



REPORTS

2013
ANNUAL COMMUNICATION

**Twin City Quarter
Winston-Salem
North Carolina**

September 27–28, 2013

226th Annual Communication

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

Friday, September 27, 2013

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

Saturday, September 28, 2013

- 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

226th

Annual Communication

of

The Grand Lodge of

Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons

of North Carolina

at

Winston-Salem, North Carolina

September 27–28, 2013

Report of the Grand Treasurer

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

I submit this interim report as of June 30, 2013. Included in this report is the total receipts and disbursements, special funds, and the securities held by this Grand Lodge.

Total Funds Available 01/01/2013 (General Funds & Special Funds) \$ 900,112

Total Receipts YTD	875,982
Total Disbursements YTD	<u>(410,838)</u>

Total Cash To Be Accounted For \$1,365,156

Deposits:	Rate	Maturity	Issue Date	Amount
Petty Cash				\$ 100
1st Citizens Bank (operating account)				126,874
Certificate of Deposits:				
Yadkin Valley Bank	2.23%	10/5/2013	9/5/2012	100,253
Fidelity Bank	1.05%	11/8/2013	10/8/2012	100,940
Capital Bank	2.23%	6/7/2013	12/7/2012	125,482
Vantagesouth Bank	0.75%	7/1/13	3/1/2013	102,753
Money Markets:				
Fifth Third Bank	VARI			112,348
North State Bank	VARI			101,323
PNC Bank	VARI			112,713
Suntrust Bank	VARI			125,368
BB& T - CD	VARI			106,405
Harrington Bank	VARI			<u>101,588</u>
Total Cash Accounted For				\$ 1,215,156

Securities:	Principle	06/30/2013	Unrealized Gain/Loss
Cash Balances		1,500	
Stock Options	-	15,520	
Fixed income securities	<u>150,000</u>	<u>151,141</u>	1,141
Total Securities YTD	\$ 150,000	\$ 168,160	
Total Cash & Principle Securities YTD			\$1,365,156

Special Funds Summary 12/31/2012 06/30/2013

Special Contingency Reserve	\$ 163,164	200,000
Emblems and Awards Reserve	8,133	8,265
Automobile Reserve	68,919	68,919
Book Reserve	248,363	143,801
	203,764	207,371
Office Equipment Reserve	Building Reserve	7,958
Charity Fund	<u>81,076</u>	<u>81,441</u>
Total Special Funds	\$ 773,419	\$ 717,755

Total Special Funds 05/30/2013	717,755
Total General Funds Available	<u>\$ 647,401</u>

Total Of All Funds \$1,365,156

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

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, 2013, including projected expenditures for the year and a suggested budget for calendar year 2014.

2014 Proposed Annual Budget

INCOME

	<u>Budget 2013</u>	<u>Proposed Budget 2014</u>
36,675 Estimate Master Masons @ \$17 for 2014		
37,175 Actual Master Masons @ \$17.00 in 2013	639,625	623,475
194 Endowed Members (Deceased)		
1,236 Endowed Members	18,000	19,000
1,300 Initiation Fees @ \$21.00 (1,278 actual)	27,300	27,300
[NC Charities @ \$10.00]	(13,000)	(13,000)
[GL Building @ \$5.00]	(6,500)	(6,500)
[GWNMA @ \$5.00]	(6,500)	(6,500)
Initiation Fees Retained [@\$1.00]	-	-
Membership Services	41,880	41,880
Penalty for Late Returns	800	800
Dividends and Interest	8,000	8,000
Background check billed		21,000
Miscellaneous Income	<u>18,000</u>	<u>2,000</u>
Total Income	727,605	717,455

EXPENSES

<u>Acct. No.</u>	<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Budget 2013</u>	<u>Proposed Budget 2014</u>
800-00	Philanthropy		
800-01	Masonic Home for Children	12,500	\$ 12,500
800-02	Masonic and Eastern Star Home	12,500	12,500
800-03	Charity	4,000	4,000
800-04	Hospital Visitation (MSA)	2,000	2,000
800-05	Hospital Visitation (NC)	300	300
800-06	Masonic Youth Organizations	4,250	4,250
800-07	Wilkerson College (12@\$200)	<u>2,400</u>	<u>2,400</u>
	Total	37,950	37,950
810-00	Salaries and Fees		
810-01	Grand Secretary	85,228	85,228
810-03	Office Personnel	86,747	88,916
810-04	Retirement/Health and Life Insurance	40,446	39,872
810-05	Social Security Tax	15,844	16,010
810-06	Unemployment Tax	420	520
810-08	Assistant to the Grand Secretary	35,136	35,136
810-09	Temporary Help	1,000	2,500
810-10	Drewry Memorial Grand Secy. Fund	<u>(20,000)</u>	<u>(20,000)</u>
	Total	244,821	248,182

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820-00	Administration Costs		
820-02	Printing (Routine)	12,500	10,500
820-04	Office Expenses	18,000	15,000
820-05	Postage	10,000	8,500
820-06	Office Equipment	- 0	3,000
820-07	Office Equipment Maintenance	8,500	8,500
820-08	Telephone	7,000	7,000
820-09	MORI Data Base Program Maintenance	38,500	39,500
820-11	Auditing	12,500	11,000
820-13	Legal Fees	3,000	-
820-14	Background check expenses	- 0	15,000
	Total	110,000	118,000
830-00	Building Expenses		
830-01	Utilities	12,000	10,000
830-02	Building Maintenance	15,500	15,500
830-03	Equipment Maintenance	5,000	5,000
830-04	Hazard Insurance	10,000	8,000
830-05	Transfer to Building Reserve	15,000	1,000
	Total	57,500	39,500
840-00	Membership Fees and Dues		
840-01	Masonic Service Association	2,500	2,250
840-02	Conference of Grand Masters	750	750
840-03	GMC Committee on Recognition	100	100
840-04	Conference of Grand Secretaries	- 0	-
840-05	Northeastern Regional Masonic Conference	900	900
	Total	4,250	4,000
850-00	Travel and Officers Expense		
850-01	Grand Master's Travel	11,000	11,000
850-02	Grand Master's Automobile	9,000	9,000
850-03	Grand Master's Office	1,250	1,250
850-04	Grand Secretary's Travel	6,500	6,500
850-05	Grand Secretary's Automobile	7,500	7,500
850-06	Travel - Other	7,500	7,500
	Total	42,750	42,750
860-00	Boards, Commissions, and Committees		
860-01	Board of General Purposes	3,500	3,500
860-02	Board of Custodians	4,000	4,000
860-04	Masonic Public Relations	1,500	1,500
860-05	Finance Committee	500	500
860-06	Code Commission	300	300
860-07	Lodge Service Commission	100	100
860-08	Masonic Education / Wardens Boot Camps	4,000	4,000
	Total	13,900	13,900
870-00	Out-of-State Visitation		
870-01	Visiting other Grand Lodges	3,000	3,000
870-02	Conference of Grand Masters	4,500	4,500
870-03	Conference of Grand Secretaries	2,000	2,000
870-04	MSA & GWMNMA Conference	2,000	2,000
870-05	Regional Conference (NE)	3,000	3,000
870-06	World Masonic Conference **	-	-
	Total	14,500	14,500

Reports

880-00	Annual Communication / GLO Installation		
	Lump sum costs	<u>58,000</u>	<u>65,000</u>
	Total	58,000	65,000
890-00	Miscellaneous Expenses		
890-01	Awards, Aprons, and Emblems	12,000	13,000
890-02	Grand Master's Portrait	950	500
890-04	Miscellaneous / Contingency	922	1,000
890-06	Grand Lodge Library & Archives	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>
	Total	14,872	15,500
900-00	Communications		
900-01	Communications Director	23,424	24,888
900-02	Social Security Tax	1,791	1,904
900-03	Printing	47,000	44,000
900-04	Postage	41,500	41,500
900-05	Retirement/Life and Health Insurance	4,292	6,050
900-07	Travel	3,000	3,000
900-08	Equipment and Supplies	3,000	4,000
900-09	Internet Services	<u>2,250</u>	<u>2,250</u>
	Total	126,257	127,592
910-00	Development Program		
910-01	Accounting Specialist	46,996	48,171
910-02	Social Security - Accounting Specialist	3,595	3,685
910-03	Retirement/Life and Health Insurance	8,382	8,453
910-04	Travel Expenses	750	1,000
910-05	Telephone	2,000	2,500
910-06	Postage	3,500	3,500
910-07	Office Supplies	3,500	4,500
910-08	Miscellaneous Expense	- 0	-
910-09	Office Equipment	<u>4,000</u>	<u>4,500</u>
	Program Development	72,723	76,309
910-12	Program Reimbursement from NCMF	<u>72,723</u>	<u>(76,309)</u>
	Total	0	0

EXPENSE SUMMARY

800-00	Philanthropy	37,950	37,950
810-00	Salaries and Fees	244,821	248,182
820-00	Administration Costs	110,000	118,000
830-00	Building Expenses	57,500	39,500
840-00	Membership Fees and Dues	4,250	4,000
850-00	Travel and Officers Expense	42,750	42,750
860-00	Boards and Committees Office and Travel	13,900	13,900
870-00	Out-of-State Visitation	14,500	14,500
880-00	Annual Communication	58,000	65,000
890-00	Miscellaneous Expenses	14,872	15,500
900-00	North Carolina Mason	126,257	127,592
910-00	Development Program	0	0
	Total Expenses (Series 800 - 910)	\$ 724,800	\$ 726,874
	ESTIMATED SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	\$ 2,805	\$ (9,419)

Membership Statistics

Membership 12/31/2011.....	43,910
Initiated.....	1,284
Raised.....	1,008
Admitted.....	429
Restored.....	416
Total Gains.....	1,853
Expelled.....	7
Excluded NPD.....	1,117
Demitted.....	325
Died.....	1,202
Total Losses.....	2,651
Total Losses.....	<u>2,866</u>
Total membership 12/31/2012.....	43,112

Service Awards for 2012

Twenty-Five Year Service Awards.....	710
Fifty-Year Veteran Awards.....	543
Sixty-Year Awards.....	249

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 2012–2013:

To Brother DT.....	205
To Brother JR.....	500
Masonic and Eastern Star Home Foundation, LLC.....	5,000
Masonic Home for Children at Oxford.....	5,000

Respectfully submitted
D. Michael May, Chairman

Report Of The Grand Historian

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

When I accepted the appointment as Grand Historian of the NC Grand Lodge for 2013, Grand Master Elect Dewey R. Preslar, Jr. asked me to write a history of the Masonic Lodges in Rowan County to be given to Masons at his installation in December 2012. Having written a history of Scotch Ireland Lodge No. 154 in the 1980s, contacts and interviews with each master and some of the secretaries of the six lodges in the county was necessary and accomplished in a couple of weeks. After the first draft of the history was completed as the title I selected "Mother Lodges of Rowan County." The book has a brief history of each lodge and a history of the life of many of the early Masons in Rowan County. Men who become Masons are changed by the lessons and truths learned in the

Masonic degrees. The Masonic funeral rites at the grave of Masons have given closure, hope, and peace to thousands of mourning family members, and each shows that the Masonic bond of friendship does not end at the grave. For over 200 years the Masonic Fraternity has been active in Rowan County, and the influence of the principles of the fraternity have been deeply woven in the fabric of what Rowan County is today. The book has been well received, and I was given a Historic Award for Education and Publications for "Mother Masonic Lodges of Rowan County" by the Salisbury Historic Foundation for the effort.

During my conversations with Dewey prior to his installation, I learned that he would be interested in joining the North Carolina Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. I had been state president of the SAR 2003–2005 and am currently president of the Salisbury Chapter. I spent about six weeks trying to prove a line through the Preslar family name and could not make the link in one of the generation. My goal was to have him approved before he was installed as grand master. I found another patriot, Spratley Simmons, who served in the Continental Line from Virginia and resubmitted his application. He was approved and registered on December 5, 2012; and I received notification the afternoon of his installation by US Mail. Immediately, I contacted the Halifax Chapter SAR and got Steve Avent and Ken Wilson to see if Royal White Hart Lodge No. 2 in Halifax could be opened by Dewey R. Preslar Jr., grand master during the celebration of the Halifax Resolves on April 6, 2013. The Royal White Hart Lodge No. 2 was opened, and we had about 20 Masons and probably five or six members of the NCSAR present. There was a great hamburger lunch served afterwards in the first story of the lodge. This was a great success for the SAR and the Grand Master who also attended a flag retirement ceremony by SAR and a wreath laying ceremony.

The Grand Lodge open house for the NC Legislature was the next project that I helped with. This was held at the North Carolina Grand Lodge Building in Raleigh on Wednesday, April 3, 2013. The Grand Lodge building had been renovated and restored to the way it was originally built in the 1950s. It was a great opportunity to meet our representatives, show off the renovation and talk about the plans of the NC House and Senate.

As Grand Historian, I was appointed to a committee to develop an exhibit that will be opened in October of the fifth floor of the Wilson Library on the campus of UNC Chapel Hill about William R Davie. When I attended the first meeting, I suggested that I might be able to obtain the Revolutionary War sword that William Richardson Davie was given by the citizens of Salisbury when he was here recuperating from a battle wound he received at Battle of Colson's Mill in Stanly County for the exhibit. I contacted Susan Sides who is a friend of the owner of the sword, E. T. Bedford Davie Jr. He had never been asked to attend any of the events about his sixth great grandfather. With the help of Linda Sandell, contacts were made, and he said that it was time he got over not going to Law School at UNC, and wanted to be a part of the exhibit. Paper work was completed, and the sword will be something new that many who live in NC have never seen. The UNC Library has identified another descendant of its founding father, and his name in on the list.

For the exhibit, I contributed a copy of a pencil sketch of the law office of Spruce McCay. Andrew Jackson read law under McCay, and then when he had taught him all he could, Spruce McCay referred young Andrew Jackson to John Stokes. John Stokes had a full set of English law books and Stokes

had them in his library. By the way, Stokes, McCay, Jackson, and others are mentioned the "Mother Lodges of Rowan County."

Many of the members of Royal White Hart Lodge No. 2 were members of Old Cone Lodge in Salisbury. One in particular was John Stokes. John Stokes married Richard Pearson's daughter and had a law office where many lawyers came to study in his library. John Stokes' great great grandfather, Christopher, was the first Stokes to come to America in 1635. John's father, David, born October 23, 1707 and died September 12, 1794, was a resident in Halifax County, NC. He is listed a member of Royal White Hart Lodge No. 2 in 1765, and also married the sister of Col. Joseph Montford, of Halifax, NC, Susan Montford. John Stokes was born on March 20, 1756, and spent his early life in Virginia. When the Revolutionary War began, commissioned ensign in the Sixth Virginia Continental Regiment on February 16, 1776, was promoted to second lieutenant in July that year, and a few months later, became a first lieutenant. On February 20 he was promoted as a captain and transferred to the Second Regiment of Virginia Continentals on September 14, 1778, serving throughout the remainder until disabled and captured at Buford's Massacre on May 29, 1780. He was then in South Carolina under the command of Abraham Buford. His right arm had to be amputated below the elbow. He was a prisoner of war and was exchanged on May 1, 1783.

Captain John Stokes probably lived in Halifax County, NC before the war. After the war, he came back to NC and made his home in Montgomery County where he was a state senator in 1786 and 1787. Later he moved to Rowan County and was Rowan County's representative in the House of Commons in 1789; and also in the State Convention in Fayetteville where North Carolina adopted the United States constitution.

In 1788, Stokes married the daughter of Richard Pearson, Elizabeth. Richard Pearson gave the couple a plantation that Stokes made one of the most successful operations in the area.

Stokes had a silver cup made to cover his amputated arm and when he was arguing a case would hit the desk with his cup to make a point. The sound would focus the jury on the comments he was making.

Shortly after North Carolina entered the Federal Union, President George Washington appointed Captain John Stokes to the office of judge for the District of North Carolina. Judge Stokes did not live long to enjoy the honors of setting on the federal bench for NC. He began his circuit in New Bern and died in Fayetteville on his way home on October 12, 1790.

A life spent in the service to man as a gentleman, Mason, soldier, judge, legislator, and lawyer John Stokes was buried in Fayetteville with Phoenix Lodge of Freemasons attending the grave with usual solemnities.

During this year I have tried to locate and mark the grave of patriot John Stokes. He was probably buried in the Cross Creek No. 1 Cemetery, in Fayetteville. The historical director of Fayetteville is trying to locate a proper location to erect a memorial marker for Col John Stokes.

It has been a great opportunity and honor for me to serve as grand historian. I will continue to work on a grave marking for Judge John Stokes and hope this will be accomplished in 2013.

Respectfully submitted,
Frank Grady Hall III, Grand Historian

Report of Lodge Service Commission

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

The Lodge Service Commission wishes to thank Grand Master Dewey R. Preslar Jr. for his vote of confidence in our commission this year. It has been a relatively quiet year for us. I want to thank each of our commission members for their timely and constructive suggestions as we deliberated on questions that had come before us. Our committee is comprised of Herbert Mullen, Kirby Matthews, Chris Burti, and David Carmichael. Chris Burti was a re-appointment to the commission last year, and he continues to be a resourceful and consistent beacon, because of his ease of contact, his many years as an attorney in the real estate field, and because he has at least thus far refused to block my frequent calls for his assistance.

The first application was resubmitted in a continuing effort by Fellowship Lodge No. 687 and the Durham York Rite Bodies to establish a Masonic Temple Corporation in Durham. I believe the opinion of the LSC is leaning in a favorable direction assuming we receive the information we have asked their committee to supply, and it meets the fiduciary requirements that we feel are prudent. Should this project come to fruition, we believe it will provide a prominent presence in one of our larger cities.

Our second application came from Bingham Lodge No. 272 in Mebane, North Carolina. They requested permission to acquire a property that adjoined their existing lodge property. This property was purchased for speculation and to use the home on the property as an income source for the lodge. They already own one other rental property, based on the information that was supplied, we voted to approve their request.

There have been two or three other informal requests for information pertaining to future applications but no other formal applications have been received as yet.

On behalf of our committee, I wish to thank you for the opportunity to serve the Grand Lodge of North Carolina.

Respectfully and Fraternaly,
David J. Stapleton, Chairman

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 LOGE NATIONALE FRANCAISE

The Commission presented the following on the Grand Loge Nationale Francaise from their 2012 report:

The difficult situation involving the GLNF was reviewed in great detail from data presented to the Commission, as well as statements from parties explaining both sides of the issues. It was reported that some 28 regular grand lodges, including six in the United States and one in Canada, have now suspended fraternal relations with the GLNF. Although the GLNF is still considered to be regular, there is a question of them meeting the standards for recognition. After much consideration, the Commission is of the opinion a reasonable course of action to consider is to suspend fraternal relations with the GLNF until such time a resolution to their crisis is achieved. New elections are scheduled in the near future, and it is hoped that a solution will be forthcoming.

The Commission produced this report in 2013:

Progress is being made in the Grande Loge Nationale Francaise (GLNF). New elections were held last fall resulting in the installation of Jean-Pierre Servel as grand master. Civil authorities have relinquished control back to the grand lodge.

It is the opinion of this committee that upon the election of the new grand master, the Grand Loge Nationale Francaise is correcting the problems incurred. Therefore this committee proposes that we take no action.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas W. Gregory, PGM, Fraternal Correspondent

Petitions for Restoration

JBP (Docket no. 670), formerly a member of Goldsboro Lodge No. 634, Goldsboro, was expelled for un-Masonic conduct on December 7, 1998. He has filed for restoration with the grand secretary on February 21, 2013.

JWP III (Docket no. 745), formerly a member of Warsaw Lodge No. 677, Warsaw, was expelled for un-Masonic conduct on November 14, 2005. He has filed for restoration with the lodge on May 4, 2013 and with the grand secretary on June 19, 2013.

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 January 13, 2013 and with the grand secretary on January 24, 2013.

JRF (Docket no. 831), formerly a member of Lebanon Lodge No. 391, Fayetteville, was expelled on November 10, 2011. He has filed for restoration with the lodge on June 1, 2013 and with the grand secretary on June 4, 2013.

MTL III (Docket no. 832), formerly a member of Fort Bragg Lodge No. 667, was expelled for un-Masonic conduct on November 10, 2011. He has filed for restoration with the lodge on June 19, 2013 and with the grand secretary on July 16, 2013.

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 2012. This is prepared and most respectfully submitted for your information and disposition.

1. Docket No. 841, 30 November 2012 – Worshipful Brother JT, a Master Mason and member of Wake Forest Lodge No. 282 was expelled by the Trial Commission for un-Masonic conduct involving disrespectful acts and statements directed at the Grand Lodge and the Grand Master. JT pleaded not guilty and his case was heard before a Trial Commission. Jimmie Hicks served as acting judge advocate for this case.

2. Docket No. 842, 28 January 2013 – DBD, a Master Mason and member of Gaston Lodge No. 263 was expelled by the Trial Commission for un-Masonic conduct involving inappropriate sexual comments he made to the wives and daughters of brother Master Masons. DBD had been previously warned about such conduct. He submitted a handwritten statement, but failed to appear at his Masonic trial.

3. Docket No. 843, 19 November 2012 – Brother EMB, a Master Mason and member of Biltmore Lodge No. 446 was expelled by the judge advocate for un-Masonic conduct after he was convicted in the Superior Court of Buncombe County for involuntary manslaughter, a felony. EWB did not answer the Masonic charges against him.

4. Docket No. 844, 4 April 2013 – JTM, a Master Mason and member of Franklinton Lodge No. 123 was charged with being convicted of a felony in the Superior Court of Franklin County. The judge advocate dismissed the case due to a technical and frivolous error made by the lodge in the original charge sheet. The judge advocate then filed new charges against JTM; please see Docket No. 848.

5. Docket No. 845, 9 April 2013 – JTK, a Master Mason and member of Royal Hart Lodge No. 497 was expelled by the judge advocate after he pleaded guilty to federal charges of illegally distributing a Schedule III controlled substance. This would be a felony in the state courts of North Carolina. JTK did not answer the Masonic Charges.

6. Docket No. 846, 13 March 2013 – REM, a Master Mason and member of Clay Lodge No. 301 was expelled by the judge advocate after he was found guilty in the Superior Court of Clay County of First Degree Sex Offense with a Child and Indecent Liberties with a Child, both felonies in the state of North Carolina. REM did not answer the Masonic charges against him. He appealed his criminal conviction, but is currently incarcerated in Raleigh's Central Prison.

7. Docket No. 847 17 April 2013 – DER, a Master Mason and member of Corinthian Lodge No. 230 was expelled by the judge advocate after he was found guilty of Felonious Larceny of a Motor Vehicle in the Superior Court of Johnston County. He did not answer the Masonic charges against him.

8. Docket No. 848 15 May 2013 – Brother JTM, a Master Mason and member of Franklinton Lodge No.123 was expelled by the judge advocate after he entered a plea of no contest and was convicted of a Felonious Sex Offense in the Superior Court of Franklin County. He did not answer this Masonic charge against him. Please see Docket No. 844.

9. Docket No. 849 22 May 2013 – CAO Jr., a Master Mason and member of Oak Island Lodge No. 758 was expelled by the judge advocate after he was convicted in the Superior Court of Brunswick County for felony drug trafficking on 11 May 2012. He did not answer the Masonic charges against him.

10. Docket No. 850 4 June 2013 - DPC, a Master Mason and member of Bula Lodge No. 409, was expelled by the judge advocate for engaging in illegal carnal communication with a Brother Master Mason's wife. DPC did not answer the Masonic charges lodged against him.

11. Docket No. 851 26 June 2013 – Brother JKR, a Master Mason and member of Mosaic Lodge No. 762 received a reprimand from the Trial Commission after admitting un-Masonic conduct at his place of business some years previously.

12. Docket No. 852 24 June 2013 – MMM, a Master Mason and member of Hiram Lodge No. 40 was summarily expelled by the grand master for un-Masonic Conduct involving mismanagement of funds belonging to the Raleigh Masonic Temple. The grand master duly summoned MMM to a summary trial, but he failed to appear.

13. Docket No. 853 2 July 2013 – WCG, a Master Mason and member of Cherryville Lodge No. 505 was expelled by the judge advocate after he pleaded guilty to conspiracy and extortion in Federal Court on 3 January 2013. WCG did not answer the Masonic charges against him.

14. Docket No. 854 2 July 2013 – FLD, a Master Mason and member of Cherryville Lodge No.505 was expelled by the judge advocate after he pleaded guilty to conspiracy, extortion (two counts), and money laundering in Federal Court on 31 January 2013. FLD did not answer the Masonic charges against him.

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 2012–2013. They are listed in lodge order.

St. John's 1		complete revision of bylaws
Eagle 19	Art 10	dues increased to \$100
Phalanx 31	Art 10	dues increased to \$65 plus per capita
	Art 16	establishing five trustees of the lodge
Stokes 32	Art 9	initiation fees increased to \$150
	Art 10	dues increased to \$100 plus per capita
Hiram 40		complete revision of bylaws
Hall 53	Art 8	changing meeting times
Zion 81	Art 10	dues increased to \$58 plus per capita
	Art 11	affiliation fee increased to \$25
	Art 13	charity fee increased to \$250
Orr 104	Art 9	Initiation fees increased to \$100
	Art 10	dues increased to \$85
	Art 11	affiliation fee increased to \$25
	Art 14	reporting requirement for Finance and Budget
	Art 19	institute special ballot procedures
Mt. Hermon 118	Art 9	initiation fees increased to \$125
	Art 10	dues increased to \$115 plus per capita
	Art 11	affiliation fee increased to \$50
Oxford 122		complete revision of bylaws
Gatesville 126	Art 8	change meetings to twice monthly; annual meeting in November
Blackmer 127	Art 8	annual meeting in December
Mocksville 134	Art 19	institute special ballot procedures
Leaksville 136		complete revision of bylaws
Pee Dee 150	Art 8	annual meeting in December
	Art 13	charity fee increased to \$100
Yadkin 162	Art 10	dues increased to \$100
Winston 167		complete revision of bylaws
Blackmer 170	Art 8	annual meeting in November
Carthage 181		complete revision of bylaws
	Art 8	annual meeting in December
	Art 9	initiation fees increased to \$135 plus background fee
	Art 19	Treasurer, Secretary and Master exempt from lodge dues during year served

William T. Bain 231	Art 9	Initiation fees increased to \$110 plus background fee
Excelsior 261	Art 9	initiation fees increased to \$200 plus background fee
Rehoboth 279	Art 8	change meeting night
Eureka 283	Art 10	dues increased to \$100
Clay 301	Art 19	institute special ballot procedures
Eureka 317	Art 8	meeting time changed to 7:00 P.M.
	Art 13	charity fee increased to \$500
Wilmington 319		complete revision of bylaws
Bayboro 331	Art 10	dues increased to \$100 plus per capita
Mt. Vernon 359	Art 10	dues increased to \$85
Youngsville 377		complete revision of bylaws
Coharie 379	Art 8	change meetings to twice monthly
Granville 380	Art 9	initiation fees increased to \$120 plus background check
Jefferson Penn 384	Art 8	annual meeting in November
	Art 13	charity fee increased to \$500
	Art 16	election of trustees
Kedron 387	Art 8	one communication in September
Copeland 390	Art 10	dues increased to \$80 plus per capita
University 408		complete revision of bylaws
	Art 8	change meeting time to 7:00 P.M.
	Art 19	declaration for members
James A. Johnson 413	Art 10	dues increased to \$83 plus per capita
Stokesdale 428		complete revision of bylaws
Blue Ridge 435	Art 10	dues increased to \$30
Marietta 444		complete revision of bylaws
Enfield 447	Art 10	dues increased to \$33 plus per capita
Elkin 454	Art 11	affiliation fee increased to \$25
	Art 19	institute special ballot procedures
Cliffside 460	Art 19	miscellaneous provisions
Grassy Knob 471	Art 10	dues increased to \$100
Rainbow 479	Art 10	dues increased to \$75
Thomas M. Holt 492	Art 13	charity fee increased to \$100
Pilot 493	Art 19	institute special ballot procedures
Rockingham 495	Art 10	dues increased to \$80
Mooreville 496	Art 8	change meeting time
Whetstone 515	Art 19	scholarship provisions
Manteo 521	Art 10	dues increased to \$76
Revolution 552		complete revision of bylaws

Andrew Jackson 576	Art 5	additional duties of treasurer
	Art 6	additional duties of secretary
Riverside 606		complete revision of bylaws
Goldsboro 634	Art 10	dues increased to \$100
Fort Bragg 667		complete revision of bylaws
Temple 676	Art 10	dues increased to \$80
	Art 19	description of past master's jewel
Rolesville 683		complete revision of bylaws
Renfro 691	Art 8	meeting time changed to 7:00 P.M.
Charles M. Setzer 693	Art 10	dues increased to \$70 plus per capita
Garner 701	Art 9	Initiation fees increased to \$100 plus background fee
Forsyth 707	Art 8	change meeting date and location
Advance 710	Art 9	initiation fees increased to \$200
	Art 10	dues increased to \$85
Horse Creek 719	Art 8	annual meeting in November
Berne 724	Art 10	dues increased to \$50 plus per capita
Grantham 725	Art 10	dues increased to \$80 plus per capita
Bush Hill 732	Art 9	initiation fees increased to \$200
	Art 10	dues increased to \$75
Steele Creek 737	Art 19	institute special ballot procedures
Crissie Wright 741	Art 8	annual meeting in November
	Art 10	dues increased to \$68 plus per capita
	Art 11	affiliation fee increased to \$25
P. P. Turner 746	Art 11	affiliation fee increased to \$34
	Art 19	institute special ballot procedures
Mosaic 762	Art 10	dues increased to \$70 plus per capita

Respectfully submitted,
T. Walton Clapp III, Chairman

Report of the Grand Lodge Committee on WhiteStone

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

It is my pleasure to present the Annual Report of WhiteStone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Community to the 2013 Annual Communication. WhiteStone's celebration of its 100th Anniversary is a great moment for our fraternity. With this report the Committee was charged with the task of updating the Grand Lodge on how we stand in Greensboro as we start our second century of service. We report with pride the tremendous success of WhiteStone.

This report was prepared after a thorough review of various documents and reports, meetings with Executive Director Mark Kolada and the Chairman of WhiteStone, and a tour of the entire facility. We offer our thanks and gratitude to Mark Kolada for his assistance and excellent leadership. We also wish to thank the entire staff of WhiteStone.

Since 1913, longer than any other retirement community in North Carolina, WhiteStone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Community, has provided for our brothers and family members in need, a tradition that continues to this day. Since its humble beginning, our Home has come a long way. Initially serving a dozen residents on an annual budget of less than \$1,000 in its first year, today it serves over 300 residents with a budget of over \$12,000,000, thanks to the ongoing support of Masons and Eastern Stars. Despite the numerous challenges through the past 100 years, the community has stood the test of time. Our founding Brothers would be very proud of what our Home has become today.

First, last July, WhiteStone officially opened its new Independent Living expansion of which we should all be extremely proud, and which has already garnered national recognition for its design. This past year marked a turning point in our strategic plans as we have increased our community capacity by almost 25%, adding 46 new one- and two-bedroom apartments to our campus. We've also invested in: renovating our common areas, which feature a beautiful dining room, where residents can share a meal with their neighbors; and renovating our clubhouse where visiting Masonic lodges can host meetings in our new fellowship hall, and attend a painting class in our arts and crafts room. Our residents may participate in a cookout in our beautiful new picnic shelter, continue their love of gardening in our new community garden, and spend time with their pets in a special park, unofficially but affectionately referred to as WoolStone. With these improvements and others such as our fitness center, bistro, and renovated rotunda, along with our rich history of quality and compassionate care, our fraternal retirement community compares favorably, if not better, with any similar facility in North Carolina. Life for our residents at WhiteStone is full and rich.

Over the past year, WhiteStone has welcomed over 70 new Independent Living residents. As a result our occupancy remains strong at a multiyear high of 95%+ and growing, and our new apartment complex is completely sold out six months ahead of initial projections. We have started a waiting list for those new apartments.

Other areas of our campus remain strong as well. Our Independent Living houses are 98% sold, with only one house currently available, our special care unit is 100% occupied, and our nursing home continues to operate at 95%+ census. Because of these strong numbers, our finances continue to be in the black, and our balance sheet continues to strengthen.

However, as the amount of our budget grows and the number of residents we serve increases, sadly the one area where we have seen a steady decline in recent years is the amount our charity is given.

Today we serve over 50 fraternally related residents (down from 60 the previous year) with financial assistance each year, which assistance helps provide for room and board, medical expenses, doctor fees, and other things that our fraternal residents cannot afford to pay for by themselves. We as Masons and Eastern Stars stepped up and make sure those obligations were paid.

Last year we provided \$1,300,000 in charity. However, we only received \$1,000,000 in total donations, of which \$419,000 came from Masonic based support. While we are extremely grateful for your amazing generosity, we continue to need your help to allow us to do more charity not less.

The reality is that there are so many more Masonic and Eastern Star

members whose needs are going unmet and need our help. We know that our fraternity is growing older and that there will continue to be an overwhelming demand for our services and charity in the years ahead. We have the space, we have the people, but we continue to need your financial support. You will ultimately decide whether we continue to live up to our fraternal obligation for another 100 years.

Masonic Charity	FY 2012	FY 2011	FY 2010
Blue Lodge Donations	\$ 268,233	\$243,250	\$284,576
NC Masonic Foundation	\$ 34,155	\$ 95,271	\$157,346
NC Masonic and Eastern Star Home Foundation LLC*	\$ 98,092	—	—
Grand Lodge	\$ 17,500	\$ 14,715	\$ 22,335

In order to help with this goal of increasing our charity in 2013, we have established a new foundation called the NC Masonic and Eastern Star Home Foundation LLC, the primary purposes of which are to: (1) collect fraternal donations, administer the charity to fraternally related residents at the community, and ensure that 100% of every fraternal dollar donated goes to those fraternal residents in need, and (2) help increase giving in the coming years so we can get back to expanding our charity. We encourage all Masonic lodges, foundations, trusts, estates, and fraternal members to begin the process of sending their contributions to this new LLC. One of the goals of this new foundation is to be able to get back to the original promise of which our community was built — that every Mason and Eastern Star, regardless of their ability to pay, can receive financial assistance to assist in their admission in to WhiteStone.

To help achieve this goal, the Board of Directors of WhiteStone is pleased to make two exciting announcements in this report.

The first announcement is that WhiteStone, along with the Foundation LLC, have developed a brick fundraiser to celebrate our 100th Anniversary, which will help raise funds for fraternal resident scholarships for those Sisters and Brothers who do not have the financial means to pay the full entrance fee for admission into WhiteStone. The Board of Directors extend special gratitude to the members of the North Carolina Masonic Foundation, who recently committed \$25,000 to help kick off this special fundraiser. Now it is your turn, as an individual, a lodge, and a district, you can show your support for our beloved charity and give a brother an opportunity to move to this great retirement home. Order forms were mailed to each lodge's secretary in July, and can also be obtained by calling WhiteStone or going online at www.brickmarkers.com/donors/whitestone.html. For as little as a \$100, you have the direct opportunity to help us expand our charity.

The second announcement, is that the Board of Directors, along with the Foundation LLC, have agreed to test a pilot project, whereby we will soon be making available to any Masonic or Eastern Star member regardless of their ability to pay the full entrance fees and/or monthly fee, five studio rooms and one bedroom apartment in our Bennett Building. What this means is that after several years of a hiatus on admitting charity, we are getting back to providing charity to those that need it on the front end. This means that a member no longer has to believe that "I will never be able to move to WhiteStone because I can't afford it," or that the Home has turned into only a place "for those with

money.” This is a key turning point in the future of our charity, but in order to make it work, we ask for your continued support of the Grand Lodge, the NC Masonic Foundation, and for your support of our brick fundraiser to make this plan a reality. Stay tuned for further details on how you or someone in your lodge can apply to be a part of this charitable program.

In closing we encourage all Masons to stop by for a tour of our beloved community in Greensboro to see our charitable dollars at work, and to see first hand the dramatic improvements made.

May the Great Architect of the Universe bless us as we continue to give our best!

Respectfully submitted,
Jimmie B. Hicks Jr., Junior Grand Deacon, Chairman

Report of the Grand Lodge Committee on MHCO

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

When the Lord showed Amos the plumb line, the issue was measuring up. The prophet was called to speak to the degree in which God’s people were doing what they were supposed to be doing. The plumb line is one of our most vivid images in freemasonry. So are annual reports. How are we doing at the Masonic Home FOR Children at Oxford?

This year, our Executive Director Kevin Otis has not only led us in a most excellent first year on the job, but he has also become truly one of us. His complete commitment is evident, not only by having been raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason in June 2013, but also by all he brings the care and support of the children we serve.

There is a great difference between caring ABOUT children and caring FOR them. The plumb line in Oxford is all about caring for the children. It is hands on. It is 24/7. It is intense and rewarding. It is what God’s people called Masons do.

From the Website anyone can read these words:

MHCO exists for one purpose — to help children who need a stable, caring and loving home. We do not replace a family — we provide. We teach, guide, nurture, and share, focusing on life both at and after MHCO, so we can help a child determine his or her own path for the future. Our state licensed and nationally accredited home uses a family-living model that provides our children with individual living spaces, essentials needed for daily living, support if they have special needs, and a promise for full development and learning, from infant to young adulthood.

The Masonic Home for Children assists families in need by providing a home-like setting together with community based programs and services for children to enhance its stable, supportive, and nurturing living environment in order for children to reunite with their families or achieve independence.

We measure up very well in this regard. The cottages now replace the dormitory style living of the past and both the children we serve and the adults who live with them reflect it. It would be great if our children could all reunite with their families or achieve independence, but our role is clear. We provide

supportive and nurturing living environments until those days arrive. Our capacity right now for providing care is 96 with an additional 18 in our Independent Living Program, for young adults ages 18 to 24 who have graduated from high school or an equivalency program. The current census at the time of this report is 61. It costs \$ 130.35 per day per child including all direct care expenses to do this.

The Masonic Home FOR Children at Oxford is blessed with a professional and caring staff that helps moderate risk children in need of alternative living so that emotional, physical, spiritual, and social development of said children and their families can benefit the same way. The academic support and vocational training we offer helps produce citizens who are able to grow, thrive, serve, and give back to the community in which they live as adults.

This year, there were five students who graduated high school and thirteen who attended some form of secondary education, including two young men, one who graduated from college and another scheduled to graduate from college in the fall of 2013. These young adults gathered with members of the Board of Directors and Grand Lodge line officers for a dinner as they prepared to graduate from their high school or as they continued the secondary education in college. They spoke about their plans, their futures, and what part our Home played in that future. What a blessing it was to see these young men and women and how they were measuring up so well!

The Board of Directors, staff, employees, and leadership of the Masonic Home FOR Children at Oxford provide and promote a standard of excellence worthy of all commendation we might afford them. They measure up well.

Being both a pastor and a Mason, the image of the plumb line from Amos 7 is an image that cannot be passed by for this report.

And the Lord said unto me, Amos, what seest thou? And I said, "A plumb line." Then said the Lord, Behold, I will set a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel: I will not again pass by them any more:

We have all heard these words at least once in our life. How are we measuring up?

We had 370 lodges represented in contributions which totaled \$ 1,704,004.06 ranging from \$10 to \$375,000 per lodge or per member. These contributions ranged from \$ 1.67 per member to over two million dollars for a single gift. Every gift matters because caring about children will never measure up to what it takes to care FOR them.

Here are three challenges.

First, every lodge in North Carolina will increase their giving to the Masonic Home FOR Children at Oxford. How many will do it?

Second, if there is a child in need of the services we provide in your area let us know. We will not be holding that plumb line. God will. We could; however, hold the plumb line to measure how many lodges will have a program or Masonic education about the Home FOR Children at Oxford. The truth is that if more people really knew the story about what is happening in Oxford, there would be even more support coming.

Third, the financial support for the Masonic Home FOR Children at Oxford is "backed by almost a century and a half of faith, concern, and the ability

to adapt to the changing needs of society and its children and families.”

Kevin Otis and Chris Richardson and all of the staff, employees, and children of the Masonic Home FOR Children at Oxford deserve our highest praise and commendation. Call them or better yet schedule a visit to Oxford and let them bless and impress you with the story of our work in Oxford.

Freemasons of North Carolina respond well when challenged. Consider a “new paradigm.” It costs \$47,577.75 to provide care for one child per year. There are two ways to look at this. First, \$13,072.52 per child is what we are providing right now. Second, if 40,000 Masons each gave annual support to the Masonic Home FOR Children at Oxford just totaling \$72.56 per year, we could provide for current census of 61 children. Daily, that translates to about \$0.20 per day per Mason in North Carolina. Twenty cents is just a “pair of dimes” a day! What a breakthrough this would be for the children of Oxford and the approach to charity within our lodges that would make a difference! Annual giving would go from \$1,704.004 to \$2,902,400 with this “new paradigm.”

In closing, I lift these words up from the homepage of the Masonic Home FOR Children at Oxford.

Is there anything more important than providing FOR a child? We're here so children in need have a chance to make their own consequences — to change their lives and their future, which affects all of us.

“Amos, what seest thou?”

May we see a breakthrough FOR the children!

Respectfully submitted,
A. Gene Cobb Jr., Senior Grand Deacon
Ray Hall
Sherrill Normann
Bill McIntosh
Jason Cooper

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 28, 2013, and,

Resolved further, That all resolutions, motions, and reports asking for or carrying appropriations and expenditures not included in the 2014 proposed budget, shall be placed before the Grand Lodge before 4:00 P.M. on Friday September 27, 2013, and,

Resolved further, That all such matters offered after 4:00 P.M. on Friday, September 27, 2013, be carried over to the next business communication of this Grand Lodge when the 2015 budget will be considered.

Respectfully submitted,
Grover Dees, Chairman

Resolution for Rehoboth Lodge 279 to Change Its Name and Location

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

WHEREAS: Rehoboth Lodge No. 279, AF & AM and Wallace Lodge No. 595, AF & AM have agreed to merge into one lodge and by rule become known as Rehoboth Lodge No. 279, and

WHEREAS: The consolidated lodge will meet in the lodge hall of Wallace Lodge No. 595, AF & AM in the town of Wallace, North Carolina, and

WHEREAS: Rehoboth Lodge No. 279 and Wallace Lodge No. 595 have approved by resolution to consolidate and change the name of the consolidated lodge to Wallace Lodge No. 279, AF & AM.

NOW; THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That Rehoboth Lodge No. 279, AF & AM, hereby petitions the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina to change the name of the consolidated lodge to read Wallace Lodge No. 279, AF & AM to be located in Wallace, North Carolina.

Respectfully submitted,
Rehoboth Lodge No. 279

Petition for Charter from Knights of Solomon UD

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

The subscribers hereto respectfully represent that, on the thirtieth day of May, CE 2013, AL 6013, a dispensation was issued by the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in North Carolina for the establishment of a new lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons, at Jacksonville in the County of Onslow, by the name of Knights of Solomon Lodge, and that said lodge has worked regularly since that time as appears from the transcript of its records, bylaws, and returns here with presented.

They, therefore, now pray that a charter be granted to the said lodge, with the following officers, to-wit: Brother Beau Anthony Brown, master; Denny Norris, senior warden; Joseph Lynn Houle, junior warden. And, they do promise, as heretofore, a strict conformity to the edicts of the grand master, and to the Constitution and laws of the Grand Lodge.

Respectfully submitted,
Members of Knights of Solomon UD

Resolution for French Broad Lodge 292 to Receive a Duplicate Charter

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

WHEREAS, French Broad Lodge No. 292, AF & AM is a regular lodge chartered December 7, 1869 by the Grand Lodge of North Carolina, and

WHEREAS, the chartered history of French Broad Lodge No. 292, AF & AM remains unbroken, and

WHEREAS, French Broad Lodge No. 292, AF & AM was in the process of making repairs to their charter for historical purposes, and

WHEREAS, the estimated cost of restoration is beyond the ability of the lodge, and

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

NOW THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED: French Broad Lodge No. 292, AF & AM hereby petitions the Grand Lodge of North Carolina for a duplicate charter. It also acknowledges that the original charter be found will be surrendered to the Grand Secretary's Office as required in Regulation 41-4.2.

Respectfully submitted,
John M. Henderson, Master
French Broad Lodge No. 292

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 Robert E. Gresham Jr., past grand master and Dewey R. Preslar Jr., grand master, are to be considered during this Annual Communication.

Gresham Order 2

It has been brought to my attention by the grand secretary's office that Home Lodge No. 613 elected Mr. MEF to receive the degrees at the stated communication held on October 11, 2012 and then conferred the Entered Apprentice Degree on him at the same stated communication (October 11, 2012), which is in violation of Regulation 71-22 of *The Code*.

Since the candidate was not responsible for this violation of the law of our Grand Lodge, I hereby order:

That Home Lodge No. 613 heal Entered Apprentice MEF at the first stated communication following receipt of this Order, as provided in Regulation 87-6. It shall be sufficient only to re-obligate these candidates in the first degree, in a lodge opened on that degree. After the candidate has been healed, he may then be advanced when prepared as required in Regulation 72-2.

This Order shall be read in the lodge at the first stated communication following its receipt, and it shall be made a part of the minutes of that meeting.

The lodge secretary shall report to the grand secretary within five days after the healing of this candidate that this Order has been complied with and the date thereof. This will be the date of his Entered Apprentice degree.

Given under my hand and seal at Mt. Gilead, North Carolina, this the 23rd of October 2012.

Preslar Order No. 1

It has been brought to my attention by the grand secretary's office that Mt. Lebanon Lodge No. 117 elected Lonnie Joe Fortson Jr. and William Keith Jett to receive the degrees at the stated communication held on April 15, 2013 and then conferred the Entered Apprentice Degree on him at the same stated communication (April 15, 2013), which is in violation of Regulation 71-22 of *The Code*.

Since the candidate was not responsible for this violation of the law of our Grand Lodge, I hereby order:

That Mt. Lebanon Lodge No. 117 heal Entered Apprentice Lonnie Joe Fortson Jr. and William Keith Jett at the first stated communication following receipt of this Order, as provided in Regulation 87-6. It shall be sufficient

only to re-obligate this candidate in the first degree, in a lodge opened on that degree. After the candidate has been healed, he may then be advanced when prepared as required in Regulation 72-2.

This Order shall be read in the lodge at the first stated communication following its receipt, and it shall be made a part of the minutes of that meeting.

The lodge secretary shall report to the grand secretary within five days after the healing of this candidate that this Order has been complied with and the date thereof.

Given under my hand and seal at Salisbury, North Carolina, this the 22nd of April, 2013.

Preslar Order No. 2

It has been brought to my attention by the Grand Secretary's Office that Scott James Stewart, Master of Nichols-West Asheville Lodge No. 650 has moved, leaving no contact information. The lodge officers have attempted to contact WB Stewart, but to no avail. Further, the minutes of the lodge indicate that WB Stewart has failed to attend or preside at any stated or emergent communications of the lodge since March 18, 2013. Nichols-West Asheville Lodge No. 650 has requested that the Grand Master intervene due to failure of the master to fulfill his obligations.

Regulation 58-1 provides that "If in the judgment of the Grand Master, any officer of a lodge is guilty of neglect or serious or flagrant omission in the performance of his official duties, the Grand Master, should he deem it to be for the good of Masonry, may suspend the offending brother from his office." Based on the information provided, it is the opinion of the Grand Master that WB Stewart has seriously failed to perform the official duties of his office.

Based on the foregoing, I hereby enter the following Order:

1. That, for the good of Masonry, WB Scott James Stewart should be and is hereby suspended from the office of master of Nichols-West Asheville Lodge No. 650 and the position of master is hereby declared vacant.

2. That I direct that the secretary of Nichols-West Asheville Lodge No. 650 mail a copy of this Order is to WB Stewart at his last known address officially notifying him of the actions taken herein.

3. That this Order shall be read in lodge at the first stated communication following the receipt hereof and it shall be made a part of the minutes of that meeting.

Further, I have enclosed a dispensation authorizing Nichols-West Asheville Lodge No 650 to hold an election for a new master at its next stated communication on July 15, 2013. Installation of the master-elect should be held immediately thereafter.

Given under my hand and seal at Salisbury, North Carolina, this the 21st day of June, 2013.

Preslar Order No. 3

The Grand Master of Masons of North Carolina, having issued a Complaint for the Summary Trial and Notice to the Accused to Brother MMM for un-Masonic conduct pursuant to Regulation 91-13 of *The Code*, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A, hereby enters the following Judgment and Order:

1. Brother MMM was a Master Mason and a member of Hiram Lodge No. 40, AF & AM, located at 1520 Caswell Street, Raleigh, North Carolina, and his present address is xxxxxx, xxxxxx, North Carolina.

2. At a time when he was a member of the Board of Directors of the Raleigh Masonic Temple, Brother MMM used funds from the accounts of the Temple to create a nonprofit corporation entitled Wakestone Foundation, Inc., the purpose of which was to raise money for the Temple.

3. The actions taken by Brother MMM to create Wakestone Foundation with Temple funds were done without the knowledge, review, permission, consent, or approval of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina or any Committee or Board thereof.

4. Brother MMM also created a website entitled "wakestonefoundation.org" to solicit donations through the internet, allegedly for the benefit of the Temple.

5. Brother MMM leased the Temple to a third party, personally received the rental payment and never gave these funds to the Temple.

6. The Temple Board requested that Brother MMM provide an accounting of all Temple funds he used, an accounting of all funds he received for leasing the Temple, as well as an accounting of all funds raised by Wakestone Foundation.

7. Brother MMM has failed and refused to provide any accounting.

8. On October 1, 2012, the Most Worshipful, Robert E. Gresham, Grand Master of Masons of North Carolina, directed Brother MMM to deliver to the Grand Secretary all records pertaining to Wakestone Foundation. The Grand Master's directive requested "all articles of incorporation of Wakestone Foundation, all correspondence with any attorney or other individual regarding the creation of Wakestone Foundation, all by-laws or other operating documents of Wakestone Foundation, a list of all directors and officers of Wakestone Foundation, all minutes of each and every meeting of the officers and/or board members of Wakestone Foundation, all correspondence to or from Wakestone Foundation, including electronic correspondence, all bank statements, checkbooks and account ledgers for any current or past accounts of Wakestone Foundation, all state and federal tax returns filed on behalf of Wakestone Foundation, an itemized list of all gifts or donations made to or received by anyone on behalf of Wakestone Foundation, all applications to and determination letters from the Internal Revenue Service granting Wakestone Foundation tax exempt status and/or authorizing Wakestone Foundation to accept gifts and donations which are tax deductible, all web site information of Wakestone Foundation, as well as any other documents and records of any kind or nature pertaining to Wakestone Foundation."

9. Brother MMM failed and refused to comply with the directive of Grand Master Gresham.

10. More than 60 days passed since the actions and conduct of Brother MMM began and, because no action of the Judge Advocate was pending, this matter was proper for Summary Trial by the Grand Master pursuant to Regulation 91-13 of *The Code*.

11. A Complaint for un-Masonic Conduct and Notice to the Accused was served upon Brother MMM by the Grand Secretary on the 15th day of May, 2013.

12. More than 20 days have elapsed and Brother MMM has failed and refused to answer the charges and specifications contained in the Compliant and, as such, each and every charge and specification is deemed to be true and admitted pursuant to Regulation 91-10.1 of *The Code*.

THEREFORE, THE GRAND MASTER OF MASONS OF NORTH CAROLINA enters the following judgment:

- A. As to Specification 1, Brother MMM is GUILTY as charged.
- B. As to Specification 2, Brother MMM is GUILTY as charged.
- C. As to Specification 3, Brother MMM is GUILTY as charged.
- D. As to Specification 4, Brother MMM is GUILTY as charged.

FURTHER, THE GRAND MASTER OF MASONS OF NORTH CAROLINA imposes the following penalty:

Brother MMM is hereby expelled from the fraternity.

Issued under my hand and official seal this the 24th day of June, 2013.

Amendment Group 1

The following amendments have been proposed by the Grand Secretary

This group closes the loophole whereby purchasers of endowed memberships buy them at bargain rates rather than at the increased dues rate.

REG. 77-25 ENDOWED MEMBERSHIPS.

The minimum payment for an endowed membership shall be twenty-one (21) times the annual dues of the applying member's subordinate lodge effective on January 1st following on the date of the application.

...

5. The endowed membership fee may be paid in five (5) equal annual installments.

A. The annual installment shall be 5.25 times the annual lodge dues effective on January 1st following the date ~~at the time~~ of application.

Amendment Group 2

The following amendments have been proposed by the Finance Committee.

This group would raise the per capita rate owed to Grand Lodge to \$20 from its current \$17. Per capita pays for the operation of Grand Lodge and was last approved in 2008.

REG. 20-1 ESTABLISHED.

Each lodge, including lodges under dispensation, shall pay annually to the Grand Secretary, for the use of the Grand Lodge, the sums hereinafter specified.

1. The sum of twenty ~~seventeen~~ dollars for each member of the lodge at low twelve on December thirty-first. A lodge shall be exempt from the payment of the annual assessment to the Grand Lodge for any member who has received either the Fifty-Year or Sixty-Year Service

Award and any member of a lodge whose dues have been remitted under Reg. 77-14.2. [5-1.1; 20-1; 81-1; 81-7]. (last amended 2008)

Amendment Group 3

The following amendments have been proposed by the Raleigh Lodge 500.

This would allow limited use of alcohol in lodge facilities by non-Masonic renters. No alcohol would be allowed in the lodge room under any circumstances. A substitute amendment is being suggested by the Code Commission.

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 who provide alcoholic beverages to be consumed in accordance with the laws of the State of North Carolina.

Amendment Group 4

The following amendments have been proposed by Montgomery Lodge 426 and Robbinsville 672.

This group would allow DDGMs to purchase their aprons after concluding service.

REG. 89-7 DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER.

The jewel of a District Deputy Grand Master shall be made of gold or a metal of like color, the design is illustrated in Regulation 89-7. The apron of a District Deputy Grand Master shall be the same as of a Past Master except the Past Master's emblem on the body of the apron of a District Deputy Grand Master shall be three-fourths enclosed in a wreath; and instead of the All Seeing Eye on the flap, there shall be the number designating his district. All trimming, lining, or embroidery shall be in royal blue. The design of the apron and jewel and emblem of a District Deputy Grand Master shall be as follows:

(Pictures are found in Appendix B)

1. Past District Deputy Grand Masters [Reg. 26-6] at their option may purchase through the Grand Lodge an apron signifying their status as a Past District

Deputy Grand Master. It shall be the same as of a District Deputy Grand Master apron with the addition of the following: The blue border of the flap shall contain PAST and DDGM so situated that they appear on opposite sides of the flap and clearly visible. Beneath the emblem, along the lower border shall be printed the years of service, beginning with the first year, omitting the subsequent years, and ending with the third year. The first and third year shall be separated by a hyphen symbol. Such apron may be worn by those entitled and qualified. Lettering along the flap and lower border shall be white in color.

2 Any immediate Past District Deputy Grand Master [Reg. 26-6], at the end of his term shall have the option to purchase from the Grand Lodge the apron he has worn during his tenure for the replacement cost of a new apron. The apron shall be returned to the manufacturer for the purpose of meeting the design requirements in section 1 of this provision to THE CODE. Cost for such reconfiguration shall be at the expense of the Past District Deputy Grand Master making the request. Such request must be made and paid in full at, or 30 days prior to the Grand Lodge Annual Communication in which the title of Past District Deputy Grand Master is bestowed. If such request is made, the Grand Secretary shall take possession of the apron immediately after the Annual Communication has closed. Such apron may be worn by those entitled and qualified.

Amendment Group 5

The following amendments have been proposed by Montgomery Lodge 426 and Robbinsville 672.

This group would allow DDGLs to purchase their aprons after concluding service.

REG. 89-8 DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND LECTURER.

The jewel of a District Deputy Grand Lecturer shall be made of gold or a metal of like color, the design as illustrated in Regulation 89-8. The apron of a District Deputy Grand Lecturer shall be made of white lambskin, leather or cloth with all the cords, lining, borders and tabs of royal blue. A scroll enclosed in a blue field and encircled by a white border on the body, and there shall be the number designating the district embroidered on the flap. The design of the apron and jewel and emblem of a District Deputy Grand Lecturer shall be as follows:

(Pictures are found in Appendix B)

1. Past District Deputy Grand Lecturers [Reg. 29-9 Section 10] at their option may purchase through the Grand Lodge an apron signifying their status as a Past District Deputy Grand Lecturer. It shall be the same as of a District Deputy Grand Lecturer apron with the addition of the following: The blue border of the flap shall contain PAST and DDGL so situated that they appear on opposite sides of the flap and clearly visible. Beneath the emblem, along the lower border shall be printed the years of service, beginning with the first year, omitting the subsequent years, and ending with the third year. The first and third year shall be separated by a hyphen symbol. Such apron may be worn by those entitled and qualified. Lettering along the flap and lower border shall be white in color.

2. Any immediate Past District Deputy Grand Lecturer [Reg. 26-6], at the end of his term shall have the option to purchase from the Grand Lodge the apron he has worn during his tenure for the replacement cost of a new apron. The apron shall be returned to the manufacturer for the purpose of meeting the design requirements in section 1 of this provision to THE CODE. Cost for such reconfiguration shall be at the expense of the Past District Deputy Grand Lecturer making the request. Such request must be made and paid in full at or 30 days prior to the Grand Lodge Annual Communication in which the title of Past District Grand Lecturer is bestowed. If such request is made, the Grand Secretary shall take possession of the apron immediately after the Annual Communication has closed. Such apron may be worn by those entitled and qualified.

Amendment Group 6

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

This group would affect the election of Life Members of a lodge. It would change the ballot requirement from unanimous to no more than three black cubes. Life Members, when elected, are excused from paying dues to the lodge.

REG. 44-7

Article 19

Third Alternative Form

SECTION—

When voting upon issues requiring the use of the ballot box, except for Life membership under Reg. 79-2 (Petitions for the Degrees, Applications for Affiliation, Honorary or ~~Life~~-Memberships), if one black cube is found on the examination of the ballot, the Master shall destroy the ballot and require the members to ballot again, cautioning them that white balls elect, and black cubes reject and reminding them to vote for the good of masonry. If a single black cube is found after the second ballot, the Master shall not immediately announce the result, but shall require the person casting the black cube to communicate his reason for the negative vote to the Master, who shall keep the identity of the person making the objection in strictest confidence. At the next stated meeting, the Master shall reveal the reason given for the negative vote, but not the identity of the member casting the black cube. The Master will then ask the lodge to vote, by a show of hands, on the validity of the reason for the black cube. The majority vote shall govern whether the candidate is elected.

If the brother casting the black cube does not present his reasons to the Master within one week, the Master shall, at the next stated communication, declare the candidate elected and the lodge shall proceed as if there had been no black cube cast. (The article amended, effective 1/1/2009.)

REG. 68-3 PROCEDURE. After the reports of the Grand Secretary and the Committee of Investigation have been received the ballot shall be taken as follows, except as otherwise provided to life membership under 79-2.

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 ballot. A brother shall be deemed elected unless the ballot contains more than three black cubes, and unanimous ballot at a stated communication. [Official Form 45].

Amendment Group 7

The following amendment has been proposed by Balfour Lodge 188.

This group would set the minimum dues for all lodges to \$200.

REG. 77-1 MINIMUM DUES.

Each lodge shall ~~fix in its by-laws and shall~~ collect such annual dues from its membership as may be necessary to enable it to maintain itself and discharge all of its duties and obligations, which sum shall not be less than \$200. [5-2.2].

Amendment Group 8

The following amendments has been proposed by Robert E. Gresham Jr, PGM.

This group is a straw vote only. It will not change The Code. Many grand lodges conduct lodge business in the First Degree. It has been proposed to allow our lodges to do that in order to be more inclusive of men going through the degrees. Making such a change would require a great deal of work on the many places affected in The Code. A straw vote will help gauge the interest level within the Grand Lodge before investing so many hours. If interest is high work will begin on the changes needed to allow First Degree business sessions for lodges. When completed, those changes would be brought before Annual Communication to be accepted or rejected for The Code.

Opening a lodge on the first degree for business.

The Code Commission has returned this amendment group for further guidance.

Amendment Group 9

The following amendments have been proposed by Robert E. Gresham Jr, PGM

This group would define the disposal of any Masonic property of defunct Masonic corporations to be the same as extinct lodges.

...

REG 31-5 JOINT ENTERPRISES AND BUILDING CORPORATIONS. Any joint enterprise or building corporation, whether approved prior to formation as required by Reg 43-8.1.F or commenced without such approval shall be subject to the rules and regulations of the Grand Lodge and the Lodge Service Commission.

1. The assets of a defunct joint enterprise or building corporation shall be applied to the payment of its just debts. [Reg 49-7.8]
2. If any remain after the just debts of the defunct joint enterprise or building corporation are paid the balance shall be transferred to the North Carolina Masonic Foundation, Inc. or another Masonic Charity approved by the Lodge Service Commission. [Reg 49-7.9]

Amendment Group 10

The following amendments have been proposed by the North Carolina Masonic Foundation, Inc.

This group would define the nominations to the NC Masonic Foundation Board, Inc. to better protect the charity and the Grand Lodge. Included here are the proposed changes to The Code as well as the matching changes to the bylaws of the North Carolina Masonic Foundation.

REG. 35-1 BOARD OF DIRECTORS. The North Carolina Masonic Foundation, Incorporated, a corporation under the laws of the State of North Carolina, shall be managed by a board of five directors elected, as provided in its charter, by the Grand Lodge:

- ~~1. The period of service of the members of this board is arranged in such manner that the term of one of them expires at each successive annual communication, at which time the Grand Lodge shall elect his successor for a term of five years. Each director shall continue to serve until his successor shall have been elected and shall have assumed his duties as a director.~~
- ~~2. Each director shall be and remain a resident of the State of North Carolina and a member in good standing in a subordinate lodge holding charter under the Grand Lodge. Removal from the State of North Carolina or ceasing to be a member in good and regular standing in a subordinate lodge shall be equivalent to resignation from the Board of Directors. [27-6].~~
- ~~3. Any vacancy on the Board of Directors shall be filled by appointment of the Grand Master until the next regular annual communication of the Grand Lodge at which time the Grand Lodge shall fill the vacancy for the unexpired term.~~
- ~~4. The Grand Lodge may at any time by a two-thirds majority vote declare vacant the office of any or all members of the Board of Directors and~~

~~may elect successors to serve the unexpired term of any member whose office shall be declared vacant.~~

To read as follows:

REG. 35-1 BOARD OF DIRECTORS. The North Carolina Masonic Foundation, Incorporated, a corporation under the laws of the State of North Carolina, is managed by a board of five directors. As provided in its charter, the Grand Lodge, at each annual communication, shall nominate a director to succeed the director whose term will next expire and shall nominate a director to serve the remaining term of any director whose seat has become vacant for any reason. [27-4; 27-7; 21-5].

Proposed Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation of the North Carolina Masonic Foundation, Incorporated

The Board of Directors of The North Carolina Masonic Foundation, Incorporated, duly elected and serving as such, propose that the Grand Lodge of North Carolina, at its annual communication in September of 2013 approve certain changes to the Charter of The North Carolina Masonic Foundation, Incorporated as filed in the Office of the Secretary of State of North Carolina on January 16, 1929. The purpose of these changes is to conform the Charter of The North Carolina Masonic Foundation, Incorporated to changes in the Articles of Incorporation of the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford and incorporate specific reference to the Internal Revenue Code of the United States. Accordingly the Board of Directors of The North Carolina Masonic Foundation, Incorporated move the adoption by The Grand Lodge of North Carolina of the following Resolution previously adopted by the Board of Directors of The North Carolina Masonic Foundation, Incorporated.

Resolved that the section of the Charter of the North Carolina Masonic Foundation, Incorporated as filed in the Office of the Secretary of State of North Carolina on January 16, 1929 be beginning with the words "Third: The objects for which said Corporation is formed, are as follows" is hereby amended by adding there to the following section 5:

5. Notwithstanding any of the provisions of these Articles of Incorporation, the Corporation shall not conduct or carry on any activities not permitted to be conducted or carried on by an organization exempt under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code and its Regulations, or any future federal tax code, or by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code and its Regulations, or the corresponding provision of any future federal tax code.

Resolved that the section of the Charter of The North Carolina Masonic Foundation, Incorporated as filed in the Office of the Secretary of State of North Carolina on January 16, 1929 be beginning with the words "Fourth: Inasmuch as this Corporation has no capital stock" is hereby deleted and the following section Fourth is substituted therefor:

Fourth: Inasmuch as this Corporation has no capital stock, the Board of Directors shall govern this corporation in accordance with the following rules:

1. The Grand Lodge of North Carolina, A. F. & A. M. at each Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina, A. F. & A. M., shall

nominate one or more persons to serve on the Board of Directors as provided in the by-laws of the Corporation.

2. At the annual meeting of the Corporation, held in the month of January of each calendar year, the Board of Directors shall elect one or more persons to serve on the Board of Directors as provided in the by-laws of the Corporation.

3. The by-laws of the Corporation shall provide that the Corporation shall be governed by not less than five nor more than fifteen directors who shall serve staggered terms of five years.

4. The Board of Directors shall have the power and authority to make and establish such by-laws, rules and regulations for the government and conduct this Corporation as may seem proper and necessary, and as not in conflict with the Constitution and laws of this State and of the United States.

Report of the Representative to the George Washington Masonic Memorial Association

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

The George Washington Masonic National Memorial was built by a grateful fraternity to honor the memory of the father of our country.

Many of our lodges across this grand jurisdiction honor the memory of our Brother Washington by proudly displaying his portrait in their lodge buildings. Some lodges hold an annual special event to celebrate Brother Washington's birthday. The Association makes available on its website: <<http://gw-memorial.org>> a script for use by lodges and other Masonic bodies to honor Brother Washington's many virtues. Any lodge wishing to host an observance of Washington's birthday is encouraged to avail itself of this resource.

The 2013 Annual Meeting of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association was held in Kansas City, Missouri, on February 18, 2013. Our Grand Lodge was represented by Grand Master Preslar and a delegation from North Carolina.

The Memorial gladly accepts donations and is worthy of consideration when planning to make charitable gifts to Masonic organizations. The building is over 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 \$5.00 per initiate. It is recommended that the Grand Lodge of North Carolina remain a member of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association and continue to contribute \$5.00 per initiate annually.

Respectfully submitted,
Bryant D. Webster, JGW, 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 2013 North American Conference of Grand Masters in Kansas City Missouri. George O. Braatz, PGM, PGS Ohio was appointed executive secretary.

The MSA has three main functions which include: hospital visitation, disaster relief, and masonic information.

The hospital visitation program supports visits to our Masonic Brothers in Veterans Administration (VA) Hospitals. Grand Master Preslar visited all four North Carolina VA hospitals this year spending time with our infirm Brothers.

In the aftermath of super storm Sandy in October 2012 the MSA again answered the call of those in distress. The MSA donated \$250,000 to New Jersey and New York. North Carolina contributed \$5,000 towards this effort. Since 1923 over 9.5 million dollars in disaster relief has been distributed by the MSA.

The MSA continues the popular "Short Talk Bulletin" series which began

in 1923. The complete collection of these bulletins from 1923-2012 is now available for purchase. Please visit the MSA website <www.msana.com> for more educational information as well as more detailed descriptions of each of the many MSA programs.

Respectfully Submitted
Douglas Caudle

Report of the Code Commission

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

The Code Commission met by telephone on March 29, 2013 with quorum present. The Commission considered several proposed Code amendments, which have now been submitted for your consideration.

Amendment Group 1 was submitted by the grand secretary and makes a change to Regulation 77-25 on endowed membership. This change would set the amount for the minimum payment for an endowed membership, which would be based on the applying member's subordinate lodges annual dues, as they are in effect on January 1 following the date of the application.

The Grand Lodge Finance Committee also submitted an amendment to change Regulation 20-1 and raise the per capita paid to the Grand Lodge by \$3.00 per member, to \$20.00 from its current \$17.00. This amendment is set forth as Amendment Group 2.

Amendment Group 3, submitted by Raleigh Lodge No. 500, would allow limited use of alcohol for non-Masonic functions when lodge facilities are rented to outside groups. The amendment would change Regulation 43-3.

Amendment Group 4, submitted by Montgomery Lodge No. 426, would permit district deputy grand masters, at the conclusion of their term, to purchase through the Grand Lodge a "past District Deputy Grand Master's apron." The amendment also sets forth the specifications for the aprons.

Amendment Group 5, submitted by Montgomery Lodge No. 426 in Robbinsville 672, would also allow past District Deputy Grand Lecturer's to purchase past DDGL aprons in much the same manner as Amendment Group 4 would provide for past DDGMs.

Amendment Group 6, submitted by Steele Creek Lodge No. 737, would permit subordinate lodges to adopt in their bylaws a third alternative form to Article 19 (Chapter 44), and would change the manner of balloting on a brother for a lifetime membership. Under this amendment, a unanimous ballot would not be required for lifetime membership, and a member may be elected to lifetime membership if the ballot box contains no more than three black cubes. Although all of Article 19's third alternative form is set forth on the Amendment Group 6, this amendment would only affect the balloting provisions for life membership.

Amendment Group 7, submitted by Balfour Lodge No. 188, would fix the minimum annual dues for subordinate lodges at \$200.

Amendment Group 8 was submitted by past Grand Master Robert E. Gresham Jr., and it was decided to put the matter before the Grand Lodge in the form of a "straw vote." Initially, this amendment would have allowed subordinate lodges to conduct business in the first degree. However, such a change

would require a substantial rewrite of many Code provisions, and therefore, the Code Commission and the Grand Secretary felt it was in the best interest of the Grand Lodge to determine whether the Grand Lodge had any significant interest in making such a change before many hours were invested in going through *The Code* to make sure all of the necessary changes were before the Grand Lodge.

Amendment Group 9, also submitted by Past Grand Master Robert E. Gresham Jr., would make it clear that the assets of any defunct joint enterprise or building corporation, after the assets are applied to the payments of its just debts, will be paid to the North Carolina Masonic Foundation, Inc., or another Masonic charity approved by the Lodge Service Commission.

Finally, Amendment Group 10, submitted by the North Carolina Masonic Foundation, would make substantial changes to the appointment procedure appointing the Board of Directors for the North Carolina Masonic Foundation, Inc., under Regulation 351. This Amendment Group, however, was not considered at the meeting of the Code Commission.

Respectfully submitted,
C. David Creech, Chairman

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. You may also see our increasing reach into use of online media in additions to the Grand Lodge website <www.glncc.us>.

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>. If you enjoy the electronic version, please note the addition of a subscribe button. Click on it, enter your email address, and you will receive notification when each new edition of *The Mason* is added to the site.

New postal regulations brought changes in our format this year. The paper is shorter now and the newsprint quality is inferior to our preferences and previous issues. However, regulations are regulations, and these changes are

not elective. We hope you find the new format.

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:

The Masonic Education committee has spent the year working to redefine and develop the mission of committee. We have set goals and are working to complete them. Below, you will find a plan in place to benefit the fraternity.

1. We are going to develop a quarterly newsletter that will outline three Blue Lodge education programs for the lodges to use. The goal is to help enrich every stated communication and make the meetings more fulfilling.

2. To inform our Brothers of all of the materials available from the Grand Lodge. By providing an ordering sheet of the materials available, working with the grand secretary for the most effective way to accomplish this.

3. To communicate with the DDGMs and DDGLs to see what information is needed and address education concerns. This will be done through email and limited mailings.

4. The Masonic Education Committee is once again proud to support the Wardens Boot Camp and to fund these sessions. We also plan to help with two of the sessions.

We are excited about the direction of the Masonic Education Committee and hope to continue to give support to the Masons of North Carolina.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Cashion, Chairman

Report of Committee on Public Relations

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina

The Committee on Masonic Public Relations convened during the 2012 Annual Communication.

Discussions were had regarding updating the Grand Lodge's website to include a blog from the grand master. This proposed blog would serve as a primary communication tool for the grand master to communicate to the craft.

Additional discussions were had regarding the utilization of social media including Facebook. It was agreed that the Grand Lodge would explore creating a custom Facebook page that the GM could utilize on a frequent basis. This page would be developing so that it will be interchangeable with incoming grand masters in the future.

Grand Master Dewey Preslar made a request for the committee to develop communication/fundraising strategies for Oxford and Whitestone. The committee also discussed and agreed to explore ways that local lodges could interface with their communities to promote Masonry in a positive light.

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. They are active and growing.

The Rainbows in North Carolina are celebrating 76th year this year. Their Grand Assembly was started in 1937. They currently have twelve active assemblies. 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.

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.

There has been a group of majority members of Job's Daughter's in Charlotte, who are trying to organize, and bring Job's Daughter's back to North Carolina. It is very possible for the Grand Lodge to receive an official request for such in 2014.

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. They have grown to eleven. Chapters that have originated or been revived in 2012 are in Charlotte, Cliffside, Greensboro, Hickory, Fayetteville, Asheboro, Hayesville, and Winston Salem. These chapters continue to grow, and are working towards receiving their full charter. 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. NC DeMolay has had three years of positive growth 2011, 2012, and already in 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 Nathan Fontes and Derek Rains, are the brains behind this program. This program has been continued in 2013, and after a well received conclave at Camp Rainbow in August 2013, DeMolay expects to expand it in 2014.

DeMolay generally uses Grand Lodge funding for their youth representatives to attend the International Session, and to assist in subsidizing insurance charges from the international body. A significant amount toward 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 youth. This benefit is a welcome reward for participation in our youth fraternities. The subcommittee was appointed to evaluate to applications. 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 Stephanie Ryan from Jacksonville (also attending UNC/Chapel Hill). We look forward to the continuation of this program in 2014 and future years.

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 three-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 or-

ganizations 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.

- 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. This Grand Lodge 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,
Tony Glidewell, 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 2013 were: L. David Potts, grand lecturer; Michael F. Powell, chairman; Dwight M. Sigmon, secretary; Gilbert D. Bailey, assistant secretary; Keith B. Rash; Joseph K. Transou, and R. David Wicker Jr. Past Grand Master William

L. Dill served as liaison with the Board of General Purposes.

The Board of Custodians met regularly during the year, with meetings held on January 25, April 12, July 12, and September 26, 2013. Our January meeting was held via a conference call after two failed attempts to meet in person due to inclement weather. The fall meeting was scheduled to coincide with the Grand Lodge Annual Communication in Winston-Salem.

Certified brethren qualifying for the Laudamus Certificate in 2013 are: Raymond Francis Fulgaro, St. Alban's Lodge No. 114; Michael Thomas Klack, Creasy Proctor Lodge No. 679; Wilson Todd Lancaster, Biltmore Lodge No. 446; Philip Ray Mercer, Richlands Lodge No. 564; Richard Carroll Morris, Ocean Lodge No. 405; Dwight MacLauchlin Sigmon, Catawba Lodge No. 248; and David Hubert Troxell, Laurinburg Lodge No. 305.

District Deputy Grand Lecturers qualifying for the Past District Deputy Grand Lecturer Certificate in 2013 are: Hyler Wayne Cox, District 2; William Dennis Campbell, District 6; Dale Allen Krueger, District 7; John Robert Franks, District 10; Edward Earl Wells, District 11; Isaac Hubert Williamson Jr., District 13; Herbert Currie Lyon, District 19; Paul Francis Kelly, District 20; Murray Marrell Skeen, District 23; Phil Dennis McCraw, District 25; Wayne Ray Rummage, District 29; Michael Stephen Kerhoulis, District 33; and William Gary McKinney, District 36.

District deputy grand lecturers qualifying for the Past District Deputy Grand Lecturer Certificate in 2012 after the final 2012 Annual Report was submitted and having served extended years or less than three consecutive years were: Stewart Wayne Pittman, District 15; John Wayne Letchworth, District 26, Gary Steven Yost, District 28; and Jimmy Dean Blair, District 39.

Certified Lecturer John Ralph Harrison of Fairview Lodge No. 339 received his 50th year Certified Lecturer award in 2013. Brother Harrison became the 14th certified brother to achieve this milestone since the certification program began in 1941.

The 2013 certified lecturer examinations were held according to the following schedule: August 10, Greenville and Greensboro; August 17, Wilmington and Charlotte; August 24, 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 2012 examinations the number of certified brethren remained at 370 which was the exact total number from the previous year. This consisted of 343 Class A Certified Lecturers and 27 Class B Certified Instructors. Unfortunately the total number had declined by July 2013 with nine members passing away and one member demitting for a total roster of certified brethren as of July 31, 2013 now standing at 360. Forty-seven brethren required re-examination in 2013 not including the ten brethren that received one-year extensions in 2012. Of the forty-seven, nine qualify for the waiver option for being certified for twenty-five years or more if requested by the brother. The final 2013 results will be available after the last exams are held on August 24 and will be printed in the 2013 Proceedings of the Grand Lodge publication.

In 2013 the Board embarked on a program entitled "Raising the Instructive Tongue." This was a breakthrough thinking program led by the secretary

and was designed to increase the awareness of preserving our ritual with a goal of increasing our certification role to the levels of the mid-eighties when we had over five hundred certified brethren. This idea came from a training session attended by the secretary in mid-2012 designed to produce an extraordinary outcome. The initial goal as explained to the DDGLs and DDGMs at the area meetings last fall was to identify one or two potential new certification candidates in each district. Each DDGL/DDGM was encouraged to provide at least two names to the secretary by the end of December. After each name was provided by the district officers, letters were mailed to each individual thoroughly explaining the certification process and offering to provide support during their path to certification. The grand lecturer assisted in the development of the letter and with the help of Grand Master Preslar he also promoted this program at the district meetings held throughout the state in early 2013. For the past seven years we have averaged eighteen to twenty-five new applications per year. Our goal for 2013 is to receive a minimum of eighty-two new applications. As of May 25, letters had been sent to one hundred sixty-three brethren identified as potential candidates for the "Raising the Instructive Tongue" program.

The booklet "Important Information Concerning the Certified Lecturers" is posted on the 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 *Bahnsen Manual*, rules governing the Lecture Service and *OSW/Vocabulary*, various application forms, and a current roster of those certified.

In 2013 the five-hour mandatory Lecture Service was continued for the one hundred ninety-four odd-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. Even numbered lodges will have their next five-hour requirement in 2014. 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.

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.

The Board is currently exploring the potential of establishing a proficiency exam system for coaches and chaplains. We are in the early stages of evaluating this possibility. This system would be in lieu of a renewal type certification program but will still require potential *Code* changes before implementation. The thought process includes exploring a system whereby the DDGL or a certified brother in the district could examine the brother seeking proficiency recognition. Once a satisfactory exam has been completed a proficiency certificate would then be issued by the Board of Custodians. A roster of those receiving their proficiency certificates would also be maintained by the Board secretary but no renewal would be required. If successful other types of proficiency ex-

ams covering other specific areas could be considered. These types of exams would be in addition to our current certification process.

The Board approved a set of robes/regalia for Junaluskee Lodge No. 145 at its July 12 meeting for use in the second section of the Master Mason's Degree.

The Board of Custodians expresses its appreciation to Grand Master Dewey R. Preslar 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 L. David Potts for his efforts as the new grand lecturer for 2013. To all our certified brethren throughout the state, especially for your support of the "Raising the Instructive Tongue" program 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 Scholarship Committee

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

It is with great pleasure to report to the Brethren of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina, this spring, the Charles Edward Cathey Scholarship awarded eight \$1000.00 grants. These grants are a one-time scholarship that goes to the recipients' college for their needs. There were over 250 applicants and only eight available scholarships available, making this a very prestigious award indeed.

The awards went to Brianna N. Russo from David W. Butler High in Matthews, Whitney L. O'Quinn of Lee Christian School in Sanford, Brian P. Rische of Weddington High in Matthews, Diana Perez of Ocracoke High in Ocracoke, Katherine N. Starnes of south Rowan in China Grove, Jacob M. Simpson of Surrey Early College High in Dobson, Sierra N Garrison of North Buncombe High in Weaverville, and Ronnie L. Tackett of Lincolnton High in Lincolnton. Congratulations to these recipients from across the state.

The Committee encourages the Brethren to continue supporting the scholarship with financial support so that more students can benefit from it, and to get involved by getting the information to future applicants.

Respectfully submitted,
Alan B. Wray, Chairman
J. David Cashion
L. C. Jones
Stephen A. Holt
Mark A. Kolada

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. We continue to work on the restoration of the building. Much of the furniture for the working area offices have been replaced, and other pieces are on order. Conference room furniture remains to be designated and ordered. Lighting fixtures are another feature to be reviewed and restored.

In major expenditure areas, we have two specific topics we must consider. Most important is consideration of replacing the roof of our headquarters. Depending on the conditions uncovered when the current covering is removed and upon the type of roofing chosen to replace that covering, the project is expected to cost \$30,000–\$50,000 dollars.

It is also time to get estimates on replacement of the glass in the front and on the sides of the building. Currently we have plate glass with no insulating capabilities. While replacing the glass may prove costly, it will preserve the value of the building and save on energy and maintenance costs of the facility.

Keeping the value and integrity of any building is not cheap or without effort. The cost of preserving our home is a reminder that regularly budgeting and contributing to the our building fund is important in every budget.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Dean Cheek, 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 2013 has exceeded last years reported fund raising applications by 25%. As of July 17, the Committee has received 100 applications from the lodges across the State, 76 were for charity, and 24 for lodge use. The increase is believed to have come from a better understanding of the processes involved. During the district deputies sessions, the Grand Master Dewey Preslar spoke of responsibilities for fund raising. The Secretary's School at the Annual Communication helped answer many questions that come to this committee. This school is helping dispel myths and rumors about fund raising, while providing the secretaries correct information. During his district meetings, Grand Master Preslar stressed having fun, and by doing so, increasing our fund raising efforts.

The secretaries need to check *The Code* and the guidelines for changes and updates that might occur.

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

Respectfully submitted,
J. Luigi Ammons
Todd E. Trivette
J. David Cashion, Chairman

Final 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 27, 2012**

Final Report

Robert E. Gresham Jr., GM

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:

As required by our *Code*, I am pleased to make this report on my activities as your Grand Master. It was my pleasure to have the privilege of serving as your Grand Master from December 3, 2011 to December 1, 2012. 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 was received with the greatest honor and respect. The hospitality and welcome that I received was 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 the 224th Annual Communication, I stated that the next time that you heard from me might be your hearing, "Knock, knock, knock." I made several surprise visits during my year. There was more than one surprised tyler when told to "knock on the door and give the appropriate announcement." I recall one tyler who looked up at me and said, "I know who you are." The brothers seemed to enjoy the visits, and I had a great time. The fellowship was great!

We are privileged to have several visitors from other grand jurisdictions as our guests. Let me welcome each of you to this Annual Communication of Grand Lodge of North Carolina. We hope that you enjoy your time with us. If there is anything that we can do to make your visit more enjoyable, please let us know.

I welcome each of you, the delegates, to this 226th Annual Communication. I encourage each of you to participate in all of our deliberations. This is your opportunity to be a part of the happenings and doings of Grand Lodge and I encourage each of you to take an active part.

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 fund raisers for our charities, and in general practicing our teachings. New blood drives were started last year along with older ones being continued. It is my understanding that many lodges are continuing the blood drives that they started during my year for which I am most appreciative.

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 was NPDs. I encouraged our lodges to make personal contact with members who have not paid their dues. Many heard me say, "Get in their face, explain to the brother(s) that they are important to us. These members are needed, tell them why we believe that they need Masonry. I regret that we did not attain positive

membership numbers during 2012, but am happy that we continued to gain towards positive growth. If we continue to 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 the future.

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 join asking for petitions for the degrees. Yes brothers, Masonry is alive and well in North Carolina.

Necrology

During 2012, our Grand Lodge has seen many of our brothers were called to be with The Great Architect of the Universe. We lost a total 1,200 brothers. Their work on earth is finished, they have gone to "That house, not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

On June 2, 2012, North Carolina Masonry lost one of its 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 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 during the 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, 2011, 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

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 who 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 Grand 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 number, host 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	Shalotte 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 recommended that the 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*. This recommendation was adopted and I presented certificates bearing this rank and title to each of the following brethren during the Annual Communication.

Reports

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 recommended that the 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*. This recommendation was adopted and I assisted the Grand Lecturer in presenting certificates bearing this rank and title to each of the following brethren during the 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

Emergent Communications

There was one emergent communication of the Grand Lodge during my term. That occurred for my installation on December 2, 2011.

Joseph Montfort Medals

During my installation I presented my first Joseph Montfort Medal to Samuel Richard Pollard (Deceased December 3, 2012), a former member of Concord Lodge No. 58, a past master, past DDGL and a dedicated Mason. Sam was a mentor, coach, brother, friend and shining example of Masonry to me and many others.

Immediately prior to my term ending, I authorized two more Joseph Montfort Medal presentations. The first was to Michael Wiley Brantley, a member of Raleigh Lodge No. 500 and several other lodges. He has served as master of two lodges and was Grand Lodge historian for several years. Due to scheduling conflicts, I was delayed in personally presenting this award until January 15, 2012. The presentation was made during a stated meeting of Raleigh Lodge No. 500.

The other was to Johnny Craig Surles, a member of Zion Lodge No. 81. He has served Zion Lodge No. 81 as master on two occasions and is presently serving as district deputy grand master of the Seventh Masonic District. Johnny also serves as a member of and vice chair of the MHCO Board of Directors. Due to scheduling conflicts, I was delayed in personally presenting this award until January 17, 2012. This presentation was made during a stated meeting of Zion Lodge.

The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina is a better organization due to the service of these distinguished brothers. I have the most admiration and appreciation for these three brothers.

Physical Disabilities

I approved six requests for waivers of physical disability from petitioners for the degrees in Masonry. The DDGM of the respective districts 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

I granted thirty-six 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
724	dispense with stated
262	outdoor third degree
282	emergent communication at Whitestone
460	conferring NC degree in SC on own candidate

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 was my privilege to serve on this board for the last three years. The Report of the Administrator and 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 the grand opening ceremony for the new Independent Living building which consists 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. I am happy to report that the expansion was completely sold out in less than one year (far exceeding the original projections). Residents have moved 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 was kept to a minimum and resident satisfaction was maintained at the highest level possible. I thank all of them for their untiring efforts in making our home one of the finest in our state.

During the year 2010, PGM Billy Dill asked Masons to adopt one of our residents. I am happy to say that I did adopt a resident. I have enjoyed getting to know her and continue to keep in touch. I know that she appreciates an occasional card and the "Green" that is included. I have been assured that the color and size is always correct. I have never had a return. I encourage all of you to consider adoption also.

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 hired a new administrator who started to work on August 16, 2012. Kevin Otis came to us from a home in Illinois and hit the road running. You will hear from him later 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 occurred over the weekend of October 12-14. I want to thank the Potentates of Amran, Oasis, and Sudan Shrine Temples for their support of the Homecoming/Festival and for their units' turning 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 were features. On Friday evening, Andrew Jackson Lodge No. 576 cooked its famous Brunswick Stew for those attending. They do a great job and I highly recommend it to you again this year. I hope that you will bring your family and join us for the Third Annual Homecoming Festival on October 11-13.

Veterans Hospital Visits

I 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 if you know a Mason being treated at a VA Hospital, please contact the Masonic Service Association office and give them the appropriate information.

I regret that Oteen was the only VA Hospital that I visited. I waited for an invitation to visit from the other hospitals which did not come. This was a mistake on my part, I should have told them that I was coming. I recommend to those who will follow me that they don't make the same mistake.

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

The 2012 conference was hosted by the Grand Lodge of New York in 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 was 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 guests 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 worked hard to strengthen the Grand Lodge relationship with the Shrine during my year and believe that my efforts were appreciated.

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 thru 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 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 little 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 Sister 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 Stancil 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, Albemarle Lodge No. 703.

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 Shrine Temples in North Carolina. My thanks to the potentates and the membership of the three Shrine Temples in North Carolina for their cooperation and assistance 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 brought fraternal greetings to the delegates.

The following weekend, Carolyn and I flew to New York for the Northeast

Grand Masters 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. To our sorrow, due to a scheduling conflict, Grand Master Garry Dowling and his wife, Wendy were unable to join us for our 225th Annual Communication.

On Friday, September 28, 2012 I led a delegation of our officers and members in a visit to the Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina, Prince Hall Affiliated. To Grand Master Fitch, thank you for the wonderful relationship which our grand lodges enjoy. We were received most graciously and afforded full Masonic courtesies.

On November 3, the Grand Lodge of North Carolina celebrated our 225th year at the newly decorated and renovated Grand Lodge offices. A large group of Masons and families attended. The building was rededicated and our visitors enjoyed touring the offices, displays and museum items before and after lunch.

On November 4, I was presented a copy of "The True Masonic Chart or Hieroglyphic Monitor" by Jeremy Cross. This book was printed in 1850. Adoniram Lodge No. 149 found this book in the bottom of an old filling cabinet and wanted the Grand Lodge to have it in its collection of artifacts. Thanks to the brothers of Adoniram Lodge No. 149.

From rural Granville County, Carolyn and I continued to Richmond, Virginia to attend the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Virginia on November 5-7. Again, we could not have been treated better by our Virginia hosts. The only bad part was having to be reminded that barbecue teams from Virginia came south and took the winning trophies for both, the Pig Jig and the barbecue contest held in conjunction with the Oxford Homecoming/Festival, back north to Virginia. This was most humiliating, and you can rest assured that I have reminded some good North Carolina cooks as to how disappointed I was.

On November 15, I was the honored guest at an old English table lodge sponsored by the Scottish Rite, Valley of Charlotte. My thanks to the members of the Valley of Charlotte for a enjoyable evening.

On November 16-18, Carolyn and I were guest of the Sudan Shrine for their Fall ceremonial in Dunn. Again, we were treated most hospitably by Potentate Steve Norris, Lady Tracy, and the members of Sudan Shrine. We could not have felt more welcome.

On November 20, I participated in Oasis Shrine's part in the Mooresville Christmas parade. Home of Potentate Mike Cook.

Interesting Happening

During last year's Annual Communication while PGM Ledford was making his Final Report, I began to hear what I later found was a fire alarm. I was first told that it was coming from the adjacent building and would not bother us. A little later, I was told that we had been ordered to vacate the room immediately. Not knowing how to handle this situation, I approached my podium, took my big gavel, and gave three distinct raps. PGM Ledford looked at me with a very puzzled look on his face as everyone stood. I directed SGD Webster

to attend the altar. As he closed *The Bible*, I announced that we had been ordered to vacate the room and directed everyone to the various exits. Everyone exercised great order and the room was vacated in a minimum amount of time.

When the all clear was given, almost everyone returned to the room. I was amazed that we lost so few brothers. I asked if those in attendance wanted me to use the official method of calling from refreshment to labor or to use my new abbreviated method. By unanimous consent, I used my short version and work was continued in Grand Lodge. PGM Ledford finished his report without further interruption.

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 "of which you are now a member." 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 Apprentices or Fellows Craft the right to vote, but I believe that being able to stay in the lodge room for the total meeting will make them feel more a part of our fraternity. It could help with the dismal number of Entered Apprentices who do not go forward and complete their degrees.

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 was appreciated. I relied on this information in helping me decide which direction I should take with some of the decisions I was 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 involved 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!

While attending the third degree for Brother Kevin Otis on June 22, a brother came up to me and said "Grand Master, you sure do look refreshed." It's easy to look refreshed when you are "past" grand master.

I have had the privilege of directly 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 office. To Grand Secretary Clapp, your counsel and advice is deeply appreciated. You

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 Harris, thank you for your dedication to our Grand Lodge and for all of the assistance and help that you have given to Carolyn and me. It is deeply appreciated and will not be forgotten. 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 were 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 truly stood behind me and with me for the last 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.

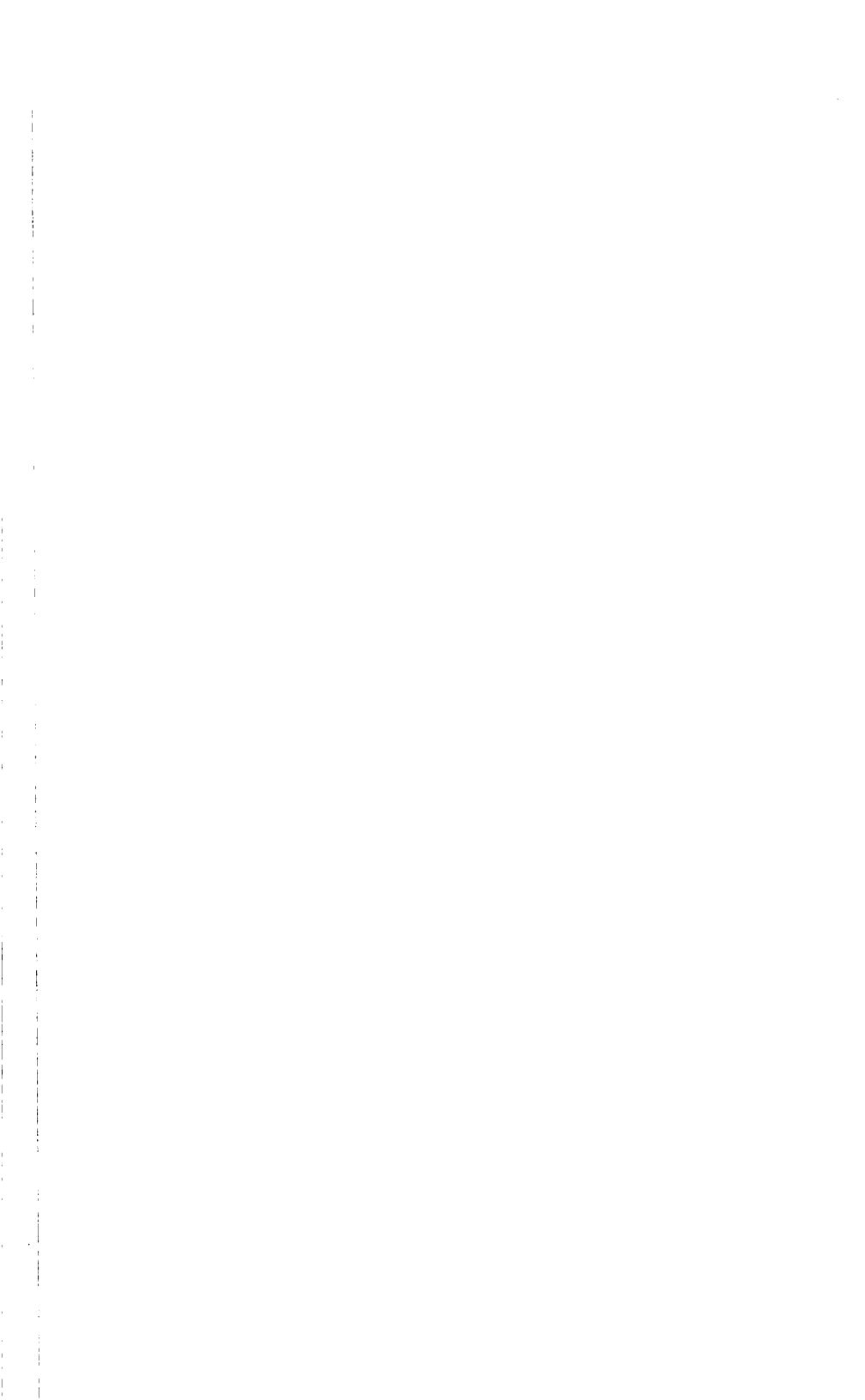
Thank goodness for Facili Tate, Cogi Tate and Medi Tate; they get everyone pulling together.

Which Tate are you?

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



Interim Report

of

**Grand Master
Dewey R. Preslar Jr.**

to

the

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

at

**Winston-Salem, North Carolina
September 27, 2012**

Final Report

Dewey R. Preslar Jr., GM

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina, Grand Lodge Officers, Past Grand Masters, officers of constituent lodges, voting delegates to the Communication, Brethren all:

As prescribed in *The Code*, I am pleased to make this report of my activities as your grand master so far this year. It has truly been my honor and privilege, as well as a most humbling experience, to serve as the 160th grand master in this grand jurisdiction.

It has been a wonderful journey across this beautiful state of ours, meeting and making new friends and celebrating our Masonry. I can't claim that I have traveled from Murphy to Manteo as the old saying goes, but I can lay claim from Robbinsville to Elizabeth City. I am grateful for the kindness, the warm welcomes, and expressions of brotherly love that I experienced in my travels. My bride of 35 years has commented multiple times about how lucky we have been these last nine years to meet such wonderful people and create lasting friendships during this journey. My brothers, you made this possible, and I thank you again for the confidence you've had in this poor boy who grew up in Stanly County.

The State of the Craft

We have talked this year about causing a breakthrough in our Masonry. We were out to cause something that might not exist, we wanted to enroll others in our cause, and we wanted to cause and inspire passion. In my travels, I witnessed great passion and enthusiasm for our beloved fraternity. Brethren were proud to talk about the happenings in their lodges, their support for our charities, and work within their communities. One of the things that we were out to cause was to maintain, retain, and grow our membership. Last year we dropped 1,120 members due to non-payment of dues, and one in five initiates did not continue to the degree of Fellow Craft. If we had been able to cut these numbers in half, we would have had a net increase in 2012. During the district meetings, I asked that the masters and secretaries go back to their lodges, seek out the Entered Apprentices who didn't continue, and try getting them reengaged.

There is no doubt that Masonry is alive and well in North Carolina! I certainly draw my energy and passion from being just a small part of it.

Necrology

During the past year, we lost 1,202 brothers to that Temple not made by hands eternal in the heavens. We mourn their passing, but celebrate the life that they lead as husbands, fathers, grandfathers, friends, and brothers. I am also saddened by the loss of my dear friend and brother, Past Grand Master/Past Grand Treasurer, Judge Clifton W. Everett, Jr. I will truly miss his wit, friendship, words of wisdom, and good counsel. Let light perpetual shine upon them all.

DDGM and DDGL Area Meetings

During October and November 2012, I hosted six meetings with the district officers in Warsaw, Tarboro, Siler City, Waynesville, Statesville, and Salisbury. These meetings with the incoming grand master are valuable and accomplish a couple of things. First, it is a great meet and greet to share the incoming grand master's thinking, as well as an opportunity to engage others in the work. As direct representatives of the grand master, it is important that we have shared and viewed the plans upon our trestle boards. I thank the district officers for their dedication and acceptance of what we were out to accomplish in 2013.

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 following Brethren who are now eligible in accordance with the Code.

Name	Lodge	District
Philip R. Johnson	106	1
R. Loren Jones	680	4
Johnny C. Surles	81	7
Ronnie D. Graves	138	12
Ryland D. Grissom	128	13
Michael R. Cashion	218	14
William A. Dowd Jr	730	17
James E. Britt	643	18
Thomas P. Dolinger	746	23
James B. Rutledge Jr	420	26
Derek C. Clodfelter	752	27
Frederick L. Barkley	253	30
Bobby R. Huffman	573	33
Terry B. Moore	462	36
Lloyd Hise	554	37

Honorary Title of Past District Deputy Grand Lecturer

I recommend that this Grand Lodge grant the honorary title of Past District Deputy Grand Lecturer in accordance with the Code and who have served the Craft well.

Name	Lodge	District
Hylar Wayne Cox	294	2
William Dennis Campbell	708	6
Dale Allen Krueger	688	7
John Robert Franks	112	10
Edward Earl Wells	98	11
Isaac Hubert Williamson, Jr.	229	13
Herbert Currie Lyon	210	19

Paul Francis Kelly	151	20
Murray Marrell Skeen	344	23
Phil Dennis McCraw	322	25
Wayne Ray Rummage	637	29
Michael Stephen Kerhoulis	573	33
William Gary McKinney	544	36

District Meetings

We held twenty-six meetings, beginning in late January and ending the middle of May. I thought the meetings were very well attended and, of course, we were well received. I could tell as I drove into the parking lots of the lodges that the evenings were going to be enjoyable. I am not used to having a designated parking place, but when it occurred, it was most appreciated. To those in attendance, thank you again for the reception, the attentive ear, and the patience with me as I delivered my message.

I want to also thank those that were with me along the way. First, to Walt Clapp, our grand secretary; Ric Carter, assistant to the grand secretary; Mark Kolada, WhiteStone administrator; Chris Richardson, development director and assistant to the administrator at MHCO; David Potts, grand lecturer; and Steve Schenk, grand tyler. You learn a lot of things about people and their character when you spend this much time together.

The following is a list of the district meetings:

District	Date	Host Lodge
26	January 30	Winston 167
15	February 6	Hiram 40
13	7	Henderson 229
29	11	Kilwinning 64
21	12	Carthage 181
17	27	Phoenix 8
19	28	Mosaic 762
35	March 5	Cleveland 202
31	6	East Gate 692
34	7	Catawba 248
6	19	Grifton 243
9	20	Corinthan 230
11	21	Mill Creek 125
41	April 8	Robbinsville 672
37	9	Vesper 554
39	10	Mt. Hermon 118
33	11	Snow 363
5	15	American George 17
1	16	Eureka 317
17	3	Atlantic 294

Reports

4	22.....	Newport 706
12	23.....	Federal Point 753
18	24.....	Chadbourne 190
23	May 13.....	Greensboro 76
25	14.....	Elkin 454
28	15.....	Andrew Jackson 576

Joseph Montfort Medals

In December of 2012, at the Awards Banquet at my lodge, Andrew Jackson, I presented my first Joseph Montfort medal to Floyd M. Burton. Brother Floyd was master of my lodge the year I was born—1955. He has served the Craft in many capacities and was instrumental in causing a positive outcome in many children's lives. In July, I presented my second medal to my dear brother J. David Cashion, who I have come to know well over the past several years. His passion for and execution to his work is certainly a model for others to follow.

Physical Disabilities

Based on the investigation of the DDGMs in the respective districts, I approved five requests for waivers of physical disabilities from petitioners for the degrees in Masonry. The DDGMs reported to me that the petitioners had limitations, but would be able to comply with the provisions of *The Code*. I thank the DDGMs for their investigations into these matters.

Dispensations Granted

As of this date of this writing, I have granted dispensations for the following purposes:

Elect junior warden	Cherry Point 688
Dispense with stated	Greensboro 76
Dispense with stated	Goldsboro 634
Elect junior warden	Stokes 32
Elect officers	Mosaic 762
Elect junior and senior wardens .	Queen City 602
Stated communications	Wilkerson College 760
Elect master	Fuquay 258
Elect junior & senior wardens....	Forsyth 707
Dispense with stated	Greensboro 76
Other place	Columbus 102
Elect junior warden	Person 113
Outdoor degree.....	King Solomon 138
Elect junior warden	Ocean 405
Elect senior warden	Renfro 691
Elect junior warden	Lebanon 391
Outdoor degree.....	Tabasco 271
Outdoor degree in Tennessee	Fairview 339

Elect master Clay 301
Elect junior warden Millbrook 97
Elect junior warden Mosaic 762
Dispense with Stated..... Perquimans 106
Elect master Fuquay 258
Dispense with stated Zion 81
Emergent at WhiteStone..... Ealge 19
Elect senior deacon Orr 104
Elect junior warden Wilmington 319
Stated at WhiteStone Wilkerson College 760
Stated at another lodge Rehoboth 279
Elect master Nichols-West Asheville 650
Stated at another lodge Orphans 761
Emergent at another lodge..... Youngsville 377
Dispense with stated Andrew Jackson 576
Elect junior warden Kedron 387
Outdoor degree..... Cranberry 598
Elect junior and senior wardens . Horse Creek 719
Stated at another lodge Piedmont-Pioneer 685
Stated at WhiteStone Corinthian 542
Dispense with stated Berne 724
Emergent at another lodge..... Burnsville 717
Stated at another lodge Salem 289
Emergent at another lodge..... Mosaic 762

Emergent Communications

An Emergent Communication of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons of North Carolina of North Carolina was held in the Salisbury Masonic Temple, Salisbury, North Carolina on Saturday December 1, 2012 for the purpose of installation of Grand Lodge officers.

An Emergent Communication of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons of North Carolina of North Carolina was held in the Columbus Masonic Lodge, Pittsboro, North Carolina on Saturday April 20, 2013 for the purpose of rededicating the cornerstone laying of the Chatham County Courthouse.

An emergent communication of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masonic of North Carolina was held in new building for Franklinton Lodge No. 123, AF & AM in Franklinton, North Carolina, on Saturday, October 9, 2013 for the purpose of laying the cornerstone of the new building.

An Emergent Communication of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons of North Carolina of North Carolina was held in the Asheville Masonic Temple, Asheville, North Carolina on Tuesday, July 9, 2013 for the purpose of centennial dedication of laying the cornerstone laying of the Asheville Masonic Temple.

WhiteStone, A Masonic and Eastern Star Community

I commend for your information the report of the Committee on Masonic and Eastern Star Home. In so doing, I want to personally thank Mark Kolada, administrator, for his work and passion for our Home in Greensboro. Mark and his team are to be congratulated on the completion of the new apartments. Thanks to Past Grand Master Gene Jernigan for his leadership, diligence, and continued work to cause this positive outcome at our Home as chairman of the Board of Directors. Separately, I want to thank the team that worked diligently to create the North Carolina Masonic and Eastern Star Foundation, LLC that provides for our fraternally related residents at WhiteStone. We are celebrating 100 years at WhiteStone, and if you haven't visited lately, I encourage you to do so.

Masonic Home for Children at Oxford

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

At the time of this writing, our new administrator and now Master Mason, Kevin Otis, has been in the job a little over a year. Things are going well at our Home in Oxford with the census being higher than it has been in a number of years. We, as Board members, are quite pleased with the progress and look forward to the future of our Home with all of its promising opportunities. Also, a big thanks to one of our alumni, Past Grand Master Dan Rice, chairman of the Board, for his leadership and dedication to my adopted Home.

The third annual Homecoming Festival at Oxford is scheduled for October 11-13 and promises to be a huge event. Please come in support of our Home, bring someone who has never been there and especially bring your children and grandchildren for fun and fellowship.

Veteran Hospital Visits

To date, I have visited two VA hospitals, one in Salisbury and the other outside of Asheville. I want to thank our brothers who volunteer with the Masonic Service Association for their work.

This year, with the leadership of our senior grand warden, we have instituted a Veteran's Service Award and Recognition. Thanks to Brother Doug Caudle and his team for their work on this and to Doug, for being our representative for the Masonic Service Association.

Conference of Grand Masters of North America

On February 16-20, I had the honor of representing our Grand Lodge at the meeting of the Conference of Grand Masters of North America which was held in Kansas City, Missouri. In addition to the member Grand Lodges from Canada, Mexico, and the United States, there were representatives from around the world. Leaders of many of the appendant bodies were also present. It was a great opportunity to make new friends, build lasting relationships, and learn from each other. Other representatives from North Carolina included Deputy Grand Master Dalton Mayo; Senior Grand Warden Doug Caudle; and Junior Grand Warden Bryant Webster. With the Conference of Grand Secretaries being held concurrently, Grand Secretary Walt Clapp also traveled to Kansas City.

Northeast Grand Masters Conference

This year's conference was held in Connecticut the weekend of July 19. Senior Grand Warden Doug Caudle represented our Grand Lodge of North Carolina and reported that this was a wonderful opportunity to continue relationships and conversations from other grand jurisdictions.

Legislative Reception

We have on occasion held a reception for those Masons who are serving in the General Assembly to thank them for their dedication and public service. We once again co-hosted this event with the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of NC on April 3 at our Grand Lodge building on Glenwood Avenue in Raleigh. We felt that this was appropriate, since we completed the renovation work and celebrated 225 years in 2012. The reception was well attended and was a most enjoyable evening.

Visitation and Special Activities

Brethren, there is so much that I would like to report here, but I will try my best to summarize. This is quite difficult due to the many lodges I visited, the hundreds of brothers who were all so gracious to me, in addition to the many special honors and awards bestowed upon me.

I was officially received and recognized at a number of lodges, attended a number of lodge charity events, and actually participated in degree work. I installed officers in eighteen lodges, with nine being installed in Greensboro at one event and five in Greenville. I had the great honor and privilege of visiting shut-ins, as well as presenting a number of service awards, including one that was for 75 years! I was an invited guest to the Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas, attended two Shrine installations, the SASA mid-winter event in Greensboro, and was a distinguished guest of Imperial Potentate Alan Madsen at the Imperial Shrine in Indianapolis. Scottish Rite events include being honored by the Charlotte Scottish at a table lodge event and attending the AASR Supreme Council in Washington DC. As far as York Rite events, I attended the Grand York Rite Chapter in New Bern, the York Rite District Meeting in Salisbury, and attended the Summer Assembly in Maggie Valley for the sixth year in a row.

It was a joy to represent the Grand Lodge at the Halifax Resolves celebration where I was received the same day at Royal White Hart Lodge. Rainbow events included the first annual Fun Day at Camp Rainbow as well as the Rainbow Assembly in Raleigh. I had the honor of constituting a new lodge in Jacksonville, conducting a cornerstone laying in Franklinton, and leading a centennial cornerstone ceremony at Mt. Hermon Lodge in Asheville. I spent an evening at the Grand Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star in Raleigh, then traveled to Oxford to have dinner the following night with the six graduating seniors. It was also my honor to attend and present a duplicate charter to the Grand Lodge of Tennessee as they were celebrating their 200th anniversary. At all of these events, I was called upon to speak and share my thoughts for our fraternity where I truly draw my energy and passion.

Recommended Legislation

For consideration, and if time permits, be able to conduct the business of the Finance Committee on Friday of the Grand Lodge.

Acknowledgement and Thanks

Brethren, as I have often shared, I am a third generation Mason. I became a Mason primarily because I wanted to associate with the types of men with whom my grandfather and father associated. As you either know or guessed, the majority of them were Masons.

When I was called to serve in any capacity, I willingly accepted appointments to serve our beloved fraternity. Never in my wildest dreams would I have thought that one day I would be appointed to the grand line and eventually serve as grand master. I'm still not sure what Graham Pervier saw in me when he asked me to be his appointment, but I pray that I haven't let him down. Thank you again, my Masonic father, for the trust and confidence that you bestowed upon me.

I want to acknowledge with appreciation all the honorary memberships, awards, recognition, and lifetime memberships, which include my home lodge, my Shrine Club, and the National Sojourners.

Credit needs to be given to my Grand Historian Grady Hall, who spent countless hours researching and writing a history of "Mother Masonic Lodges of Rowan County," which we published and gave to all the lodges in Rowan County as well as to Grand Lodge.

To the past grand masters, for your leadership and good counsel when needed, my heartfelt thanks.

To the current Grand Line officers, I can't thank you enough for your constant support and the close relationship we have. There is no doubt in my mind that each of you will continue to cause a breakthrough in our Masonry.

Very special thanks to our Grand Lodge staff—Walt, for your expertise, experience, good counsel, and for just being my good friend, I can't thank you enough. To Ric, Cornelia, Vicki, and Lisa, thank you for ALL you do and for having patience with this rookie grand master.

To my home lodge brothers at Andrew Jackson 576 who have supported me along my way in this life journey, I appreciate all you have done. I cannot overlook the three other Ds: David Carmichael, David Potts, and Dennis Sims, who have always been where I needed them to be at the right time and place.

To Terrie, my bride of 35 years, who without her love, support, and understanding, would have made this a difficult journey. We enjoyed many travels and good times together whenever possible.

Finally, to you my brethren, who have supported me and shown me the true meaning of brotherly love and affection, I truly appreciate the opportunity to serve as your grand master!

Respectfully submitted,
Dewey R. Preslar Jr.
Own and Deliver Your Masonry

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!

Special Remembrance

Eulogy: Cliff Everett, PGM 1995

Bill Simpson, PGM 1996

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!

As supplies of these reports are limited, please retain them for use during other sessions.



DESIGNED & PRINTED BY

**PRINT & DESIGN CENTER
SCHOOL OF GRAPHIC ARTS**

600 COLLEGE STREET • OXFORD, NORTH CAROLINA 27565
(919) 603-3910 • printorders@mhc-oxford.org • www.schoolofgraphicarts.com