge or a district, with a meal and Masonic speaker. Submit your event announcement, flyer, or other advance event publicity to qualify.
- 11. Host a member of the Grand Lodge Masonic Renewal Committee for a program.
- 12. Implement an "innovative" use of technology in the lodge. For purposes of the Lion & Pillar award, "innovative" is defined as utilizing any form of technology that is not presently in use in the lodge. For example, if a lodge does not currently use a laptop and projector for presentations in the lodge, adding and using those items will constitute an "innovative" use of technology, since it will be new to the lodge.
- 13. Attempt to contact all "unfinished work" from the prior 3 years, determine why they have not continued, and report findings as part of the final application materials for the Lion & Pillar award.
- 14. Attend a Masonic and/or Eastern Star function at Camp Gray Rock.
- 15. Host a member from the Lion and Pillar Team for a program at you lodge.

★ NEW LEVEL!

Pounce on this new level of the Lion and Pillar Award: **The Grand Master Lodge of Excellence Award.**

To achieve this level your lodge must complete the required items in categories 1-5, plus one extra in each category. And you must accomplish goals announced by the incoming Grand Master at the 2021 Annual Communication.



To apply, submit the official application or write a letter of application listing the items your lodge chose to complete. Provide details about your lodge's performance on or plans for completing each selected item. Send your applications to Info@lionandpillarn.org. Recipients will be notified by Aug. 1, 2022, and will be recognized during the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge.

CATEGORY 5

**AFFILIATED
CONNECTIONS**

COMPLETE
4 OF 12
ITEMS



- 1. Host an appreciation meal for local firefighters, police officers, and/or rescue personnel/EMT's as a district or lodge.
- 2. Hold a lodge Open House and invite the community.
- 3. Contribute a minimum of \$5 per member to support a charitable cause in your local community.
- 4. Participate in a Habitat for Humanity program in your community by providing labor to support one of their projects. Donations only do not count towards this item.
- 5. Partner with a local public school on literacy. Read to students, contribute to a school library or book drive, or establish a Bikes for Books-type reading reward program as a lodge or district (www.masoniccharitablefoundation.org/programs/Masonic-bikes-books/).
- 6. Utilize the MHCO Print Shop for printing requirements in your lodge or a District event coordinated by your lodge.
- 7. Sponsor a Blood drive in your community.
- 8. Sponsor a cooking team for the MHCO Homecoming Festival or the Masonic Carolina Pig Jig (www.carolinapigjig.com)
- 9. Sponsor a youth organization (Little League, Soccer, Volleyball, etc.) in your community.
- 10. Support a School Project, "Stuff the Bus", "Backpack Program for summer food support to the needy" or other similar programs.
- 11. Present a scholarship to a High School or College Student as a lodge or part of a district effort. If this is done through NCFE, automatic credit is given here.
- 12. Be creative. Request approval for your idea in this category from the Lion and Pillar Team.

PLATINUM LEVEL

To earn the Platinum award, you must complete one of the five choices below, after first qualifying for the Lion and Pillar Grand Master's Lodge of Excellence Award on the prior page. The application deadline is June 30, 2022.

1. Starting July 1, 2021, and prior to June 30th, 2022, a member or the installed senior deacon gives his first-ever Fellow Craft Degree lecture. This can be accomplished in his own lodge (preferable) or at another lodge within his district if his lodge experiences no such degree work during the qualifying period or by documentation with the District Deputy Grand Lecturer.
2. Starting July 1, 2021, and prior to June 30th, 2022, a member of your lodge conducts his first-ever Masonic graveside or memorial funeral service. This also can be accomplished in his own lodge or at another lodge within his district if his lodge experiences no such requests during the qualifying period or by documentation with the District Deputy Grand Lecturer.
3. Starting July 1, 2021, and prior to June 30th, 2022 confirm 5% of all current lodge members are signed up for a recurring monthly gift to MHCO (<https://my.simplegive.com/App/Giving/mhco>) or MESH LLC (<https://www.liveatwhitstone.org/donate/>). Note that recurring gifts DO also count toward Category 3, Item 1.
4. Starting July 1, 2021, and prior to June 30th, 2022, participate, as a lodge, in a public ceremony, which brings Freemasonry to the public view and attention. Examples include public cornerstone laying, public building dedication, etc. Past events that would count toward this item include the 2015 rededication of NC capitol building, the 2016 Vance Memorial rededication, the 2017 rededication of Raleigh Presbyterian Church, Halifax Day, or Masonic Unity Events that are public and approved by the Lion and Pillar Team.
5. A member of your lodge becomes a Certified Instructor or Lecturer, is recertified, or receives a 10-, 25-, or 50-year recognition for certification.

Freemasonry: Never in the past tense

Early on July 1, a group of stonemasons and several brethren arrived at the former Raleigh Masonic Temple to oversee removal of the Masonic cornerstone laid 67 years ago by Past Grand Master and Grand Secretary Charlie Harris.

The moment was fascinating, and bitter-sweet.

The once monumental illuminated square and compasses affixed to the building is now skeletal and rusted. The facade's stately windows are removed. Facia boards and moulding bend and bow. And the once manicured lawn is now reminiscent of an ancient piedmont prairie.

In this contrasted environment, expert workman extracted the granite cornerstone block with surgical precision while the members in attendance eyed the sculpted rock with curiosity.

Doubtless, the moment conjured a flood of memories and not an insubstantial amount of introspection. The road to this moment was nearly 30 years in the making and a saga of ups and downs, frustrations and hope.

The Raleigh lodges' direction is fluid at the moment, but they are doing what every Mason and

lodge has done for centuries before them—drawing designs, planning a course, and uniting to move forward.

For me, contemplating the cornerstone's removal became cathartic.

I read the moment as an analogy for our fraternity, for our lodges, and as an individual.

Change is the only constant in our world. And, let's be honest, our world is in flux. Things are happening more quickly than we can comprehend. When that happens, people become nervous, paranoid, and angry.

These are natural feelings, especially when the minutiae of our modern lives make pinpointing problems almost impos-

sible. Today, more than ever, we're reminded of the less rosy parts of childhood—we hurt, but we don't know why. We become frustrated, and we don't know how to fix it.

Our world is a different place than the world we knew as children. Frustrated as we may become with any number of hot-button issues, we need to look at our cornerstones and remember that we're Masons.

Many Temples have come and gone, including the original Temple in Jerusalem. Physical temples are ephemeral. They will crumble. They will fall.

What remains are our spiritual



By Jonathan Underwood
Grand Secretary



Workers carefully extract the cornerstone from the former temple.


temples and the will to build them better again and again. The cornerstone of the Raleigh Masonic Temple is not just a cornerstone, but a potent reminder that we, as Masons, have a solid foundation in front of us on which to build something new. Something better. We are always building.

Freemasonry is *never* past tense.

Brethren, change cannot drag us down. Change is an opportunity. Within our fraternity, our ritual is the continuity between generations of Masons who think differently, act differently, have different values, different creeds, and different habits.

Lodge buildings come and go, but the men who best work and best agree remain steadfast through the generations.

We're nearly a quarter through the 21st century. While we should definitely look back to see where we've come from and recognize our achievements (a university, a college, a home for children, a home for the elderly, and exponential numbers of bonds between men and communities), it's more important to look forward at what we're going to do next.

Are you ready to build something new? 



Want to win a medal and welcome the next Grand Master into office? Link here: ncgmrn.eventbrite.com/

■ WICKER, from page 5

three calves, six hogs, two mules and 60 chickens.

It was reported that during the year, the home welcomed delegations from Tarboro and Ayden. These delegations traveled to the home by motorcars. Each of these delegations traveled more than 150 miles over what many today would consider cart paths.

Also in 1915, the board, for the first time, called upon the membership of Grand Lodge of North Carolina and the Order of the Eastern Star to create an endowment to "enable the home to properly expand to meet all requirements" of those in residence.

The next year, it was reported that the home was at capacity, with 41 residents in 30 bedrooms. As such, no additional applications could be accepted.

The board advised that a new wing should be built with 32 additional rooms. Oasis Temple immediately appropriated the sum of \$1,500 to start the building fund.

The board also recommended that fire escapes be constructed. It was a concern that the men living on the third floor were very feeble and the stairway was steep. In the event of a fire, the loss of life "would be appalling." By 1917, the fire escapes had been installed. And in 1923, the new wing was completed and when opened, it was immediately filled to capacity.

By the 1920s, 30 Masonic jurisdictions across the country had constructed homes for the aged. In

■ see MORE WICKER, page 9

■ MORE WICKER, from page 8

addition, there were seven jurisdictions that had both homes for the aged and a children's home. But unlike North Carolina, every other jurisdiction funded their homes by assessing a special per capita tax against its members.

Of all the Masonic jurisdictions in the United States, only Kentucky has a home older than North Carolina. Their home for the aged and orphans was started in 1871, just a year before we began construction of our home in Oxford. History shows that the Freemasons in North Carolina have always been the trailblazers of this fraternity.

As the years passed, MESH campus grew from its original 25 acres to approximately 50 acres. Buildings were replaced when needed. The Chapel was constructed in 1941, Latham in 1949, Setzer in 1962, the dining hall in 1966, Bennett in 1967, the Care Center in 1970 and replaced in 1999 and Linville in 1975.

Phase I of the Independent Living Units began construction in 1979 and was completed in 1999 with 45 apartments and 64 homes. Phase II was completed in 2012 with an additional 46 apartments and six homes. We went from caring for 41 residents in 1914 to almost 350 today.

The original concept for the funding of MESH was through a program of assigned assets. Incoming residents would assign their assets to the home and the cost of their care would hopefully be offset from the sale of those assets. Any shortfall in the cost of operations was to be made up through the donations of the Craft.

Unfortunately, this business model did not keep up with the work being done at MESH. Originally, we were able to operate with a few cows and chickens along with the limited donations by the Craft. However, almost 100 years later, the assignment of assets model MESH was using could not support increased numbers of residents nor could it pay for the escalating cost of skilled nursing care. Residents long outlived their assets and the Craft failed to make up the shortfall with donations.

Through the 1980s and 1990s, MESH had operational losses that averaged in the hundreds of thousands of dollars every year. By the

early 2000s, the operational losses of MESH exceeded \$1 million dollars a year.

MESH was simply providing more charity than it could afford. As a result, MESH was close to depleting the financial reserves that had been accumulated in the previous 90 years.

As a result of financial constraints, in 2005, MESH was forced to suspend new admissions to anyone who needed to rely on charitable subsidies. Because MESH had fallen below minimum reserves required the North Carolina Department of Insurance (DOI), MESH was in a situation where the DOI could have seized the assets and taken over operational control of the home.

To prevent that, Grand Master Gene Jernigan called an emergency meeting of the board of directors to determine how to salvage our home. To meet the DOI's minimum reserves, the North Carolina Masonic Foundation stepped up and transferred \$2 million to MESH.

It was obvious to the board that it did not have the expertise to oversee the daily operations of a community the size and complexity of MESH. We were no longer operating a home out in the county, but an entire retirement community.

As such, the board concluded that it was time to hire professionals to see to the day-to-day management of MESH. After careful consideration, Life Care Services was retained to provide for the daily management. LCS is the second largest provider of senior living communities in the United States.

Although LCS would be managing the operations, oversight and control of the MESH remained with the 20-member board of directors. In addition, the employees remained with MESH as did ownership of the real property.

Brother Mark Kolada came to MESH from LCS as our new administrator. After assessing the situation, it was determined that the home needed to take several steps to survive.

First, all expansion projects were delayed. Second, in 2006, MESH was opened to the general public, who would pay the retail costs of care. This gave MESH the cash flow to pay the ongoing costs of operation. Third, the restrictions on admissions for those

who needed subsidized care remained in effect until we were in a better financial condition.

At the same time, MESH was rebranded as WhiteStone, a Masonic and Eastern Star Community. The name WhiteStone is taken from Brother M.W. White, the first administrator at the home and from Brother and Mrs. F.M. Stone, our first residents.

Over the next several years, WhiteStone was able to hold on, survive and then prosper. With the help of LCS and through the professional management they provided us, first by Brother Mark Kolada and now by Brother Mark Lewis, WhiteStone has the financial stability to once again open its doors for the admission of Masons, Stars and their families who need charitable help to live on campus.

In 2012, the North Carolina Masonic and Eastern Star Foundation LLC was established to receive donations from the Craft for the support of the fraternally related residents at WhiteStone. Because there are no administrative costs associated with this foundation, 100 percent of every dollar donated goes directly to the care of a Mason or a Star.

WhiteStone was able to establish an outreach program, now called the Fraternal Friendship Program, to provide assistance to Masons and Stars who could otherwise stay in their home. Although the operational budget of WhiteStone is now \$16 million per year, we are again able to provide in excess of \$1.6 million per year in charity care.

The need for WhiteStone is as great today as it has ever been. The home exists to provide a stable, caring, loving home for elderly Masons and Stars who need assistance in the twilight of their lives.

In many instances, this extends their life and makes their life more fulfilling. Those who were once living alone with only the occasional contact with others now have a home where they can enjoy the company and companionship of new friends.

Although we would love to do additional charity, what we do is in direct relation to what our Craft provides us in support.

As I did with the MHCO, I offer a two-part challenge to each Masonic

lodge and to every Mason in North Carolina.

First, visit WhiteStone. Come to Greensboro and see for yourself the work that is being done. Visiting WhiteStone at least one time is not such a burden that cannot be endured. If delegations of Masons can endure a drive of over 150 miles in 1915 to see the home, you can do it today.

I encourage you to bring your wives and children. Let them experience first-hand the good you do. Bring your lodge and have a meeting on campus. I guarantee you that the Grand Master will grant you a dispensation to do so.

Second, support WhiteStone financially. We are in a capital campaign to raise funds to help with the next phase of expansion. These funds will not be used for the Independent Living portion of the project. Independent Living supports itself. Funds donated by Masons and Stars will be used to help pay for the Memory Care Unit, which we are doubling, or for the Care and Wellness Center that is being updated after more than 20 years.

Although it was requested in 1915, our home is still not blessed with a permanent endowment. The words of Brother Tommy Jones still ring true today. "I'm afraid far too many of our Brethren have been or are raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason and remain forever on the brow of the hill. They do not understand our mission because we have failed to give meaning to the ceremonies and rituals of the three degrees."

My brothers, if we all do a little, much will be accomplished. If you are undecided, remember "what, my brethren, can be the reason for this indifference and apathy? ... An opportunity of doing great good is at hand."

We need your support. The amount of support you give does not matter as long as we all offer such support as our cable tows will allow.

As you continue on your Masonic journey through life, remember to reflect upon the question of "What came you here to do?"

The answer to that question can help determine the future of tomorrow's children and the elderly members of our Fraternity who so need your assistance. ✦

NEWS OF THE CRAFT



▲ **WEAVERVILLE** – They're celebrating a little later than expected – COVID interrupted – but every brother in this shot is celebrating 50 years in Masonry. From left, they are Jack Clevenger, Mitch Clevenger, Boyd Black – who was the coach for ALL of these brothers, Master Jeff Allman, Jerry Clevenger and James Clevenger.



▲ **LEXINGTON** – At a stated communication of Lexington-Memorial #473, Worshipful Brother Marshall Goss Jr., past master, left, presented Brother Jack Marble his 70-year service award. Brother Marble was lodge Tyler for 27 years.



◀ **GASTONIA** – If you were parched in Gastonia on the 4th of July, the brothers of Gastonia #369 had your back, passing out complimentary bottles of water to folks celebrating the holiday. On hand to help were, left to right, Senior Warden Steve Adams; Past Master Frederick H. Cloninger; Senior Deacon Ward Harris. In the rear with the peace sign is Brother Brandon Cauthran, the lodge's newest Master Mason.



▲ **BENSON** – The brethren of Relief #431 gathered in May as Most Worshipful Grand Master David Wicker presented 50-year certificates to Worshipful Brother Danny Mack Holland, left, and Brother Jim Best, right.



◀ **LITTLETON, NC** – The brethren of Royal Hart #497 gathered with members of the Brown family and residents of The Landings of Lake Gaston to present Worshipful Brother Wallace E. Brown with his Diamond Jubilee certificate and pin to commemorate his 60-plus years as a Master Mason. Brother Brown was raised on May 9, 1960. He held various offices in Royal Hart #497 throughout the years, serving as Master in 1966. He served as District Deputy Grand Master of the 20th Masonic District (presently the 8th District) 1994-1997.



▲ **SALUDA** – The brothers of Polk County Unity #482 participated in the 2021 Polk County High School Awards Ceremony, presenting the George Cathey Masonic Scholarship to this year's recipient, Senior Kristen Hall. Kristen also received an additional \$1,000 scholarship from the Lodge. Pictured from left to right: Worshipful Brother Jim Steckel, WB Snell Sellers, Kristen Hall, WB Jamie Thompson, WB Marcus Robinson.



▲ **FOREST CITY** – Western Star #91 enjoyed its first Masonic Night at the Forest City Owls stadium at McNair Field. About 40 brothers, family and friends attended, including brethren from Kedron, Cliffside, Polk County Unity, Hollis and Forest City lodges.



▲ **KERNERSVILLE** – Matthew Smith, left, master of Kernersville #669, recently awarded Past Master Neal Nelson with the Chaplain of Distinction certificate for his years of service to the lodge as chaplain. Brother Nelson is a 26-year Mason.



Watch for a chance to own 001

Be prepared to do some bidding at Annual Communication! Last year, Grand Master P. Shaun Bradshaw, a self-styled “watch guy”, worked with a local watchmaker in High Point to design and sell a limited edition watch to raise money for our Masonic charities. The watches were hand assembled in NC and featured a Miyota 8215 automatic movement, sapphire crystal, the Masonic emblem on the face, and the Grand Master’s pin design etched into the case back. Production was limited to only 100 watches and each piece was individually numbered. He also commissioned a super limited-edition watch with similar design specs, but featuring a stylish black and blue rotating bezel to give it a sportier look. This design was limited to only 10 pieces. Through these fundraising efforts, over \$13,000 was raised for our Masonic charities. Both designs quickly sold out and many brethren were disappointed they did not have an opportunity to purchase one of these watches. But wait . . . PGM Bradshaw has watch number 001 for both the original edition and the super limited-edition and will be auctioning them at Annual Communication this year. It’s your chance to own a stylish piece of Masonic history!

Scholarship honors William Brunk

Scottish Rite members have created a scholarship in honor of Past Sovereign Grand Inspector General Illustrious William B. Brunk, 33°.

Dr. Brunk began his Masonic Journey at Hiram #40 in Raleigh when he was raised on Nov. 15.

The late Past Grand Master Illustrious Eddie Stiles, 33°, appointed him to the Grand Lodge Line. Most Worshipful Brunk served North Carolina as Grand Master from April 1994-April 1995 and on various committees through the years.

In 2006, PGM Illustrious Gene Jernigan, 33°, awarded him the Joseph Montfort Medal, the highest honor a Master Mason can be given in North Carolina.

Dr. Brunk maintained active participation and service in North Carolina York Rite, DeMolay, and various other Masonic family branches. He is a charter member of Lux Libertas #772.

He earned a bachelor’s degree in chemistry from UNC-CH and graduated first in his class from the UNC School of Dentistry. A renowned orthodontist Dr. Brunk’s kind treatment of others endeared him to his patients and brethren. He also volunteered in the county dental clinic, and provided orthodontic treatment to residents of the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford.

Upon learning of his intention to retire, several Scottish Rite members went to work raising over \$65,000 toward



endowing a scholarship in his honor. Illustrious Deputy A. Gene Cobb, 33°, has challenged the Orient to double it as soon as possible.

Dr. Brunk was appointed Deputy of the Supreme Council in 1999, succeeding Past Grand Sovereign Inspector General Illustrious H. Lloyd Wilkerson, 33°. He was crowned Sovereign Grand Inspector General, 33° in 1999 and retired in 2020.

In North Carolina, he established a strong system of leadership training and membership education that will create a lasting legacy of quality in the Scottish Rite. Within the Council, he has been a voice of reflective thought and deep wisdom.



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Winners named, new rules announced



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WhiteStone deserves our support



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A time to look back, but mainly, ahead

On the cover

Despite all that Mother Nature has thrown their ways, the brothers of Zion #81 keep bouncing back. Read more on Page 4

The North Carolina Mason

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JULY/AUGUST 2021