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REPORTS

2012
ANNUAL COMMUNICATION

Twin City Quarter
Winston-Salem
North Carolina

September 21-22, 2012

225th Annual Communication

Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted
Masons of North Carolina

Friday, September 21, 2012

- 10:00 A.M. Open Grand Lodge,
Grand Pavilion
- 10:00 A.M. Open Grand Lodge,
- 10:30 A.M. Address of Grand Orator James G. Martin
- 12:00 P.M. Lunch Break
- 1:30 P.M. Necrology
Report of Grand Master Gresham
Miscellaneous Business
- 4:30 P.M. Adjourn First Day

Saturday, September 22, 2012

- 9:00 A.M. Grand Lodge Reconvenes,
Grand Pavilion
Miscellaneous Business
- 12:00 P.M. Close Annual Communication

Vendors Available in Gaines Ballroom
8:00 A.M. Until Adjournment Each Day

Reports

of

The Grand Master

The Grand Treasurer

The Grand Secretary

Boards, Commissions and Committees

at the

225th

Annual Communication

of

The Grand Lodge of

Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons

of North Carolina

at

Winston-Salem, North Carolina

September 21–22, 2012

Report of the Grand Treasurer

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

I submit this interim report as of June 30, 2012. Included in this report is the total receipts and disbursements, special funds, and the securities held by this Grand Lodge.

Total Funds available 01/01/2012 (General Funds & Special Funds)					\$ 1,034,167
Total Receipts YTD					889,349
Total Disbursements YTD					<u>(511,425)</u>
Total Funds To Be Accounted For					\$ 1,412,091
Deposits:	Rate	Maturity	Issue Date	Amount	
Petty Cash				\$ 100	
1st Citizens Bank (operating account)				139,457	
Certificates of Deposits:					
Yadkin Valley Bank	2.23%	9/5/2012	9/5/2011	100,253	
Fidelity Bank	1.05%	10/8/2012	10/8/2011	100,940	
Capital Bank	2.23%	12/7/2012	4/7/2009	125,192	
Crescent State Bank	0.75%	8/29/2012	3/1/2012	102,328	
First Capital Bank	1.25%	3/18/2013	3/18/2012	114,750	
Money Markets:					
Fifth Third Bank	VARI			112,266	
North State Bank	VARI			1,322	
PNC Bank	VARI			132,534	
Santitrust Bank	VARI			125,361	
BB& T - CD	VARI			106,410	
Harrington Bank	VARI			<u>101,128</u>	
Total Cash Account For					\$ 1,262,091
Securities:					
		Principle	06/30/2012		
Cash Balances				469	
Stock Options				8,837	
Fixed Income securities				<u>150,000</u>	<u>146,771</u>
Total Securities YTD		\$ 150,000	\$ 156,077		
unrealized gain			\$ 6,077		
Total Cash & Principle Securities YTD					\$ 1,412,091
Special Funds Summary		12/31/2011	6/30/2012		
Special Contingency Reserve	\$	163,164	163,164		
Emblems and Awards Reserve		8,133	8,133		
Automobile Reserve		80,267	53,268		
Book Reserve		248,363	248,363		
Building Reserve		203,764	203,764		
Office Equipment Reserve		9,358	9,358		
Charity Fund		<u>81,076</u>	<u>81,076</u>		
Total Special Funds	\$	794,125	\$ 767,125		
Total Special Funds 06/30/2012					767,125
Total General Funds Available					\$ 644,966
Total O/LAR Funds					\$ 1,412,091

Respectfully Submitted,
Lewis R. Ledford (PGM), Grand Treasurer

Reports

Report of the Grand Secretary

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

I herewith submit my interim report as Grand Secretary as of June 30, 2012, including projected expenditures for the year and a suggested budget for calendar year 2013.

2013 Proposed Annual Budget

Grand Lodge of North Carolina 2013 Proposed Annual Budget						
INCOME						
	Budget 2012	Actual thru 6-30-12	Projected thru Y/E 12-31-12	Variance 2012	Proposed Budget 2013	
37,625 Estimate Master Masons @ \$17.00 for 2013	\$ 666,825	-	-	-	639,625	
38,237 Actual Master Masons @ \$17.00 in 2012		650,029		16,796		
81 Endowed Members					e	
154 Endowed Members						
1300 Endowed Members	17,000	17,661		(661)	18,000	
1,300 Initiation Fees @ \$21.00 (1,237 actual)	31,500	25,977		5,523	27,300	
[NC Charities @ \$10.00]	(15,000)	(12,370)		(2,630)	(13,000)	
[GL Building @ \$5.00]	(7,500)	(6,185)		(1,315)	(6,500)	
[GWNMA @ \$5.00]	(7,500)	(6,185)		(1,315)	(6,500)	
Initiation Fees Retained (@\$51.00)						
Membership Services	41,880	41,826		54	41,880	
Penalty for Late Returns	800	684		116	800	
Dividends and Interest	12,000	3,533	4,500	3,967	8,000	
Miscellaneous Income *	18,000	11,856	7,000	(856)	18,000	
Total Income	758,005	726,826	11,500	19,679	727,605	
EXPENSES						
Acct. No.	Account Name	Budget 2012	Actual thru 6-30-12	Projected thru Y/E 12-31-12	Variance 2012	Proposed Budget 2013
800-00	Philanthropy					
800-01	Masonic Homes for Children	\$ 12,500	\$ 12,500	-	-	\$ 12,500
800-02	Masonic and Eastern Star Home	12,500	12,500	-	-	12,500
800-03	Charity	4,000	500	-	3,500	4,000
800-04	Hospital Visitation (MSA)	6,000	6,000	-	-	2,000
800-05	Hospital Visitation (NC)	300	-	-	300	300
800-06	Masonic Youth Organizations	4,250	4,250	-	-	4,250
800-07	Wilkeson College (12@\$200)	2,400	2,400	-	-	2,400
	Total	41,950	38,150		3,800	37,950
810-00	Salaries and Fees					
810-01	Grand Secretary	83,578	42,839	40,739	-	84,414
810-03	Office Personnel	85,785	40,444	45,341	-	85,065
810-04	Retirement/Health and Life Insurance	40,273	22,378	17,895	-	40,188
810-05	Social Security Tax	15,699	10,680	5,019	-	15,616
810-06	Unemployment Tax	350	210	25	115	350
810-07	Salary Reserve (Merit/Bonus) - NEW					4,042
810-08	Assistant to the Grand Secretary	34,800	29,412	5,388	-	34,648
810-09	Temporary Help	5,000	-	-	5,000	1,000
810-10	Dewey Memorial Grand Secy. Fund	(20,000)	-	(20,000)	-	(20,000)
	Total	245,485	145,963	94,407	5,115	245,322
820-00	Administration Costs					
820-02	Printing (Routine)	15,000	4,357	6,000	4,643	12,500
820-04	Office Expenses *	18,000	17,151	2,000	(1,151)	18,000
820-05	Postage	10,000	4,500	5,500	-	10,000
820-06	Office Equipment	0	-	-	-	0
820-07	Office Equipment Maintenance	8,500	4,122	4,378	-	8,500
820-08	Telephone	7,000	4,840	2,160	0	7,000
820-09	Data Base Program Maintenance **	38,500	23,515	14,985	0	38,500
820-11	Auditing	12,500	5,860	6,640	-	12,500
820-13	Legal Fees	3,000	-	-	3,000	3,000
	Total	112,500	64,344	41,643	6,491	110,000
830-00	Building Expenses					
830-01	Utilities	12,000	4,611	7,389	-	12,000
830-02	Building Maintenance	15,500	11,665	3,835	0	15,500
830-03	Equipment Maintenance	5,000	47	4,953	-	5,000
830-04	Hazard Insurance	10,000	4,412	5,000	588	10,000
830-05	Building Reserve	15,000	13,950	1,050	-	15,000
	Total	57,500	34,685	23,227	588	57,500

Acct. No.	Account Name	Budget 2012	Actual thru 6-30-12	Projected thru Y/E 12-31-12	Variance 2012	Proposed Budget 2013
840-00	Membership Fee and Dues					
840-01	Masonic Service Association	2,500	-	2,500	-	2,500
840-02	Conference of Grand Masters	750	500	250	-	750
840-03	GMC Committee on Recognition	100	-	100	-	100
840-04	Conference of Grand Secretaries	900	-	-	900	900
840-05	Northern Regional Masonic Conference	4,250	500	3,850	900	4,250
Total						
850-00	Travel and Officers Expense					
850-01	Grand Master's Travel	11,000	4,910	5,000	1,070	11,000
850-02	Grand Master's Automobile	9,000	-	9,000	-	9,000
850-03	Grand Master's Office	1,250	-	-	1,250	1,250
850-04	Grand Secretary's Travel	6,500	3,734	2,900	(1,14)	6,500
850-05	Grand Secretary's Automobile	7,500	-	-	7,500	7,500
850-06	Travel - Other	1,250	1,684	4,500	(684)	1,250
Total		41,790	10,349	30,996	1,591	43,790
860-00	Boards, Committees, and Committees					
860-01	Board of General Purposes	3,500	2,312	100	1,068	3,500
860-02	Board of Charities	4,000	741	2,500	759	4,000
860-04	Masonic Public Relations	1,500	-	1,500	-	1,500
860-05	Finance Committee	500	-	500	-	500
860-06	Code Commission	100	-	-	100	100
860-07	Judge-Visitor Commission	100	-	-	100	100
860-08	Masonic Education	4,000	-	4,000	-	4,000
Total		13,900	3,074	8,400	2,426	13,900
870-00	Out-of-State Visitation					
870-01	Visiting other Grand Lodges	3,000	948	1,500	512	3,000
870-02	Conference of Grand Masters	4,500	4,464	-	36	4,500
870-03	Conference of Grand Secretaries	2,000	1,061	-	349	2,000
870-04	Regional & International Conferences	3,000	2,115	-	2,000	3,000
870-05	Regional Conferences (RNE)	1,000	-	800	85	1,000
870-06	World Masonic Conference **	4,000	-	-	4,000	-
Total		18,500	9,323	2,300	6,997	14,500
880-00	Annual Communications					
880-01	Lump sum costs	65,000	611	64,385	-	65,000
Total		65,000	615	64,385	-	65,000
890-00	Miscellaneous Expense					
890-01	Awards, Aprons, and Emblems	12,000	7,245	4,700	55	12,000
890-02	Grand Master's Portrait	950	1,628	-	(678)	950
890-04	Contingencies	922	300	622	-	922
890-06	Grand Lodge Library & Archives	1,000	51	-	948	1,000
Total		14,872	9,225	5,322	325	14,872
900-00	North Carolina Masons					
900-01	Salary	23,200	-	23,200	-	23,099
900-02	Social Security Tax	1,775	-	1,775	-	1,767
900-03	Printing	47,000	10,526	32,000	4,474	47,000
900-04	Postage	41,500	12,469	28,000	1,091	41,500
900-05	Retirement, Life and Health Insurance	4,002	-	-	4,002	4,002
900-07	Travel	3,000	-	3,000	-	3,000
900-08	Equipment and Supplies	1,000	174	1,000	-	1,000
900-09	Interest Service	2,350	1,210	1,000	326	2,350
Total		135,227	24,339	96,477	5,891	135,618

Reports

Acct. No.	Account Name	Budget 2012	Actual thru 6-30-12	Projected thru Y/E 12-31-12	Variance 2012	Proposed Budget 2013
910-00	Development Program					
910-01	Accounting Specialist	46,358	26,915	19,443	-	45,800
910-02	Social Security - Accounting Specialist	3,546	-	3,546	-	3,504
910-03	Retirement/Life and Health Insurance	7,790	-	7,790	-	7,790
910-04	Travel Expenses	750	-	750	-	750
910-05	Telephone	1,500	-	1,500	-	2,000
910-06	Postage	2,500	-	2,500	-	2,500
910-07	Office Supplies	2,500	-	2,500	-	2,500
910-08	Miscellaneous Program Expense	-	1,939	-	(1,939)	-
910-09	Office Equipment	3,000	2,254	-	746	3,000
	Program Development	67,944	31,108	38,029	(1,193)	67,844
910-12	Program Reimbursement	(67,944)	(31,108)	(38,029)	(1,193)	(67,844)
	Total	0	0	0	0	0

EXPENSE SUMMARY

800-00	Philanthropy	41,950	38,150	-	3,800	37,950
810-00	Salaries and Fees	245,485	145,963	94,407	5,115	245,322
820-00	Administration Costs	112,500	64,344	41,663	6,492	110,000
830-00	Building Expenses	57,500	34,085	22,227	588	57,500
840-00	Membership Fees and Dues	4,250	500	2,850	900	4,250
850-00	Travel and Officers Expense	42,750	10,349	30,900	1,501	42,750
860-00	Boards and Committees Office and Travel	13,900	3,074	8,400	2,426	13,900
870-00	Out-of-State Visitation	18,500	9,208	2,300	6,992	14,500
880-00	Annual Communications	65,000	615	64,385	-	58,000
890-00	Miscellaneous Expenses	14,872	9,225	5,322	325	14,872
900-00	North Carolina Mason	125,727	24,359	95,477	5,891	125,618
910-00	Development Program	0	0	0	0	0
	Total Expenses (Series 800 - 910)	\$ 742,434	\$ 340,472	\$ 367,031	\$ 34,031	\$ 724,662
	ESTIMATED SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	\$ 15,571	\$ 386,355	\$ (336,431)	\$ (14,353)	\$ 2,943

* Petitions

**Next conference Romania 5-2014

Membership Statistics

Membership 12/31/2010.....	45,093
Initiated.....	1,259
Raised.....	1,041
Admitted.....	386
Restored.....	380
Total Gains.....	1,807
Expelled.....	12
Suspended UMC.....	0
Excluded NPD.....	1,317
Demitted.....	333
Died.....	1,204
Total Losses.....	2,866
Total membership 12/31/2011.....	44,063

Service Awards for 2011

Twenty-Five-Year Service Awards presented.....	1,052
Fifty-Year Veteran Awards presented.....	555
Sixty-Year Awards.....	276

Respectfully submitted,
T. Walton Clapp III, Grand Secretary

Report of the Committee on Charity

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

Your Committee on Charity wishes to report the following disbursements for the calendar year 2011–2012:

To Brother GL	\$1,000
To Brother PW's widow.....	100
To Brother RP.....	500
To Brother JPL.....	300
To Aurora Lodge No.300 (hurricane damage)	4,000
To MESH	7,500
To MICO.....	7,500

Respectfully submitted
Grover Lackey, Chairman

Report Of The Grand Historian

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

North Carolina's Grand Lodge of AF & AM's Executive Office Building is located at 2921 Glenwood Avenue in Raleigh. It is the third such administrative structure owned by the Grand Lodge since it moved its headquarters to the new capital city in 1796, nine years after the Grand Lodge itself was founded in Tarboro in 1787.

The first such building was erected in 1813 as a joint project between the Grand Lodge and Hiram Lodge No. 40. It was a two-story structure on the northeast corner of Dawson and Morgan streets in downtown Raleigh and held the grand secretary's office and the blue lodge's meeting room until the 1880s.

The second Grand Lodge building, constructed solely by Grand Lodge funds, was built between 1907 and 1909 at the northeast corner of Fayetteville and Hargett streets, just south of Capitol Square. This seven-story, small skyscraper of reinforced concrete, designed by Charles McMillian, was the tallest building in the state at the time. Space in the new building was rented to three Raleigh blue lodges and both the Scottish and York Rites. The administrative Grand Lodge offices were located on the fifth floor, and the main lodge room, with magnificent Corinthian pilasters and balcony, occupied the sixth and seventh floors. The lower floors were leased to Raleigh businesses including Land's Jewelers and a well beloved barber shop in the basement area. Although a new architectural form (skyscraper) in its own right, the Fayetteville Street building, in typical Victorian fashion, was disguised as something else; in this case, in the Louis Sullivan Chicago tradition, as a Greek column with a well defined base, shaft, and capital. This historic structure, now owned by Empire Properties, is still a treasured landmark on Raleigh's Fayetteville Street.

This second Grand Lodge building was sold in 1946 to Land's Jewelers with the understanding that it and the other Masonic bodies would continue to rent their spaces from the new owners. However, this situation changed in 1951 when the blue lodges and Rites bought and moved to Wakestone, the former home of Josephus Daniels at the intersection of Glenwood and Wade Avenues.

In 1954, after efforts to build a new Grand Lodge building on the south lawn of Wakestone failed due to questions of proper zoning, the Grand Lodge purchased five acres of land from the Hinton Tract located further out Glenwood Avenue, or as it was then called, Leesville Road. The purchase price was \$70,000.

That same year, under the leadership of Past Grand Master Walter Sherrod, chairman of the Special Committee On Buildings and Quarters, plans for the new Executive Office Building were drawn up by Leslie N. Boney Jr. (1920–2003) an architect from Wilmington, NC. A 1940 graduate of the North Carolina State College School of Design, Boney was deeply under the influence of the “form follows function” philosophy of Walter Gropius and the Bauhaus School of Design. Boney was a member of the craft, belonging to St. John’s No. 1 in his home city.

Brother Boney’s design for the new Grand Lodge building was basically an oblong, two story, split foyer structure with tall glass curtain walls on the front and rear. However, to stress the craft’s Masonic legacy, he added two elements to the front or east facade. First, plain limestone columns which divide the full-height glass curtain wall into five bays, harken back to the orders of architecture described in the Fellow Craft Lecture. Second, walls of warm-tan flagstone ashlars at each end of the facade, and which continue around the windows on the south and north sides of the building, are symbolic of the craft’s medieval Masonic artistry of stonecutting. The J. M. Thompson Company of Raleigh were general contractors, and the cornerstone was laid with Masonic honors in 1955 under Grand Master Charles Pugh. The building was finished and dedicated by Grand Master Charles Harris on April 16, 1958 at a cost of \$270,000.

Brother Boney’s interior design was equally spectacular with black and white mosaic terrazzo floors, marble foyer walls, soaring cantilevered staircases with aluminum railings, quarters for the grand secretary, his assistants and the grand master, rooms for board meetings and conferences, and ample space for archival material and a library. Especially impressive was the beautifully proportioned “living” or reception room with its glass curtain wall facing west, which provided not only light for Allyn Cox’s murals of North Carolina Masonic historical events but also a panoramic view of the outside deck and landscaped rear yard. All in all, Brother Leslie Boney’s new building was a structural icon of great architectural significance, outstanding beauty, practicability, and Masonic heritage. As the 1998 North Carolina Chapter of the American Institute of Architects’ publication on significant 20th century structures in Raleigh stated: *The Masonic Grand Lodge, (1958) is “an unusual combination of contemporary materials and symbolic classical composition [which] provides monumental presence above Glenwood Avenue.”*

Unfortunately, in the early 1970s, the concrete deck attached to the west wall, apparently because of a substandard foundation, began to pull away from the building jeopardizing the west curtain wall itself. Rather than repairing the situation, a decision was made to demolish the deck and replace the glass with a solid wall which rendered the reception room, some offices, and the library dark and uninviting. This was the situation until the Board of General Purposes in December 2010, under Grand Master Lewis Ledford, authorized the restoration of the west glass curtain wall and deck. This restoration of architectural integrity which has been completed, as well as the 225th anni-

versary of the founding of the Grand Lodge in 1787 will be commemorated on 3 November 2012 at a gala celebration at the Grand Lodge Executive Office Building.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael W. Brantley, Grand Historian

Report of Lodge Service Commission

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

We have had very little activity reported to our commission that required action involving a blue lodge construction or renovation projects this year. We continue to have questions concerning the management and operations of our temple board corporations. We believe that the proposed Temple Board Bylaws that this Commission recently authored would eliminate much of the confusion that has arisen over the past year. We started with the simple premise that, while we do not hold ourselves as better than or above our fellow man, we do hold ourselves more accountable. It is our belief that as we have taken an obligation to the fraternity and to our Brothers we must distinguish ourselves with our actions. Our intent with the proposed bylaws was to see that no existing or newly established temple corporation could force a member of that corporation into a position that would be detrimental to their continued existence. While there remain points of contention within the larger and older temple board corporations in our state such as Greensboro, we believe the rhetoric has been diminished somewhat.

We have attached a copy of our proposed bylaws to this report with the hope that the proper persons within the Grand Lodge will review them and advise us to implement them. We do not claim that this document is perfect in its present form, but we do believe it provides the proper foundation and framework to proceed.

Winston-Salem

It is our understanding that the Winston-Salem Temple Board has incorporated our proposed bylaws into their organization and has initiated their plan to sell their existing building and proceed with the acquisition of property on which to construct a new building that will involve several blue lodges as well as the Scottish Rite Valley and other bodies.

Greensboro

There is still work to be done here to unite all the concerned bodies into a harmonious corporation. It appears that the Lodge Service Commission has yet to receive a proposed set of bylaws to approve for the revised temple board structure.

Durham

We have just received a preliminary application for the creation of a new temple board corporation in Durham. The principle bodies involved here are Fellowship Lodge No. 687 and the Durham York Rite Bodies. We have taken no action on this proposal as there a moratorium on Temple Board Corporations at this time.

Proposed Temple Bylaws

At the request of Grand Master Lewis Ledford, we prepared a standard set of bylaws for cooperative ventures to build Masonic facilities. These stan-

Standard bylaws are designed to alleviate most of the problems which have been seen with temple boards involving multiple Masonic entities. Standard form bylaws will allow temple boards to be created without constant and repeated review by lawyers. The suggested bylaws are attached below.

We thank you for the opportunity to work for you and our Grand Lodge.

Respectfully and Fraternaly,
David J. Stapleton, Chairman

Suggested Temple Association Bylaws

Statement of Purpose

The Lodge Service Commission in drafting standard bylaws for temple corporations of which subordinate lodges of the of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina are members, has adopted this statement of purpose to be used in the process of establishing temple corporations and in interpreting the bylaws promulgated by the Lodge Service Commission for use in such temple corporations.

It is understood that the purpose of the formation of a Temple Corporation is to further the cause of Masonry. That the primary obligation among the members of the Temple Board to each other should be to preserve the benefits of the Temple Corporation and the temple to all members once formed.

That the Temple Corporation and its members agree to abide by all of the applicable regulations and lawful orders of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina (the "Grand Lodge). Further that the bylaws of said proposed organization shall be submitted to The Lodge Service Commission for review and approval prior to the organization of any such corporation and that any subsequent changes to the bylaws shall likewise be submitted for review and approval as required by the Code.

It is understood that no investment into such corporation by a member, be it monetary or physical property, has a guarantee or expectation of return and in order to preserve the corporation's assets the Temple Board should be encouraged to establish a "Capital Account" to be used for reasonable major repairs, improvements or the liquidation of withdrawing members' membership equity in an amount sufficient to allow the corporation to properly and timely maintain the Temple without undue hardship upon the constituent members.

That no member of the corporation may hold a voting interest based upon their equity or the percentage of ownership in a contribution account or capital account.

That the financial hardships of one member alone should not permit it to impose further hardship on the other members or the corporation.

That if any member should decide to withdraw from the corporation then the remaining members are obligated to make every reasonable effort to pay the withdrawing member's equity over reasonable period of time to the extent that the finances of the remaining parties to the organization will allow. That the remaining members shall not be forced to borrow money or to sell the building to pay said equity unless the voting interest of over 80% of the members agree.

Reports

**BYLAWS
of**

Name of Corporation

_____, North Carolina
City

A North Carolina Masonic Temple Building Corporation

**BYLAWS
of**

Name of Corporation

ARTICLE I

Membership

Section 1. Membership. The members of the corporation shall consist of one or more organizations that meet all of the following eligibility requirements:

- (a) is a constituent Lodge of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina (the "Grand Lodge") or is a chartered Appendant Body of Masonry that has Masonic membership in good standing or is a chartered Concordant Body with a Masonic relationship with the Grand Lodge.
- (b) is an organization exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the "IRC") of 1986, as amended or any successor provision;
- (c) makes contributions to the corporation as required by the board of trustees; and
- (d) has been approved for membership in the corporation by the Grand Lodge and where required by that body, by the Governing Body of other chartered Appendant Bodies of Masonry that have Masonic membership in good standing or other chartered Concordant Bodies with a Masonic relationship with the Grand Lodge.

Section 2. Status of Membership. Each constituent Lodge or Masonic body comprising the membership of the corporation shall be deemed to be a single member, respectively, with rights equal to every other member. An individual person may not be a member of the corporation.

Section 3. Designation of Member Representatives. A member shall designate one or more representatives to exercise its vote, execute proxies on its behalf, and in all other respects act on its behalf as a member. The representative(s) so designated shall be certified to the secretary of the corporation by the Worshipful Master or other chief executive officer of the respective member.

Section 4. Certificates of Membership. Certificates of membership in the corporation may be issued. If issued, they shall be numbered, and the respective members' names shall be entered in the membership register of the corporation as the certificates are issued. Certificates shall bear the member's name, shall evidence the respective equitable interests of the members in the properties held by

the corporation, as determined in accordance with these bylaws, and shall be signed by the chairperson or the secretary of the corporation.

Section 5. Contributions; Maintenance of Contribution Accounts. Members may from time to time be required to contribute money or property (other than money) to the corporation. A member's contribution shall be recorded in a "Contribution Account" reflecting each member's initial contribution to the corporation: (i) increased by any additional contributions made by such member; and (ii) decreased by any distributions made to such member, other than annual distributions made to a member in accordance with Article VII, Section 1 below. Individual Contribution Accounts shall be maintained for each member. No member shall be entitled to withdraw any part of its Contribution Account or to receive any distribution except as provided in these bylaws and permitted by law. No member shall be entitled to receive any interest on its contributions or with respect to its Contribution Account except as provided in these bylaws and permitted by law.

the event a member is unable to make its required contribution due to financial hardship origent circumstance, said member's Contribution Account shall be reduced and adjusted proportiona with the shares of the members making their required contributions.

Section 6. Liability of Members. No member shall be liable for any debts or losses of capital or profits of the corporation or be required to contribute or lend funds to the corporation except to the extent provided in these bylaws.

Section 7. Non-Assignment. A member shall not sell, assign, transfer or pledge any portion of its membership in the corporation without approval; by majority vote of the board of trustees of the corporation. If the member is a Masonic lodge, approval must also be made by the Lodge Service Commission of the Grand Lodge, or by the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge upon appeal. If the member is a body of the Scottish rite, then by the Supreme Council, 33°, A&ASRF or by the Governing Body of any member that is another chartered Appendant Body of Masonry that has Masonic membership in good standing or is another chartered Concordant Body with a Masonic relationship with the Grand Lodge. Any sale, assignment, transfer or pledge which does not comply with the provisions of this Article shall be void.

Section 8. Termination of Membership. Membership in the corporation may be terminated for the following reasons:

- (a) For any action by a member that is detrimental to the best interests of the corporation, or for failure to actively support corporate purposes, or for failure to actively participate in corporate activities. Termination in this case shall require the affirmative vote of three-fourths (3/4) of the board of trustees. In the event that any such termination is contemplated, the board of trustees shall notify the member in writing of the reasons for the proposed action, and of the time and place of the meeting of the board of trustees at which termination is to be

considered, not later than ten (10) days prior thereto. At the meeting, the member shall be entitled to respond to the stated reasons, and to be heard in its own defense.

- (b) The occurrence of any event that causes a member to lose its exemption from federal income taxation under Section 501(a) of the IRC.
- (c) The permanent revocation of the charter of any member by its governing Body.

ARTICLE II

Meetings of Membership

Section 1. Meetings. Meetings of the members may be called at any time by the chairperson of the corporation, by a majority of the board of trustees, or by

_____ (_____) or more members.
Number spelled out (actual number)

Calls for meetings shall specify the time, place and purpose thereof. No other business than that specified in the call shall be considered at any such meeting.

Section 2. Notice of Meetings. Notice of the time, place, and purpose of all meetings shall be given by the secretary, or by the person or persons calling the meeting, by regular or express mail, facsimile, electronic communication, telegram, or by personal communication over the telephone or otherwise, and at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting(s).

Section 3. Quorum. Members holding a majority of the votes entitled to be cast at any meeting, represented in person or by proxy, shall constitute a quorum. The vote of a majority of the votes entitled to be cast by the members present or represented by proxy at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be necessary for the adoption of any matter voted upon by the members.

Section 4. Proxies. At any membership meeting, any member entitled to vote at the meeting may vote by proxy executed in writing by such member. A proxy shall be valid only if executed and dated within eleven (11) months of the date of the meeting at which the proxy vote is cast.

Section 5. Meetings Held by Telephone or Similar Communications Equipment. Meetings of members may be conducted by conference telephone or similar communications equipment by means of which all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other at the same time and participation by such means shall constitute presence in person at a meeting.

ARTICLE III

Trustees

Section 1. Powers and Authority. The management and control of the business and property of the corporation shall be vested in a board of trustees. The management of the affairs of the corporation shall, in all respects, conform to the requirements of the Constitution, Regulations, By-Laws and lawful orders of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina (the "Code"), to the edicts, laws, rules, regulations and authority of the Grand Lodge, and where applicable, to the laws, rules, regulations and authority of the Governing Body of other chartered Appendant Bodies of Masonry that have Masonic membership in good standing or other chartered Concordant Bodies with a Masonic relationship with the Grand Lodge, to Chapter 55A of the North Carolina General Statutes, the "North Carolina Nonprofit Corporation Act" and to Section 501 of the IRC. Any question of authority, status, procedure, or any issue that the board of trustees is unable to resolve shall be submitted to The Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge, whose determination shall be final unless appealed to the Grand Lodge pursuant to the Code as the ultimate Masonic authority in North Carolina.

Number and Term. The number of trustees of the corporation shall be not less than (at least seven) _____ (_____). The number of trustees may be increased or decreased by amendment of these bylaws, provided that no decrease in number shall have the effect of shortening the term of any incumbent. The term of office of a trustee shall not exceed three (3) years. The Board of Trustees shall be so arranged to prevent the entire Board from being changed in a given year.

Section 2. Election; Qualifications. Each member of the corporation, as set forth in Article IV of the corporation's Articles of Incorporation, shall have the right to elect, according to that member's corporate or other governing procedures, an equal number of trustees of the corporation. The trustees of the corporation shall be elected to hold office until the expiration of the term of office into which elected, and until his, her or their respective successors are elected and qualified. No person may serve as a trustee unless such person is a Master Mason in good standing of a member Lodge or a member in good standing of another chartered Masonic Appendant body that has Masonic membership in good standing or a chartered Concordant Body with a Masonic relationship with the Grand Lodge.

Section 3. Number. The number of the trustees of the corporation, as set forth below:

1. _____ Lodge, No. _____ shall have the right to elect _____ (_____) trustees of the corporation.
Number spelled out (actual number)
2. _____ Lodge, No. _____ shall have the right to elect _____ (_____) trustees of the corporation.

Number spelled out (actual number)

3. _____ Lodge, No. _____ shall have the right to elect _____ (_____) trustees of the corporation.
Number spelled out (actual number)

4. _____, shall have the right
Name and Number of Chartered Concordant Body
to elect _____ (_____) trustees of the corporation.
Number spell out (actual number)

5. _____, shall have the right
Name and Number of Chartered Concordant Body
to elect _____ (_____) trustees of the corporation.
Number spell out (actual number)

6. _____, shall have the right
Name and Number of Chartered Concordant Body
to elect _____ (_____) trustees of the corporation.
Number spell out (actual number)

7. _____, shall have the right
Name and Number of Chartered Concordant Body
to elect _____ (_____) trustees of the corporation.
Number spell out (actual number)

(List other Masonic chartered Appendant or concordant bodies and organizations, as set forth in Article IV of the Articles of Incorporation.)

Section 4. Removal. If any trustee fails to attend three (3) consecutive meetings of the board of trustees without just cause, such trustee shall be dismissed from said board of trustees and the vacancy shall be filled by the member the trustee represented as herein provided. Just cause shall be exigent circumstances beyond the reasonable control of the trustee such as illness, extreme weather, death of family member, irresolvable employment conflicts which just cause shall be determined by the board,

Section 5. Vacancies. Each member of the corporation shall have the power to fill any vacancy occurring in that member's allotment of trustees and any trusteeship to be filled by reason of an increase in the number of trustees in that member's allotment of trustee by amendment of these Bylaws. A trustee so elected to fill a vacancy in a member's allotment of trustee shall be elected for the unexpired term of his or her predecessor in office, pursuant to this Article.

Section 6. Committees. The board of trustees, by resolution adopted by a majority of the trustees in office, may designate and appoint committees of the board. Any

such committee shall consist of two (2) or more trustees and shall have and exercise such authority of the board of trustees in the management of the corporation as may be specified in said resolution; provided, however, that no such committee shall have the authority of the board of trustees to amend, alter or repeal the bylaws; elect, appoint or remove any member of any such committee or any trustee or officer of the corporation; amend the articles of incorporation; adopt a plan of merger or adopt a plan of consolidation with another corporation; authorize the voluntary dissolution of the corporation or revoke proceedings therefore; adopt a plan for the distribution of the assets of the corporation; or amend, alter or repeal any resolution of the board of trustees unless by its terms provides that such committee may amend, altered or repeal it. The designation and appointment of any such committee and the delegation of authority to it shall not operate to relieve the board of trustees or any individual trustee of any responsibility imposed upon him or her by law.

Section 7. Compensation of Trustees. No trustee, unless performing services for the corporation outside of the duties as trustee, shall receive any salary or compensation for his/her services as trustee.

ARTICLE IV

Meetings of Board of Trustees

Section 1. Annual Meeting. The annual meeting of the board of trustees shall be held each year at the corporation's principal place of business, or at such other location as determined by the board of trustees, on the _____ of _____ at, _____, but in case such

Number/Day of Week Name of Month Time (a.m. or p.m.)

date shall be a legal holiday, the meeting shall be held on the _____.

and time

Identify day

Regular Meetings. Regular meetings of the board of trustees shall be held at the corporation's principal place of business on the _____ of each month, except (if applicable) the months of _____, at the hour of _____. If the day _____ (list months) _____ Time (a.m./p.m.) fixed for the regular meeting shall be a legal holiday, such meeting shall be held on the _____.

Identify day and time

Section 1. Special Meetings. Special meetings of the board of trustees shall be held at the place designated for regular meetings, unless otherwise ordered by the chairperson of the board, and may be held at any time on the written call of the chairperson or a majority of the trustees.

Section 2. Notice of Meetings. Notice of the time, place, and purpose of all special meetings shall be given by the secretary, or by the person or persons calling the meeting, by regular or express mail, facsimile, electronic communication,

telegram, or by personal communication over the telephone or otherwise, and at least ten (10) days prior to the special meeting(s). No other business shall be considered at any special meeting other than that so specified in the notice of said meeting.

Section 3. Quorum; Manner of Acting. The presence of a majority of trustees in office shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business of the board of trustees. In the absence of a quorum, those present may adjourn the meeting to such time and place as they may determine, but until a quorum is secured, no business may be transacted. Except as otherwise provided herein to the contrary, the act of the majority of trustees present at any meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the board of trustees.

Section 4. Actions Requiring Greater than Majority Vote. Any of the following actions shall require the affirmative vote of at least sixty-five percent (65%) of the trustees present at a meeting at which a quorum is present and the approval of those Constituent Lodges or Bodies who are members of the corporation:

- (a) any sale, transfer or disposition of all or substantially all of the corporation's assets;
- (b) any lease of the corporation's real property for a term in excess of one (1) year;
- (c) any amendment of the corporation's articles of incorporation or bylaws.

Section 5. Actions Reserved to the Grand Lodge. Any of the following actions shall require the written approval by the Lodge Service Commission, or by the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge upon appeal therefrom and where applicable to the Governing Body of any member that is a chartered Appendant Body of Masonry that has Masonic membership in good standing or is a chartered Concordant body with a Masonic relationship with the Grand Lodge.:

- (a) any incurrence of debt as required by the North Carolina Masonic Code.
- (b) amendments to the corporation's articles of incorporation and bylaws.
- (c) any lease of real estate for more than five years either as lessee or lessor,
- (d) any purchase real estate for any purpose,

Section 6. When Trustees May Not Vote. No trustee shall vote or act upon any matter in which he/she is financially interested, nor shall he/she participate in any act in which his/her personal interest is in conflict with that of the corporation

Section 7. Meetings Held by Telephone or Similar Communications Equipment. Members of the board of trustees or its committees may participate in a meeting of

the board or such committees by means of a conference telephone or similar communications equipment by means of which all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other at the same time and participation by such means shall constitute presence in person at a meeting.

ARTICLE V

Officers

- Section 1. Officers Enumerated; Election.** At each annual meeting of the board of trustees, a chairperson (corresponding to president), vice chairperson (corresponding to vice-president), secretary and treasurer shall be elected by the board of trustees to serve for the ensuing year and until their successors are elected and assume office. All of such officers shall be members of the board of trustees. Any two (2) or more offices may be held by the same person, except the offices of chairperson and secretary. In no event shall the incumbent Worshipful Master, Senior Warden or Junior Warden of a lodge that is a member of the corporation or the Principal Officers of any member be eligible to serve as officers of the corporation, but any or all of such Principal Officers may serve as trustees of the corporation. The board of trustees may fill any vacancy occurring in said offices. In addition to the powers and duties specified below, the officers shall have such powers and perform such duties as the board of trustees may prescribe.
- Section 2. Chairperson.** It shall be the duty of the chairperson to preside at all meetings of the board of trustees and the membership, to act as chief executive officer of the corporation, to sign all instruments executed by the corporation and to do all such other things as are incident to the office as chairperson. It shall be the duty of the chairperson to cause an annual progress and financial report to be prepared by the secretary for presentation to each member of the corporation, which report shall reflect the actions and decisions of the board concerning all matters which have come before the board during the preceding fiscal year.
- Section 3. Vice Chairperson.** In the absence or disability of the chairperson, it shall be the duty of the vice chairperson to perform the duties of the chairperson and to perform all such other duties as are incident to the office of vice chairperson.
- Section 4. Secretary.** It shall be the duty of the secretary to keep correct and full minutes of the meetings of the board of trustees; to issue all calls for meetings and notify all officers and trustees of their election; to keep the seal of the corporation and affix the seal attested by his/her signature to such documents as may be required. The secretary shall also keep the usual corporation books. He/she shall also sign, with the chairperson, all contracts, deeds, and other instruments when so ordered. He/she shall make such reports to the board of trustees as they may request, and shall prepare such reports and statements as are required by the laws of the State of North Carolina and by the Internal Revenue Service. The secretary

shall attend to such correspondence and perform such other duties as are incident to the office of secretary.

Section 5. Treasurer. The treasurer shall have the custody of and be responsible for all monies and securities of the corporation. The treasurer shall keep full and accurate records and accounts thereof in the books of the corporation and approved by the board of trustees showing the transactions of the corporation and its accounts, liabilities and financial condition, and see that all expenditures are duly authorized and are evidenced by proper receipts and documents. He/she shall deposit in the name of the corporation, in such bank or banks as the trustees shall by resolution direct, all monies that come into his/her hands for the corporation's account and shall pay out of the same as may be necessary for the transactions of the corporation, only on the authorized vouchers and checks of the corporation. The treasurer shall endorse for collection or deposit all bills, notes, checks, and other negotiable instruments of the corporation, and shall, together with the chairperson, have supervision of the finances of the corporation. The treasurer shall make a detailed monthly report to the board of trustees of all receipts and disbursements of the preceding month and a complete report of the financial condition of the corporation at the annual meeting of the board of trustees. The treasurer shall make such other reports and statements as may be required of him/her by the board of trustees, or by the laws of the State of North Carolina and by the Internal Revenue Service, and shall perform such other duties as are incident to the office of treasurer.

The treasurer's books shall be open at all reasonable times for inspection by the trustees. The books, accounts and papers of the treasurer shall be examined by an auditing committee or by a firm of accountants as may be determined by the board of trustees (referred to as the "Annual Audit"). The annual audit shall be completed within _____ of the
Number of Days
annual meeting of the board.

ARTICLE VI

Actions By Written Consent

Any corporate action required or permitted by the articles of incorporation or bylaws, or by the laws of the State of North Carolina, to be taken at a meeting of the members or the board of trustees (or its committees) of the corporation, may be taken without a meeting if a consent in writing, setting forth the action so taken, shall be signed by all of the members or trustees entitled to vote with respect to the subject matter thereof. Such consent shall have the same force and effect as a unanimous vote, and may be described as such.

ARTICLE VII**Distributions to Members; Dissolution**

Section 1. Annual Distributions. All accumulated net income in excess of cash reserves necessary to pay annual expenses of operation, maintenance, repairs, taxes, insurance, other current expenses of the corporation and a reasonable Capital Account for major repairs, improvements or liquidation of withdrawing members' membership equity shall be distributed to the members on an annual basis in accordance with each member's Contribution Percentage. "Contribution Percentage" means, as of the date of calculation, the quotient expressed as a percentage obtained by dividing the Contribution Account of a member by the sum of the Contribution Accounts of all members. The sum of all Contribution Percentages shall at all times equal one hundred percent (100%). Any such annual distributions shall be made only to members that are then in existence and exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501(a) of the IRC, or any successor provision. If a member is not then in existence or is not then exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501(a) of the IRC, any distributions that would otherwise have been made to that member shall be made to the North Carolina Masonic Foundation if the member is a lodge of the Grand Lodge. If the member is a body of the Scottish rite, then by the Supreme Council, 33°, A&ASRF or its affiliated charitable foundations as it shall instruct, or to the Governing Body of any member that is another chartered Appendant Body of Masonry that has Masonic membership in good standing or is a chartered Concordant body with a Masonic relationship with the Grand Lodge.

Section 2. Distributions on Termination of Membership. In the event membership in the corporation is terminated pursuant to Article I, Section 8 above, or a member withdraws from membership in the corporation, such member shall be entitled to receive, after full payment of such member's proportionate share of corporate debts and obligations, its share of the corporation's assets according to the terminating member's Contribution Percentage. Such distribution to be made at the end of the year in which membership is terminated if reasonably possible and in kind, in cash or in such other form as the board of trustees of the corporation determines in its sole discretion. No distributions on termination of membership shall be made to the terminating member unless the terminating member is then in existence and exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501 of the IRC, or any successor provision. No distributions on termination of membership shall be made if the distribution requires the incurrence of indebtedness unless the written approval by the Lodge Service Commission, by the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge upon appeal therefrom and the Governing Body of any member that is a chartered Appendant Body of Masonry that has Masonic membership in good standing or is a chartered Concordant Body with a Masonic relationship with the Grand Lodge.

Section 3. Dissolution. Dissolution of the corporation shall require the unanimous approval of all trustees. Upon dissolution of the corporation, all net remaining assets, after full payment of corporate debts and obligations, shall be distributed to the members of the corporation according to their Contribution Percentages, if such members are then in existence and exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501(a) of the IRC, or any successor provision. If a member of the corporation is not then in existence or is not then exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501(a) of the IRC, that member's share of the net remaining assets of the corporation shall be distributed: (a) if a Masonic lodge, to the North Carolina Masonic Foundation, if then in existence and exempt from Federal income taxation under Section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code Section; (b) if the member is a body of the Scottish rite, then to the Supreme Council, 33°, A&ASRF or its affiliated charitable foundations as it shall instruct, if then in existence and exempt from Federal income taxation under Section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code and (c) if a chartered Appendant Body of Masonry that has Masonic membership in good standing or is a chartered Concordant body with a Masonic relationship with the Grand Lodge, to that chartered body's Governing Body if then in existence and exempt from Federal income taxation under Section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code Section, if not, then to the Grand Lodge, if then in existence and exempt from Federal income taxation under Section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code Section. Otherwise, the North Carolina Superior Court for the county in which the corporation's principal place of business is then located or the North Carolina State Attorney General shall distribute that member's share of the net remaining assets of the corporation to one or more organizations with purposes that are the same or substantially similar to the purposes of the Grand Lodge and that are exempt under Section 501(a) of the IRC.

ARTICLE VIII

Amendment of Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws

Section 1. The corporation's articles of incorporation may be amended, and the bylaws may be amended, repealed, or altered in whole or in part, only by the affirmative vote of sixty-five percent (65%) of the board of trustees at any regular meeting of the board of trustees, or at any special meeting called for that purpose, provided that the time, place and proposed action shall be announced in the call and/or notice thereof given at least thirty (30) days before such regular or special meeting.

Section 2. In no manner may the corporation's articles of incorporation or bylaws conflict with the North Carolina Masonic Code, or the laws, rules, regulations and authority of the Grand Lodge, and where applicable, to the laws, rules, regulations and authority of the Governing Body of other chartered Appendant Bodies of Masonry that have Masonic membership in good standing or other chartered Concordant Bodies with a Masonic relationship with the Grand Lodge, to Chapter 55A of the North Carolina General Statutes, the "North Carolina Nonprofit

Corporation Act" and to Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code Section, or any other provision of North Carolina law.

Section 3. Any amendment to the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws of the corporation, any Articles of Merger for the corporation, any sale of all or substantially all of the assets of the corporation, any Bankruptcy, Receivership or Dissolution of the Temple Corporation must be approved by the Lodge Service Commission, by the Grand Lodge and where applicable, by the SGIG of the Orient of North Carolina, the Governing Body of other chartered Appendant Bodies of Masonry that have Masonic membership in good standing or other chartered Concordant Bodies with a Masonic relationship with the Grand Lodge. Any such amendments or voluntary acts shall take effect only upon receipt of such approvals in writing.

ARTICLE IX

Administrative and Financial Provisions

Fiscal Year. The last day of the fiscal year of the corporation shall be _____.
Day/Month

Section 1. Books and Records. The corporation shall keep at its registered office, its principal office in this state, or at its secretary's office if in this state, the following: current articles and bylaws; correct and adequate records of accounts and finances; a record of officers' and trustees' names and addresses; minutes of the meetings of the board of trustees and any minutes which maybe maintained by committees of the board of trustees. Records may be written or electronic if capable of being converted to writing. All books and records of the corporation may be inspected by any trustee, or his/her or her agent or attorney, for any proper purpose at any reasonable time.

I, _____, being secretary
of _____, Name of Secretary
Name of Corporation

hereby certifies that the foregoing bylaws were duly adopted by the board of trustees
on _____.

Date

Signature of Secretary

_____, Secretary
Print Name of Secretary

TO THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS
OF NORTH CAROLINA:

On the _____ of _____, 20____, at a meeting after due notice of the
Day Month Year

trustees of _____ were proposed in writing as the bylaws
Corporation Name

of the said _____.
Corporation Name

Thereafter on the _____ of _____, 20____, at a meeting of the Trustees of
Day Month Year
_____ the said foregoing proposed bylaws were duly
Corporation Name

adopted by a three-fourths vote of the trustees present and the said bylaws are herewith
submitted to the Grand Master for his approval or disapproval.

Dated this _____ of _____, 20____.
Day Month Year

Signature Chairperson

_____, Chairperson
Print Chairperson's Name

Attest:

Signature of Corporation Secretary

_____, Corporation Secretary
Print Secretary's Name

**ACTION BY THE LODGE SERVICE COMMISSION,
AND THE GRAND MASTER**

The foregoing corporation bylaws are hereby disapproved /approved

Lodge Service Commission,

APPROVED _____, 20____.

APPROVED _____, 20____.

Grand Master

Report of the Committee on Fraternal Correspondent

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

During the past year, formal requests for recognition has been received from four grand lodges. This Grand Lodge subscribes to the services of the Commission on Information for Recognition of the Conference of Grand Masters in North America to gather information and investigate whether the grand lodge in question satisfies the conditions of regularity. The Commission's guidelines or Standards for Recognition are as follows:

- Legitimacy of origin
- Exclusive territorial jurisdiction, except by mutual consent and/or treaty
- Adherence to the Ancient Landmarks – specifically, a belief in God, the Volume of Sacred Law as an indispensable part of the furniture of the lodge, and the prohibition of the discussion of politics and religion

Grande Loja Maçonica Do Estado de Sergipe

We have received a request for recognition from the Grande Loja Maçonica Do Estado de Sergipe of Brazil. This is one of only 27 state grand lodges approved by the Commission on Information and Recognition of the Grand Master's Conference of North America. This grand lodge is a member of the confederation of Regular Grand Lodges of the in Brazil. It is the recommendation of this committee to approve recognition of this Grand Lodge.

Grand Loja de Santa Catarina

We have received a request for recognition from the Grand Loja de Santa Catarina of Brazil. This is one of only 27 state grand lodges approved by the Commission on Information and Recognition of the Grand Master's Conference of North America. This grand lodge is a member of the confederation of Regular Grand Lodges of the in Brazil. It is the recommendation of this committee to approve recognition of this Grand Lodge.

Grande Loge Reguliere de Tahiti

A request was received from the Grande Loge Reguliere de Tahiti for recognition. This Grand Lodge was created on December 21, 2011 by the Grande Loge of Nationale Francaise. Data was presented to the Committee on Recognition at the Conference of Grand Masters that indicates this new grand lodge practices regular Masonry and is a sovereign territory. It is the opinion of the Commission on Information and Recognition is regular and entitled to recognition. It is the recommendation of this committee to approve recognition of this Grand Lodge.

Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alaska

A request was received from the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alaska. The Committee on Fraternal Correspondence has been assured that the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alaska is recognized by the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of North Carolina and they are assured that they are regular in all respects. It is the recommendation

of this committee to approve recognition of this Grand Lodge.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas W. Gregory, PGM, Fraternal Correspondent

Petitions for Restoration

CEC (Docket No. 680), formerly a member of Blackmer Lodge No. 127, Mt Gilead, was expelled for un-Masonic conduct on August 22, 2000. He has filed for restoration with the lodge on June 20, 2012 with the grand secretary on August 10, 2012.

JTH (Docket No. 783), formerly a member of Grantham Lodge No. 725, New Bern, was expelled on March 5, 2009. He has filed for restoration with the lodge on February 5, 2012 and with the grand secretary on February 28, 2012.

RSB (Docket No. 826), formerly a member of Round Peak Lodge No. 616, was expelled for un-Masonic conduct on August 25, 2011. He has filed for restoration with the lodge on May 4, 2012 and with the grand secretary on May 30, 2012.

Report of the Judge Advocate

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

Your judge advocate wishes to report the following cases that have been heard since the Annual Communication of 2011. This is prepared and most respectfully submitted for your information and disposition.

Docket No. 828, 5 October, 2011 – Brother JRF III, a Master Mason and member of Gate City Lodge No. 694 was expelled by a Trial Commission after he was found guilty on six counts of un-Masonic Conduct. The judge advocate dismissed one allegation of un-Masonic Conduct. Brother JRF III was accused of failing to satisfy financial obligations and being untruthful.

Docket No. 829, 26 September, 2011 – Brother DJO, a Master Mason and member of Knap of Reeds Lodge No.158 was expelled by the judge advocate after he was convicted of five counts of felonious embezzlement in the Superior Court of Durham County on 7 June 2011. Brother DJO did not answer the Masonic charges against him.

Docket No. 830 10 November, 2011 – Brother JDE, a Master Mason and member of Ft. Bragg Lodge No.667 was expelled by the Trial Commission for un-Masonic Conduct arising from his active participation in building a new lodge building without proper authorization from the Grand Lodge, and in improperly placing the lodge in debt. He pled not guilty to the Masonic charges and was represented at the Masonic trial by Brother ALM, an attorney at law. This is a companion case to Dockets No. 830–834.

Docket No. 831, 10 November, 2011 – Brother JRF, a Master Mason and member of Maxton Lodge No. 417 and former member of Ft. Bragg Lodge No. 667 was expelled by the Trial Commission for un-Masonic Conduct arising from his active participation in building a new lodge building without proper authorization from the Grand Lodge, and in improperly placing the lodge in debt. He was also alleged to have omitted necessary information from the minutes of the lodge, and mishandling required reports and paperwork when he was secretary. He pled not guilty to the Masonic charges. This is a companion case to Dockets No. 830–834.

Docket No. 832, 10 November, 2012 – Brother MTL, a Master Mason and member of Ft. Bragg Lodge No. 667 was expelled by the Trial Commission for un-Masonic Conduct arising from his active participation in building a new lodge building without proper authorization from the Grand Lodge, and in improperly placing the lodge in debt. He pled not guilty to the Masonic charges and was represented at his Masonic trial by Brother TCM, an attorney at law. This is a companion case to Dockets No. 830–834.

Docket No. 833, 26 September, 2011 – Brother JRN, a Master Mason and member of Ft. Bragg Lodge No. 667 was accused of un-Masonic Conduct in that, as an elected trustee of the lodge, he improperly abetted in placing the lodge in debt. The judge advocate dismissed charges against Brother JRN after it was discovered that the brother suffers from certain disabilities that should have disqualified him from the duties of trustee. This is a companion case to Docket No. 830–834.

Docket No. 834, 26 September, 2011 – Brother KJV, a Master Mason and member of Ft. Bragg Lodge No. 667 was expelled by the judge advocate after he failed to answer allegations of un-Masonic conduct and violating his obligation as a Master Mason. This is a companion case to Docket No. 830–834.

Docket No. 835, 14 November, 2011 – Brother DRD, a Master Mason and member of Lebanon Lodge No. 207 was expelled by the Judge Advocate after he pled guilty to feloniously depriving an individual of his constitutional rights in Federal Court on 6 October, 2011. Brother DRD was sentenced to 20 months in federal prison. He was a detention officer in Columbus County at the time of the offense. Brother DRD answered the charges against him, but did not deny that he had pled guilty to the felony charge.

Docket No. 836, 30 November, 2011 - Grand Master Lewis Ledford held a summary trial in accordance with CODE demanding Worshipful Brother DGC show cause why he should not be expelled. Subsequently, Worshipful Brother DGC was expelled from the fraternity of Freemasonry by the Grand Master.

Docket No. 837 19 January, 2012 – Brother WLS, a Master Mason and member of Rainbow Lodge No. 479 was expelled by the judge advocate after he pled guilty on 3 October, 2011 in the Superior Court of Pamlico County to felonious obstructing justice. Brother WLS answered and admitted the Masonic charges, citing his ignorance of the law.

Docket No. 838 10 April, 2012 – Brother RCR, a Master Mason and member of Union Lodge No. 618 was expelled by the Judge Advocate after he pled guilty in the Superior Court of Union County on 30 January, 2012 to four counts of felonious attempted second degree sexual offense. Brother RCR was sentenced to three years in state prison and ordered to register as a sex offender for thirty years. Brother RCR did not answer the Masonic charges against him.

Docket No. 839 13 July, 2012 – Brother JDH, a Master Mason and member of Cleveland Lodge No. 202 was expelled by the judge advocate after he committed an act that would be considered a felony under the laws of this state and later in a plea bargain agreement, he pled guilty to sexual battery of a minor child. Brother JDH did not answer the Masonic charges against him.

Docket No.840 20 July, 2012 – Brother TLG, a Master Mason and member of Horse Creek Lodge No. 719 was expelled by the judge advocate after he admitted that he had committed an act that would be considered a felony under the laws of this state. Brother TLG misappropriated a huge sum of lodge money while he held an elective office in the lodge. He was incarcerated awaiting trial at the time Masonic charges were preferred against him and did not answer the Masonic charges.

Respectfully submitted,
James R. Stevens, Judge Advocate

Report of the Committee on Bylaws

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

Your Committee on By-Laws of Subordinate Lodges reports that amendments to the by-laws of the following lodges were approved during the year 2011–2012. They are listed in lodge order.

St John's 3	Art 10	dues increased to \$58 plus per capita
Unanimity 7	Art 8	change meeting times
Phalanx 31	Art 3	official seal design
Zion 81	Art 19	institute special ballot procedures
Fellowship 4	Art 10	dues increased to \$83 plus per capita
	Art 11	affiliation fee increased to \$20
Perquimans 106	Art 8	annual meeting in November
	Art 10	dues increased to \$65 plus per capita
	Art 11	affiliation fee increased to \$50
Person 113	Art 10	dues increased to \$83 plus per capita
Holly Springs 115	Art 10	dues increased to \$100 plus per capita

Franklinton 123	Art 17	increased Trustees to five members
Gatesville 126	Art 10	dues decreased to \$50 plus the per capita
Mocksville 134	Art 8	meeting date change
Leaksville 136		Complete revision of bylaws
King Solomon 138	Art 10	dues increased to \$75 plus per capita
Junaluskee 145	Art 10	dues increased to \$58 plus per capita
Scotch Ireland 154	Art 9	initiation fee increased to \$100 plus background investigation fee
	Art 10	dues increased to \$75
	Art 13	charity fee increased to \$300
Central Cross 187	Art 8	change meeting time
	Art 8	annual meeting in December
	Art 11	affiliation fee increased to \$50
		Complete revision of bylaws
Long Creek 205	Art 19	institute special ballot procedures
Lebanon 207	Art 10	dues increased to \$75
Catawba Valley 217	Art 1	specify street address of lodge
Henderson 229	Art 10	dues increased to \$130 plus per capita
		Complete revision of bylaws
Corinthian 230	Art 19	institute special ballot procedures
Mystic Tie 237	Art 10	dues increased to \$60 plus per capita
Bingham 272	Art 11	affiliation fee increased to \$25
Vance 293	Art 13	charity fee increased to \$300
	Art 17	duties and powers of the trustees
	Art 19	miscellaneous provisions
Lillington 302	Art 11	affiliation fee increased to \$15
	Art 14	members of Lodge Finance Committee
	Art 19	designated appointed officers
Pleasant Hill 304	Art 9	initiation fee increased to \$100
Laurinburg 305	Art 15	dues of secretary and treasurer remitted
	Art 16	election of trustees
	Art 19	institute special ballot procedures
Eureka 317	Art 10	dues increased to \$100 plus per capita
Stanly 348	Art 8	meeting night on third Tuesday
Stanly 348	Art 8	annual meeting in December
	Art 10	dues increased to \$75
		miscellaneous provisions
		Complete revision of bylaws
East LaPorte 358	Art 5	duties of treasurer
Gastonia 369	Art 6	duties of secretary
	Art 8	meeting night on second Thursday

Ashler 373	Art 8	meeting night change in December
Youngsville 377	Art 9	initiation fee increased to \$125
Youngsville 377	Art 10	dues increased to \$100
Forest City 381	Complete	revision of bylaws
Kedron 387	Complete	revision of bylaws
Copeland 390	Art 8	annual meeting in December
	Art 11	affiliation fee increased to \$25
Lebanon 391	Art 9	initiation fee increased to \$150
	Art 10	dues increased to \$75
	Art 11	affiliation fee increased to \$25
	Art 13	charity fee increased to \$300
	Art 19	institute ballot procedure and miscel- laneous provisions
Orient 395	Complete	revision of bylaws
Ocean 405	Complete	revision of bylaws
University 408	Art 8	change meeting time to 7:00 p.m.
Bula 409	Art 10	dues increased to \$60 plus per capita
Bula 409	Complete	revision of bylaws
Montgomery 426	Complete	revision of bylaws
Biltmore 446	Art 10	dues increased to \$85
	Art 19	miscellaneous provisions
South Fork 462	Complete	revision of bylaws
Grassy Knob 471	Art 19	institute special ballot procedures
Saluda 482	Art 10	dues increased to \$60 plus per capita
Cherryville 505	Complete	revision of bylaws
Lucama 527	Art 9	initiation fee increased to \$100 plus background investigation fee
	Art 10	dues increased to \$85
	Art 11	affiliation fee increased to \$100
	Art 13	charity fee increased to \$300
Mt. Holly 544	Art 9	initiation fee increased to \$125
Ararat 558	Art 8	meeting night on fourth Thursday
Andrew Jackson 576	Art 10	dues increased to \$70 plus per capita
Casar 579	Art 1	specify street address of lodge
	Art 8	change meeting times
	Art 8	annual meeting in November
	Art 9	initiation fee increased to \$100 plus background investigation fee
	Art 10	dues increased to \$65
	Art 11	affiliation fee increased to \$50
	Art 13	charity fee increased to \$500
	Art 10	miscellaneous provisions

Roseboro 585	Art 8	meeting night on third Thursday
Stony Point 593	Art 10	dues increased to \$100 plus per capita
Jeff L. Nelson 605	Art 10	dues increased to \$67
Union 618	Art 10	dues increased to \$100
John H. Mills 624		Complete revision of bylaws
Yadkin Falls 637		Complete revision of bylaws
Robbinsville 672	Art 9	initiation fee increased to \$75
	Art 11	affiliation fee increased to \$25
	Art 13	charity fee increased to \$150
	Art 16	trustees of the lodge
Acacia 674	Art 10	dues increased to \$100 plus per capita
Sempler Fidelis 680	Art 19	institute special ballot procedures
Fellowship 687	Art 8	meeting times at 7:00 p.m.
	Art 9	initiation fee increased to \$100
	Art 10	dues increased to \$58 plus per capita
	Art 11	affiliation fee increased to \$37.50
	Art 13	charity fee increased to \$50
	Art 14	duties of Finance Committee (Code Regulation reference)
East Gate 692	Art 9	initiation fee increased to \$135
	Art 10	dues increased to \$90 plus per capita
Gate City 694	Art 10	dues increased to \$50 plus per capita plus temple dues
King Solomon 704	Art 10	dues increased to \$30.50 plus per capita plus temple dues
	Art 16	trustees of the lodge
	Art 19	establishing representatives to the temple board
Newport 706		Complete revision of bylaws
Liberty 714	Art 11	affiliation fee increased to \$25
Horse Creek 719	Art 19	institute special ballot procedures
Horse Creek 719		Complete revision of bylaws
Cabarrus 720	Art 9	initiation fee increased to \$150
	Art 10	dues increased to \$100
	Art 11	affiliation fee increased to \$25
William Pitt 734		Complete revision of bylaws
Crissie Wright 741	Art 8	meeting night on first and third Thursday at 7:30 P.M.
Federal Point 753	Art 10	dues increased to \$68 plus per capita
Oak Island 758	Art 10	dues increased to \$100

Respectfully submitted,
T. Walton Clapp III, Chairman

Report of the Grand Lodge Committee on WhiteStone

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

With great pride, it is my pleasure to present the Annual Report on WhiteStone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Community to the 2012 Annual Communication. WhiteStone is approaching its 100th anniversary. The observance of this event will be a great moment for our fraternity, but even more so, for those who live and work at WhiteStone.

This report is a compilation of material from meetings between Executive Director Mark Kolada and the WhiteStone Board Chairman A. Gene Cobb Jr. The process involved an email of the first draft of our report to Committee members J. Ross Geller, Harvard C. Holden, M. Gene Lewellyn, and John M. Smith on July 12, 2012 for their review. Committee members were encouraged to visit the home and meet with Mark Kolada and respond to the report with their approval, revisions, or concerns. There were no objections.

We are especially grateful to Brother Kolada for the excellent leadership he and the entire staff of WhiteStone give to the residents of our beloved community in Greensboro. As we met to compile this report on July 11, 2012, the overwhelming feeling of pride and continued challenge to give support to WhiteStone lingers. Without his gracious sharing of information, the contents of this glowing report would not be possible.

There are three things that WhiteStone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Community has been known for in its century of service. First, we offer excellence in nursing care. Second, we offer a high quality of retirement living. Third, we are a generous and benevolent charity. This report examines these three offerings of WhiteStone.

To illustrate our excellence in nursing care, the community received a lovely letter from the family of a resident who recently passed away that was the daughter of a Mason from Manteo and whose son-in-law is a Mason in the Greensboro area. The letter reads:

June 4, 2012

Mr. Mark Kolada

Whitestone Masonic & Eastern Star Home

700 South Holden Road

Greensboro, North Carolina 27407

Dear Mark,

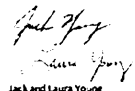
Please convey our profound thanks to your staff for their wonderful care of our mother, Joan Davis, over the past eight years.

When Jack and I helped Maria apply for residency at MESH in 2004, we were aware of your great reputation and certainly expected that she would be happy as part of the community. We had no idea, though, and were thrilled to find, to what extent she was embraced by other residents and the staff. My mother has had health challenges for years, and I know her needs have been significant. Over the years as we visited with her and talked to her on the phone, she shared many stories of people going out of their way to help her and to be her friend. It was such a great relief and blessing to know that we need not worry about her welfare and that she was well cared for and loved.

During the past year, after she was moved to the Care and Wellness Center after serious illness, I have had the opportunity to get to know many members of the staff there and have been so impressed not only with the care they gave Maria, but the warmth and love with which they surrounded her. Maria often spoke of this one and that one, of the little (and big) things they did for her, and it was clear that she felt very connected to them. There is no doubt in my mind that Maria loved the Care Center staff. Last week, as I was fortunate to spend the last three days of Maria's life by her bedside, I got to see that so many of the staff felt strong affection for her also. I was overwhelmed by how many of them came to see her in those last days; they spoke to her (though she wasn't visibly conscious), held her hand, and kissed her brow. I was more touched than I can tell you by this quiet tribute, and also by the staff's great care of our family as we struggled to say goodbye to our beloved mom.

We will never be able to sufficiently thank you, but we hope you will accept this donation as a token of how much we appreciate all of you. As part of our fraternal bond, we fully intend to stay connected, and watch with pride the exciting new developments at Whitestone. Congratulations on inspiring such a wonderful and caring staff, and on making Whitestone MESH a true home for so many of our sisters and brothers.

In deep gratitude,



Jack and Laura Young

As the letter highlights, we are proud to have an excellent reputation for care in the Triad area for the second consecutive year. We continue the distinguished five-star rating as a care center, which is the highest designation possible in North Carolina and puts WhiteStone in the top 15% of all nursing homes in the nation!

Regarding high quality retirement living, many of you are aware that we have been renovating and expanding several areas of the campus over the past few years. Last year, the community completed work on renovating the administration building into a beautiful clubhouse for our residents including a new game room, library, activity area, and resident store.

During this past summer, work was completed on the expansion of our services and amenities by completing a 46 independent living, one- and two-bedroom unit apartment building, adding a fellowship hall, beauty salon, bistro, arts and crafts area, as well as completely renovating our kitchen and dining facilities. We celebrate the fact that we are about 80% presold on these units!

The WhiteStone residents and staff are all very excited about the additions and there is no doubt that WhiteStone is one of the best and most

comprehensive retirement communities in the state. We constantly strive to live up to the stellar reputation we share with the Masonic and Eastern Star fraternities.

Concerning charity, every day we help more than sixty-two (62) fraternal related residents with approximately \$1.3 million of financial assistance each year. In 2011, WhiteStone received approximately \$1.6 million in contributions, of which \$245,000 came from blue lodges; \$95,000 from the Masonic Foundation, and \$15,000 from the Grand Lodge. Those amounts represent 22.2 % of the charity we received with direct connections to the Grand Lodge of North Carolina.

Sadly, the amount of charity we can continue to provide is declining because Masonic annual donations for charity are decreasing.

On average, it costs our charity \$57 per day, \$1,700 a month, and \$21,000 a year to provide just one resident with the financial assistance they need. These contributions help provide for room and board, medical expenses, doctor fees, and anything that those fraternal residents could not afford to pay for by themselves.

We continue to need help in this area. We say we want to do more charity, not less. Our most disturbing reality is that after we stepped up to the sacred altar and promised to provide relief to our brothers, their widows, and orphans, we continue to find so many members of the Masonic and Eastern Star who need our help, but are not getting it.

The remedy is simple. When we go back to our subordinate lodges, have a discussion about this need, and renew our commitment to offer relief and support for these residents. Consider a day, week, or month of care. It will be a well-placed investment.

In addition to the quality nursing care, excellence in retirement living and the benevolent charity, WhiteStone has continued its recent trend of three consecutive years of positive growth in income and cash flow.

In 2011, WhiteStone completed a successful \$30 million bond offering that has been used to help pay for new construction and renovations as well as add reserves to its balance sheet that will provide financial stability for many years to come.

In conclusion, we welcome everyone to visit YOUR community in Greensboro. We love nothing more than to give you a tour and treat you to lunch. The grand master, the twelve Masonic members of our Board, and the Masonic Foundation members have been most supportive and we are truly grateful for it.

On behalf of the 250 residents currently residing at WhiteStone, we say thank you to all Masons for the hard work, fundraising, and financial support of WhiteStone through this approaching century of excellence. We look forward to the celebration and continuation of excellence in the years ahead!

May God continue to bless us as we continue to give our best!

Respectfully submitted,
A. Gene Cobb Jr., JGD, Chairman

Report of the Grand Lodge Committee on MHCO

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

The Committee on the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford met in Oxford on Friday, July 13, 2012. The Home provided lunch at the Cobb Center with a large contingent of staff, including 10 direct care staff, Chris Richardson, and Kevin Otis, the new administrator, who was in his first full day on campus. Also present was Eddie Dickerson, director of the School of Graphic Arts. The staff and committee were introduced, and an informal question and answer session ensued over lunch.

After lunch, new Administrator Kevin Otis made brief remarks about his vision for the Home and its growth in the future. Chris Richardson gave an overview of the history and underpinnings of the Home, unique because of its very small percentage of state and federal funding (one percent).

The Committee took a tour of the Home, including the museum and history exhibits. A visit was made to the Baby Cottage, where the children showed their rooms and visited with us after nap time. The children were involved with puzzles, math, etc.

The Committee toured the grounds, including the picnic shelters, gym, School of Graphic Arts, and York Rite Chapel.

Those of the Committee who were new to the Home were most impressed. A focus going forward is on how to fill up the beds. A potential new program is to assist single mothers with children with transitional housing. A significant emphasis is on traditional values of right/wrong, respect and personal responsibility.

The current census is 50. We have the traditional residential program and an independent living program for those 18–22. We are currently out of debt; looking toward being self sustaining — but that is a very far stretch.

Our new administrator begins officially on July 16, and we all look forward to moving forward with a new vision in the foreseeable future.

Sincerely and Fraternally,
Ben Wallace
Mike Hinson
Wayne Hartsell
Keith Ricketts
Bryant Webster, Chairman

Resolution of the Committee on Finance

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

Resolved, That the report of the Committee on Finance shall be the first order of business at the morning session of the Grand Lodge held on Saturday, September 22, 2012, and

Resolved further, That all resolutions, motions, and reports asking for or carrying appropriations and expenditures not included in the 2013 proposed budget, shall be placed before the Grand Lodge before 4:00 P.M. on Friday September 21, 2012, and,

Resolved further, That all such matters offered after 4:00 P.M. on Friday, September 21, 2012, be carried over to the next business communication of this Grand Lodge when the 2014 budget will be considered.

Respectfully submitted,
Sam Lee, Chairman

Resolution for Forest City Lodge 381 to Receive a Duplicate Charter

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

WHEREAS, Forest City Lodge No. 381, AF & AM is a regular lodge chartered January 9, 1884 by the Grand Lodge of North Carolina, and

WHEREAS, the chartered history of Forest City Lodge No. 381, AF & AM remains unbroken, and

WHEREAS, Forest City Lodge No. 381, AF & AM was in the process of making a photographic copy of their charter for historical purposes, and

WHEREAS, the charter has disappeared and fruitless search has been conducted, and

WHEREAS, the required fee of \$150 has been submitted.

NOW THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED: Forest City Lodge No. 380, AF & AM hereby petitions the Grand Lodge of North Carolina for a duplicate charter. It also acknowledges that should the original charter be found, that it will return the original charter to the Grand Secretary's Office as required in Regulation 41-4.2.

Respectfully submitted,
Ted Bell, Master
Forest City Lodge No. 381

Report of the Committee on Unfinished Business

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

The following various orders issued during the terms of Grand Master Lewis R. Ledford and Grand Master Robert E. Gresham are to be considered during this Annual Communication.

Ledford Order 2

Whereas, the oath of all officers of all North Carolina Lodges state, "I promise on the honor of a Master Mason that I will, to the best of my ability, conform to and abide by the Ancient Landmarks, regulations, and usages of Masonry, the Constitution and laws of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina and the laws of this lodge..."; and

Whereas, the obligations of a Mason require submission to the laws of Masonry and adherence to its regulations and orders; and

Whereas, Brother KWH, in his capacity as presiding officer of an appendant body and in spite of good counsel and directives from his superiors in that body, has repeatedly, consistently, and doggedly thwarted, opposed, and deflected a lawful order of the Grand Master of Masons in North Carolina; and

Whereas, Brother KWH's behavior has offered irrefutable evidence that he is incapable of truthfully attesting this part of any installation ceremony and requirement; and

Whereas, Brother KWH has persisted in his recalcitrance and has offered no efforts to heal the insolence he has propagated within the Craft;

Therefore, it is my order that KWH be barred from holding any office in any Masonic body for a period of ten years.

Issued under my hand and seal this eleventh day of November, 2011.

Gresham Order No. 1

It has come to my attention through the Grand Secretary's Office that Brother JTA was recently elected Master of Perquimans Lodge No. 106, Hertford, North Carolina. Since that election, Brother JTA, who was chief of police in Hertford, had been fired by the Town Council of Hertford for his role in posting on the department's Facebook page information relating to a political candidate. This is in violation of a town ordinance governing employee involvement in political matters. As the administrative head of the Police Department, the Council felt he was knowledgeable of the town's ordinance governing employee involvement in political matters. The town council directed his dismissal for his involvement.

As this is a small town and with the potential for misleading news, the members of the lodge did not want the election of Brother JTA and his relationship with the Town of Hertford to impugn the name of Masonry. They felt that at this time, it would be best if Brother JTA not accept the position to which he was elected until all questions relating to this situation were answered.

Therefore, it is my ORDER that the installation of officers scheduled for January 3, 2012 be postponed until a further investigation of the incident.

Given under my hand and seal at Mt. Gilead, North Carolina, this the 22nd day of December, 2011.

Gresham Order No. 2

It has been brought to my attention by the grand secretary that Long Creek Lodge No. 205, AF & AM initiated HSA on January 23, 2012 while still serving a felony sentence. Mr. HSA plead guilty in Federal Court, Western District of North Carolina, for "conspiracy to commit witness tampering" and was sentenced to 41 months imprisonment and 36 months supervised probation. Mr. HSA stated on his petition that he had been convicted of a federal crime and was incarcerated from 2007 to August 2011. However, the investigating committee failed to discover that Mr. HSA was still serving his three years probation.

Regulation 66-1.11 states that a petitioner must not be under sentence or judgment for violation of any law of the land involving moral turpitude. His right to citizenship must have been restored in the event it was lost by such conviction and sentence.

As Mr. HSA was still under sentence, he would not have been eligible to petition the lodge. As the lodge failed to completely investigate the candidate, he was admitted and administered his first degree. Nothing in this order can take away a degree.

THEREFOR, IT IS MY ORDER that Long Creek Lodge 205 immediately cease all communication with Brother HSA and that his fees for the degrees be returned forthwith. As Brother HSA had included information on his petition of his felony conviction and his incarceration, there is no Masonic discipline that can be administered to the candidate. Once Brother HSA completes his sentence, his admission shall be governed by The Code regulations in affect for candidates whose time has expired, and he shall be subjected to the fees for the degrees in place at that time.

Further, it is my order that Long Creek Lodge No. 205 receive Masonic education on suggested process of proper investigations on petitions. The lodge should strive to be more diligent with investigations of future candidates.

Issued under my hand and seal in Mt. Gilead, North Carolina, this the fourth day of April, 2012.

Amendment Group 1

The following amendments have been proposed by the grand secretary.

This proposed addition would change references to MESH to WhiteStone as necessitated by name change.

27-1.3

K. On Masonic and Eastern Star Home of North Carolina, Incorporated WhiteStone. [34-17]

REG. 28-4 ACTIVITIES REPRESENTED.

The following are considered as activities and groups of related activities properly to be represented by members of the Board of General Purposes:

1. Charity, relief; The Masonic Home for Children at Oxford, Inc., and Masonic and Eastern Star Home of North Carolina, Incorporated WhiteStone.

...

REG. 34-17 MASONIC AND EASTERN STAR HOME WHITESTONE.

The Committee on ~~Masonic and Eastern Star Home of North Carolina, Incorporated~~ WhiteStone shall consist of five members appointed annually. It shall be the duty of this committee personally to visit the Masonic and Eastern Star Home, and to examine the condition of its property, the management of its business, and the reports of its officers and directors. The committee shall observe and keep advised as to its management and such other matters, facts and information as may be proper to consider in a report to the Grand Lodge. It shall report its findings with its recommendations to the Grand Lodge at its annual communication. [~~27-1.3.K; 27-6; 27-7; 27-7.7; 27-7.8~~].

44-7.4 Article 21 Section 1G

(1) On ~~Masonic and Eastern Star Home~~ Whitestone [~~61-6~~].

...

REG. 61-1 STANDING COMMITTEES.

There shall be seven standing committees in each subordinate lodge as follows:

...

a Committee on ~~the Masonic and Eastern Star Home~~ Whitestone,

...

REG. 61-6 MASONIC AND EASTERN STAR HOME WHITESTONE.

The Committee on ~~the Masonic and Eastern Star Home of North Carolina, Incorporated~~ Whitestone, shall consist of not less than three members who shall be appointed annually by the Master. ~~It shall investigate and report its recommendations to the lodge on all applications for admission to the home filed with the lodge.~~ It shall present the needs of the home to the members of the lodge from time to time and to solicit their support of such needs.

Amendment Group 2

The following amendments have been proposed by the grand secretary.

This proposed change would remove references for admissions to the Masonic Home for Children, per privacy laws.

REG. 61-5 THE MASONIC HOME FOR CHILDREN.

The Committee on the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford shall consist of not less than three members who shall be appointed annually by the Master. ~~It shall investigate and report its recommendations to the lodge on all applications for admission to the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford filed with the lodge.~~ It shall present the needs of the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford to the members of the lodge from time to time and to solicit their support of such needs.

Amendment Group 3

The following amendments have been proposed by the grand secretary.

This proposed change allows member a cooling off period to reconsider his demit.

REG. 76-4 GRANTED BY ORDER OF THE MASTER.

Each request for an absolute demit whether written or oral must be presented to the lodge at a stated communication, and if it appears that all requirements have been met, such request shall be granted, by order of the Master entered of record, without vote of the lodge, and the Secretary shall issue to the applicant a certificate thereof under seal of the lodge.

1. The order of the Master, when made and entered of record, cannot be revoked nor reconsidered. The action of the Master may be reconsidered before the close of the communication at which a demit is granted or three days following. Such reconsideration shall be announced at the next stated communication of the lodge and marginal notations made on the minutes of the previous communication.
2. From the close of the communication the membership of the applicant ceases.
3. A request for a demit may be withdrawn only by the applicant and before action is taken thereon as herein provided. [45-3.4.F; 59-12.19.G; 76-3.7; 76-5; Official Forms 35, 36].

Amendment Group 4

The following amendments have been proposed by the grand secretary

This amendment would qualify email as suitable for official Masonic notices.

Reg. 45-4 NOTICES

All notices emanating from a lodge, or its officers, shall be sent to members under sealed cover, except that a notice setting forth merely the time and place of meetings and the degree to be conferred may be published in the newspapers, sent by postal card, email, telephone services, or both. Unless otherwise provided, a notice of a communication shall be deemed sufficient if it is given not less than twenty-four hours, or published in a local newspaper, email or telephone services not less than eight hours prior to the communication.

1. An emergent communication to conduct Masonic burial services may be held at any time without previous notice provided there is a quorum present. Reasonable means should be employed to notify the members of such communication. [45-1.2; 45-2.3, 45-3.3; 45-5; 59-12.12; 87-3].
2. Any required notice which is mailed to a brother at his last known address for mail is a proper notice. [45-3.1; 43-6].

REG. 87-19 MAIL.

Wherever in *The Code* the service of any document is authorized or required to be made by United States Registered Mail, such service can be made by United States Certified Mail or by a certified email service whereby a "read" receipt is emailed back to the sender. [39-4.1].

Amendment Group 5

The following amendments have been proposed by the grand secretary.

This amendment group would change no smoking rules to include other forms of tobacco during degrees. It would also allow a lodge to amend bylaws to prohibit smoking in designated areas.

REG. 44-7 UNIFORM BY-LAWS.

44-7.4 Article 22

SECTION 1. Miscellaneous laws are as follows:

...

~~Q. No brother shall smoke in the lodge room while a degree is being conferred~~
Tobacco use is prohibited in the lodge room while a degree is being conferred.
 [45-20]

First alternative form:

Tobacco use is prohibited in the lodge (room) or (building)

Amendment Group 6

The following amendments have been proposed by the grand secretary

This amendment clarifies regulations changed two years ago allowing lodge secretaries to summarize meeting minutes when read for information only.

...

Reg. 44-7.4 Article 21

ARTICLE 21

SECTION 1. When the lodge is opened on a stated communication, the following order of business shall be observed subject to change or modification by the lodge or the Master, that will adapt it to a proper disposition of the business of the lodge. [44-2.1].

A. Reading Summarizing of the minutes of the last stated and all intervening communications. [45-21.1].

REG. 45-21 ORDER OF BUSINESS.

Subject to change or modification by the lodge or by the Master, the order of business at each stated communication shall be as follows:

Reading minutes: reading summarizing minutes of the last stated communication to bring forward unfinished business and intervening communications as information to the members. [44-7 (Art.21A); 45-23].

Amendment Group 7

The following amendments have been proposed by the grand secretary.

This amendment addresses raising the fees for initiation to better reflect the cost of the degrees. The minimum fees were instituted in the 1940s and have never been adjusted for cost or inflation.

REG. 64-1 MINIMUM INITIATION FEE.

No lodge in this state shall confer any of the Symbolic degrees in Masonry for less than one hundred-fifty dollars. [5-2.1; 49-10.1].

1. A lodge may charge more but not less than the prescribed minimum fee.
2. Each lodge shall state in its by-laws the amount to be charged by it as a fee for the degrees.
3. The fee for the degrees shall not be prorated in any manner.
4. A lodge shall collect the same fee for the degrees from each petitioner without discrimination.
5. It shall not dispense with, waive, or refund the same or any part thereof by any plan or device whatever, except when the petition is rejected or no degree is conferred. [49-10.1; 64-4.1; 64-4; 64-3; 64-4.5; 66-2; 67-6; 69-2; 73-3.3; 75-18].

Amendment Group 8

The following amendments have been proposed by the grand secretary.

This amendment repairs reference to ballot procedure to include Article 19 of a lodge bylaws change which procedure was approved at a previous communication.

REG. 65-1 PETITION RECEIVED - BALLOT.

No petition for the degrees in Masonry shall be received except for the three Symbolic Degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason. A petition shall be received only at a stated communication. A unanimously favorable vote by secret ballot shall be required to elect to the three degrees unless the lodge has adopted the balloting procedure as specified under Article 19 of its by-laws. [45-3.4.B; 49-10.1; 68-3.15; 68-9].

Amendment Group 9

The following amendments have been proposed by the Steele Creek Lodge No. 737.

This amendment would allow a simple majority to vote for election to a Life Membership.

REG. 79-2 MANNER OF PROPOSAL AND ELECTION.

A proposal for life membership shall be in writing, recommended by at least three members of the lodge, and read at a stated communication.

1. It need not be sent to the Grand Secretary nor referred to a committee.
2. It shall not be balloted on within twenty-eight days after such proposal has been presented and read to the lodge. [48-3.5; Official Form 45].
3. Election to life membership shall be by a secret and unanimous ballot at a stated communication. An affirmative vote by a simple majority of the brothers present shall be sufficient for election. [Official Form 45].

Amendment Group 10

Allow limited use of alcohol by non-Masonic renters.

REG. 43-3 LIMITATIONS.

Some, but not all, of the limitations of powers and authority of a subordinate lodge are as follows. [4-2; 4-6].

...

3. A lodge shall not, by any pretext, or for any purpose, or by any subterfuge introduce intoxicating liquors or beverages, or permit their use as a beverage on any of its premises, nor shall it rent any of its premises to any one who thereon sells intoxicating liquors with the exception of a pharmacist. [43-7; 86-2.30; 86-2.31].
3. Alcoholic beverages are forbidden in Lodge rooms, except for ritualistic purposes, the serving or consumption of any beverage having a recognized or indicated alcohol content in any Lodge room, ritualistic purposes excepted, shall be deemed an offense against the Body of Masonry. This does not preclude lodges from renting their facilities, except Lodge rooms, to groups where alcoholic beverages are consumed in accordance with the laws of the State of North Carolina.

Alternative form Resolution

WHEREAS, some historic lodge buildings are expensive to maintain without outside revenue supplementing.

WHEREAS, rentals to weddings, concerts, and other non-profit groups are an excellent source of revenue, and

WHEREAS, these groups are more desirous of facilities which allow controlled consumption of alcoholic products, and

WHEREAS, an amendment to allow alcoholic products on lodge property has been submitted for the past several years, and

WHEREAS, many lodges have expressed concerns,

NOW BE IT THEREFOR RESOLVED, that the grand master may grant dispensations to no more than ten lodges for the year 2013, to rent their facilities, except lodge rooms, to groups where alcoholic beverages are consumed in accordance with the laws of the State of North Carolina, and upon such conditions as he may impose.

Amendment Group 11

The following amendments have been proposed by Cliffside Lodge 460.

This amendment would create a new award.

REG. 56-5 TREASURER OF DISTINCTION . Any lodge at a stated communication and by majority vote, upon a written proposal signed by at least three members of the lodge and received at a previous stated communication not less than twenty-eight days before such vote, may confer the honorary title of Treasurer of Distinction on a member of such lodge in good standing, who, at the time of such proposal shall have completed five consecutive full years as Treasurer of such lodge, and who at that time, shall be a member of his lodge in good standing, and shall have rendered outstanding and meritorious service as Treasurer. The proposal shall not be sent to the Grand Secretary nor referred to a committee. On election, report thereof shall be made to the Grand Secretary within ten days.

Amendment Group 12

The following amendments have been proposed by Cliffside Lodge 460.

This amendment would create a new award.

REG. 56-6 TYLER OF DISTINCTION . Any lodge at a stated communication and by majority vote, upon a written proposal signed by at least three members of the lodge and received at a previous stated communication not less than twenty-eight days before such vote, may confer the honorary title of Tyler of Distinction on a member of such lodge in good standing, who, at the time of such proposal shall have completed five consecutive full years as Tyler of such lodge, and who at that time, shall be a member of his lodge in good standing, and shall have rendered outstanding and meritorious service as Tyler. The proposal shall not be sent to the Grand Secretary nor referred to a committee. On election, report thereof shall be made to the Grand Secretary within ten days.

Report of the Representative to the George Washington Masonic Memorial Association

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

The George Washington Masonic Memorial was built by a grateful fraternity to honor the memory of the father of our country. On February 22, 2012, the Memorial celebrated Washington's 280th birthday in grand style with several new events added to the traditional observance. A significant part of the proceedings was the official opening of The Family of Freemasonry exhibit which stirred a great deal of interest among those present. This exhibit is located on the third floor of the Memorial and includes displays from the General Grand Chapter, the Order of the Eastern Star, the Grotto, and the Tall Cedars of Lebanon of North America.

The 2012 Annual Meeting of the George Washington Masonic Memorial Association was held in Atlanta, Georgia, on February 19. Among the officers elected for the ensuing year are Roger A. Simmons, president, and George D. Seghers, executive director.

The Grand Lodge of the Month program was established to recognize and honor the grand lodges which created the Memorial Association and constructed the Memorial. Each month a state flag is flown on the grounds of the Memorial, grand lodge publications are made available to visitors, a brief history of the grand lodge is posted on the Memorial's website and a grand lodge display of artifacts is featured in The Form and Function of American Freemasonry exhibit. The Grand Lodge of North Carolina was featured during March 2012. Our Grand Lodge provided several artifacts for display that represented Freemasonry in North Carolina. We are especially grateful to our brothers with the Greensboro Masonic Museum who provided items to be used in the display (<http://www.greensboromasonicmuseum.org/>). Their assistance contributed greatly in making this undertaking a success.

President and Brother Harry Truman sent a stone that was left over from the renovation of the White House to each Grand Lodge during his term of office. Each stone has some type of marking put there by the operative masons who were involved with the original construction. Many grand lodges, including our own, loaned their stones to the Memorial for exhibition for two years. Our stone has now been returned to the Grand Lodge and is once again on display along with the transmittal letter sent by President Truman.

The Memorial gladly accepts donations and is worthy of consideration when planning to make charitable gifts to Masonic organizations. The building is now eighty years old and upkeep is always a concern. The Memorial is promoting a one dollar per member campaign to raise funds for the upkeep of the building. There are currently 20 grand lodges participating in this program. Many of the other grand lodges, including North Carolina, have committed to contributing \$5 per initiate. It is recommended that the Grand Lodge of North Carolina remain a member of the George Washington Masonic Memorial Association and continue to contribute five dollars per initiate annually.

Respectfully submitted,
Dalton W. Mayo, SGW, Representative

Report of the Representative to the Masonic Service Association

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

The Masonic Service Association (MSA) was formed in 1919 to provide Masonic Information to its member grand lodges.

The MSA held their annual meeting in conjunction with the 2012 North American Conference of Grand Masters in Atlanta, Georgia. George O. Braatz, PGM, PGS Ohio was appointed executive secretary.

One of the main functions of MSA is publishing the "Short Talks Bulletin" which first appeared in 1923. These bulletins are available on a wide variety of Masonic topics.

The hospital visitation program continues to provide support to our infirm brethren at the four NC VA Medical Centers. Each year the Grand Master visits each of these hospitals to provide encouragement and appreciation to our sick and wounded veteran's.

This year's proposed budget shows a reduction in the monetary support of MSA by the NCGL. While this is certainly a worthy and needed program, it was felt that this money could be best used elsewhere. This will not impact the

calls for disaster relief or hospital visitation program.

Disaster relief was provided to the Grand Lodge of Kentucky. This was in response to the March 2, 2011 tornados which took the life of at least one and injured many more of our Masonic family. A total of \$60,000 in relief was provided for this disaster.

Please visit the MSA website <www.msana.com> for more information.

Respectfully submitted,
Douglas Caudle, Representative

Report of the Code Commission

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina, AF & AM:

The Code Commission met by phone conference on April 11, 2012 to consider a number of proposed changes to *The Code*. This year, The Code Commission consisted of Clayton L. Wright, William L. Mills III, Todd E. Trivette, Curtis R. Sharpe, and the undersigned, C. David Creech, chairman.

Several groups of amendments were proposed by the grand secretary. The first consists of "housekeeping" changes recognizing the name change for the Masonic and Eastern Star Home, now known as "WhiteStone." The changes are submitted as Amendment Group 1.

The second group includes a change to Reg. 61-5, which would eliminate the requirement that the Standing Committee on the Masonic Home for Children investigate and report to the lodge on applications for admission to the Home. This change was felt necessary to keep *The Code* in line with modern practice and to make *The Code* consistent with privacy laws. These amendments are contained in Amendment Group 2.

Amendment Group 3 would allow the master of each lodge three days to reconsider a demit. The current Reg. 76-4 only allows such reconsideration until the close of the communication in which the demit is considered. This amendment group is submitted for consideration with only minor modifications by the Commission.

Amendment Group 4 dealt with "merged lodge funds," but was withdrawn by the grand secretary for additional refinement.

Amendment Group 5 would allow notices required under Reg. 45-4 to be served via email, and when notice by certified mail is required under Reg. 87-19, email could be used if a "read" receipt is emailed back to the sender. These changes are submitted as proposed.

Amendment Group 6 would prohibit all use of tobacco in lodge while a degree is performed. An alternative amendment is also proposed that would prohibit all use of tobacco at any time in the lodge room or building.

Amendment Group 7 would eliminate the requirement that lodge secretaries engage in the sometimes tedious task of reading lodge minutes at the beginning of each meeting, verbatim, and would allow the secretaries to summarize the minutes for the lodge. The proposed change is not specific as to the amount of detail required, which presumably would be left to the discretion of the secretary of each lodge.

Amendment Group 8 would set the minimum initiation fee at \$150. The current Reg. 64-1 sets the minimum initiation fee at \$50, which serves no purpose.

Consideration was given to eliminating the minimum fee all together, but the Commission felt setting the minimum fee at \$150 would be more appropriate.

The final proposed change from the grand secretary is another "house-keeping" amendment to make Reg. 65-1 consistent with changes to Art. 19 of the Uniform Set of Bylaws. Lodges now have the option of adopting the new balloting procedure when a single black cube is cast when balloting on a petition for degrees. This amendment is Group 9, and makes no substantive changes to the balloting procedure.

Amendment Group 10 was proposed by Steele Creek Lodge No. 737 and would change the election procedure for life membership in a lodge from requiring a unanimous vote to a simple majority vote of the brothers present.

Amendment Group 11, proposed by Mt. Hermon Lodge No. 118 in Asheville, would allow the introduction of alcoholic beverages into the lodge room for ritualistic purposes, and would permit lodges to lease their facilities, except for the lodge room, to groups serving alcohol for an event, so long as the beverages are consumed in accordance with state law. An alternative form of this amendment is also proposed by the Commission. This alternative form would permit the grand master to grant dispensations to no more than ten lodges, for the year 2013 only, allowing the lodges to rent to groups serving alcohol, so long as the beverages are served in accordance with state law and not served in the lodge room. Given the controversy similar changes have presented in the past, the Commission felt the Grand Lodge might entertain, as an alternative amendment, a pilot project, limited to one year, and governed by the grand master's powers of dispensation, to explore whether such a change would be in the best interest of Freemasonry in North Carolina.

Amendment Groups 12 and 13 would create the awards, Treasurer of Distinction and Tyler of Distinction, similar to the previous Secretary of Distinction awards for long-term (at least five years) and meritorious service in those offices.

Respectfully submitted,
C. David Creech, Chairman

The North Carolina Masonic Foundation, Inc.

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

The investments of the North Carolina Masonic Foundation has been slowly recovering from the recession. The Board agreed to have outside managers take part in the investing of its funds.

The Board has considered several Limited Liability Companies to assist our charities.

The Masonic and Eastern Star Home Foundation, LLC is an instrument whereby all contributions will be channeled to support residents at WhiteStone in need of assistance. This will insure that all contributions received from Masons, OES, lodges and chapters will go to benefit only members who are residents at the Home.

The Masonic Historic Properties, LLC was created to benefit our historic properties. This LLC was created to receive tax deductible gifts for use in the preservation of North Carolina Masonic Properties deemed to be of historic significance so as to qualify to receive tax deductible preservation grants from

501(c)(3) organizations under the IRS. This instrument will also establish guidelines and procedures for the receipt of gifts and the making of grants for its own and for historic properties in general and for the preservation of specific qualifying properties.

We are saddened by the death of our president, Brother Charles E. Scott. Brother Charley was a faithful member of the Board since 1981. He was elected president since 2000. He was 95 years old. Brother Scott believed in the stock market. He was not a fan of corporate bonds. His mantra was to place your money in good solid stocks. We will miss his cheer.

Respectfully submitted,
Board of the North Carolina Masonic Foundation

The Board of Publication of *The North Carolina Mason*

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of AF & AM of North Carolina:

Our *North Carolina Mason* continues to be one of the outstanding Masonic papers in the country, with a distribution to approximately 46,000 Masons in North Carolina and other jurisdictions around world. The editor, Ric Carter, continues to craft an informative and well-designed document that should please Masons not just across the state, but around the world as well. The Board and Brother Ric continually work to improve the quality and content of our paper.

We urge you to continue to send Brother Carter timely and informative photographs and articles of interest to us all. We enjoy informing the Brethren around the Tar Heel State about special events and activities in your blue lodges. Electronic submissions are strongly encouraged. We urge you to send Brother Ric the best quality in all submitted materials: Photos should be un-resized and unprocessed to assure the best reproduction, and articles should be provided as the body of an email message, or in unformatted text if sent as an attachment.

While our print edition is limited to black and white due to budgetary and printing equipment limitations, we are less so on the Internet, and continue to supply a color version of each edition using eflip technology. You will find links to current and past editions on the Grand Lodge website <www.grandlodge-nc.org>.

We have also begun exploratory talks with Brother Ric about how to best deal with increased production costs in the coming years. What remains constant, though, is the valuable feedback provided with our mailings of the print edition of *The NC Mason*. Every other month, the mailing service makes address checks, and those allow us to find many members who may have forgotten to notify their lodge of an address change.

Our continued success is, without question, due to the work of many. Innovative methodology and excellent communication and cooperation among and between Eddie Dickerson, manager of the Print and Design Center at the School of Graphic Arts at the Masonic Home for Children, the Grand Secretary's Office, and the Board of Publication make us feel confident in our continuing efforts to produce an excellent paper while maximizing savings for printing and postal costs.

Brother Ric is highly motivated and dedicated to doing his best, both in

the writing and photographic arenas. The Masons of North Carolina should be proud of the quality of his work and his commendable news judgment.

We wish to thank our Grand Lodge officers for their help and support. The Graphic Arts and Design Center of the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford deserves our special thanks for its outstanding service to our cause.

Keeping all our Masons well informed regarding the Grand Lodge AF & AM of North Carolina and the accomplishments and activities of our brethren around the state and the world is a primary goal for *The North Carolina Mason*. We, the Board of Publication, hope you find our work satisfying.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas Pope, Chairman

Report on the Committee on Masonic Education

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

Your Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Education has been busy planning the 2012 round of Boot Camps. These are one-day sessions aimed at preparing officers for assuming the master's role in their lodges. The 2012 sessions are planned for three Saturdays this fall – October 20, November 10, and November 17. They are scheduled to be held in Waynesville, Winston-Salem, and Fayetteville.

The Boot Camps are co-sponsored by Wilkerson College and are open to any Master Mason. They are especially useful to line officers in the lodge and most helpful to wardens who have not been able to attend Wilkerson College or who would like a refresher of Wilkerson College.

The Boot Camps were well received the past three years, and we have the same instructors in place for 2012. The sessions are offered at no cost to attendees and the Masonic Education Committee provides notebooks and other materials to the participants.

This year, the Board of Custodians is offering a Coaches Workshop in conjunction with each Boot Camp session. Every member of the lodge should be able to find quality Masonic Education these three Saturdays in the Fall.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Combs, Chairman

Report of Committee on Public Relations

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina

The Committee on Masonic Public Relations completed and launched a new website for the Grand Lodge of North Carolina in February 2012.

The site is one of the most comprehensive grand lodge sites in the United States. The site features up to date information about Grand Lodge and lodge events across North Carolina. Additionally, the site features a section on how to become a Mason and answers many questions a petitioner may have.

A lodge locator on the site allows visitors to locate every lodge in our jurisdiction geographically, It lists the secretary as well as the monthly stated communications and web sites for each lodge.

The site is maintained and updated weekly by the Grand Lodge.

The entire site is rich in content and provides virtually all information that a Mason would seek from the Grand Lodge.

In the coming year, the Public Relations Committee will identify ways to promote the website and engage in social media advancing information about our fraternity.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary D. Walker, Chairman

Report of the North Carolina Masonic Youth

To the Grand Lodge of North Carolina,

This year's report of your Masonic Youth Organizations shares a milestone celebration and some serious growth.

The Rainbows in North Carolina are celebrating 75 years this year. Their Grand Assembly was started in 1937, and this year has been full of celebrations and commemorations. It started with a Christmas party hosted by Supreme Inspector Kay Letterman with more than 100 girls in attendance. They participated in a number of other activities and charity endeavors, including assisting with the Hope for Warriors 5k race. They have been raising funds since June 2011 to help soldiers pay for prosthetics. Their Grand Assembly this year in Raleigh featured a celebration banquet, displays of archival materials, and a 75th Anniversary commemorative book. Their new grand worthy advisor is Kaitlyn Kubacki from Albemarle Assembly #32. They currently have twelve active assemblies, and according to the archives, in over 75 years they have had 86 Assemblies across the state at one time or another. Most of the current assemblies are from Gastonia and eastward. I'm certain that lodges and bodies from Charlotte and west of there would be welcomed to consider supporting these groups.

North Carolina Rainbow sent a large delegation to their Supreme Assembly this year and expected to compete in International ritual competitions. Rainbow today is a relatively strong group and appreciates the funding provided by the Grand Lodge. It is used primarily to offset the costs of their Grand Assembly.

This year, DeMolay, lead by its Executive Officer Tony Glidewell (Cary Lodge No. 198), is reporting substantial growth since last year in the number of chapters and activities. From three active chapters in the state last year,

namely Raleigh, Jacksonville, and Cape Fear (Wilmington), they have grown to eleven. Chapters that have originated or been revived are in Charlotte, Cliffside, Greensboro, Hickory, Fayetteville, Asheboro, Hayesville, and Winston-Salem. The seeds that had been planted over the last several years are starting to take root. A lot of thanks have to go to the individual lodges and districts who have accepted the challenge to see our youth programs grow. Sometimes it has taken just a spark or two from an active DeMolay Committee to go from talking about a chapter to gathering the necessary resources to start a one. This has led to the second straight year of growth in North Carolina, and the outlook is positive for 2012 and 2013.

DeMolay University is a program of educational mini-courses that have started at the statewide quarterly meetings. They consist of several sessions of about an hour or two that emphasize things like public speaking, Masonic heritage, membership, youth protection, DeMolay activities, and fundraising. They so far have been well received by the membership and are considered a fun distraction from the mundane drone of business meetings and ritual. Dads Paul Jones and Matt Hunt, in coordination with the state officers Nathan Fontes and Derek Raines are the brains behind this program. The first session was in Fayetteville in April and will be continued at their Conclave September and future quarterly meetings.

DeMolay generally uses their funding for their youth representatives to attend the International Session, and to assist in subsidizing insurance charges from the international body. A significant amount of expenses are donated by the volunteers associated with the chapters, which include advisor fees, travel, refreshments, and chapter supplies.

The Masonic Youth Scholarship subcommittee was established in 2001 to award Grand Lodge Foundation Scholarships to our Masonic youths. This benefit is a welcome reward for participation in our youth fraternities. The subcommittee was co-chaired this year by myself and Johanna Riddle Silber of Raleigh and included Kyle Hughes and Carla Bachelor both of Raleigh. They reviewed candidates from both groups, eventually awarding \$1,600 scholarships to Nathan Fontes of Raleigh (attending the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill) and Laura Hollamon also of Raleigh (attending Western Carolina University). We look forward to the continuation of this program in 2013 and future years. Although I may not be appointed to serve on the Youth Committee next year, I hope that I will be able to assist with coordinating this project in the future.

We especially want to thank the Trustees of the North Carolina Masonic Foundation who have seen fit to offer this benefit to members of our youth organizations. As a part of this report, we are requesting that this benefit be funded again next year. We would again like to request that two scholarships of \$1,600 be offered to our members.

In the past, I have made a number of proposals and recommendations to the Grand Lodge and its officers. In this report I will repeat those suggestions and report on the progress of each:

I requested that the grand master make the Masonic Youth Organizations a priority in his program for the year. The grand master has always supported the efforts of the youth organizations and has made it an integral part of his report at the area meetings. For this we are grateful and encourage him

to keep the organizations at the forefront of his programs.

I recommend that training for district deputy grand masters include a segment on the youth organizations. I recommended that each DDGM be encouraged to form a committee from among their represented Lodges that will seek to develop the DeMolay and/or Rainbow programs in their district and be tasked to see that one be started before their 3-year term is completed. We have clearly seen interest this year, and some it has been the result of the DDGMs' encouragement. This is a positive development and should be continued to be promoted.

I proposed that the grand master consider making at least one of the Grand Lodge officers a facilitator and advocate for the Committee on Masonic Youth Organizations for a period of one year on a rotating basis to oversee the efforts of the DDGMs (as noted above) and bring reports to the Board of General Purposes. This will serve as a springboard to learning about the organizations as he is moving forward in the Grand Lodge line, and provide a direct personal contact and relationship with the adult leadership and youth members of these organizations. I encourage the incoming grand master to consider this suggestion to build relationships within the youth organization and educate the designated officer with the needs and issues faced by the adult leaders of these groups.

I recommended that the Grand Master consider the adult heads of each of these groups to be ex-officio members of the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Youth Activities. The adult leaders are not official or unofficial members of the committee; however they have an open door to whatever requests they may have.

I recommended that the Grand Lodge consider an annual award for a lodge or body that has provided outstanding service to a DeMolay Chapter, Rainbow Assembly, or other youth organization. The nomination would be made by a DDGM to the Youth Committee for consideration, prior to recommendation to the Grand Lodge. The development of such recognition will be spearheaded in 2013.

Lodges and bodies that have Masonic youth programs in their area should be encouraged to provide some sort of financial support to the group(s) in their annual budget (even \$25, \$50, or \$100 makes a difference). Those that do not have a youth presence should be encouraged to do so; or perhaps consider financial support to the state association of these groups in their annual lodge budget. Several lodges have contributed to the chapters and assemblies, and more are encouraged to do so; regardless of whether there is a youth organization presence in their area or not.

Without commitments from the lodges, there can be no Masonic youth programs. Without recognition, the encouragement to support our youth becomes more of an afterthought than a project for completion. We are seeking to find ways that lodges and bodies can increase their commitments to our youth, and to recognize and reward those that step up to the plate.

Regulation 61-8 of The Code requires every subordinate Lodge to have a Committee for DeMolay that is tasked to, "assist in the formation of DeMolay Chapters in their communities and assist with the supervision of the said chapters." In my view, this regulation would be followed if you supported ANY of the three groups, not just DeMolay. The Grand Lodge Youth Committee,

and the adult leaders noted above are available to assist you in meeting this requirement.

We look forward to continued support from our lodges and bodies. With that support, I'm certain that next year we can report further progress and greater accomplishments.

Respectfully Submitted,
Charles V. Rouse Jr., Chairman

Report of the Board of Custodians

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

The members who served on the Board of Custodians during the year 2012 were: Grand Lecturer J. Luigi Ammons, Chairman Michael F. Powell, Secretary Dwight M. Sigmon, Assistant Secretary Tony R. Hawkins, Donald E. Kehler, Keith B. Rash, and R. David Wicker Jr. James A. Wiley again served as liaison with the Board of General Purposes.

The Board of Custodians met regularly during the year, with meetings held on January 13, April 13, July 13, and September 20, 2012. The fall meeting was scheduled to coincide with the Grand Lodge Annual Communication in Winston-Salem.

Certified brethren qualifying for the Laudamus Certificate in 2012 are: G. Anderson Greene, Wilmington Lodge No. 319; Charles Kenneth Grissom Jr., King Solomon Lodge No. 704; Harold Anthony King, Apex Lodge No. 584; David Carroll Simmons, Salem Lodge No. 289; James Carroll Simmons, Salem Lodge No. 289; Floyd Leroy Trimmer, Carthage Lodge No. 181; Thomas Dorsey Wiggins, Thomas M. Holt Lodge No. 492; Dennis Eugene Woolery, James K. Polk Lodge No. 759; and Lynwood Wilson Wright, Jr., Tabor Lodge No. 563.

District deputy grand lecturers qualifying for the Past District Deputy Grand Lecturer Certificate in 2012 are: John William Riffert Jr., District 3; James Patrick Fitzgibbons, District 4; Michael Wayne Reaves, District 8; James Daughtry Davis, District 9; G. Anderson Greene, District 12; Stephen Michael Meserve, District 14; Donald Edward Kehler, District 22, Lance Baxter Hegler, District 30; Thane Rothie Black, District 31; Wilbur Sanders Clay, District 34; Donald McLean Helton, District 37; and Claude Ray Harrell, District 38.

District deputy grand lecturers qualifying for the Past District Deputy Grand Lecturer Certificate in 2011 after the final 2011 Annual Report was submitted and having served extended years or less than three consecutive years were: Johnny Love Reynolds, District 5; Ludwik Jan Wodka, District 15; Bobby Festus Wellons, District 16; Floyd Leroy Trimmer, District 17; David Patrick Grimes, District 27; John Marvin Burchfield, District 40; and Jack Alvin Long, District 41.

Certified Lecturer Billy Fetzer Love of Stokes Lodge No. 32 received his 50th year Certified Lecturer award in 2012. Brother Love became the 13th certified brother to achieve this milestone since the certification program began in 1941.

The 2012 certified lecturer examinations were held according to the following schedule: August 11: Greenville and Greensboro; August 18: Wilmington and Charlotte; August 25: Fayetteville and Asheville. The examinations

continue to be offered on Saturday in an effort to be more accommodating to our certified brethren who have work conflicts. The Board expresses its sincere appreciation to the brethren at the six locations who donated the use of their facilities for the examinations.

At the end of the 2011 examinations the number of certified brethren increased from 368 to 370. This consisted of 341 Class A Certified Lecturers and 29 Class B Certified Instructors. Unfortunately some of the gains were erased by July 2012 with eight members passing and one other leaving the active roster for a total roster of certified brethren as of July 31, 2012 now standing at 361. The 2012 results will be available after the last exams are held on August 25 and will be printed in the 2012 *Proceedings* of the Grand Lodge.

The booklet "Important Information Concerning the Certified Lecturers" is posted on the new Grand Lodge website and is available to anyone with access to the Internet.

A web page sponsored by the Board of Custodians is also now being maintained on a regular basis. This page includes information of interest concerning their history, latest corrections to the *OSW* and *Bahnson Manual*, rules governing the Lecture Service and *OSW/Vocabulary*, various application forms and a current roster of those certified.

In 2012, the five-hour mandatory Lecture Service was continued for the one hundred seventy-seven even numbered lodges throughout the state. As a reminder, the Lecture Service rules were updated in 2011 to formally indicate the continuation of this mandatory five-hour service until otherwise notified. Odd numbered lodges will have their next five-hour requirement in 2013. Also as a reminder, all lodges must participate in one five-hour district School of Instruction each year as long as the mandatory Lecture Service is required or until determined otherwise by the Board.

Due to increases in printing costs, the Board at its April 13, 2012 meeting unanimously agreed to recommend to the Board of General Purposes to increase the selling price of the *OSW* from the current \$25.00 to a new price of \$30.00. It was also unanimously agreed upon to recommend to the Board of General Purposes that the penalty for a lodge losing a vocabulary book be increased from \$25.00 to \$100.00 plus any other penalties as allowed by *The Code* or imposed by the grand master. The Board of General Purposes unanimously approved both of these recommendations at their June 2, 2012 meeting.

To continue a practice reestablished in 2011, the Board again unanimously recommended that the *Lodge System of Masonic Education* program be recommended for use by all lodges and that they fully participate in this program to properly instruct their candidates as they begin and journey through their Masonic degrees.

Slide and computer illustrations for the various lectures were approved by the Board for Hiram Lodge No. 40, Corinthian Lodge No. 542, and J. J. Crowder Lodge No. 743 in 2012.

The Board agreed to again support conducting three statewide workshops for coaches in the fall of 2012. These workshops will be held in conjunction with the Wilkerson College Boot Camp for Wardens on October 20, November 10 and 17.

The Board of Custodians expresses its appreciation to Grand Master Rob-

ert E. Gresham Jr. for his enthusiastic support of the Board of Custodians and the certified lecturer program, and to Grand Secretary T. Walton Clapp III and Ric Carter, assistant to the grand secretary for their valuable assistance during the year. The Board also expresses its appreciation to Grand Lecturer J. Luigi Ammons for his efforts as the new grand lecturer for 2012. To all our certified brethren throughout the state, we extend a sincere "thank you" for your continued faithful service to our Craft.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Michael F. Powell, Chairman
 Dwight M. Sigmon, Secretary

Report of the Miscellaneous Ceremonies Committee

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

It shall be the duty of the master of each lodge on the death of a member or a sojourning brother qualified therefore to ascertain if Masonic rites would be agreeable, and to take measures accordingly. A lodge should bury a deceased member with Masonic rites if requested by him during his life or by his near relatives after his death. In all other cases, Masonic rites may be granted or withheld by the master of the lodge. — *The Code*, Reg. 82-1

The Masonic funeral service is one of the most public acts that we, as Masons, perform. Its message communicates the obvious love and respect we pay to one another at the time of death. Many men have decided to join our fraternity because of a well-done Masonic funeral. It has been a blessing when lodges work well with religious leaders to bring comfort to families in bereavement and build community relations throughout the year.

On the other hand, Masonry has suffered when the message communicated was not clear, the ceremony was poorly executed or Masons and clergy were unable to work together in harmony to meet the needs of families in mourning.

Our committee extends its thanks to Junior Grand Deacon Gene Cobb for addressing these issues by writing and working with us to publish this year *The Grand Lodge of North Carolina Masonic Funeral Manual*. A copy has been sent to every lodge secretary and additional copies from a second printing are expected to be available for sale by the time of the annual communication.

The manual has three goals. First, Masonic rituals are needed to honor deceased Entered Apprentices and Fellow Craft, given changes to *The Code* allowing ceremonies for these brothers. Second, we need a clear understanding of our purpose and role in performing services that comfort families in cooperation with the household of the faithful. Third, we need to be proactive and flexible with families and religious leaders. Our compassion for bereaved families and the integrity of our rituals, as well as those of religious institutions, must be honored as we plan and carry out ceremonies to honor our brothers.

The manual collects in one volume traditional ceremonies from *The North Carolina Lodge Manual*, commonly called the *Bahnson Manual*, and *The North Carolina Masonic Ceremonies* book. In addition to variations of the traditional burial service, the manual offers ceremonies for Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft Masons, a memorial service held in the lodge (useful if a lodge wishes to commemorate the life of a brother who did not have Masonic funeral rites), a ritual for spreading ashes, a lodge necrology ceremony, and a ritual for opening

and closing the Lodge of Sorrow. The appendix has inspirational messages and poems that can be incorporated into services.

Recent changes in *The Code* and the resourcefulness of our own brethren have taught us the need for flexibility with our ceremonies as we attempt to unite the best of our ancient heritage with contemporary culture. The newest ceremonies recognize the need for creativity and flexibility so that inclusive and appropriate honors may always be given.

Initial feedback on the new manual has been positive. Please contact Brother Cobb or any member of our committee if you have suggestions for improvements in future editions.

Respectfully submitted,
Speed Hallman, chairman

Report of the Scholarship Committee

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

The Scholarship Committee convened in Raleigh on March 26 and April 23 to receive and evaluate 199 applications for the Charles E. Cathey Scholarship. This year we were privileged to award eight \$1,000 scholarships. Recipients' names were published in the May/June issue of *The North Carolina Mason*.

The scholarships, started in 2000 by Grand Master Cathey and funded by gifts from the Freemasons of North Carolina, reward outstanding high school seniors. A recipient must have a 3.0 or higher grade point average and be enrolled in an accredited North Carolina high school. The committee weighs factors including scholastic achievement, participation in extracurricular and civic activities, involvement in the community, and letters of recommendation. The scholarship payment is made to the university, college, community college, or trade school in which the recipient enrolls.

The 2013–14 scholarship application will be available on the Grand Lodge website, under the Masons in the Community tab, in January. The application deadline is the first week of March. Recipients are notified by the first of May.

Please promote the availability of the scholarship in your lodge, your local high schools, and your community, and consider making a gift to the fund. These scholarships make a difference in the lives of outstanding young citizens of our state, and additional support will enable us to increase the number of scholarships and the amount of the awards.

Respectfully submitted,
Speed Hallman, Chairman

Report of the Commission on Subordinate Lodge Special Activities

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina,

The Committee on Special Activities is pleased to report that 2012 has been another successful fundraising year for the lodges in North Carolina. As of August 30, the Committee has received 54 applications for charity and 24 for lodge use, from lodges across the state. These included golf tournaments, mo-

torcycle rides, barbecues, fish fries, pancake breakfasts, and numerous raffles. Lodges are responsible for turning in their financial sheets after holding an event. This year less than half of the lodges have completed these forms and we are anxiously awaiting the news from their fundraisers.

There were changes made to the guidelines:

Golf Tournaments where money is for lodge use; all advertisers, sponsors, and participants are to be made aware this is not a charity event, and is NOT tax deductible.

Raffles with a prize value \$600 or more, the lodge will file a 1099 IRS tax form.

Raffle advertising will include that winners are responsible for all applicable taxes, titles, fees and licenses.

The Committee is ready to assist any lodge, at any time. Please do not hesitate to contact us for assistance.

Respectfully submitted,
Todd E. Trivette
Marshall W. Conner
J. David Cashion, Chairman

Report of the Committee on Permanent Building

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

The Committee on Permanent Building is exceptionally proud of the improvements which have been made in our headquarters building in the past few years. Most worthy is the restoration of the back of the building with its expansive glass and large concrete deck. Furniture for the grand hall is on order and should be in place for the November 3 celebration of our 225th anniversary. Furniture for several of the offices is also on order.

Our Masonic headquarters once again the magnificent beacon it was when it was built in the 1950s. We invite you to come see its splendor.

We also commend to you the Report of the Grand Historian in this same reports book. It tells much of the story our building

Respectfully submitted,
Earl Cheek, Chairman

Final Report

of

**Grand Master
Lewis R. Ledford**

to

the

**Grand Lodge of
Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons
of North Carolina**

at

**Winston-Salem, North Carolina
September 21, 2012**

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina, past grand masters, grand line officers, officers of constituent lodges, delegates to this Annual Communication, and brethren all:

It was indeed my pleasure to serve as the 158th grand master in the 224th year of our Grand Lodge in 2011. I thank you for this opportunity and make this report as prescribed by *The Code*.

It was also my pleasure to return to Winston-Salem for the annual session. For a considerable portion of my Masonic life, I have been very active in the Winston-Salem Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite Bodies. I have greatly benefitted from the enduring friendships forged here. I value the counsel received and cherish the memories of the many good times enjoyed in Winston-Salem. I hope you enjoyed your stay. In addition to the business session of our Grand Lodge, plans were made to provide some delectable dining and entertaining evenings. I enjoyed our time of fellowship together.

What a storied history of Freemasonry we have in the Tar Heel State. In 2012 we'll celebrate a milestone anniversary of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina. With this great history, I was especially pleased that we could have the installation of the Grand Lodge officers in the State Capitol in the old House Chamber on December 4, 2010. Thank you to those who attended. I hope you received a copy of *The North Carolina Mason*, with the insert that was in our installation program that locates and describes the many statues and exhibits with direct relationships to Freemasonry that exist in and on the grounds of the State Capitol.

Like Washington, DC, our State Capitol in Raleigh has had a close relationship with Freemasonry in its history. Today, it seems that virtually every bust, statue, monument, and exhibit has a specific connection to Freemasonry. From the statues of the first president and the large painting of President Washington that was saved when the preceding capitol building burned, to the statues of the three presidents from North Carolina, to Governor and first Grand Master Samuel Johnston, to the Mason who sculpted the first casualty of the Civil War, a North Carolinian, there are indeed many Masonic connections. Some forty-four Freemasons have served as the governor of North Carolina and three of those also served as grand master.

Not the least of these connections is the cornerstone that was placed at the beginning of construction on July 4, 1833. A second ceremony commemorated the centennial celebration in 1933. It is time to start planning for another at the bicentennial of our Statehouse in 2033.

I have one short story to tell about the installation. Indeed, it takes a lot of coordination to get all the items brought to remote location for a GL Masonic Installation — furnishings and implements including the altar, the stations, etc. We had a full House, and the new Senate majority leader, Senator Harry Brown of Jacksonville and a member of Lafayette 83, was prepared to welcome an overflow audience and speak of the Masonic connections in his life. Past Grand Master Charles Lewis was prepared to assume the role of the installing officer, along with the support members of my lodge, Statesville 27, who filled officer stations and places. You will recall that there are times in the installation ceremony when decisions or actions are confirmed. Suddenly, someone realized we were missing a gavel! I recalled from previous years having seen a couple of past GMs who brought a personal gavel that had some sentiment

attached for their installation. I had not brought a gavel! Nor had those who had worked so diligently to bring all the furnishings and implements necessary for transforming the Chamber into a Masonic hall for the purposes of an officer installation. Here we are in this Old House Chamber with its historic setting — we're in front of the podium where famous speakers of the State House had presided and rapped when numerous bills became General Statutes or proposed legislation was defeated. Yes, what a historic place! In front of us was the table on which the famed secession from the Union had been signed. Yet, there was no gavel! As you know a gavel is an important operative and symbolic part of the ceremony... what could we do? Brothers, know that you have resourceful members. With quick thinking and a fortunate discovery, an item was secured that is fitting, met our need, and even has a Masonic connection, especially in European lodges. Remember, we are in an august legislative chamber — do you not think it ironic that someone was able to readily find a shot glass! The appropriate raps were heard though the Chamber! So mote it be!

State of the Craft

It is an exciting time to be a Freemason. I am firmly convinced that craft Masonry in North Carolina is strong, active, and well positioned to grow. There were many indicators that we would possibly experience a net increase in 2011 or in 2012 for the first time since 1981. Though we were very close in achieving an actual increase, the number of new members in 2011 was up more than 200 over our low point figures. Petitions continue to increase, a trend we have seen since about 2005. Keeping us from our goal of increasing total membership are two major factors; deaths and non-payment of dues. Some would make the point that the so-called Great Recession we have experienced in our nation has impacted the net increases in membership. Our increased losses to NPD seem to bear that out. Given our demographics, the death rate should be leveling out soon.

Nevertheless, the increased interest is real, and we must focus on these new Masons and engage them such that they gain a passion for the greatest of fraternal organizations. There are many reasons for this renewed interest. Obviously, we have a rich and proud heritage. The good works of members have in large part quietly continued to aid those in distress and need. It is pleasing to be frequently made aware of the community engagement and additional services being provided by local lodges. There have, of course, been a number of media reports, best selling novels, and mainstream feature films that have referenced Masonry in a gripping, captivating, and enthralling manner. Some even suggest that our fraternity becomes a choice when times are difficult such as the ones that we are experiencing now in this "great recession" with high unemployment rates. I am reminded of the admonition of PGM Graham Pervier who suggested membership declines were nearing their end, and that "friendship, morality, and brotherly love will always be important to men of character."

Whenever possible, I endeavored to convey that, in my view, there are two traits that are vital to being successful. Those are being passionate and being competent. Whether it is work endeavors, undertakings at church, or achieving the mission of our fraternity, it is vital to have that true belief in

your efforts and to always seek to improve your knowledge, skills and abilities. These traits in my view are paying dividends in terms of the successes we are realizing in the Craft.

Necrology

Since our last Annual Communication, many of our beloved brothers departed from this earthly abode to the undiscovered country, from whose bourn no traveler returns. The Committee on Necrology held a memorial service during the Annual Communication in tribute to those departed brethren.

Paying appropriate tribute and respect for departed brethren has long been a hallmark of Freemasons. In that regard, Grand Marshal, Worshipful Brother, and Reverend A. Gene Cobb worked diligently with Grand Lecturer, Worshipful Brother Dwight "Mac" Sigmon, Grand Steward Speed Hallman and others, including members of the clergy, to review protocols and options for the funeral services. I encourage you to give full consideration to the manner in which our fraternity can most fittingly pay due respect and accommodate the family. The fruit of their labors is the comprehensive GL of NC Funeral Manual that has been made available to the lodges, with additional copies available for purchase from the Grand Lodge Office

DDGM and DDGL Area Meetings

In November, it was my pleasure to discuss and plan for 2011 with most of the DDGMs and DDGLs in meetings held in Warsaw, Williamston, Siler City, Statesville, and Waynesville. These meetings with the incoming grand master and the leadership of the districts have become common in recent years. It is my view they are valuable if programs and issues are going to be effectively and efficiently implemented and administered; they are essential for communication purposes. The district officers are fundamental to the successful operation of our lodges and Grand Lodge, and I commend them for their energy, time, and knowledge. One of the grand master's most important duties each year is appointing approximately one-third of the DDGMs. I was very pleased with the generous acceptance by those I nominated to begin service in 2011. Similarly, the work of the DDGLs in conjunction with the grand lecturer is vital to the quality of the ritualistic work. Thank you to all who served so capably. It was my pleasure to congratulate the district officers who have completed their third year of service at the 2011 Annual Communication.

Honorary Title of Past District Deputy Grand Master

I recommended that this Grand Lodge grant the honorary title of Past District Deputy Grand Master to the several brethren who are now eligible in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 12-05 of The Code.

Name	Lodge	District
Brian D. Edwards	521	2
Ted A. Ponko	230	9
David M. Crisp.....	634.....	10
R. Gerald Strickland.....	379.....	11
Grover T. Dees	320	16
Kenneth E. Lewis.....	654.....	21

Reports

Steve Schenk	99	28
Harvey W. Burgess	702	31
Wallace R. Thrower	737	32
Dennis E. Wilkey	459	40

District Meetings

In some respects, these annual meetings with the lodge leadership might be more aptly described as regional in context as 19 meetings were held this year spread across the 41 Masonic districts in North Carolina (21 districts in the east, and 20 districts in the western half of the state.) Though my professional work obligations limited somewhat the number of meetings that were scheduled, the grand secretary reports record attendance for these 19 meetings. With approximately two exceptions there was an overflow number present. The following represents the date, host district, lodge, and location:

March 2.....	31.....	Joppa 530.....	Charlotte
March 3.....	10.....	Wayne 112.....	Goldsboro
March 14.....	21.....	Southern Pines 484.....	Southern Pines
March 23.....	3.....	Orr 104.....	Washington
April 4.....	33.....	Liberty 45.....	Wilkesboro
April 7.....	23.....	P. P. Turner 746.....	Greensboro
April 12.....	12.....	St. John's 1.....	Wilmington
April 13.....	17.....	Bladen 646.....	Elizabethtown
April 14.....	15.....	Cary 198.....	Cary
April 27.....	35.....	Shelby 744.....	Shelby
April 28.....	7.....	Zion 81.....	Trenton
May 9.....	8.....	Widow's Son 519.....	Roanoke Rapids
May 23.....	39.....	Biltmore 446.....	Asheville
May 24.....	41.....	Junaluskee 145.....	Franklin
May 25.....	38.....	Dunn's Rock 267.....	Brevard
May 26.....	37.....	Bakersville 357.....	Bakersville
June 1.....	26.....	Salem 289.....	Winston-Salem
June 6.....	1.....	Eureka 317.....	Elizabeth City
June 8.....	30.....	Statesville 27.....	Statesville

While serving as grand master, there were many enjoyable experiences. As I traveled to the various jurisdictions and represented North Carolina at the district meetings, I truly enjoyed meeting the members and getting to know the individuals. The generosity and kindnesses shown to me were humbling. Everyone was attentive, and the receptions were overwhelming and respectful. Thus, these meetings, at which I sought to convey the issues and opportunities that I believe important to our Craft, will have an indelible place in my memory. There was good humor at the meetings as well. As described earlier, perhaps it was the incident of the lack of a gavel at the Grand Lodge installation that attributed to my being presented a number of custom, handcrafted gavels. These and other items afforded me, but most especially your fraternal fellowship, will long serve as a fond reminder of our times together in 2011.

The opportunity to meet in my father's lodge, Bakersville 357, provided for a reflective experience. My father passed away when I was eleven years of age. There are at least two of my high school classmates who are members, and I long thought of the collection of photos of their past masters in the lodge room as a ring of honor. Thus, I was especially humbled and most honored to have been made an honorary member of Bakersville 357 at the district meeting in late May. I will share a little more about Bakersville later in this report.

Emergent Communications

June 11, 2011 — Cornerstone at WhiteStone

July 14, 2011 — Cornerstone at King Lodge No. 722

December 3, 2011 — Installation of Grand Lodge Officers, Albemarle 703

Dispensations

Wilkerson College No. 760 — Stated communication locations 2011

Scotch Ireland No. 154 — Elect junior warden

Bethel No. 589 — Meeting in another location

Doric No. 568 — Elect master

Thomasville No. 214 — Operate while charter is refurbished

Bailey No. 411 — Elect master

P. P. Turner No. 746 — Meeting in another location

King Solomon No. 138 — Outdoor degree

Bush Hill No. 732 — Meeting in another location

Newport No. 706 — Dispense with stated communication

Hibriten No. 262 — Outdoor degree

Lincoln No. 137 — Dispense with stated communication

Mt. Lebanon No. 117 — Outdoor degree

French Broad No. 292 — Outdoor degree in Tennessee

Berne No. 724 — Dispense with stated communication

Maiden No. 592 — Moving charter to new location

Round Peak No. 616 — Outdoor degree

Clay No. 301 — Outdoor degree

Fairfield No. 520 — Change meeting location

2011 Initiatives

Following the election of officers in September, the 2011 officers met in November 2010 at the Grand Lodge office. Special thanks to Susan McLean who facilitated a strategic discussion to review strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities and treats (SWOT) as we planned for the year ahead. The Grand Lodge officers met again to review various issues in a retreat at Haw River State Park in mid-January. The potentates and senior leadership of the Shrine of North Carolina joined us for a portion of these discussions. As a result, listed below are the initiatives for the year along with a brief results summary:

- Increasing support for the Masonic Foundation. A primary effort included the mailing that went to all members that spoke of the importance of the NC Masonic Foundation. Each member was provided a lapel pin shaped in the outline of the state with a square and compass on it. Custom designed, three-inch medallions featuring the NC State Capitol with the three Masonic presidents monument located there and individually numbered and limited edition Case knives designed for 2011 were both available for donations to the Foundation. Net proceeds were \$50,000.

- Improving communications, including print, webpage, and electronic and social media, video. A new brochure on the Grand Lodge of North Carolina was published and made available to the lodges; the Grand Lodge web page was completely overhauled; and a Facebook and blog presence was created for the Grand Lodge, along with plans for other social media. Although a new video on Freemasonry in our state was not completed, several opportunities were explored for an "evergreen" video with limited information that would not become outdated. Such a video would be valuable as a public relations vehicle for our fraternity.

- Increasing awareness of our Masonic Homes, especially the opportunity to serve more youth at Oxford. Described further in this report, the major expansion at WhiteStone and the October celebration at Oxford were the primary events.

- Advocating for quality Masonic education. A focus was on the continued success and growth of Wilkerson College and engaging the support of the district officers to promote educational program improvements, and an emphasis on the competency and leadership as shared at district meetings.

- Improving our service and partnerships in our communities. From the tractor pulls in Elizabeth City to community service projects in Ranger, NC, the report of Masonic brethren aiding their communities across the Tar Heel state are impressive. Active engagement in our communities and an understanding by others in the community remain vital to our success!

Whitestone, A Masonic and Eastern Star Community

I commend for your information the report of the Committee on Masonic and Eastern Star Home. We applaud the work of Mark Kolada and the contractual service of Life Care Services. It is my belief that the Home enjoys its best fiscal operating position in many years and continues to serve its many residents well.

Of particular note, over 200 joined a ceremony for the cornerstone laying for WhiteStone's \$30 million expansion and renovation on a blazing hot day, June 11, 2011. This included the renovation of the Linville building, two additional connected structures that add 5,000 square feet, and the construction of a 70,000 square foot building for independent living consisting of 46 one and two-bedroom units, plus a clubhouse, library, salon and spa, coffee bistro, and sports pub. A high number of units were presold prior to the commitment being made to move forward with the construction. That speaks very positively in the current challenging economy regarding both the member and public interest and the fiscal overview by the Board of Directors. The new living units were

dedicated as a part of the 100th anniversary of the historic home on August 11, 2012. How appropriate that Tarheel Masons are able to continue to provide quality support and opportunities for the greatest generation and the baby boomers as they transition into their senior years!

Masonic Home for Children at Oxford

I commend for your information the report of the Committee on Masonic Home for Children at Oxford.

A notable change in personnel occurred with the retirement of Allen Hughes who had served as the administrator since 2007. We commend Brother Hughes who grew up at the Home and returned to work there following a military career. The long-time director of development and assistant administrator, Chris Richardson, was named interim administrator in June. Thank you for your strong encouragement and support given him during the time he assumed the additional duties. Board Chairman Dan Rice was selected to lead a team effort to determine the long-term vision for the Home and to select the next administrator.

Another major initiative was an effort to restore the energy of our membership for the benefits, public and more, provided the Home through the St. John's Day event that had long been held in June. With the strong support of the 2011 North Carolina potentates John Sullivan, Terry Hodges, and Bruce Bulluck of the Oasis, Amran, and Sudan Shrines respectively and their membership, the Oxford Orphanage Alumni Association, and others, the first annual Masonic Homecoming was held on October 7–9 under the leadership of PGM Dan Rice and Board of Directors Vice-Chairman Johnny Surles. Over 3,000 enjoyed a beautiful October weekend that included barbecue cooking competitions (and a variety of samplings for all you cared to eat!), a homecoming for the Oxford Home alumni, Shriner parades and antics for the kids, golf, and the wonderful music of the Lonesome River Band. We envision this first consolidated Homecoming gathering can only grow—with fun walks, 5K and 10K races, and other activities for all ages and multiple interests. Do you think some type of competition for GL officers and other Masonic leaders from around the state would be fun and benefit the Home?!

Conference of Grand Masters of North America

On February 20–22, I attended the annual meeting of the Grand Masters of North America in Denver, Colorado. Currently, the membership is the grand lodges of the Provinces of Canada, the states of the United States of America, including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, the states of Mexico, and the American-Canadian Grand Lodge of Germany. These grand masters represent some two million Freemasons in North America. Grand masters from countries throughout the world also attended to join in the fellowship. This conference is the largest gathering of grand masters in the world. Many of the leaders of the Masonic appendant bodies were also present. Other representatives from North Carolina included Deputy Grand Master Bob Gresham and Senior Grand Warden Dewey Preslar. With the Conference of Grand Secretaries being held concurrently, Grand Secretary Walt Clapp also traveled to Denver.

World Conference of Grand Masters/Lodges

In mid-May, I had the privilege of representing the Grand Lodge of North Carolina at the World Conference of Grand Lodges that was held in Cartagena, Columbia, South America. Grand Secretary Walt Clapp joined me for the trip. Masonic leaders from around the world, leaders of varying religious faiths, races, cultures, and languages, met to discuss the issues of our Craft. From the twenty-two formal addresses or papers that were presented at the conference to the informal discussions with grand masters and Freemasons from around the world, I gained an appreciation that many of those on foreign soils commit themselves wholeheartedly to the tenets of our fraternity. I gained an understanding that they appreciate and reflect the value and esteem they gain through their Masonic membership much like the membership did in the United States a generation or more ago when it had the largest membership. In addition to their charity, one impressive example was the conversation I had with one European grand master in which we discussed the fees for membership there. After a few quick tabulations, we determined that their initiation fees were approximately \$1,800–2,500, and dues of \$60 per month in today's dollars in the United States. Though I am optimistic about the resurgence of Masonic interest here, I remain impressed with their commitments and reverence. The next World Conference will be held late in 2012 in India. The delegates this year chose Romania to be the host site for the conference to follow India in mid-2014, although Russia also gave a persuasive presentation. Finally, I want to express my most sincere gratitude to Brother Henry Morelo Perez of Cartagena. He and his wife Maria, both attorneys, and her father, a past grand master, were most welcoming and convivial. With a little extra time due to the international travel, they made special efforts to welcome their northern neighbors; they provided a tour of their grand lodge office, welcomed us into their home, and showed us the culture and life of this Latin American country. To Brother and Mrs. Perez, I extend my gratefulness and hope that I will be able to return the brotherly hospitality.

Northeast Masonic Conference

On July 23, I attended the Northeast Masonic Conference in Wilmington, Delaware. Others attending from North Carolina included Bob Gresham, Dalton Mayo, Walt Clapp, and Cliff Everett. As you will recall, North Carolina joined Virginia two years ago in their affiliation with this conference. The largest of the regional Masonic conferences, other members include Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Indiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia. North Carolina is scheduled to host this one-day conference in 2024.

Wilkerson College

In late May, it was my pleasure to share some comments and perspectives and to present certificates of completion to the 35 graduates of Wilkerson College 2011. This graduation marked the 10th anniversary of North Carolina's College of Freemasonry that was founded in 2002 by our Grand Lodge and the North Carolina Scottish Rite Orient with a single mission in mind: to provide Freemasonry with the best-trained leaders possible.

It was especially enjoyable for me to attend this year's graduation along with Past Grand Master Tom Gregory. It was just over 10 years ago that he and I first discussed the importance and a concept of a training session for the future leaders of local lodges. With the 2011 class, 283 members representing 88 different lodges from across the state have now attended this leadership training. Greensboro No. 76 has the distinction of the most graduates with 12, followed by Cary No. 198 and Manteo No. 521 with nine each.

There are many deserving of credit for the success of Wilkerson College in addition to PGM Gregory. They include Dan Weatherington, PGM Dill, PGM Brunk, and the many others who have served as instructors, facilitators, and coordinators. This course in leadership was named in honor of an active Freemason and Past Lt. Commander of the Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction, H. Lloyd Wilkerson, Major General, USMC (ret.).

There have been relatively few changes in the course of instruction for Wilkerson College. It consists of three sessions. Each begins on a Friday evening and concludes the following day at 5:00 p.m. A graduation banquet is held on the Saturday evening of the last session, often with spouses in attendance.

The faculty of Wilkerson College is comprised of men who are important to Freemasonry in this state. Each instructor is a recognized Masonic leader in whose life Freemasonry plays a vital part. Not only do the students get to meet and spend time learning from these individuals, they also gain some sense of how Freemasonry has influenced their lives, why our fraternity holds so much value in their daily activities, and their other successes in the workplace and community.

The entire Wilkerson College experience is designed to bring the student from a level of merely filling an officer's chair to a point that he holds a new-found respect and honor for this fraternity and the part that he is, and will be, fulfilling as an officer and Masonic leader. It epitomizes what I have sought to share this year. We are successful because of two primary traits, passion and competence. Truly believing in what we are doing and improving our skills will advance our achievement in any area, and certainly for our beloved fraternity.

To those that will be serving as deacons, I commend this training for consideration. Applications will be due in early January each year. Space is limited, and financial scholarships are also available. This information and much more can be found at <www.wilkersoncollege.com>. I shared more information in a recent North Carolina Mason. For more information on the formation of Wilkerson College or the man for whom the college was named, read *Masonic Miracle* by Dean Emeritus Dan Weatherington, and *A Man, a College, a Lodge — All Dedicated to Future Masonic Leaders* by Walter Klein.

We have long heard the adage that Freemasonry makes good men better... it is our sense from various reports, including student feedback, that Wilkerson College makes good Masons better leaders!

Legislation Reception

As many of you may recall, for the last several years, our Grand Lodge of North Carolina has co-hosted with the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of North Carolina a reception for those Masons who are serving in the General Assembly. The 2011 reception was held at 18 Seaboard Restaurant on April 5. As our grand secretary puts in the email invitation, "... we won't be asking any favors

of you, and we'll present no plan for legislative or government action. We just want to thank you for your dedication to public service... we'd also like for you to recognize each other as Masons so that you may perhaps be able to turn to one another for support."

I was pleased with the number that attended, though at least two members were unable to attend due to other legislative leadership obligations. It was my pleasure during this reception to present Senator Harris Blake of Pinehurst with the Diamond Jubilee Award for 60 years as a member. Senator Blake gave very thoughtful and touching acceptance remarks. Special thanks are extended to DDGM Kenneth Lewis for his assistance in arranging the presentation.

Montfort Medals

Each year the Grand Master gets to present three Joseph Montfort Medals, the highest award given by our Grand Lodge. It was my pleasure to present the 2011 Montfort Medals to:

Claude Childress, a veteran member of Traphill 483, has long been quiet, yet exemplary, in his service to Freemasonry. He has impacted many by his passionate and competent example. He exemplifies our precepts and fraternal teachings, and much more.

Dan C. Rice, a graduate of our Oxford home grand master in 2009, continues to be an exemplary leader, including chairing the MHCO board of directors, serving as president of the Greensboro Masonic Temple, guiding the Homecoming renewal at MHCO, and much more.

Joseph Transou was a leader in the early digitalizing of the records of the Grand Lodge that made NC a national model, he was also active as a MHCO board member in the expansion of Homes, and has provided countless hours and financial support through donated services to his church, community and fraternity — including the Masonic Pig Jig — as a part of Big Boy BBQ, and much more.

Visitation and Special Activities

I shared at the Annual Communication on the large screens, numerous photos and information about the year... including the very special reception and generous accommodations at the Imperial Shrine Session in Denver; the AASR Supreme Council in Washington, DC; the York Rite Summer Assembly in Maggie Valley; the installation for Rainbow For Girls International; the international Triennial Sessions of the General Grand Chapter of the Royal Arch Masons International and the General Grand Council Cryptic Masons; the annual communication of the Grand Lodge of PHA of NC and M. W.: Miton 'Toby' Fitch bestowing honorary membership; two NC/SC Shrine high school all-star football games at Wofford College and Charlotte Country Day; the surprise state park bench on the southeastern coastal beach being placed in my honor; constituting a new lodge; cornerstone ceremonies; and dedications for a wonderful new lodge building in King and other facilities, and much, much more. And I would be remiss not to mention the special Friday evening at the Annual Communication of "Brothers, Barbecue and Bluegrass" where over 400 members and a number of spouses enjoyed Big Boy BBQ and the music of the Grass Cats! Though my professional obligations limited out of state travel, I

was privileged to attend visitations to the annual communications to the grand jurisdictions of New York and Virginia. Again, I will long recall the numerous special visits to lodges to make presentations, attend degrees, and enjoy the warm receptions, brotherhood and fellowship. Thank you my brethren.

The Management of Large Masonic Temple Boards

In recent years, the Grand Lodge has been pulled into situations at several temple associations.

One temple board, which was not responsive to the members of their lodge, caused a lengthy and costly legal action when the Grand Lodge acted to force the board to answer to its lodge membership.

More recently, several of our larger temple associations have found themselves at loggerheads over their operations. In certain cases, action by the Grand Lodge and grand master have been necessary to get these associations back on track.

The scenario seems to repeat itself. Several Masonic organizations decide to cast their lots together and build a shared home. Over time, personality conflicts develop. These conflicts are politicized and wedged into member organizations. The conflicts become entrenched. Unable to reach accord, building use becomes directionless, and routine maintenance is left undone. As the facilities deteriorate, the conflicting sides argue over leaving a home they are not maintaining. They become paralyzed by the conflict, unwilling to reach accord on either maintaining or leaving their property. This is a death spiral in which they decimate the value of the property at the same time they destroy its usability by shirking maintenance.

At these temples, younger Masons seem to be interested in keeping the buildings which they see as their heritage. Entrenched pessimistic temple boards that cling to their old arguments instead of seeking solutions undercut these optimistic Masons.

One such association seems to have broken out of the doldrums by having each side go its own way. Those uninterested in the property have divested themselves of the responsibility and moved on. Those who wanted to save their building seem to have developed a plan that is working and increasing the value and use of their facility. The building is now becoming a showplace.

In another, a declaration from leaders that the several bodies would make every effort to stay in their location and make it work seems to be moving member institutions toward compromise and success. While all questions are yet to be answered, the member organizations are now moving in the same direction with great promise of success, and restoring a beautiful landmark.

A third association was, at the direction of the grand master, to replace its board with members who could better work together. There was hope that they would find a path that suited all those bodies.

Since this is clearly a long-term and common difficulty, we were hoping to help alleviate future problems. The Grand Lodge has long prescribed the form and content of lodge bylaws. It has been an effective way of sharing long-term wisdom of what works in the governance of successful lodges.

We asked the Lodge Service Commission to design similar prescriptions for Masonic temple associations. It is a set of good practices in governance

that we hope will alleviate most of the potential problems in the future. The Commission has done an admirable job of blending Masonic fraternalism with legal safeguards. I want to salute the Lodge Service Commission: Chris Burti, David Stapleton, Robert Peeler, Kirby Matthews, and Herbert Mullen for the outstanding work they have done for us all.

It is my hope that these bylaws and more careful encouragement and direction by state Masonic leadership will allow us to save these jewels of Masonry.

We stand ready to offer whatever assistance possible to help them succeed.

The Suit

The Raleigh Masonic Temple Corporation is no exception to the temple management issues. As the temple building deteriorated over the years, the Temple Board became increasingly divided and was unable to best work and best agree. As a result, nothing was being done to save the building. Seeing that this problem needed to be addressed, early in my term as grand master I appointed a brother to the Raleigh Temple Board as my liaison to investigate the literal confusion in the temple. The brother I appointed was someone who has an impeccable reputation for being fair in his review and assessment of matters. After a thorough investigation, I was presented a report summarizing the causes of the discord. After considerable thought, I made the decision to direct each member of the Temple Board to resign their position. In addition, I directed each member organization to hold an election to select a new representative to the Temple Board. This was done, not to be critical of any individual member of the Board, but in an effort to find a group of brothers that could take a fresh look at the situation and chart a new, more successful course for the temple.

Although most of the members of the Temple Board accepted and complied with the directive issued by their grand master, one brother did not. This brother openly defied the directive of the grand master. As a result, the brother was summoned before the grand master. He was given an opportunity to reflect on his actions and to state why, as a Master Mason, he refused to comply with the lawful directive of the grand master of Masons as it related to a Masonic matter. This action was intended to get an understanding of the brother's actions and to attempt to aid him in a reformation. During this meeting, the brother continued to defy the directive of the grand master. He went so far as to repudiate the authority of the grand master and the Grand Lodge over the Raleigh Masonic Temple Corporation. In furtherance of his defiance, this brother hired legal counsel and caused him to sue the grand master and eleven other brothers. In his suit, he asked the court to intercede into this Masonic matter, alleging that there were technical errors during the election of his replacement to the Temple Board. He asked the court to enter an order declaring that he was a member of the Temple Board from July 2011 to December 2011.

Due to his repeated defiance of the directive of a grand master as it related to a Masonic matter, and as a result of his violation of his oath as a Master Mason in wronging these other brothers, a complaint was issued charging this brother with un-Masonic conduct. The brother appeared with Masonic counsel before the grand master, wherein he again defied the directive of the grand

master and continued to deny the authority of the grand master and the Grand Lodge over the Raleigh Masonic Temple. After being given an opportunity to respond to the evidence against him, allowing him to offer evidence in his defense, and allowing him and his counsel to make closing statements, I carefully considered the matter. Upon due deliberation, I determined that the brother was in fact guilty of un-Masonic conduct and he was expelled.

Prior to being served with an order of expulsion, the annual election of directors for the Raleigh Temple for 2012 was held by the member bodies. Although still eligible for election to the Temple Board, the member body that this brother previously represented did not elect him to serve on the Temple Board for the 2012 year. Thereafter, the brother was served with an order of expulsion making him ineligible to serve on the Temple Board in the future.

In reviewing his civil action with counsel, there were several legal defenses to his suit. These defenses were asserted in the answer filed on behalf of the defendants. Without becoming overly technical, some of the defenses included the lack of the court's authority to intervene in a matter involving only the inner workings of a private organization and that the matter was now "moot" or no longer presented a real matter in controversy. The second defense was as a result of the brother not being elected to the Temple Board for 2012, his expulsion from the craft and the passage of time, which now makes it impossible for the court to resolve issues involving who should or should not have sat on last year's temple board. This matter was heard by the court during the last week of July. The judge took the matter under advisement and on September 6, 2012, entered an order agreeing with our position. The Court found that all the actions taken by the new Temple Board "were valid and appropriate in that the "new" board of directors instituted long overdue repairs to the building and the work to improve the building has continued to the date of the hearing on summary judgment". All other claims and allegations contained in the complaint were then dismissed.

As reflected in the Court's Order, I am happy to report that after the appointment of a new Temple Board in July 2011, these brothers have been able to work together to begin addressing the issues that had gone unresolved for so many years. They have held fund raising events to supplement the building funds. They have repaired all the bathrooms in the temple, they have repaired the kitchen, they have repaired the roof, they have begun replacing all the rotting wood on the building's exterior and painting the building, they have refinished floors and performed long neglected landscaping. In short, they have begun the process of restoring the temple to its prior glory.

On behalf of both the Grand Lodge, and me personally, I extend my most genuine appreciation and recognition to our legal counsel during the defense of this suit to W. David Wicker, DDGM. His competent and thorough counsel has only matched his selfless generosity to the Grand Lodge. I also extend gratitude to multiple past grand masters and other proficient and accomplished Masonic leaders for their advice.

Although the process of directing the replacement of the Temple Board, dealing with the defiance of a brother and his expulsion, as well as the lawsuit he instituted has been unpleasant, it was necessary. As with every group or organization, someone must be responsible for making the ultimate decision in certain matters. Sometimes those decisions are difficult, but they must still be made. In our fraternity, that duty falls on the grand master. As grand master,

I felt that the decisions I made involving this matter were necessary and were in the best interest of Masonry. I am very pleased to see the progress being made under the leadership of the new Temple Board. They have my support and I wish them well in the future.

Grand Lodge Building Restoration

A task I am especially proud of having accomplished on my watch has been the restoration of our Grand Lodge offices in Raleigh. Once on a list of the fifty best buildings in our state capital, ill considered cost cutting in the 1960s-'70s, resulted in scars to the original beauty of this grand edifice. The restoration of the deck and glass in the back of the building has brought back to our craft the former glory of our work. As I report to you, the work we authorized and funded is coming to final fruition. The furniture and carpet are shipping shortly. The furniture and restoration reflect the 1950s architecture and the original concept of our brother Leslie Boney who designed the facility for us. I especially commend to you the 2012 report of Grand Historian Michael Brantley (found in this booklet) which will greatly enlighten you about this Masonic treasure.

Recommended Legislation

My recommendations for legislation I believe appropriate are as follows:

Approve Lodge Service Commission's template for temple corporations. While the inclination may be for all temple corporations to be abolished, they do serve a purpose for joint ownership of buildings. A great example of a temple corporation that has succeeded in continuing to maintain and operate a building and be Masonic exists in Winston-Salem. Its structure has provided equitable and objective representation on its Board. I asked the Lodge Service Commission to create a new set of template bylaws and they have delivered a finished copy. Several groups have vetted it. It is my recommendation these bylaws be approved and implemented.

Personnel Committee. Establish a committee in accordance with Chapter 27 of The Code that will provide for objective, thorough and methodical review of the Grand Lodge staff. The committee would be responsible for recommending salary administration, setting work plans and goals, evaluations, determining needed training, and more. The recommendations of such a committee will greatly aid the grand master, the Board of General Purposes, and the Finance Committee in ensuring more efficient, effective, and professional work performance.

Certified Lecture Exams. Recommend the Board of Custodians institute a new process of examination of certified lecturers. Instead of the process of examinations being held only in the fall of the year at a few locations, the Board should implement a process whereby the examinations may be held in the lodge or district of the one becoming certified. These examinations could be held at anytime during the year as needed, and conducted by two certified lecturers with the assistance of the DDGL. They would report the examination to the secretary of the Board. This would save time and money (venue costs and travel expenses). It could also expedite getting new certified lecturers in place.

I have great confidence in the proficiency and capability of the BOC and the DDGLs to administer this change. It is indeed important that we are resourceful as well as considerate of efficiencies and time management as we endeavor to keep our ritual and trainings in good practice.

Grand Treasurer

It caused many to reflect on his lengthy and creditable Masonic career when Past Grand Master Cliff Everett requested that the delegates not consider him for re-election as grand treasurer. Brother Everett, who shared that he believed it was time for him to retire from this office, has served the fraternity in a most exemplary manner for 15 years as grand treasurer, after serving as grand master in 1995. Since his appointment to the grand officer line by then Grand Master L. R. Thomas, he has served with great distinction and commitment to the tenants of Freemasonry. A valued and trusted source for counsel ranging from legal to financial and more, Judge Everett is also an avid historian, particularly of North Carolina and the United States, their political figures, as well as our Grand Lodge. Also known to share good humor and laughter, he and his wife Mary have been great hosts for many of the Grand Lodge officer annual retreats at their "river house" on the Pamlico Sound. On behalf of all Freemasons, we offer our most genuine and heartfelt gratitude for your service.

It was with humility and honor that I accepted your vote to serve as grand treasurer. After serving in the Grand Lodge line for nine years, including a very busy year as grand master, it was certainly not my expectation to continue as an officer. I commit to you that I will endeavor to uphold and perform the duties of the office to the best of my ability. I am honored and humbled by your consideration and trust.

Honorary Memberships

It was my pleasure to bestow honorary memberships to: Dan Blue, PHGL of NC; Tullio Colacioppo, Grande Oriente of Brasil; and PGM Fran Mitchell, Grand Lodge of New Jersey.

Acknowledgements and Special Appreciation

Thank you my brethren. I was very honored and humbled by your overwhelming vote in 2010 and this opportunity to serve as your grand master. Thank you Most Worshipful Charles Lewis for your faith in me by your appointment in September 2003 to the Grand Lodge line.

My first memories of this fraternity go back to a very young age, perhaps 4 or 5 years old, when I accompanied my father, who was a member of Bakersville 357, to a Masonic picnic atop Roan Mountain. And indeed, my reason for joining this gentle craft was the favorable opinions that I began to form as an 11-year-old as I watched the Freemasons of a small mountain lodge come to visit and sit with my father during his eight-month decline with terminal pancreatic cancer. These were men that I later came to know as the respected men of the community, and men that always seemed to have an especially kind word or pat on the shoulder for me as a kid growing up. Obviously, I later came to better understand why.

Thus, it was at an early age I decided I wanted to be a member of this organization. When my work considerations allowed, it was Statesville 27 nearly 25 years ago where I came to appreciate even more our fraternity. It was there I started this so called mystic journey, served as master, and made lifetime friends. Relocating to Raleigh ten years ago has limited my participation at Statesville 27, but I want to say thank you to the brethren in Statesville and the surrounding area for your continued support. Thank you again for the great number of you that participated and attended the installation — some 150, and the unflinching support you have provided this year. I am proud to be a member of this beloved fraternity and especially grateful that my Masonic journey has been as a member of Statesville 27 in association with the many others in the Masonic family of Iredell County and the 30th Masonic district.

Deep-seated in the long-term accomplishments and successful day-to-day operations of our Grand Lodge is the staff. There are compelling reasons that PGM Gerry Smith in 1997 and PGM Tom Gregory in 1999 recognized Theophilus Walton Clapp III and Richard Edward Carter with the highest award of our jurisdiction, the Montfort Medal. During terms of service, I heard a number of PGMs express comments regarding an increased appreciation of their work. I join that chorus. In addition to their counsel and work, I have long enjoyed their friendships. If there were similar fraternal recognitions for ladies, Cornelia Doherty, Vicki Lam, and Lisa Mondeau would have received those honors or be primary candidates. From the experience and understanding afforded by Cornelia, to the resolve of Vicki to be thorough and accurate in fiscal accounting, to Lisa being a quick study and highly proficient in her office skills, thank you all for the professional quality work you provide the Grand Lodge office and the service to the local lodges.

And certainly not least, I extend my most genuine appreciation and love to my wife Susan Pettyjohn Ledford for her untiring support. During the past year, in particular, there were times her unwavering support and actions guided me and were instrumental in the outcomes being positive.

Closing Thoughts

As I think of the present and future of our beloved fraternity and as I think of you, the leaders of our beloved fraternity, I commend the following two writings to you that describe leaders and define your purpose as well as what is important:

- They are continually learning
- They are service oriented
- They radiate positive energy
- They believe in other people
- They lead balanced lives
- They see life as an adventure
- They are synergistic
- They renew self

From *Principled-Centered Leadership*, Steven Covey

Who will be the center of your life?

Family, work, hobby, sport, \$

What will be the character of your life?

Ethics, code of conduct, you are what you do

What will be the contribution of your life?

Service to others, how you make a difference

What will be the communication of your life?

Your personal mission, purpose statement

What will be the community of your life?

Fellowship

From *The Purpose-Driven Life*, Rick Warren

As the grand master in North Carolina I could not legislate passion or competency. What I sought to do was to provide encouragement for these traits that will thereby enable us to make Freemasonry — this gentle Craft which was crafted in the Middle Ages and whose members' efforts have made it the most benevolent in the history of modern civilization — to be relevant, to be pertinent, to be self-fulfilling for its members, and to be true to its mission of raising the moral, social, intellectual, and spiritual conscience of society by teaching the ancient and enduring philosophical tenets of brotherly love, relief, and truth.

Thank you for this opportunity to serve. May the Great Architect richly bless you!

Respectfully submitted,
Lewis R. Ledford, Grand Master, 2011

Interim Report

of

**Grand Master
Robert E. Gresham Jr.**

to

the

**Grand Lodge of
Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons
of North Carolina**

at

**Winston-Salem, North Carolina
September 21, 2012**

To the most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina, Grand Lodge Officers, past grand masters, officers of constituent lodges, voting delegates to this Communication and brethren all:

As required by our *Code*, I am pleased to make this report on my activities as your grand master. It has been my pleasure to have the privilege of serving as your grand master since December 3, 2011. Other than my wife, Carolyn and my children, serving as grand master is the greatest honor that could ever have been bestowed upon me. I will always be appreciative to my Masonic brothers.

During my travels and lodge visits, I have been received with the greatest honor and respect. The hospitality and welcome that I have been received has been more than anyone could have expected. The brothers in our state truly respect and exhibit high esteem for the office of grand master.

After I was elected at last year's Annual Communication, I stated that the next time that you heard from me might be your hearing, "Knock, knock, knock." I have made several surprise visits and hope to get in some more before this year is finished. There has been more than one surprised tyler when told to "knock on the door and give the appropriate announcement." The brothers seemed to enjoy the visits, and I had a great time. The fellowship was great!

The State of the Craft

Masonry is growing in North Carolina. Everywhere that I have traveled across our state and from all reports that I have received, lodges are active with degree work. They are participating in community projects, holding fundraisers for our charities and in general practicing our teachings. New blood drives have been started this year along with older ones being continued. I hope to have a current report on blood drives to give you at this communication.

Last year, PGM Lew Ledford stated that he was hopeful that our Grand Lodge would have a positive growth for the year 2011. As I reported during my district meetings, we had more NPDs than was expected, and we did not meet the goal. One major emphasis during my District Meetings has been NPDs. I have encouraged our lodges to make personal contact with members who have not paid their dues. Many have heard me say "Get in their face, explain to the brothers that they are important to us. These members are wanted, tell them why we believe that they need Masonry." If we will all work on this problem, I firmly believe that we can reduce the numbers of NPDs and put us well on the way to have a positive membership growth in 2012.

The enthusiasm exhibited by our lodges and members is gratifying. We are seeing growth in younger people petitioning our lodges for the degrees. This is great for the continuation and viability of our fraternity. With our older membership, it is great to see these younger men asking for petitions for the degrees. Yes brothers, Masonry is alive and well in North Carolina.

Necrology

During the last 12 months, our Grand Lodge has seen many of our brothers go to be with The Great Architect of the Universe. We have lost a total of 1,204 brothers. Their work on earth is finished, they have gone to that house, not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

This year, North Carolina Masonry lost one of our oldest, both in service

and in age, past grand masters. Most Worshipful Stephen Frances (Frank) Noble served as grand master for the year 1975. His wisdom and wise council will truly be missed.

Junior Grand Deacon A. Gene Cobb, Grand Steward C. Speed Hallman and Grand Steward Dwight M. Sigmon did a yeoman's job in completing and getting a new Masonic Funeral Manual written and published this year. They are to be commended. We used Ceremony 13, Standard Grand Lodge Necrology Service in our necrology service earlier today. We extend our sincere sympathy to the families of these departed brothers.

DDGM and DDGL Area Meetings

During November, 2012, I hosted the DDGMs and DDGLs in area meetings held in Waynesville, Statesville, Siler City, Williamston, and Warsaw. These meetings give the incoming grand master an opportunity to meet with his representatives to the various districts. I was able to discuss with the attendees my program and ideas for the coming year. My comments were received very well and all in attendance pledged their assistance in implementing my ideas. As you know, the district officers are invaluable to the success of each district. I thank each of them for their hard work and devotion to our fraternity. Grand Secretary Walt Clapp, Grand Steward and Secretary to the Board of Custodians Mack Sigmon attended all five of the meetings and Grand Lecturer Luigi Ammons was able to join us for part of the meetings.

District Meetings

This year I was able to hold 26 district meetings. They went from west to east across our state. I think that we had near record, if not record attendance. At times I was received into the lodge in single file form, as there was not room for me and the marshal to walk in side by side. Some of you may have read in my North Carolina Mason articles that I kept a spread sheet of the foods that were served at the various meetings. As I have previously reported, slaw was served 15 times with Masonic green beans close behind at 12 times and chicken in some form was served 12 times. Those that traveled with me appreciated the various selections of food. Thank all of you who labored to prepare for the visiting district brothers and the grand master's party. Your efforts were deeply appreciated.

I want to especially thank those who attended these meetings with me. They included Grand Secretary Walt Clapp, Assistant to the Secretary Ric Carter, WhiteStone Administrator Mark Kolada, Acting MHCO Administrator Chris Richardson, various Grand Lodge officers, past grand masters, and several board and committee members. The following list gives the dates, host district, lost lodge, and location of the various meetings:

District	Date	Host
24	February 27	Blackmer Lodge No. 127
13	February 28	Orphans Lodge No. 761
20	February 29	Siler City Lodge No. 403
33	March 5	Traphill Lodge No. 483
34	March 6	Cookville Lodge No. 502
26	March 7	Kernersville Lodge No. 669
38	March 20	Cliffside Lodge No. 460
36	March 21	Belmont Lodge No. 627
32	March 22	Matthews Lodge No. 461

41	.....April 9.....	Blue Ridge Lodge No. 435
40	.....April 10.....	Dillsboro Lodge No. 459
37	.....April 11.....	Vesper Lodge No. 554
39	.....April 12.....	Mount Hermon Lodge No. 118
16	.....April 17.....	Selma Lodge No. 320
14	.....April 18.....	Raleigh Lodge No. 500
6	.....April 19.....	William Pitt Lodge No. 734
22	.....May 1.....	Jefferson Penn Lodge No. 384
21	.....May 2.....	Laurinburg Lodge No. 305
17	.....May 3.....	Stedman Lodge No. 730
1	.....May 14.....	Eureka Lodge No. 317
2	.....May 15.....	Manteo Lodge No. 521
8	.....May 16.....	Royal White Hart Lodge No. 2
4	.....May 21.....	Franklin Lodge No. 109
12	.....May 22.....	Shallotte Lodge No. 727
10	.....May 23.....	Pleasant Hill Lodge No. 304
29	.....May 30.....	Albemarle Lodge No. 703

Honorary Title of Past District Deputy Grand Master

I recommend that this Grand Lodge grant the honorary title of Past District Deputy Grand Master to the several brothers who are now eligible in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 12-05 of The Code. If this recommendation is adopted, I will present certificates bearing this rank and title to each of the following brethren during this Annual Communication.

Name	Lodge	District
L. Clyde Jett.....	59.....	3
Bennie J. Heath.....	132.....	6
James E. Drake.....	689.....	8
Tommy R. Mills.....	277.....	15
A. David Wicker.....	750.....	19
Franklin D. Long.....	302.....	20
Steven V. Cates.....	129.....	22
Larry Chilton.....	128.....	24
John T. Craven.....	629.....	26
Jimmy Blalock.....	703.....	29
Wendell M. Powell.....	670.....	34
A. Keith Clark.....	339.....	35
A. Dana Hawkins.....	267.....	38
A. Ronnie Reece.....	292.....	39
Derek A. Cheek.....	426.....	41

Honorary Title of Past District Deputy Grand Lecturer

I recommend that this Grand Lodge grant the honorary title of Past District Deputy Grand Lecturer to the several brothers who are now eligible in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 12-05 of *The Code*. If this recommendation is adopted, I will assist the grand lecturer in presenting certificates bearing this rank and title to each of the following brethren during this Annual Communication.

Name	Lodge	District
John W. Riffert Jr	104	3
James P. Fitzgibbons	83	4
Michael W. Reaves.....	688	8
James D. Davis	525	9
G. Anderson Greene.....	319	12
Stephen M. Meserve	743	14
Donal E. Kehler.....	409	22
Lance B. Hegler.....	496	30
Thane R. Black.....	715	31
Wilbur S. Clay.....	217	34
Donald M. Helton.....	598	37
Claude Ray Harrill.....	387	41

Joseph Montfort Medals

During my installation on December 3, 2012 I presented my first Joseph Montfort Medal to Samuel Richard Pollard, a past master, past DDGL, and a dedicated Mason. Sam has been a mentor, coach, brother, friend, and shining example of Masonry to me and many others.

I expect to present two more Joseph Montfort Medals before my year is over. I will report on these in my final report to the Grand Lodge.

Physical Disabilities

At this writing, I have approved three requests for waivers of physical disability from petitioners for the degrees in Masonry. The DDGM of the respective district made an investigation including a meeting with the applicant. All reported to me that the petitioners had limitations but would be able to comply with all of the mental requirements of *The Code* and in their opinion, would be an asset to Masonry. I appreciate the timely results that the DDGMs gave to the requests for investigation and thank them for their efforts.

Dispensations Granted

To date, I have granted 32 dispensations for the following purposes:

Lodge	Reason
92	elect master
378	elect officers
722	move to new building
517	elect officers
381	lost charter
565	elect junior warden
106	elect master
373	elect senior warden

760	stated communication locations for 2012
1	move meeting location for emergent
688	elect junior warden
605	elect junior warden
654	elect junior warden
138	outdoor third degree
7	courthouse degree
129	Georgia lodge degree on their candidate
97	elect junior warden
155	elect junior warden
391	meeting another location
708	elect junior and senior warden
674	elect junior warden
188	communication held at WhiteStone
626	communication held at WhiteStone
292	charter is being refurbished
471	outdoor third degree
19	communication at WhiteStone
27	NC lodge participated in TN outdoor degree
576	dispense with stated
542	communication held at WhiteStone
579	outdoor third degree
106	dispense with stated
81	dispense with stated

WhiteStone, A Masonic and Eastern Star Community

Whitestone, A Masonic and Eastern Star Home is jointly sponsored by the Masons of North Carolina and the members of the Order of the Eastern Star. The Board of Directors is comprised of members from each organization. It has been my privilege to serve on this board for the last three years. The Report of the Committee on WhiteStone, A Masonic and Eastern Star Community are printed elsewhere in this publication and I suggest that you refer to them for more information.

Because of some hard decisions that were made in past years, WhiteStone is on the right course. Progress is being made and improvements are visible everywhere you look.

On August 11, 2012, WhiteStone had a grand opening ceremony for the new independent living building consisting of 46 one- and two-bedroom units. These units were financed with a bond package authorized by the North Carolina Medical Care Commission in 2011. Residents are already moving into their units and appear to be very happy with their new living arrangements. I want to thank the Board of Directors, executive management under Mark Kolada, and the staff who have performed admirably during this construction period. During the construction, inconvenience has been kept to a minimum and resident satisfaction has been maintained at the highest level possible. I thank all of them for their untiring efforts which make our home one of the finest in our state.

Masonic Home for Children at Oxford

I have also had the privilege of serving on this Board of Directors for the past three years. I refer you to the Report of the Committee on Masonic Home for Children printed elsewhere in this publication for more information. As you know, MHCO has hired a new administrator who started to work on August 16, 2012. Kevin Otis comes to us from a home in Illinois and has hit the road running. You heard from him earlier today. The entire Board of Directors is satisfied that we have hired the right man to lead us forward in the future of our home. Long time Director of Development Chris Richardson served as interim administrator and did a fantastic job. His efforts are to be applauded. My sincere thanks to Chris for a job well done.

The Second Annual Homecoming/Festival is scheduled for the weekend of October 12-14. I have been assured by the Potentates of Amran, Oasis, and Sudan Shrines that they are supporting the Homecoming/Festival and that their units will turn out in force to make our parade the best in North Carolina. The golf tournament, parade, crowning of the Homecoming Queen, barbecue cooking contest and other events will be featured. On Friday evening, Andrew Jackson Lodge No. 576 has offered to cook its famous Brunswick stew for those attending. They do a great job and I highly recommend it to you. I hope that you will bring your family and join us for this occasion.

Veterans Hospital Visits

To date, I have visited the VA Hospital in Oteen just outside of Asheville. I saw the wonderful work that the Masonic Service Association does. Its volunteers do a great service for our veterans. I was disappointed to find that regulations do not allow the hospital staff to ask a veteran if he is a mason. There is no way to determine if a patient is a mason or member of any other organization. The only way to identify a patient being a Mason is to see his square and compass on a ring, etc. or for him to recognize the square and compass being worn by the Masonic Service Association volunteer. I would encourage all of you that if you know a mason being treated at a VA Hospital, please contact the Masonic Service Association office and give them the appropriate information.

Conference of Grand Masters of North America

On February 19-21, I had the privilege of representing our Grand Lodge at the meeting of the Conference of Grand Masters of North America. This year's conference was hosted by the Grand Lodge of Georgia in Atlanta. In addition to the member grand lodges from Mexico, Canada, and the United States, there were represented many other grand lodges from around the world. Leaders of many appendant bodies were also present. It was a great opportunity to learn about other things being done around the world by Masons.

I was accompanied by my wife, Carolyn, DGM Dewey R. Preslar Jr. and his wife Terri, SGW Dalton Mayo, and JGW Doug Caudle. Grand Secretary T. Walton Clapp also traveled with us to attend the Conference of Grand Secretaries which was held simultaneously.

Northeast Grand Masters Conference

This year's conference was hosted in New York by the Grand Lodge of New York. The hospitality by our brothers from New York was superb. A good time was enjoyed by all. DGM Preslar, SGW Mayo, JGW Caudle, PGM and GT Ledford, GS Clapp, and Carolyn accompanied me on this trip. It was great to exchange ideas with representatives from other grand jurisdictions. North Carolina is scheduled to host this conference in 2024.

Visitation and Special Activities

It has been my privilege and pleasure to represent our Grand Lodge at several in state and out of state Masonic activities. On December 8, Carolyn and I attended the Christmas Party for the residents of MHCO. We were happy to participate in bringing Christmas greetings to our children. It was a joy to see their smiling faces. The next morning we departed for Washington, DC and were guest of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia at their Annual Communication. We could not have been treated better.

On December 16-17, we were guest of the NC-SC Shrine Bowl which was played in Spartanburg. This game featured the best high school players from both states. The best part of this game was that the North Carolina team came back in the second half to defeat the South Carolina team.

Carolyn and I attended the installation of officers at Oasis Shrine on January 7 and at Sudan Shrine on January 28. It was great to spend time with our Shrine brothers. I have tried to strengthen the relationship with the Shrine during my year.

On March 19, I delivered fraternal greetings to the annual meeting of the North Carolina York Rite Bodies held in Raleigh.

On April 20-21, I was the guest of the Scottish Rite at their Regional Meeting in Baltimore, MD. I enjoyed the seminars and presentations that were presented. All were about promoting Masonry and the Scottish Rite. Saturday afternoon, I flew back to Raleigh and spoke at the graduation dinner for the Wilkerson College graduates. All of them expressed their thanks for this great opportunity. Wilkerson College is doing a wonderful job in preparing our leaders for the future. I only wish that this opportunity had been available when I was coming through the chairs.

April 24-26, Carolyn and I were invited to represent our Grand Lodge at the 275th Anniversary of the formation of the Grand Lodge of South Carolina. They put on a fine to do. As you know, we are celebrating our 225th Anniversary on November 3. All I can say is that South Carolina Masons do math differently from the way we do. Their hospitality was wonderful.

May 6-8, we were guest of the Grand lodge of New York for their Annual Communication. I saw first hand their new electronic balloting in action. When the ballot was closed, the results were known in thirty seconds. Yes, seconds. The New York hospitality was outstanding.

Carolyn and I attended the Seventh Annual Carolina Masonic Pig Jig held on the North Carolina State Fairgrounds. I think that 33 teams competed in several categories. Have you ever tried to sample 33 team's barbecue? I asked for an amount equal to the last joint of your finger from each team. It

was all I could do to get around. I had a lot of fun passing out pins and enjoying fun and fellowship with the entrants.

On June 9, I brought fraternal greetings from our Grand Lodge to the delegates at the South East Regional York Rite Meeting held in Raleigh. I was received with grand honors and made to feel very welcome.

On June 11, I brought fraternal greetings from our Grand Lodge to the Order of the Eastern Star Grand Chapter meeting held in Raleigh. My congratulations to Donna Yates on being elected worthy grand matron and to Brother Ken Ezzell on being elected worthy grand patron.

June 18 found me and several of the Grand Officers at Rockingham Lodge No. 495. I was there to present 60-year service awards to PGM Bunn T. Phillips and Brother Stencil Wilson. As you know, PGM Phillips is my Masonic great grandfather. He appointed PGM Gerry Smith into the grand line who appointed PGM Leonard Safrit who appointed me in 2004. Last year, I appointed Grand Steward Dwight M. Sigmon into the grand line. All five of us were in Rockingham, and we were able to get a group picture of our living line. It was a pleasure to make those presentations.

On June 19, I traveled to Inman, SC to the home lodge of South Carolina Grand Master Jay Pearson. I witnessed a third degree which Grand Master Pearson had scheduled for my benefit. If you ever get the opportunity to witness a South Carolina third degree, by all means take advantage of it.

I attended the 75th Rainbow Grand Chapter held in Raleigh on June 25-26. I was privileged to be in attendance for the installation of Miss Kaitlyn Kubacki from Albemarle as grand worthy advisor. We are all very proud of Kaitlyn. Her dad is a past master of my home lodge.

On July 1-5, Carolyn and I were guest of the Imperial Shrine for their annual meeting held in Charlotte. The hospitality and fellowship were wonderful. On Monday evening we were entertained by the Divans and Ladies of the three Shrines in North Carolina. My thanks to the Potentates and the membership of the three Shrines in North Carolina for their cooperation this year.

July 7-9 found us at the Great Smokies Summer Assembly of York Rite Masons held in Maggie Valley, NC. This is a wonderful annual gathering. Masons come from far and wide to attend this assembly. Friendships are renewed and new friends are made every year. I was honored to be asked to deliver the Monday morning address and bring fraternal greetings to the delegates.

The following weekend, Carolyn and I flew to New York for the Northeast Masonic Conference and from there on to Toronto for the Grand Lodge of Canada, Province of Ontario Annual Communication. It was a genuine pleasure to be able to represent our Grand Lodge. The hospitality could not have been better. It will be our pleasure to entertain Grand Master Garry Dowling and his wife, Wendy, as our guests during this Annual Communication.

Recommended Legislation

I recommend that we introduce legislation that would allow lodges to do business in the first degree. We initiate a candidate and then tell him that he is a Mason. The next thing that we tell him is that he must go outside, because we have to close on a higher degree. I think that this does not leave a good taste in the new Brothers mouth. I am not advocating giving Entered Apprentice's or

Fellow Crafts the right to vote, but I believe that it will make them feel more a part of our fraternity.

In light of continuing problems with some temple associations around the jurisdiction, and with the possible solution tool to those problems on the horizon in the suggested Temple Company Bylaws developed by the Lodge Service Commission, I have placed a moratorium on the creation of any new joint ownership facilities.

Acknowledgement and Thanks

I want to thank the Grand Lodge officers, past grand masters, DDGMs, DDGLs, members of boards, commissions, and you, the members of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina for the many courtesies shown to me during this year. All of you have been most gracious and generous with your time and talents. The advice, counsel and guidance given to me has been appreciated. I have relied on this information in helping me decide which direction I should take with some of the decisions I have been called on to make. To Past Grand Master Leonard Y. Safrit, my Masonic dad, thank you for having the faith and trust in me when you appointed me into the grand line. I hope that I have been able to live up to your expectations.

In early 1993, Past Grand Secretary Pete Dudley called and asked if he could visit with me. He asked for permission to submit my name to then Deputy Grand Master Rick Moore as a potential member of the Grand lodge Finance Committee. He informed me that it was only two meetings a year, one in January to set the budget and one at Grand Lodge. After some discussion, I agreed for my name to be submitted. That evening I went home and told Carolyn what I had done. I heard, "Two meetings, you say?" Periodically now as she is accompanying me to some meeting, I feel a tap on my right shoulder and I am asked "Which one of those two meetings are we going to this time?" Maybe that's why I have a torn rotator cup in my right shoulder!

I have had the privilege of serving every grand master since 1993. It has been a pleasure to serve them and our Grand Lodge for these years.

A special thank you is due to our staff in the Grand Lodge. To Grand Secretary Clapp, your counsel and advice has been deeply appreciated. You have made your time available, sometimes at crazy times, and your assistance will always be appreciated. To Ric Carter, Assistant to the Grand Secretary, thank you for your assistance. To the ladies, Cornelia Doherty, Vicki Lam and Lisa Mondeau, thank you for your dedication to our Grand Lodge and for all of the assistance and accommodations that you have given to Carolyn and me. It is deeply appreciated. I am glad that I can call all of you my friends.

To the members of Albemarle Lodge No. 703, Blackmer Lodge No. 127, Yadkin Falls Lodge No. 637, and Shallotte Lodge No. 727, thank you for furnishing drivers to accompany me on my nightly travels. The companionship and offers to drive home are most appreciated. Many afternoons, Carolyn would say, "Take good care of him," as we departed.

And to a little girl from Bennett, I can never express my appreciation and Thanks for the love and support that you have given me over all of the years. They say, "That behind every successful man stands a woman" who gets it all done and makes it happen. Thank you for all of the words of support and for being that patient listening ear. Your wise council is deeply appreciated. You have truly stood behind me and with me for the last almost 50 years. Without your support, I could not have taken this journey.

And in closing always remember my friends, The Tate Family!

Have You Heard of the Tates?

You may have heard of the Tates. They're in every organization. There's Dic Tate, who wants to run everything; Ro Tate, who always tries to change things; Agi Tate, who stirs up trouble whenever possible, with a helping hand from Irri Tate; Devas Tate, who loves to interrupt; and Poten Tate, who wants to be the big shot. Every time new ideas are suggested, it's Hesi Tate and Vegi Tate, who are there to say they can't possibly work; and Imi Tate, who'd rather copy other organizations than try something new.

Thank goodness for Facili Tate, Cogi Tate, and Medi Tate; they get everyone pulling together. Which Tate are you?

— Author Unknown

Again, thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for the opportunity of serving as your grand master this year.

God, bless America and God, bless Masonry!

Respectfully submitted,

Robert E. Gresham Jr., Grand Master

Service of Necrology

Opening the Grand Lodge of Sorrow

MASTER: What man is he who lives, and shall not see death? Shall he deliver his soul from the hand of the grave? (Psalm 89:48)

RESPONSE: Man walks in a vain shadow; he heaps up riches and cannot tell who shall gather them.

MASTER: When he dies he shall carry nothing away; his glory shall not descend after him.

RESPONSE: Naked he came into the world, and naked he must return.

GRAND MASTER: I now declare the Grand Lodge of Sorrow for the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina open. Let all who are present join with us in remembering our deceased brethren.

Nearer My God to Thee

Nearer my God, to thee, nearer to thee!
 E'en though it be a cross that raiseth me,
 Still all my song shall be, nearer my God
 to thee;

Nearer my God to thee, nearer to thee!
 There let the way appear, steps unto heav-
 en;

All that thou sendest me, in mercy given;
 Angels to beckon me nearer my God to
 thee.

Nearer my God to thee, nearer to thee!

Oration

Rev. Dr. A. Gene Cobb Jr.

Chair of Necrology, 2012

Special Remembrance

Eulogy: Frank Noble

Past Grand Master 1975

Roses placed and Candles lit for:

- Entered Apprentice
- Fellow Craft
- Master Masons

A Time of Naming All Deceased Brethren

The Funeral Grand Honors

MASTER: Brethren, join me in giving the Funeral Grand Honors.

Both arms are crossed on the breast, the left arm over the right, and the open palm of the hands sharply striking the shoulders; they are then raised above the head, the palms striking each other, and then made to fall smartly upon the thighs.

The first and second times all saying:

The will of God is accomplished! So mote it be. Amen.

The third time all saying:

We cherish his memory here. We commend his spirit to God who gave it, and commit his body to the tomb.

*Come, Let Us Join Our Friends
Above Forest Green*

Come let us join our friends above who
have obtained the prize,

And on the eagle's wings of love to joys ce-
lestial rise.

Let saints on earth unite to sing with
those to glory gone,

For all the servants of our King in earth
and heaven are one!

Grand Lodge Officers

Robert E. Gresham Jr.	Grand Master
Dewey R. Preslar Jr.	Deputy Grand Master
Dalton W. Mayo.....	Senior Grand Warden
Douglas L. Caudle.....	Junior Grand Warden
Lewis R. Ledford, PGM.....	Grand Treasurer
T. Walton Clapp III.....	Grand Secretary
Bryant D. Webster	Senior Grand Deacon
A. Gene Cobb	Junior Grand Deacon
Jimmy B. Hicks Jr.....	Grand Marshal
Speed Hallman.....	Grand Steward
Dwight M Sigmon.....	Grand Steward
Scott B. Gresham	Grand Tyler
Joseph L. Hester.....	Grand Chaplain
Michael W. Brantley	Grand Historian
J. Luigi Ammons	Grand Lecturer
James G. Martin.....	Grand Orator
James R. Stevens	Judge Advocate

Past Grand Masters

Norburn Creighton Hyatt.....	1985
Lee Roy Thomas Jr.....	1988
Bunn Tate Phillips Jr.	1990
Lester Poindexter Martin Jr.....	1991
Richard Groves Moore.....	1993
William Bailey Brunk	1994
Clifton White Everett Jr	1995
William Henry Simpson.....	1996
Gerry Theodore Smith	1997
Thomas Warren Gregory	1998
Charles Marshall Ingram	1999
Charles Edward Cathey.....	2000
William Graham Mathis.....	2001
Jerry Reginald Tillett.....	2002
Charles Albert Lewis Jr.....	2003
Leonard Yearby Safrit Jr.....	2004
Graham W. Pervier	2005
Gene Tart Jernigan.....	2006
W. Berry Rigdon	2007
David R. Cash.....	2008
Dan C. Rice	2009
William L. Dill.....	2010
Lewis R. Ledford	2011

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