

NORTH CAROLINA

FALL 2024

THE MASON

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



2024 Annual Communication

Together WE R.I.S.E.

Grand Master's at Labor



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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

I'm happy to share that the transition of the NC Mason magazine to a digital-first publication has been a resounding success!

Every member with an email now receives quarterly access to both the NC Mason and our Online Supplement, complete with options and instructions on how to update their delivery preferences right on the same page.

For those without email, we have sent over 8,000 postcards by mail with instructions to call me directly. This has resulted in over 1,000 responses, showing our members' active engagement with their preferred magazine format. I am thrilled with how members are embracing this change, making their own choices about how they wish to receive their copy of the NC Mason.

I especially want to thank all of the local lodge Secretaries who have communicated their concerns and worked with me to get this new system firmly in place. I have greatly enjoyed speaking on the phone and corresponding by email with so many strong leaders of our great fraternity.

ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS:

I would love to have a constant flow of:

- 1) Full-page life style articles for the NC Mason
- 2) Local news, photos, and taglines for the Online Supplement and social media posts.

For details, visit: <https://ncmasonmag.org/>

Don Butto, Editor

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ON THE COVER:

Annual Communicaitons 2024
Photo by Michael Harding, Genesis Photography

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Together WE R.I.S.E.

By Bobby Rideout, Grand Master of North Carolina

Brothers, this is Bobby Rideout, honored to serve as your 172nd Grand Master. I've spent a lot of time recently reflecting; it's astonishing how quickly things can change in our lives. In what feels like the blink of an eye, the course of our lives can alter. Two weeks before our North Carolina Annual Communication, I was focused on the preparing my speech, should it be the will of the Craft that I be elected to serve as Grand Master for 2025. A week later, I was serving as the acting Grand Master, opening our 237th Annual Communication, and struggling through the technical and organizational challenges that event poses. Today, I speak to you as your Grand Master, governing two months earlier than expected.

I'm also struck by how tragedy can make my personal concerns seem inconsequential when compared to the real suffering many of our brothers are facing. Recently, our Western brothers anticipated some high winds and rain from Hurricane Helene, but what arrived was a storm of catastrophic proportions. Now, many of them are enduring unimaginable hardship. As we begin to come to grips with the scope of the devastation, the love and the power of our Craft is shining through.

The Healing Power of the Craft

One of the great distinctions of Freemasonry, setting us apart from the world at large, is that we are both leaders and healers. While the world might place countless demands on you, it seldom offers the support you need when you're in distress. That's where we differ; more specifically, that's where you make the difference. We lead our Craft; we hold each other to our obligations, yet we also extend brotherly love, care, and mercy—qualities often scarce in the wider world. We must always hold ourselves accountable, but accountability should never be confused with cruelty. Freemasonry shines in times of celebration during our brightest moments, yet it becomes truly magical when it extends a hand to lift you in your darkest times. I never underestimate the healing power of the Craft, and I am continually astounded by the depth of our brotherly love. This has never been more evident than in the overwhelming support I've witnessed from our brothers over these past several weeks.

An Ask

Your Craft is in its hour of need. I call upon you to be both leaders and healers. Reach out to any brother who might need your assistance. Be your brother's keeper, in thought, word, and deed. Act as a just and upright Mason, with your shoulders back and your head held high. Share your love of the Craft with one another. In the

coming months, let us all keep our minds focused on aiding our brothers in the western part of North Carolina..

Together WE R.I.S.E.

For several years now, I've been crafting a program for our fraternity, envisioning the day I might be blessed with the opportunity to lead from the Grand East. This initiative is called "Together WE R.I.S.E." For those who attended the annual communication and saw the presentation, you'll recall that R.I.S.E. stands as an acronym for our core operational themes: Recognition, Innovation, Structure, Everyday. The title imagery was of the dawn where one hand reaches down to another who has fallen.

It is spoken as a call-and-response and represents a call to action. Upon hearing the predicate word "Together", we respond in unison "WE R.I.S.E." I crafted this

over a year ago, not anticipating the great tragedy that has struck the West or its double entendre.

Life can change in the blink of an eye. Things that seem momentous suddenly become trivial when you see the death and destruction which so many of our brothers are facing in the western part of our state. So now I call you to action, my brothers. Give generously of your time and resources, inasmuch as your cable tow will allow, to help our brothers and their communities survive, rebuild, and thrive. Our Craft has survived revolutions, wars, and disasters for over two centuries. Through faith, hope, and charity, we will help our western brothers in their darkest hour. And brothers...

Together WE R.I.S.E.

Together...

WE

R.I.S.E.

North Carolina Freemasons: Builders

By Jonathan A. Underwood, Grand Secretary



Freemasonry in North Carolina has long been a vital force in building not just physical structures but the very foundations of our communities. Members of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina

stand proudly in a rich tradition of service, unity, and leadership, living the core Masonic principle: "Do good unto all." Whether through public works, charitable efforts, or emergency relief, North Carolina Masons continually strive to strengthen the fabric of society.

From the early days of our state's development, Freemasons have been leaders in establishing educational institutions, such as the historic St. John's College, and supporting public infrastructure projects. As community builders, Masons have contributed to the growth of countless towns and cities across the state. This tradition continues today with charitable foundations, scholarships, and community programs, all rooted in the Masonic obligation to uplift those in need.

The recent devastation caused by Hurricane Helene in Western North Carolina has once again called Freemasons to the forefront as builders of communities in the most direct sense. The Grand Lodge of North Carolina is ready to take an active role in helping rebuild these areas, providing not just financial

support, but also the skills and time of its members to restore the hardest-hit regions. We stand ready to offer relief and to ensure that no one in our communities is left behind.

As we focus on this vital task, it is essential to avoid distractions that could weaken our efforts and divide our strength. The work before us is clear—building up communities, strengthening bonds, and helping those in need. As Freemasons, we come from diverse backgrounds, faiths, and perspectives, and it is this very diversity that strengthens our fraternity. Each of us contributes something unique to the greater whole, and together we are the leaders of our fraternity.

Our fraternity is founded on mutual respect, trust, and a shared commitment to doing good. By reaffirming the obligations we all took at the same altar, we can approach our work with renewed purpose, not only building stronger communities but also forging deeper relationships among ourselves—from the newest Entered Apprentice to the Grand Master, from Murphy to Manteo. No brother is ever a stranger.

Now, more than ever, we are called to act with unity and dedication. Together, we are stronger, and together we will continue to build — better communities, better communication, and a better future for North Carolina.

Together WE R.I.S.E.

Journey of Service: Brother Rufus Edmisten

By Brandon Lee Penley, Grand Historian

Brother Rufus Edmisten was born on July 12, 1941, in Boone, NC. He was raised on a farm, which was later sold, and Watauga High School was built on that land. He has four brothers and one sister. His father worked as a wildlife detective. Rufus's most cherished memory is eating watermelon on Sundays with his family, and he often misses the simpler ways of life from his childhood.

He graduated from Appalachian High School in 1959 and went on to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Working his way through college, he graduated with honors in 1963, earning a bachelor's degree in political science with a minor in religious literature.

After graduation, Rufus moved to Alexandria, VA, where he taught 3rd grade at Ascension Academy from 1963 to 1964. In 1964, he began working for Senator Sam J. Ervin and started law school at George Washington University Law School, graduating in 1968. During this time, he worked for Senator Ervin by day and attended law school at night. He had the unique opportunity to serve as Senator Ervin's driver, claiming he learned more about law during these drives than in law school.

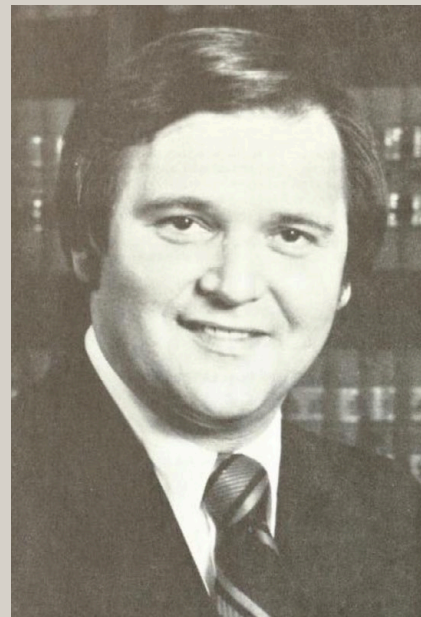
Rufus continued with Senator Ervin until the senator's retirement in 1974. During his tenure, he served as counsel to the Judiciary Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights and as Chief Counsel and Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Separation of Powers. In 1973, he also served as Deputy Chief Counsel of the Senate Watergate Committee.

In 1974, Rufus was elected Attorney General of North Carolina, serving multiple terms until 1984. Although he was the Democratic nominee

for governor in 1984, he did not win the election. From 1984 to 1988, he practiced law privately. In 1988, he was elected Secretary of State, a position he held until 1996.

Post his political career, Rufus set up a law practice in 1996 which he continues to this day, remaining active with several charities in North Carolina.

Brother Edmisten was raised in Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22 on June 3, 1971, and is now a member of Milbrook No. 97. He emphasized that the most important lesson he learned from masonry is to be kind and decent to others. He is part of the Valley of Raleigh Scottish Rite and the Amran Shrine, and he served as the Grand Orator of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina in 1995.



Brother Edmisten has dedicated his life to the service of the state of North Carolina, our fraternity, and his fellow man, living a life that stands as an inspiration to us all.

2024 Annual Communication







Grand Master's at Labor

By Dustin M. Wood, Semper Fidelis Lodge No. 680

The ancient wisdom of Grand Masters soaring in a younger generation of Masons to the mystical future.

In the fall of 2023, Worshipful Brother Howard Kahn approached me with a vision—a vision that had been forming in his mind for years. He aspired to orchestrate a Master Mason Degree conducted solely by the Grand Master and Past Grand Masters of North Carolina. After countless discussions and deliberations, we christened this monumental event "Grand Master's at Labor."

Worshipful Brother Howard's diligent efforts, alongside the tremendous support of Most Worshipful Brother Mack Sigmon, made this vision a reality. They coordinated with numerous esteemed men, juggling their demanding schedules to bring this historic event to fruition. The response was overwhelming: 100 tickets sold out within weeks, filling the venue months before the event date.

On Saturday, August 3, 2024, Semper Fidelis Lodge No. 680 witnessed an unprecedented ceremony. I, as the 78th Master, had the honor of opening the lodge in due form at 10:00 AM. This day was not just significant for the raising of Brother George A. Fitzpatrick to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason, but also for the historic nature of the degree itself. This type of degree, performed entirely by the Grand Master and Past Grand Masters of North Carolina, had never been documented in North Carolina or, to our knowledge, anywhere in the United States.

The event was filled with notable moments. Most Worshipful Brother David Wicker, Right Worshipful Brother Bobby Rideout, and Brother Clyde Keagy were made Honorary Members of Semper Fidelis Lodge. This ceremony also marked my last official act as Master before embarking on a three-year tour in Okinawa, Japan, as an active-duty Chief Warrant Officer in the United States Marine Corps. With immense gratitude and humility, I passed the gavel to Most Worshipful Brother David Wicker, who conducted the first section

of the Master Mason Degree for Brother George, a highly deserving candidate.

After the first section, we transitioned from labor to refreshment, enjoying lunch and fellowship with Brethren from far and wide. Upon our return, the Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Don Kehler, assumed the role of King Solomon and led the raising of Brother George Allan Fitzpatrick to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason.



This event brought together Masons from all corners of North Carolina and beyond. Brothers traveled from various states to be part of this historic moment and to support Brother George. The unity and dedication displayed exemplified the lesson of the Trowel, highlighting its noble and glorious purpose of spreading the cement of brotherly love and affection: that cement which unites us into one sacred band, or society of friends and brothers, among whom no contention should ever exist, but that noble contention, or rather emulation, of who can best work and best agree.

Brother George, upon his raising, expressed immense gratitude to everyone present, particularly his coach and mentor, Worshipful Brother Joe Reyes. In the most innocent moment, he humbly noted that he appreciated the attendance of everyone even if they were only there for the historical significance of



the event rather than for him personally. In response, the Grand Master emphasized that this was not the case. He affirmed that every Mason in Semper Fidelis Lodge at that moment was indeed there for Brother George. The Grand Master underscored that the day's significance was not solely due to the historic nature of the degree but because it was George's day—his raising to Master Mason. This reassurance highlighted the profound support and brotherhood that defines our fraternity.

As I reflect on this extraordinary event, I am filled with a sense of pride and gratitude. The success of "Grand Master's at Labor" underscores the enduring strength and unity of our fraternity. It reminds us that, rooted in ancient wisdom and bound by brotherly love, we can soar into the mystical future, embracing new challenges and opportunities while remaining true to our timeless values.



Event Photos: Don Butto, Raleigh Photographer

Saga of Zion Lodge's Jewels

By Johnny Surles, PM Zion Lodge No. 81



For centuries, Freemasonry has drawn men of honor, virtue, and fame, drawn by its principles. Our nation itself was born from Masonic ideals in 1776, with figures like Paul Revere and Benjamin Franklin leveraging their Masonic networks for the cause of independence.

Let's delve into a particular tale from our own Zion Lodge, illustrating the enduring Masonic spirit through war and peace. During the Civil War, in 1861, as Union forces approached Trenton, the Masons saved many records, but the lodge's jewels, contained in a rosewood box, were taken by three non-Masons. These were later discovered by Lt. John Coffin, a Union soldier and fellow Mason, who purchased them with the intent to return them post-conflict. Tragically, Lt. Coffin was mortally wounded at the Battle of Kinston, his intention recorded in his diary, which traveled back to Connecticut with his belongings, including our jewels.

The jewels then found their way to St. John's Lodge #4 in Hartford, CT, where they were kept safe. It was not until 1865, as peace returned, that these precious symbols of our fraternity were restored to Zion Lodge through Masonic correspondence and brotherly commitment.

This story of our jewels is not just about their physical return but symbolizes the Masonic bond transcending the ravages of war. Even amidst conflict, the principles of brotherhood prevailed, with stories of Masonic lodges spared from destruction, enemies aiding each other on battlefields, and military units pausing combat for Masonic funerals.

Consider the monument at Gettysburg, 'Friend to Friend,' symbolizing this unique brotherhood where a Union soldier aids a Confederate officer, both Masons. This exemplifies how, even in division, Masons found unity.

Today, as we reflect on this 200-year journey of Zion Lodge, we recognize that our lodge, like those jewels, has been a beacon of continuity and brotherhood. Our history is rich with contributions from countless members, each adding to the legacy we celebrate. From our founding on the banks of the Trent River to our enduring presence today, Zion Lodge has stood as a testament to the Masonic pursuit of knowledge, moral integrity, and virtue.

The jewels' saga reminds us of our core values — the very essence of what it means to be part of this "sacred band or society of friends and brothers." As we've weathered storms both literal and metaphorical, like Hurricanes Floyd and Florence, our foundation has held firm, much like the Masonic principles that guide us.

Let us continue this legacy, ensuring that Zion Lodge remains a light for future generations, teaching the same lessons of brotherhood, charity, and enlightenment. Here's to the next 200 years, where may the spirit of Freemasonry, as embodied in our recovered jewels, continue to guide and inspire us.

In the spirit of Freemasonry, let us commit to the future with the same fervor and dedication that brought our jewels home. Here's to the enduring light of Zion Lodge, may it shine brightly for centuries to come.

A Living History: Interview

JC Knowles, a MHCO's Alum is known as the Ambassador of Cary, but is as he said during these questions that he lives Oxford Orphanage 365 days a year. JC was a Mason, raised in Hiram #40 and served as Chaplain for 10 years at James B. Green #735. JC is a true champion for the Home. Here is what he had to say.

When were you at Oxford Orphanage? From 1930-1943. I came to OO with my twin sister Ruby Lee.

How old were you when you arrived? Two years old, this month I am going to be 96.

What brought you to Oxford Orphanage? My daddy was dying with cancer and died when we were one. My mom was crippled. We had five other siblings who were old enough to get along. Masons in Wallace felt Ruby Lee and me should be taken care of differently. They pleaded with OO to take these two children. That was all I knew. The Orphanage is my home.

What was it like living here? I loved it. I served in so many capacities. I took an active interest in things going on like school. I was in six to eight school plays from first through 8th grade. We had Halloween Festivals and stunt night. Every year each grade would put on a stunt. In the third grade we did a human xylophone. As I touched their head with a wand, they would lower their head and sing out do-re-me-fa-sol-la-ti-do. In the fifth grade our stunt was a magic box. One student represented Mr. Proctor, the Superintendent. He would ask the student, "What would you like?" A girl said, "I want to be a big dancer." She entered the magic box and when she came out the other side she would dance on stage. I was last one, I said, "I want to be a great singer, like Nelson Eddie." I went into the box in rags and changed into a tux. I came out of the magic box and sang A Sweet Mystery of Life.

I worked the farm, dairy, was a cottage boy, cleared ditch banks on creek..... I did a bit of everything.

For our Christmas money we raked up leaves and picked up acorns. We would get one penny for every bag raked up. We got one penny for every #10 can of acorns we picked up which were then fed to the pigs. We could earn four or five dollars, which was a big thing then.



What are your favorite memories? Hard to say. I guess working on farm was probably my favorite. Really don't know why. We picked so many vegetables and fruits. I got involved in so many things. I worked on dairy – but only milked on six cows and that got boring.

Were there any tough situations? Not really. I never suffered anything at the orphanage really. I got along with everybody. I was in scouts and got up to life scout. I did sign up for singing class but got the flu so I couldn't go.

Who helped you the most when you were at the Home? – Mr. Cameron who was head of Dairy. He knew my Daddy. He told Proctor put me on the Dairy. EG McSwain who ran the Electric Shop was good to me.

Why should people want to help with the Home's mission? Because they turn out children who have a clean record and are useful citizens. I guess I would say they turn out a good product.

The last thing Mr. Proctor said in my book was Jack was a good boy and seldom gave trouble. The biggest mistake was when our mother asked for our return. I don't know why she did that. Home life was so bad I had to join merchant marines in the later part of WWII.

What would be your thank you message to donors? To the people who give to MHCO, as one who was a recipient, I could never thank you, bless you, or live my life honestly enough to show you my appreciation for what you did for me and my sister.



Freemasonry Unveiled:

Campbell Lodge No. 374, A.F.&A.M. along with the 30th Masonic District and Mount Carmel Lodge No. 37, P.H.A. Illuminate Iredell Museum

By Daniel Hicks, Campbell Lodge No. 374

From April to June 2024, the Iredell Museum became a window into the world of Freemasonry, thanks to a collaborative effort by Campbell Lodge No. 374 A.F.&A.M., along with the 30th district and Mount Carmel Lodge No. 37, P.H.A.

Central to the exhibit was the portrayal of Freemasonry's role in philanthropy. Each section highlighted different charitable endeavors, from supporting local schools to national relief efforts, demonstrating how Masons translate their principles into action.

Displays offered insights into Masonic symbols and their meanings, inviting curiosity and conversation. Educational corners allowed for a deeper dive into how modern Masonry applies age-old tenets to contemporary issues, emphasizing personal growth and community welfare.



A Journey Through Masonic Heritage

The exhibit was meticulously curated to take visitors on a historical voyage, tracing the footsteps of Freemasonry through the ages. With artifacts, regalia, and historical documents on display, attendees could delve into the roots and evolution of these lodges, understanding their significance both locally and beyond.

A Beacon of Community Service



The response from the community was immensely positive, prompting discussions about the potential return of the exhibit. Museum representatives noted an uptick in interest about Freemasonry, suggesting that the exhibit not only educated but also intrigued, leaving many wanting to learn more about this storied organization.



The success of this venture between Campbell Lodge No. 374, the 30th Masonic District and Mount Carmel Lodge No. 37, and Iredell Museums has set the stage for future collaborations. It stands as a testament to the power of shared history and community engagement, promising to keep the Masonic light burning brightly for public appreciation in Statesville, NC.





Whiteville, NC: Lodge Hosts First Motorcycle Charity Ride

By Andrew Leggette, Lebanon Lodge No. 207

Lebanon Lodge No. 207 held its first motorcycle charity ride on Saturday, April 27, 2024, with 26 motorcycles plus 10 additional riders. Riders came from the surrounding area, including Shallotte, Wilmington, and Tabor City. All proceeds are to benefit the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford and The Masonic and Eastern Star Home, LLC, providing charitable relief for needy aged Masons and Eastern Star members through Whitestone.

Escorted by Columbus County Sheriff's Deputies, the riders rumbled from the lodge to Beach House Harley-Davidson in Shallotte, NC, at 10 am. The Brunswick County Sheriff's Department aided in the escort through Brunswick County to the Harley-Davidson dealership for a 45-minute leg-stretch and walk-around.

The group returned to the lodge on Pecan St. around 12:15 for a hot dog and hamburger lunch, followed by raffle drawings for prizes. Overall, it was a great day for a motorcycle ride and hopefully the start of an annual event.

WM Edward Davis, a motorcycle rider himself, would like to thank all of the riders, volunteer Masons, and members of Whiteville Chapter No. 211 Order of the Eastern Star for their help in making this charity event a resounding success.



WB's Lloyd(Happy) Buffkin & Chalmers Waddell tend the grill



Teresa Blackwell, Worthy Matron EOS, helps with lunch



Lady Riders

Brother Bob Hair: A Lifetime of Service and Brotherhood

By Adam Morrison

Bob Hair, at 89 years young, was born, raised, and currently lives in Burlington, NC. Bob and his late wife Billie raised two wonderful girls who grew up to be phenomenal women, Anne and Renee, who are both still very active in Bob's life. As a teenager, Brother Bob joined the Order of DeMolay. Forty years ago, Bob was so impressed with the opportunities for good works that he saw through an old friend, Brother Dan Miller, that he joined Burlington Lodge No. 721 in 1984 at the age of 49.

Bob has fond memories of advancing through the degrees as a member of a class of four men, who became brothers. As a show of unity, they did not advance to the next degree until all were ready, although Bob was frequently ready first. Bob was honored to have his father-in-law, Odell Smith, raise him to the Sublime degree of Master Mason.

Bob served as Treasurer for Burlington No. 721 and then for Bula No. 409 for fifteen years in total. In fact, Most Worshipful Brother Don Kehler had the distinction of serving alongside Bob Hair as the Secretary through those years. Bob was instrumental in obtaining life-memberships for all the members of Burlington No. 721 when it consolidated with Bula No. 409.

Brother Bob not only served his lodge with distinction but was also a very active member of the Amran Shriners and the Burlington Shrine Club. Bob's leadership in raising money for Burlington Shrine Club advertising has become legendary.



However, Bob's real passion lies in being an Amran Shriners Roadrunner. Brother Bob has made over 100 trips to the Greenville Shriners Children's Hospital, transporting patients and their families to experience the wonderful healthcare provided there. His comforting demeanor helps alleviate anxieties, and his positive attitude about the hospital is contagious.

The love he has for the children at The Masonic Home for Children in Oxford and our Shriners Hospitals knows no bounds. Bob Hair has truly spent a lifetime making good use of his working tools. All of us should aspire to emulate the example set by such a brother.



Event Photos courtesy of Taylor Cure

The Cornerstone: An Anchor of Unity and Alignment

By Jason Pittman, Walnut Grove No. 629 and Numa F. Reid no. 344

A cornerstone anchors and unites the walls of a building. Cornerstones also anchor Man with himself as well as unite Men together. Indeed, the cornerstone in architecture and Freemasonry is more than a casual fixture. It is also a symbolic anchor for the union and alignment of critical components of a structure. There is a less observed meaning, however. We can observe this meaning when laying the cornerstone for a new town hall. Let's walk our way through the idea.

The cornerstone is the first stone set in the construction of a building's foundation. It marks the starting point of two walls. Thus, the cornerstone ensures the alignment and stability of the intersecting walls. The first stone must be perfectly positioned so the entire building is square and level. This precision provides integrity and resilience for the structure.



Further, the cornerstone symbolizes the union of different elements into a harmonious whole. Two separate entities join to create a unified structure. This is a metaphor for cooperation and the integration of diverse parts to form a cohesive unit. Also, the cornerstone is emblematic of foundational principles: truth, strength, and unity. Just as a building lasts through eternity with these principles, so too does Man.

Of course, the placement of the cornerstone in the northeast corner is rich in symbolic significance. On one hand, the northeast corner is a place of balance between darkness (north) and light (east). The cornerstone, placed here, symbolizes a journey from ignorance to enlightenment. On the other hand, we emphasize the values of harmony and unity when placing the stone in this corner.



We are not only beginning the construction of a building as we lay the cornerstone for our new town hall. We are anchoring the heart of our community. Like the cornerstone, the town hall symbolizes unity, as a place where community members gather to reinforce harmony, address common issues, celebrate achievements, and plan for the future.



As well, the town hall anchors citizens to a community and a community to a physical space. It is the physical manifestation of the community's cultural foundation, reflecting the tangible and intangible elements of enduring structures and relationships.

Yet, that is not all.

We must remember that the town hall and its cornerstone are three-dimensional objects. This is the frequently missed meaning. The builder's drawings show the unity of walls in x (width) and y (length) directions but are missing a critical dimension. Only when the cornerstone is in place, and the town hall erected, can we observe the z dimension—height. It is this dimension connecting the cornerstone, the town hall, and Man to Heaven. Only then do we transcend the practical and symbolic. Only thus do we affix our minds as living cornerstones with divine purpose.



Masonic Historical Sites in Washington, DC

North Carolina Grand Master and Sovereign Grand Inspector General's Invitation to the Annual Train Trip to Washington DC

The Grand Master of North Carolina, MW Robert Rideout, 32° KCCCH, and Sovereign Grand Inspector General, Illustrious A. Gene Cobb, Jr., 33°, invite you to join them on an unforgettable Masonic journey to Washington D.C. from March 10-12, 2025. Discover the roots of our brotherhood at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, explore the architectural marvel of the House of the Temple, and participate in exclusive ceremonies. This trip offers not just a tour, but an immersive experience into Masonic history and tradition. Secure your place for this unique fellowship opportunity today.

The George Washington National Masonic Memorial

On February 22, 1910, Virginia's Grand Master, Joseph W. Eggleston, convened Grand Masters from across the U.S. at Alexandria-Washington Lodge to establish The George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association, aimed at creating a tribute to George Washington, the Mason. The Memorial, conceived as a symbolic lighthouse, was approved a decade later, situated on a hill in Alexandria familiar to Washington himself.

The House of the Temple

The House of the Temple, constructed as a grand and enduring home for the Scottish Rite, was commissioned not for immediate use but as a lasting symbol for future generations. It stands as a testament to the ambition and pride of Scottish Rite Masons worldwide, located in the capital of the United States, designed to be a magnificent structure worthy of its surroundings and its purpose.

How to Begin Your Journey

Master Masons and Masters of the Royal Secret and family are welcome!

Scan and Complete Form.

Trip is self-funded.



Day 1 - March 10

4:00 p.m. Scheduled Arrival in Alexandria
5:00 p.m. Check in to Hilton
6:00 p.m. Dinner to be determined*

Evening Free time*.
Dress Code: Comfortable for travel.
Lunch: Dining Car or bring your own.*
Dinner: Local restaurant.

Day 2 - March 11

8:30 a.m. Begin walk to GWNMM.
9:00 a.m. GWNMM* \$20.00
Noon Metro into D.C. and Lunch*
Metro Rate *
2:00 p.m. House of the Temple
6:00 p.m. Dinner at the
Valley of Washington,
Orient District of Columbia*
7:00 p.m. Ceremony of Remembrance
and Renewal
Evening Return to Alexandria*

Dress Code: Coat and tie and comfortable walking shoes. Scottish Rite Caps for the evening ceremony. Aprons are not required.

Day 3 - March 12

Breakfast: On your own but be ready to go at 8:30 a.m.*
10:00 a.m. Walk to Train Station
10:48 a.m. Scheduled Departure return to North Carolina



What do you do as a Mason?

When someone asks you “What do you do as a Mason?”, I am sure you say something along the lines of “we help the kids”. And of course, that’s true—but the extent of your help doesn’t stop at clothes, shelter, and food. When you give to our Home, you are giving children the opportunity to change the path of their life. You are giving them a second chance. You are giving them access to a brighter future. You’re opening doors to new opportunities, and granting them access to a brighter, more hopeful tomorrow. Every dollar you donate is an investment in their dreams, hopes, and ambitions. Imagine each child as a vessel of untapped potential, full of dreams and possibilities but facing significant barriers to their growth. Your generosity can turn these challenges into stepping stones, offering essential resources, educational opportunities, and unwavering support. By donating today, you’re doing much more than making a financial contribution; you’re playing a vital role in shaping a future where every child has the chance to succeed and thrive. Join us in making a lasting impact—your support can truly change the world for these deserving young lives.

When deciding where to allocate your charitable contributions, we hope you will consider supporting us. The most profound and rewarding way to make a difference is through investing in the lives of children. Witnessing the transformation of the residents you support into successful adults who go on to achieve great things is truly the most gratifying return on investment you could hope for. Your contribution helps to nurture and guide these young individuals as they grow and develop, and the long-term impact of your support is immeasurable.

If you haven’t yet had the opportunity to visit our campus, we warmly invite you to come and see firsthand how your support is making a difference. A visit will provide you with a tangible sense of the positive changes and progress being made and will allow you to witness the direct impact of your generosity on the lives of the children we serve.



Year End Giving

Your support has been truly transformative this year. As we approach the end of the year, we want to express our deepest gratitude for your generosity. Your contributions have made a significant impact, and together, we’ve achieved incredible milestones. As you plan your year-end giving, please consider continuing your support. Every gift helps us move closer to our goals and makes a real difference in the lives of the children we serve. Thank you for being a vital part of our mission!



scan to donate



EVERYONE HAS A LEGACY ... WHAT WILL YOURS LOOK LIKE.



A Planned Giving Guide for the North Carolina Masonic Foundation



Planned Giving allows you to create your legacy

Planned Giving serves as a true foundation for the future of our charities. Wills, bequests, and the many opportunities created by planned gifts not only serve the future needs of those you wish to help, but create your legacy of giving for those you choose, and as your lifetime contribution for the next generation.

The North Carolina Masonic Foundation (NCMF) was created over ninety years ago to enliven planned gifts. The annual distributions of the NCMF, given as a result of legacies past, have grown and have contributed more donations and for the longest period in the history of our Masonic charities.

What are the advantages to you for making a plan?

Control and Flexibility:

Making a planned gift allows you to control the distribution of your assets for your lifetime and beyond while also caring for your family with additional income, tax advantages, and peace of mind. These plans can be changed as your needs evolve.

Legacy and Impact:

Your planned gift ensures that your legacy of generosity continues to benefit future generations. You can choose to support the causes and communities that matter most to you, making a lasting impact.

Tax Benefits:

Planned gifts can offer significant tax advantages, reducing the burden on your estate and maximizing the benefits for your heirs.

Common Types of Planned Gifts:

BEQUESTS	CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES (CGA)	BENEFICIARY DESIGNATIONS
Include NCMF in your will or trust to leave a legacy without impacting your current financial situation.	Provide you with a steady income stream while supporting the Foundation.	Name NCMF as a beneficiary of your retirement accounts, life insurance policies, or other assets.

How to Get Started:

- **Consult with Your Financial Advisor:** Discuss your options with a professional to determine the best way to include the NCMF in your estate plans.
- **Prepare Your Own Will:** Visit our Freewill website to prepare your will and estate plan at no cost, in your own home and on your time.
- **Need a Financial Advisor:** Visit www.mfnc.org and fill out the contact form, so we can help connect you.

Planned Giving is about people - you, your family and those helped by your legacy in the years ahead.

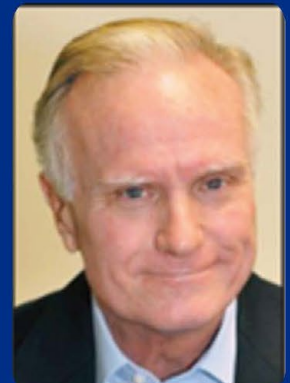


Write your legally valid will, for free

Prepare your own will and estate plan, at no cost, in your own home and on your time by visiting our Freewill website at <https://www.freewill.com/ncmf>.

“Choosing to make a planned gift to the North Carolina Masonic Foundation was one of the most meaningful decisions I've made. It's comforting to know that my legacy will support future generations and uphold the values I cherish. I encourage others to consider this rewarding opportunity to make a lasting impact.”

Brother Mike Faulkenbury



Please reach out to us for more information or assistance in making a planned gift. Your legacy of generosity will ensure that the NCMF continues to support our Masonic charities for generations to come.

The Grand Lodge of North Carolina, AF&AM
2921 Glenwood Avenue
Raleigh, NC 27608

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Coordinating Hurricane Helene Relief Efforts in North Carolina

Brethren,

Your overwhelming support in response to Hurricane Helene has been nothing short of remarkable. On behalf of your Grand Lodge Officers and staff, I extend our sincerest gratitude for your tireless efforts and donations to help those in need. - Fraternally, Bobby Rideout, Grand Master

North Carolina Masonic Foundation's Relief Fund:

Donations go directly to support affected Masonic brethren and lodges.

Donate online: <https://mfnc.org/>

Or by check to:

North Carolina Masonic Foundation
2921 Glenwood Avenue, Raleigh, NC 27608
Memo: Hurricane Relief

Masonic Service Association of North America (MSANA): Donations will support Masonic jurisdictions across several states impacted by the hurricane, including Florida, Alabama, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

Donate here: <https://msana.com/current-appeals/>

State of North Carolina Relief Fund: Contributions will support affected North Carolinians.

Contribute here: <https://www.ncdps.gov/>