

Reports

of

The Grand Master

The Grand Treasurer

The Grand Secretary

Boards, Commissions and Committees

at the

233rd

Annual Communication

of

The Grand Lodge of

Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons

of North Carolina

Streaming From

Winston-Salem, North Carolina

September 25, 2020

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Report of the Grand Treasurer

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

I submit this interim report as of June 30, 2020. Included in this report is the total receipts and disbursement, special funds, and the securities held by this Grand Lodge.

Total Funds available 01/01/2020 (General Funds & Special Funds)	\$713,220
Total Receipts YTD	821,901
Total Disbursements YTD	<u>(320,666)</u>
Total Cash To Be Accounted For	\$1,214,455

<u>Deposits:</u>	<u>Amount</u>		
Petty Cash			100
1st Citizens Bank (operating account)			60,118
Money Markets:			
North State Bank	VARI		212,040
PNC Bank	VARI		213,028
First Citizens Bank	VARI		250,000
Investment:	12/31/2019	6/30/2020	Principle
Alex Brown investment	\$635,424	\$621,148	\$479,169

Total Cash Accounted For **\$1,214,455**

Total Cash & Principle Securities YTD

<u>Special Funds Summary</u>	<u>12/31/2019</u>	<u>6/30/2020</u>
Special Contingency Reserve	200,000	200,000
Emblems and Awards Reserve	11,998	11,998
Automobile Reserve	37,351	32,345
Operation Reserve	156,867	160,867
Building Reserve	123,005	139,978
Office Equipment Reserve	3,299	3,299
Charity Fund	<u>64,973</u>	<u>72,533</u>
Total Special Funds	597,494	621,021

Total Special Funds 06/30/2020 621,021

Total General Funds Available 593,434

Total Of All Funds 06/30/2020 **\$1,214,455**

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, 2020, including projected expenditures for the year and suggested budget for calendar year 2021.

Grand Lodge of North Carolina 2021 Proposed Budget		Budget 2019	Actual 2019	Budget 2020	Actual 2020 through June 30	Proposed Budget 2021
Account Name						
INCOME						
29,952 Actual	Master Masons @ \$26 Per Capita Tax (2020)	\$625,400	\$619,360	612,000	778,752	734,500
28,250	[GWNMA @ \$1.00]				(29,952)	(28,250)
855	Initiation Fees @ \$21.00 -2020	16,000	15,876	16,000	17,959	2,961
	[NC Charities @ \$10.00]	(7,470)	(7,560)	(7,500)	(8,550)	(1,410)
	[GL Building @ \$5.00]	(3,735)	(3,780)	(3,750)	(4,275)	(705)
	[GWNMA @ \$5.00]	(3,735)	(3,780)	(3,750)	(4,275)	(705)
	Initiation Fees Retained [@\$1.00]					
1,492	Endowed Members - 2021	28,460	27,013	29,000	29,650	30,000
	Penalty for Late Returns	500	1,550	500	300	500
	Dividends and Interest	12000	16,284	12,000	0	12,000
	Miscellaneous Income	<u>1,000</u>	<u>697</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>1,000</u>
	Total Income	668,420	665,660	655,500	779,909	749,891
	Philanthropy					
800-00	Charity and Relief	29,000	26,756	29,000	25,000	29,000
800-03	VA Hospital Visitation	250		250		250
800-06	Masonic Youth Organizations	4,250	4,250	4,250		4,250
800-07	Wilkerson College/Scholarships	<u>1,200</u>	<u>1,200</u>	<u>1,200</u>	<u>1,200</u>	<u>1,200</u>
	Total	34,700	32,206	34,700	26,200	34,700

Grand Lodge of North Carolina 2021 Proposed Budget

Account Name	Budget 2019	Actual 2019	Budget 2020	Actual 2020 through June 30	Proposed Budget 2021
Salaries and Fees					
810-00					
810-01	94,077	94,077	95,959	47,979	95,959
810-03	95,320	95,142	97,349	81,947	89,069
810-04	45,556	45,556	45,601	24,605	47,000
810-05	18,998	19,074	19,387	12,394	18,754
810-06	850	237	850		850
810-08	58,944	58,944	60,123	30,062	60,123
810-09	1,500		1,500	198	1,500
810-10	<u>(18,000)</u>	<u>(16,930)</u>	<u>(18,000)</u>	<u>(17,538)</u>	<u>(18,000)</u>
Total	297,245	296,100	302,769	179,647	295,255
Administration Costs					
820-00					
820-02	8,000	4,707	8,000	603	11,500
820-04	12,000	13,239	12,000	4,331	12,000
820-05	7,000	6,459	7,000	4,000	7,000
820-06	1,500	2,194	1,500	1,615	1,500
820-07	9,500	9,509	9,500	5,813	9,500
820-08	7,500	7,201	7,500	4,091	7,500
	<u>(45,000)</u>	<u>(44,590)</u>	<u>(45,000)</u>	<u>(46,220)</u>	<u>(45,000)</u>
820-09	42,000	43,179	42,000	24,356	42,000
820-11	10,000	10,000	10,000		10,000
820-13	3,000	3,000	3,000		3,000
	<u>(14,000)</u>	<u>(15,890)</u>	<u>(20,000)</u>	<u>(5,290)</u>	<u>(20,000)</u>
820-14	10,000	14,376	16,000	4,083	16,000
Total	51,500	53,384	51,500	(2,618)	55,000

Grand Lodge of North Carolina 2021 Proposed Budget

Account Name	Budget 2019	Actual 2019	Budget 2020	Actual 2020 through June 30	Proposed Budget 2021
Building Expenses					
830-00					
830-01	10,000	11,718	10,000	4,299	10,000
830-02	17,000	19,728	20,000	10,862	20,000
830-03	5,000	3,844	5,000	1,022	5,000
830-04	7,000	7,720	7,000		7,000
830-05	20,000	20,000	20,000	6,518	20,000
Bldg. Reserve-Transfer to Building Reserve					
Total	59,000	63,010	62,000	22,731	62,000
Membership Fees and Dues					
840-00					
840-01	2,250	1,973	2,250		2,250
840-02	750	438	750	500	750
840-03	100	0	100		100
840-05	300	150	300		300
Northeastern Regional Masonic Conf.					
Total	3,400	2,561	3,400	500	3,400
Travel and Officers Expense					
850-00					
850-01	8,000	6,059	8,000	2,495	8,000
850-02	6,500	6,500	6,500		6,500
850-03	250		250		250
850-04	7,000	5,986	7,000	2,785	7,000
850-05	4,500	4,500	4,500		4,500
850-07	0				11,000
Travel - Other DDGM/ DDGL Orientation					
DDGM/DDGL Orientation, Travel-Other					
Total	37,250	33,749	37,250	4,087	37,250

Grand Lodge of North Carolina 2021 Proposed Budget

Account Name	Budget 2019	Actual 2019	Budget 2020	Actual 2020 through June 30	Proposed Budget 2021
Boards, Commissions, and Committees					
860-00 Board of General Purposes	5,000	4,658	5,000		5,000
860-01 Board of Custodians	2,500	3,178	2,500	200	2,500
860-02 Masonic Public Relations	3,500	801	3,500		3,500
860-03 Finance Committee	500	236	500		500
860-04 Code Commission	300	148	300		300
860-05 Lodge Service Commission	100	0	100		100
860-06 Masonic Education	<u>3,500</u>	<u>4,085</u>	<u>3,500</u>	<u>1,806</u>	<u>3,500</u>
860-07 Middle Chamber Books expense		12,481		5,015	
860-08 Middle Chamber Books sale/Eventbrite Direct Deposit		(13,172)		(11,888)	
Total	15,400	12,425	15,400	(4,867)	15,400
Out-of-State Visitation					
870-00 Visiting other Grand Lodges	3,000	829	3,000		3,000
870-01 Conference of Grand Masters	7,500	6,505	7,500	7,644	7,500
870-02 Conference of Grand Secretaries	2,000	1,561	2,000	2,229	2,000
870-03 Regional Conference (NE)	4,000	4,018	4,000		4,000
870-04 World Masonic Conference	4,000	4,000	4,000	1,000	4,000
Total	20,500	16,913	20,500	10,873	20,500

Grand Lodge of North Carolina 2021 Proposed Budget

Account Name	Budget 2019	Actual 2019	Budget 2020	Actual 2020 through June 30	Proposed Budget 2021
880-00					
Annual Communication / GLO Installation					
Grand Lodge Officers		2,830			
Past Grand Masters		3,553			
DDGM Travel		3,703			
DDGL Travel		1,948			
Boards, Committees, & Comm.		2,905			
Guests		11,180			
Auditorium, Banquets, Etc.		29,854			
Printing		4,592			
Installation Expenses		12,038		2,408	
Lump sum totals	<u>68,000</u>	<u>72,603</u>	<u>68,000</u>	<u>2,408</u>	<u>68,000</u>
Total	68,000	72,603	68,000	2,408	68,000
Miscellaneous Expenses					
Awards, Aprons, and Emblems	13,000	14,304	13,000	2,030	13,000
Grand Master's Portrait	500	950	500		500
Miscellaneous	1,000	900	1,000		1,000
Grand Lodge Library & Archives	<u>3,500</u>	<u>2,678</u>	<u>3,500</u>	<u>1,798</u>	<u>3,500</u>
Total	18,000	18,832	18,000	3,828	18,000
Communications					
Total	<u>120,000</u>	<u>120,000</u>	<u>120,000</u>	<u>60,000</u>	<u>120,000</u>
				60,000	120,000

Grand Lodge of North Carolina 2021 Proposed Budget

Acct. No.	Account Name	Budget 2019	Actual 2019	Budget 2020	Actual 2020 through June 30	Proposed Budget 2021
	EXPENSE SUMMARY					
800-00	Philanthropy	34,700	32,206	34,700	26,200	34,700
810-00	Salaries and Fees	297,245	296,100	302,769	179,647	295,255
820-00	Administration Costs	51,500	53,384	51,500	(2,618)	55,000
830-00	Building Expenses	59,000	63,010	62,000	22,731	62,000
840-00	Membership Fees and Dues	3,400	2,561	3,400	500	3,400
850-00	Travel and Officers Expense	37,250	33,749	37,250	9,367	37,250
860-00	Boards and Committees Office and Travel	15,400	12,425	15,400	(4,867)	15,400
870-00	Out-of-State Visitation	20,500	16,913	20,500	10,873	20,500
880-00	Annual Communication	68,000	72,603	68,000	2,408	68,000
890-00	Miscellaneous Expenses	18,000	18,832	18,000	3,828	18,000
900-00	North Carolina Mason	120,000	120,000	120,000	60,000	120,000
	Total Expenses (Series 800 - 910)	724,995	721,783	733,519	308,069	729,505

Membership Statistics

Membership 12/31/2018.....	36,826
Initiated.....	845
Raised.....	633
Admitted.....	376
Restored.....	332
Total Gains.....	1,341
Expelled.....	10
Suspended UMC.....	1
Excluded NPD.....	937
Demitted.....	382
Died.....	1,130
Total Losses.....	2,460
Total membership 12/31/2019.....	35,707

Service Awards for 2020

Twenty five year Service Awards presented.....	568
Fifty Year Veteran Awards presented.....	455
Sixty Year Awards.....	175
Seventy Year Awards.....	50
Seventy five Year Awards.....	3

Respectfully submitted,
T. Walton Clapp, III, Grand Secretary

Report of the Grand Historian

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

My research this year has continued the work I started previously, studying the evolution of the North Carolina ritual. The main contours of the ritual's progress had been worked out, but this year involved deeper investigation into several key episodes, three of which I will summarize here as they were the most illuminating.

I began by delving into how the Webb ritual developed between about 1802 until 1821. The purpose of this analysis was to gain a better understanding of the ritual at the point it was first introduced into North Carolina. As Cushman presumably taught this work to Levi Stevenson, who in turn re-introduced it to the North Carolina lecturers in 1835, this would be the ritual system that would later be officially adopted by Grand Lodge in 1849.

During the course of the year, the timely appearance of Daniel Parker's

(decrypted) cypher book *The Masonic Tablet*, published by the Scottish Rite Research Society, provided a snapshot of what ritual work actually looked like in 1821. Included in the same volume was William Morgan's exposé from 1826. Comparing the two works revealed a number of interesting differences. Given that Parker was made a Mason in Connecticut, the same place where Cushman learned the work, the book confirms that the North Carolina work has more similarities to Parker's ritual than Morgan's.

Around the same time, I discovered in the Grand Lodge archives a copy of the *Ecce Orienti* cypher that was created in 1874, providing a complete copy of the Stevenson ritual that was modified by PGM Robert W. Best. Although this differed in some ways from the Stevenson work adopted in 1849 and 1864, it is easily identifiable as North Carolina ritual, possessing most of the distinctive wording and structure we are familiar with today. Together with Parker's *Masonic Tablet* and the unpublished 1886 cypher, the evolution of the Stevenson work can now be much better understood.

With these books on hand, I set about the task of trying to identify any "markers" in the words by which the evolution of ritual could be traced. The best examples appeared in the dramatic section of the Master Mason's degree which include the dialogue with the ruffians, the encounter at the Port of Joppa, and the discovery of the grave. It is now possible to identify the key changes in the ritual as it evolved between the 1820s through the 1880s, but also to see how it differs from the work of other jurisdictions.

To attain a more fully-developed understanding of our ritual's evolution requires some comparison of our earlier work with the work of our neighboring jurisdictions who received their ritual from the same source. However, these efforts have been put on hold indefinitely until restrictions issued in response to the pandemic are lifted.

Another fascinating episode in the story of our ritual is the appearance in 1860 of the Conservators, a group of Masons led by Rob Morris, the Past Grand Master of Kentucky and founder of the Order of the Eastern Star. The Conservators promulgated what they believed to be the most "pure and original" Webb work, cleansed of all the errors that corrupted the work in the various jurisdictions across the United States since the death of Thomas Smith Webb in 1819. They very nearly managed to supplant the Stevenson work in North Carolina, until these actions were reversed in 1864. It is unlikely that the ritual of the Conservators left any permanent traces in the North Carolina ritual, but it stirs interest considering that for about one year this was our official work. Copies of Morris's cypher book, *Mnemonics*, are in the Grand Lodge archive. However, the details of the circumstances suggest a story of sly political maneuvering and intrigue, making this episode so much more interesting. But alas, this is a story that will need to wait for a publication that will allow for the more detailed treatment it deserves.

The last episode I studied in greater depth was the creation of our Official Standard of the Work, or OSW. A careful analysis of the proceedings in the years leading up to its publication reveals the story of how our Grand Lodge effectively settled the issue of ritual uniformity in this jurisdiction. Before 1942, cypher books of the North Carolina ritual were prohibited, but cypher books were reported to be in widespread use across the state since the 1890s. The great majority of Masons in North Carolina at the time nonetheless still regarded these books as well as a "physical standard" issued by the Grand Lodge

to be a violation of our obligations. It was a rather unexpected turn of events, therefore, when in 1941 the Grand Master ordered the creation of the OSW. The circumstances surrounding this event are somewhat murky and offer very little in details, but the outcome is clear. Ritual proficiency and uniformity improved dramatically and rapidly, assisted in no small part by the creation of the Certified Lecturer program at the same time. The creation of the OSW could be regarded as a radical departure from the traditional position of the Grand Lodge and the membership, but it could be also be argued that the improvement in statewide proficiency was equally radical.

I would like to take this opportunity to correct a point from my report from last year. In that, I stated, “since the eighteenth century, the three principal officers held the role of the three ruffians; at this time, these parts became separate from the presiding officers.” Given the information I had available at the time, that was a reasonable conclusion to draw. Various exposés that have been published throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries consistently describe this practice. Since that time, additional documentary evidence has been discovered or published that suggests otherwise. According to several ritual cyphers that have appeared in North Carolina and across the United States, virtually none of them state that the Master and Wardens function as the ruffians. This indicates that the exposés most likely referenced each other (and repeated their errors), while the cyphers remained more faithful to the work. I made this statement based on a second-hand account printed in an article from NOCALORE, Volume I, claiming that Benjamin Hatcher made this change. Even if he had, it is more likely that he was stating this to correct an error that may have been the result of widespread reliance upon exposés (instead of lecturers) in the lodges in the 1880s and 1890s.

It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve this Grand Lodge as your Grand Historian for this year. I would like to thank Grand Master Shaun Bradshaw for re-appointing me to the position, as well as the members of this Grand Jurisdiction for your support and kind words over the course of the last two years.

Respectfully submitted,
Ludwik J. Wodka, Grand Historian

Report of the Committee on Permanent Building

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

The Committee on Permanent Building remains exceptionally proud of the improvements made in our headquarters building over the past few years. We continue to work on the restoration of the building in order to maintain your Grand Lodge as a showcase and showplace for North Carolina Masons.

In a continuation of improvements, a rock walking trail connecting our stone steps on Glen Eden Road to Glenwood Avenue was completed and sprayed with polymer in order to preserve its integrity and sustain its usage, which has drawn many walkers and some bicyclists from the surrounding community.

A high resolution map of the state of North Carolina, showing all the lodges that have been chartered since 1787, extinct and working, was com-

missioned by the chairman and hung on the south wall of the administration room for all to enjoy. The wooden frame was crafted from reclaimed chestnut wood from a felled barn in Mars Hill. The name, number, and location of all 774 lodges in the state are visible. Working lodges are represented in blue and extinct lodges likewise shown in red. We are also using this map to pinpoint the physical locations of extinct lodges, furthering our architectural knowledge in masonry so that our record of past lodges may be complete.

The services of a professional landscape architect have proved most helpful in continuing the process of weeding, pruning, and removing foreign or undesired vegetation in order to replant the grounds with drought resistant grasses and shrubs.

The parking lot was resealed and the sidewalks surrounding the Grand Lodge Office were pressure washed and cleaned.

The limestone facade of the Grand Lodge office was also washed, removing more than 60 years of grime and dirt. The brown, red, and mauve streaks within the Indiana limestone once more pop in color.

We recommend and anticipate that the building's caulking will need to be replaced sooner than later, and that within the next five years, the parking lot, or at least the driveway, will need to be ground up and repaved, which will be of significant expense. If those monies are saved now and over the ensuing years, the cost should not be so burdensome.

It is the hope of the committee that these improvements will not only benefit the Masons of North Carolina, but will illustrate to the Raleigh community Freemasonry's dedication to participating positively in local affairs and providing services and an appearance that will promote goodwill and community responsibility among the public.

Keeping the value and integrity of any building is not inexpensive or without effort. The cost of preserving our home and archive is a reminder that regularly budgeting and contributing to our building fund is important in every budget. The contributions made toward the building's restoration thus far have certainly remade our home into the showplace it once was and of which we should be proud. We invite you to come see its splendor.

Respectfully submitted,
Matthew C. Robbins, Chairman

Report of Lodge Service Commission

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

During the past year, the following applications and inquiries have been received by the committee:

- An application from the Raleigh Masonic Temple Board to sell property was approved.
- An application from the Greensboro Masonic Temple Board to purchase property is still pending. Additional information for consideration was sent to the Temple Board on June 24, 2020.
- An application from Widow's Son Lodge No. 519 to sell property was approved.
- An application from the Asheville Masonic Temple Board to obtain an Emergency Disaster Loan was reviewed. Due to extenuating circumstances related to the COVID-19 Pandemic, this request was referred to the Grand Master for review and approval.
- An application from Henderson Masonic Lodge No. 229 to sell property was received. This action is still under review by the committee.

I would like to thank the other members of the Lodge Service Commission for their assistance over the past year: Brothers James Sykes, Chris Burti, John Hudson, and William Mills.

Respectfully Submitted,
Doug Calhoun, PM
Chairman

Report of the Committee on Fraternal Correspondence

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

During the past year, formal requests for recognition have been received from three 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:

1. Legitimacy of Origin
 2. Exclusive Territorial Jurisdiction, except by mutual consent and/or treaty.
 3. Adherence to the Ancient Landmarks – specifically, a belief in God, the Volume of Sacred Law as an indispensable part of the furniture of the lodge, and the prohibition of the discussion of politics and religion.
-

Grande Loja Maçônica do Estado do Maranhão

The Grande Loja Maçônica do Estado do Maranhão requested recognition. They are recognized by the Confederación Masónica Interamericana (CMI) The Commission on Information determined these Brazilian grand orients are practicing regular Masonry. The Committee on Fraternal Correspondence recommends approving recognition to the Grande Loja Maçônica do Estado do Maranhão.

Brazil State Grand Orients

The Grand Orients Paulista and the Grande Orient of Rio De Janeiro were recognized by and treaty signed with each of its state grand lodges in 2019 along with the Grand Orient of Brazil. These grand lodges are also recognized by the CMI and members of the Masonic Confederation of Brazil. The Committee on Fraternal Correspondence recommends approving recognition to the Grand Orients Paulista and The Grande Orient of Rio De Janeiro.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles A. Lewis, Jr., PGM (now deceased)
Fraternal Correspondent

Petitions for Restoration

D.B.F. (docket no. 867), formerly a member of Hall Lodge No. 53, Shawboro, was expelled on April 2, 2020. He has filed for restoration with the lodge on May 21, 2019, and with the Grand Secretary on May 1, 2020.

M.E.F. (docket no. 903), formerly a member of Clifford Duell Lodge No. 756, Fayetteville, was expelled on April 30, 2017. He has filed for restoration with the lodge on June 10, 2020, and with the Grand Secretary on June 23, 2020.

Report of the Judge Advocate

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

This report is prepared as of 1 August 2020 and most respectfully submitted for your information and disposition.

1. Docket #935 - Brother JDF, a Master Mason and member of Vanceboro Lodge No. 433, was expelled by the Trial Commission on October 2, 2019, after they found him guilty of having illegal carnal communication with the wife of a Brother Mason. Brother JDF did not attend his Masonic Trial.
2. Docket #936 - Brother JCL, a Master Mason and member of Vanceboro Lodge No. 433, was expelled by the Judge Advocate after he was convicted in the Superior Court of Craven County on three counts of Sexual Exploitation of a Minor, a Class E Felony. Brother JCL did not answer the Masonic charges against him.

3. Docket #937 - Brother JEB, a Master Mason and member of Proctorville Lodge No. 643, was expelled by the Trial Commission on October 21, 2019, after they found him guilty of providing false information to the Board of Custodians and forging an official Masonic document. Brother JEB appeared and testified at his Masonic Trial.
4. Docket #938 - Brother RGC, a Master Mason and member of Proctorville Lodge No. 643, was found not guilty by the Trial Commission of forging an Official Masonic document.
5. Docket #939 - Brother JCP, a Master Mason and member of Matthews Lodge No. 461, was expelled by the Judge Advocate after he was convicted on February 8, 2013, in the Superior Court of York, South Carolina of Third-Degree Sexual Exploitation of a Minor, which is a felony. Brother JCP did not answer the Masonic charges against him.
6. Docket #940 - Brother RFS, a Master Mason and member of Vandora Lodge No. 745, was expelled by the Judge Advocate after on December 17, 2019, he was convicted in the Superior Court of Wake County on multiple counts of indecent liberty with a child, all of which are felonies. Brother RFS did not answer the Masonic charges against him.
7. Docket #941 - Brother LJT, a Master Mason and member of Piedmont Pioneer Lodge No. 685, was reprimanded by the Grand Master after he pleaded guilty at a Summary Trial of writing in his OSW.
8. Docket #942 - Brother WPB, a Master Mason and suspended member of St. Paul's Lodge No. 474, was expelled by the Judge Advocate after he was convicted on December 13, 2019, in the Superior Court of New Hanover County for First-Degree Murder, a felony. Brother WPB did not answer the Masonic charges against him.
9. Docket #951 - Brother RTC, a Master Mason and member of the Lodge of the Nine Sisters No. 773, was summoned to appear at a summary trial before Grand Master P. Shaun Bradshaw after he was accused of un-Masonic conduct in the execution of the duties of his office, misappropriation of lodge funds, and engaging in electioneering. Brother RTC virtually appeared at the trial, admitted to the accusations made against him, and apologized for his conduct. He was expelled by the Grand Master.
10. Docket #952 - Brother CBC, a Master Mason and member of the Lodge of the Nine Sisters No. 773, was summoned to appear at a summary trial before Grand Master P. Shaun Bradshaw after he was accused of un-Masonic conduct in the execution of the duties of his office as well as engaging in electioneering. Brother CBC virtually appeared at the trial, admitted to the accusations made against him, and apologized for his conduct. He was suspended by the Grand Master for a total of two years and forbidden from holding any Masonic office in any Masonic body for a further two years.
11. Docket #953 - Brother MAF, a Master Mason and member of Lodge of the Nine Sisters No. 773, was summoned to appear at a summary trial before Grand Master P. Shaun Bradshaw after he was accused of un-Masonic conduct in the form of engaging in electioneering. Brother MAF appeared at the trial, did not contest witness testimony against him, and apologized for his conduct. He was suspended by the Grand

Master for a total of two years and forbidden from holding any Masonic office in any Masonic body for a further four years.

12. Docket #954 - Brother DBG, a Master Mason and member of Lodge of the Nine Sisters No. 773, was summoned to appear at a summary trial before Grand Master P. Shaun Bradshaw after he was accused of un-Masonic conduct in the execution of the duties of his office. Brother DBG appeared at the trial, and was found not guilty of the charges. His case was dismissed by the Grand Master.
13. Docket #955 - Brother JR, a Master Mason and member of Lodge of the Nine Sisters No. 773, was summoned to appear at a summary trial before Grand Master P. Shaun Bradshaw after he was accused of un-Masonic conduct in the execution of the duties of his office. Brother JR appeared at the trial, and apologized for being ignorant of the duties of his office. He was found guilty of un-Masonic conduct and was reprimanded by the Grand Master.

Respectfully submitted,
 Jimmy Stevens
 Judge Advocate

Report of the Committee on Bylaws

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

Your committee on Bylaws of Subordinate Lodges reports that amendments to the bylaws of the following lodges were approved during the year 2019-2020. They are listed as approved.

Lodge Name	Num	Article	Remarks
Royal White Hart	2	Art 8	meeting date changed to third Tuesday at 7p
St. John's	4	Art 10	dues increase to \$104 plus per capita
	4	Art 11	affiliation fee increased to \$26
Charity	5	Art 10	dues increased to \$40 plus per capita
Phoenix	8	Art 10	dues increased to \$105 plus per capita
St John's	13	Art 9	initiation fee increased to \$150
	13	Art 10	dues increase to \$150
Eagle	19	Art 9	initiation fee increased to \$165
	19	Art 13	charity amount increased to \$500
	19	Art 17	trustees operate as prescribed
Statesville	27	Art 8	meeting time changed to 7p
Phalanx	31	Art 11	affiliation fee increased to \$30
Hall	53	Art 10	dues increased to \$75 plus per capita
Widow's Son	75	Art 10	dues increased to \$65 plus per capita
Greensboro	76	Art 7	elect officers to be held at November

			stated communication
Zion	81	Art 10	dues increased to \$84 plus per capita
Fellowship	84	Art 10	dues increased to \$105
Jerusalem	95	Art 9	initiation fee increased to \$100
	95	Art 10	dues increased to \$50 plus per capita
Columbus	102	Art 10	dues increased to \$100
Wayne	112	Art 10	dues increased to \$125
Person	113	Art 10	dues increase to \$155 plus per capita
Oxford	122	Art 10	dues increase to \$175 plus per capita
Oxford	122	Art 22	prohibiting tobacco use and vaping in lodge building
Mill Creek	125	Art 10	dues increased to \$75 plus per capita
Gatesville	126	Art 10	dues increased to \$86.00
Dan River	129	Art 10	dues increase to \$125 plus per capita
	129	Art 11	affiliation fee increased to \$30
Dan River	129	Art 9	initiation fee increased to \$150
	129	Art 10	dues increased to \$125 plus per capita
	129	Art 11	affiliation fee increased to \$30
King Solomon	138	Art 9	initiation fe increased to \$235
	138	Art 10	dues increase to \$125 plus per capita
Palmyra	147	Art 10	dues increased to \$100 plus per capita
Pee Dee	150	Art 10	dues increase to \$100 plus per capita
Scotch Ireland	154	Art 10	dues increased to \$85
Yadkin	162	Art 13	charity amount increased to \$100
Archer	165	Art 9	initiation fee increased to \$100
Buffalo	172	Art 10	dues increased to \$150
Chadbourn	190	Art 8	annual meeting in November
	190	Art 9	initiation fee increased to \$300
	190	Art 10	dues increase to \$100 plus per capita
	190	Art 11	affiliation fee increased to \$100
	190	Art 25	adoption of bylaw affection time
Long Creek	205	Art 9	initiation fee increased to \$125
	205	Art 10	dues increased to \$100 plus per capita tax
Olin	226	Art 8	change meeting time to 7p
	226	Art 10	dues increased to \$75 plus per capita
Kenly	257	Art 8	annual meeting in November
	257	Art 11	affiliation fee increased to \$100
	257	Art 13	charity amount increased to \$100

	257	Art 19	special balloting procedures
	257	Art 21	order of business updated
	257	Art 22	tobacco prohibited in lodge building
	257	Art 22	alcohol prohibited from lodge property
Fuquay	258	Art 10	dues increase to \$125 plus per capita
Excelsior	261	Art 10	dues increased to \$125
Farmington	265	Art 9	initiation fee increased to \$150
	265	Art 10	dues increased to \$75 plus per capita
	265	Art 11	affiliation fee increased to \$50
Wallace	279	Art 10	dues increased to \$100 plus per capita
Eureka	283	Complete	revision of bylaws
Harmony	299	Art 10	dues increase to \$100 plus per capita
Aurora	300	Art 9	initiation fee increased to \$150
	300	Art 10	dues increased to \$130
	300	Art 11	affiliation fee increased to \$30
Lillington	302	Art 9	initiation fee increased to \$85
	302	Art 10	dues increased to \$75
	302	Art 11	affiliation fee increased to \$25
	302	Art 13	charity amount increased to \$300
Pleasant Hill	304	Art 10	dues increase to \$105 plus per capita
	304	Art 11	affiliation fee increased to \$26
Raeford	306	Art 8	stated meeting changed to 4th Tuesday at 7p
	306	Art 9	initiation fee increased to \$100
	306	Art 10	dues increased to \$75
	306	Art 11	affiliation fee increased to \$7.50
	306	Art 13	charity amount increased to \$1000
Bayboro	331	Art 9	initiation fee increased to \$100
Fairview	339	Art 10	dues increased to \$59 plus per capita
East LaPorte	358	Art 10	dues increased to \$50 plus per capita
Gastonia	369	Art 8	annual meeting in November
Youngsville	377	Art 10	dues increased to \$80 plus per capita
Coharie	379	Art 9	initiation fee increased to \$135
	379	Art 10	dues increase to \$124 plus per capita
Kedron	387	Art 10	“dues increase to \$175 in 2020, then \$200 in 2025”
Lebanon	391	Art 10	dues increased to \$75 plus per capita
Ocean	405	Art 8	meeting time changed to 7p
	405	Art 10	dues increased to \$88

Ocean	405	Art 10	dues increased to \$114
North Wilkesboro	407	Art 8	annual meeting in November
	407	Art 9	initiation fee increased to \$150
	407	Art 10	dues increase to \$75
Henry F. Grainger	412	Complete revision of bylaws	
Harmon	420	Art 10	dues increase to \$100 plus per capita
	420	Art 11	affiliation fee increased to \$50
	420	Art 13	charity amount increased to \$100
	420	Art 19	adopt special balloting procedures
Blue Ridge	435	Art 10	dues increased to \$24 plus per capita
	435	Art 11	affiliation fee increased to \$50
Marietta	444	Art 8	meeting time changed to third Monday at 7:30p
Dillsboro	459	Art 8	meeting date changed to third Thursday at 7:30p
	459	Art 13	charity amount increased to \$300
South Fork	462	Art 9	initiation fee increased to \$150
	462	Art 10	dues increased to \$74 plus per capita
	462	Art 11	affiliation fee increased to \$25
Currituck	463	Art 9	initiation fee increased to \$136
	463	Art 10	dues increased to \$106
	463	Art 11	affiliation fee increased to \$40
Grassy Knob	471	Art 8	meeting date changed to two meetings monthly
Lexington Memorial	473	Art 9	initiation fee increased to \$200
	473	Art 10	dues increased to \$110
Rainbow	479	Art 10	dues increased to \$60 plus per capita
Creedmoor	499	Art 9	initiation fee increased to \$75
	499	Art 10	dues increase to \$50 plus per capita
	499	Art 11	affiliation fee increased to \$10
Red Springs	501	Art 9	initiation fee increased to \$230
	501	Art 10	dues increase to \$115 plus per capita
Hamlet	532	Art 10	dues increased to \$150
	532	Art 11	affiliation fee increased to \$30
Glennville	551	Art 10	dues increased to \$24 plus per capita
	551	Art 11	affiliation fee increased to \$50
Swannanoa	561	Complete revision of bylaws	
Wendell	565	Art 19	adopt special balloting procedures
Casar	579	Art 10	dues increased to \$90
Stony Point	593	Art 8	meeting time changed to 7p
Home	613	Art 10	dues increased to \$80

St Patrick's	617	Art 10	dues increased to \$100
Union	618	Art 10	dues increased to \$150
Bladen	646	Art 10	dues increased to \$100
Nichols-West Asheville	650	Art 10	dues increase to \$225 plus per capita
	650	Art 22	prohibiting tobacco use and vaping in lodge building
Keller Memorial	657	Art 10	dues increased to \$44 plus per capita
Black Mountain	663	Art 8	meeting date changed during summer months
Fort Bragg	667	Art 9	initiation fee increased to \$150
	667	Art 10	dues increase to \$125 plus per capita
	667	Art 11	affiliation fee increased to \$10
Robbinsville	672	Art 9	initiation fee increased to \$110
Acacia	674	Art 3	new seal
Creasy Proctor	679	Art 10	dues increased to \$130
Semper Fidelis	680	Art 8	meeting time changed to 7p
Cherry Point	688	Art 10	dues increased to \$90 plus per capita
	688	Art 11	affiliation fee increased to \$30
Asheboro	699	Art 10	dues increased to \$40 plus per capita
Garner	701	Art 8	meeting date changed
Richard Caswell	705	Art 10	dues increase to \$100 plus per capita
Crown Point	708	Art 10	dues increased to \$100
	708	Art 11	affiliation fee increased to \$100
Troy	718	Art 10	dues increased to \$85
King	722	Art 9	initiation fee increased to \$200
	722	Art 10	dues increased to \$99 plus per capita
	722	Art 13	charity amount increased to \$500
	722	Art 19	special balloting procedures
Winton	723	Art 10	dues increased to \$76
Shallotte	727	Art 9	initiation fee increased to \$250
Bush Hill	732	Art 10	dues increase to \$125 plus per capita
Stump Sound	733	Art 9	initiation fee increased to \$125
	733	Art 10	dues increased to \$75 plus per capita
	733	Art 11	affiliation fee increased to \$75
	733	Art 19	special provision for charitable donations
James B. Green	735	Art 10	dues increase to \$114 plus per capita
Newell	739	Art 9	initiation fee increased to \$250
	739	Art 10	dues increased to \$74 plus per capita
Vandora	745	Art 10	dues increase to \$100 plus per capita
	745	Art 16	

Truth	749	Art 10	dues increased to \$80 plus per capita
Clemmons	755	Art 8	meeting time changed to 7p
James K. Polk	759	Art 9	initiation fee increased to \$150
	759	Art 11	affiliation fee increased to \$50
Wilkerson College	760	Art 10	dues increase to \$105 plus per capita
Orphans	761	Art 8	meeting dates and times changed
Mosaic	762	Art 10	dues increased to \$90 plus per capita
Veritas	769	Art 13	charity amount increased to \$500
	769	Art 19	Master may appoint historian
	769	Art 22	tobacco and vaping prohibited in lodge building
State College	770	Art 1	update lodge name to include lodge number
	770	Art 3	update lodge seal
	770	Art 8	all stated communications changed to third Wednesday
Lux Libertas	772	Complete	revision of bylaws
Lodge of Nine Sisters	773	Art 1	location of lodge updated
	773	Art 8	state meetings changed to third Saturday of January, May, September and November
	773	Art 8	annual meeting in November

Respectfully submitted,
Jonathan Underwood, Chairman

Report on the Committee on WhiteStone

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

Your Committee on WhiteStone is pleased to report its findings and recommendations to the delegates and attendees of the 233rd Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina. For 108 years, our home in Greensboro has provided care for our senior brothers, sisters, and family members in need. Some 300 residents call WhiteStone home. The facility employs nearly 260 full- and part-time employees and operates on a \$15 million annual budget. This growth and excellence in care would not have been possible without the ongoing support of individual brothers, their lodges, and the Grand Lodge.

Our Committee is charged with visiting our home in Greensboro and reporting on its conditions and management. Throughout the year, Committee members attended board meetings through Zoom meetings and other virtual platforms. Unfortunately, although individual members were able to visit in the early part of 2020, we were unable to visit the facility as a Committee because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are grateful for the assistance of the Executive Director, Brother

Mark Lewis, for his assistance with our work and for his and the Chairman of the Board, MW Brother Gene Jernigan’s consistently outstanding leadership throughout the year. We also extend our thanks to the WhiteStone staff for their dedication and service to the residents and their support of our Committee this year.

We are pleased to report to the Craft that WhiteStone is financially strong, the condition of the property is excellent, and operations continue to be both efficient and professional. The success at WhiteStone has resulted in a growing number of prospects waiting to become residents.

Operating Highlights

- \$15 M annual operating budget
- 96.2% Overall Campus Occupancy in 2019
- Care and Wellness Center Five Star Rated
- \$1.5 M in Charitable Care for 2019

	Percentage Occupied		
	FY 2019	FY 2018	FY 2017
Independent	95.3%	94.4%	91.9%
Assisted / Memory Care	96.6%	97.5%	97.5%
Health Center	97.2%	95.5%	94.3%
Total	96.2%	95.0%	93.1%

Our Care and Wellness Center is presently rated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) as a five-star facility. The five-star rating places our health center in the top ten percent of all skilled care centers in North Carolina. The health center also rated in the top twenty-two of four hundred and twenty-nine nursing centers in North Carolina, according to the U.S. News and World Report Nursing Home Rankings for 2019-2020.

Charity Summary

Thanks to the generosity of Masons and Stars across the state, contributions to WhiteStone have remained steady over the last several years. Because of this strong support, WhiteStone has averaged over \$1.3 million of annual charity care over the past five years. Charity care on campus consists of a subsidy for approximately 45 residents who could not otherwise afford to live and receive the necessary care and support at the Community. Of these 45 residents, approximately 22 reside in the Care and Wellness Center under the Medicaid program and 23 in the independent living level of care.

Additionally, the Outreach Program continues to be an asset to members across the state needing assistance to remain in their homes and live independently. The program saw growth in 2019, with approximately \$80K in charitable care. Assistance through the Outreach Program comes in many forms, from that of financial aid to care management and widow support by our Outreach Coordinator. This program has developed into an extremely effective tool to help our fraternally related members to remain at home, independently, as long as they can do so with a good quality of life. Assistance through the NC Masonic and Eastern Star Outreach Program is available by calling (336)

601-5593.

The goal for the charity program at WhiteStone is to continue to provide an amount of charity care on an annual basis equal to the amount of contributions received.

Expansion Project

These are truly exciting times for our home in Greensboro. We are reinvesting in WhiteStone so that it will continue to offer our members, our seniors, a comfortable living experience along with exceptional healthcare. WhiteStone is getting ready to break ground on a project that will expand our healthcare services and enhance those already in existence.

The proposed expansion seeks to meet four goals - first, to provide a full continuum of care to its residents with the addition of assisted living apartments; second, to significantly renovate the beloved Care and Wellness Center originally built in 1999; third, to continue improving the independent living opportunities on campus to meet the expectations of today's residents; and fourth, to add commons and amenities for the enjoyment of its current residents and to meet the expectations of its prospective residents.

Project Highlights:

1. Expand healthcare services with the addition of Assisted Living Residences
 - a. New Three-Story Building;
 - b. 36 Total Apartments;
 - c. 12 Dedicated to Memory Care
2. Renovation of the Care and Wellness Center.
 - a. Increase in number of Private Rooms;
 - b. Creation of a Homelike Environment;
 - c. Updated wellness space / equipment
3. Expansion of Independent Living to meet growing demand for senior housing.
 - a. New Five-Story Building;
 - b. 67 Total Apartments

All this work is designed to enhance an already-thriving senior community and advance the lives of current and future residents. This project will also ensure the long-term sustainability for the WhiteStone community, so that future generations of Masons and Stars can look to our home in Greensboro in their time of need.

COVID-19

During a time of national emergency due to coronavirus (COVID-19), WhiteStone has maintained communication with local and state health officials and followed the guidance the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, and local health officials continue to share with us. WhiteStone is taking all necessary measures to reduce the risk to our residents and staff. These measures include:

- Requiring employees to wear face masks and adhere to additional screening processes
-

- Increasing the frequency and rigor of cleaning and sanitizing common community areas
- Restricting visitors, including deliveries
- Canceling large, on-site group social events and recreational activities
- Reviewing and executing emergency preparedness and response programs
- Asking residents and employees to communicate any travel plans
- Coordinating best practices across a large partner network
- Making the CDC's COVID-19 prevention resources and recommendations available to all employees

The COVID-19 situation is rapidly evolving, and WhiteStone has prepared resources to answer employees' and residents' questions, share best practices to reduce the community's risk, and help them remain calm and confident. On a daily basis, management continues to communicate and work with staff and residents, concentrating on their needs during this national state of emergency. The goal is to address concerns quickly and communicate as transparently and frequently as possible.

At WhiteStone they've taken the additional step of establishing a Coronavirus Task Force to address the numerous issues created by this fast spreading illness. The task force is comprised of resident and staff leaders, which has provided great dialogue and input on pressing issues. As a result, WhiteStone has implemented a number of measures to improve infection control and preventative practices. As new information comes available, safety measures are evaluated and updated as necessary.

This is an unprecedented health situation that unfortunately seems to be growing rather than subsiding. Please know that the health and safety of the WhiteStone community is our main focus and top priority.

Conclusion

Our Committee wishes to thank the Grand Lodge and WhiteStone's residents and staff for giving us the opportunity to learn more about our home and its charitable work. We hope you will take the opportunity to visit WhiteStone and see for yourself the impact of our fraternity's involvement in the lives of the residents there. You may even consider holding a lodge meeting there to enjoy fellowship with Masonic residents who are not able to travel to meetings or simply visit the recently chartered MESH Lodge #771, which meets at 2:00 pm on the second Saturday of each month. Or think about adopting a resident — this is a small investment of time and resources that yields tremendous personal rewards for the recipients, as well as those who give. Feel free to contact Brother Mark Lewis if you'd like to explore any of these ideas.

The Committee encourages each and every brother, as well as every lodge, to strongly consider regular contributions in support of WhiteStone and NC MESH LLC. Your dollars go directly to support aging Brothers and Sisters in need, both at the home in Greensboro as well as at their own homes. North Carolina Masons can be proud of the good work they are doing in support of their aging brethren.

Finally, the Committee would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mark Lewis, Executive Director of Whitestone; The Campaign for Whitestone; The North Carolina Masonic Foundation; and the Board of Directors of Whitestone, a Masonic and Eastern Star Community in developing this report. The Committee is deeply grateful for all of the assistance.

Cordially and fraternally,
Robert W. Rideout, Jr., Chairman
Scottie Cox
Paschal Dobbins
Eric Newton
Gene Lewellyn

Report of the Committee on the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

There is no greater distinction from the profane than doing something beyond ourselves; something that has no tangible return, but that in and of itself, is freely given to increase the value of another's life experience. As a seed when properly planted and cared for can become a mighty oak tree with branches far and wide, so too can these children become giants among men, if properly cultivated. Being even a small a part of that is our great reward. Knowing that we helped to grow someone who otherwise might never have taken root, is evidence of our Masonic commitment.

Richard Spivey, Committee Member

Report of the Administrator

MHCO began the year with the focus being 20/20, emphasizing the need to clearly focus on recommendations from the Organizational Assessment, Staff Survey, and Program Developments. Little did we realize the events of 2020 would bring into focus the basics of life, including navigating the issues related to our health, economic, and social pandemic. MHCO was blessed to realize many successes in 2019.

MHCO's census increased during 2019 in both the Direct Care and Independent Living Programs for a total increase of 4%. MHCO served a total of 91 residents in 2019 with an average of 50 residents being served daily. Revenues exceeded the 2018 total by \$200,000. While income was 4.2% below projections, operating expenses were 5.5% below budget and covered the lower projections for income. MHCO kicked off the Recurring Gift Campaign. The hope is that donors will contribute enough to the Recurring Gift Campaign that Legacy and Planned Gifts can go directly to the Endowment, rather than be required for daily operations. A \$10 recurring gift per month by every NC Mason would achieve this level.

The children achieved at extraordinary levels. Three Seniors graduated High School for a 100% graduation rate, one after returning home and receiving tutoring supports from MHCO. One special honor was bestowed, as one MHCO Junior was a Marshall for JF Webb's High School Graduation. Independent Living residents also did very well, earning Automotive and Certified

Nursing Assistant Certifications. One resident earned their Commercial Driver's License, while another continues to finalize their education at UNC-Charlotte. The promotion rate for all grades this year was 100%. In 2019, 71.4% of the residents aged 16 and older were employed off campus. The overall campus GPA for the fourth quarter was 86.53. MHCO's licensing review with DSS went very well with our new Licensing Representative.

MHCO was awarded grants from the SECU, John Williams Pope, and HDR Foundations, among others. MHCO continues to seek grants to fund the CARE Trauma Informed Model of Care, and for a Transitional Living Program Model. The grant awards have allowed for MHCO to conduct a comprehensive Organizational Assessment, be supported in further developing a Marketing Strategy, and build a new bridge on the farm road. Please share possible Foundation and Grant resources with MHCO as we continue to solicit grants for important initiatives.

In the 1920s MHCO responded to the impact of the Spanish Flu and other health issues by building a pool, hospital, and school. One hundred years later MHCO is addressing similar issues. The pool has been a salvation as the campus is primarily closed. Isolation cottages and staffing have been established for children returning from visits and new admissions. The school year ended with the students receiving virtual instruction with extensive tutoring supports. This school year, MHCO will request all the Elementary and Middle School students to attend virtually. School supports are being developed to include virtual learning classrooms on campus, tutoring supports, and additional educational opportunities including recreation, spiritual development, and experiential education provided by staff. High School students will attend school two days a week, and be included in the on grounds school schedule on the other school days. The goal is to provide a safe, educational, and rewarding school experience.

Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with all impacted by this health, economic, and social pandemic. MHCO has had one positive COVID-19 case. An ILP resident was not feeling well, had a mild cough, slight fever, and had lost their sense of taste and smell. MHCO immediately got him connected with the Public Health Department. Testing, contact tracing, and monitoring were provided. The resident was placed in isolation in their apartment. The resident rebounded well. During the illness, he continued to say he felt like he could play basketball. One comment he made spoke to all of us. He said, "I did everything right, and I still got it." We are very happy to report that he was cleared, removed from isolation, and is successfully continuing his plan.

On March 20th MHCO closed the campus to the public and has remained closed, except for approved deliveries and contractors. MHCO determined allowance for employees to work from home and working on campus in staggered shifts. The Print Shop has remained open and would like to talk to you about your printing business needs.

Provisions were ordered increasing long-term shelf items and frozen goods. Personal Protection Equipment was well stocked and has been reordered as needed and available. Brethren have arranged and dropped off coordinated deliveries of supplies, candy, and other essentials. Child Care Worker House Parents are operating and maintaining their cottages like all large families are doing at this time. The children are having structured days that include schoolwork, play, chores, activity, and down time.

MHCO continues to take a cautious approach to reopening. Events on campus are effectively cancelled indefinitely. The Masonic Homecoming Festival has been cancelled for 2020. Some visitors have been allowed on a case by case basis, depending on the nature of their business and the ability to remain safe. Visitors are not entering any cottages. Protective measures are in place requiring questions about possible contact and health status, wearing a mask, social distancing, and washing hands.

The campus remains active with the pool, gym, playgrounds, bike rides, and summer enrichment program. Children have become pen pals with WhiteStone residents, one of whom grew up at Oxford Orphanage. The Staff and Residents are doing socially distant interactive activities. The Staff continue to work together to help make this situation pleasant and beneficial. A recovery plan has been developed to address the main elements of getting back to business as usual, including Reopening, Recalibrating, and Resiliency.

When MHCO was focusing on priorities for 2020, we did not expect the level of issues your Home would face. Normally MHCO experiences discharges of residents at the end of a school year. Those numbers increased as families were rightfully concerned and wanted their children with them. Normally MHCO also sees an influx to offset these planned school year-end discharges. With school being virtual, MHCO did not experience the year-end admissions. Consequently, the current census is dramatically down to 32 residents. As MHCO has worked through the pandemic, we are now opening up to new admissions. Six admissions are confirmed for July with nine more being processed. Now more than ever, MHCO may be a viable option for families in need. This would include families who struggle with their children attending school virtually while parents must report to work. Please help share with families and groups that MHCO is an option for families in need.

We focus on the positives and opportunities this situation has provided. The hygiene, sanitization, and other practices that have been augmented, revised, and emphasized will be good practices to continue. The campus schedule pace seems to be positive in many ways. The children are playing outside more often, in uncoordinated fun play – like kids should be doing. We believe we are blessed, and pray for all our blessings to continue.

Kevin Otis

Administrator, MHCO

Brethren,

We are twenty percent of the way through the twenty-first century! I don't have to describe to you the sand through the hourglass theory. What legacy are we leaving for the children that are yet to be born? Our Children's Home has been operating as a safe haven for children and young adults for over 147 years.

In 1873, our fraternity of Master Masons put in place an asylum for those that required specialized assistance. It was named the Oxford North Carolina Orphan Asylum, and was the first home for children in the state of North Carolina. Your home has provided a safe and caring environment for more than 10,000 lives. It is nationally accredited and licensed by the State of North Carolina to assure the finest and professional care. Two programs are currently offered at your home: residential group foster care and an independent

living program for young adults. The focus of the programs is to provide educational and emotional support, vocational and career support, spirituality, independent living skill development, personal responsibility, social growth, building of self-esteem, and most of all, love — all supported by the Masons of North Carolina.

WB Randy Cline pointed out that there are 61 lodges in North Carolina that gave less than \$5.00 per member in support of the Home last year. Each of us are a part of this family of support. Strategic plans include the expansion and enhancement of current programs, developing a family resource center for counseling, school and alternative education support, and community outreach programs. As the Administrator points out in his report, a new pool was constructed and opened in the past year, and with many generous donations, has been fully paid for.

Your district MHC O Ambassadors are a great resource for information and are able to assist with referral support. Contact your DDGM soon to schedule a visit, and get a little old fashioned Masonic Education on the subject. Brother Scot Hardwick stated “My intent is to visit the local social services and volunteer fire departments, to share information about the MCHO. I want community organizations to be aware that there is another option available for children needing the quality care that our Home has to offer.” This information is available through your Ambassador and directly from the Home.

Thank you for all your work in the past, and for your current efforts to keep your children’s Home pressing forward with a fixed and steady purpose. We, the committee, encourage every Mason in North Carolina to visit your Home in person, or online, and see for yourself the many wonderful rays of hope emanating from Oxford.

www.MHC-oxford.org. It is a positive home environment for children, when they cannot be in their own home.

Go visit your Home, and let it make an impression on you.

Cordially and fraternally,
Donald E. Kehler, SGD, Chairman
Matthew D. Hunt
Richard E. Spivey, II
J. Jason Caldwell
Scot R. Hardwick
G. Randall Cline

Resolution for Enfield Lodge 447 to Receive a Duplicate Charter

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

WHEREAS, Scotland Neck Lodge No. 689, located at Scotland Neck, North Carolina, and Enfield Lodge No. 447, located at Enfield, North Carolina, agreed to merge on March 1, 2020, as Enfield Lodge No. 447, and

WHEREAS, Scotland Neck Lodge No. 689 and Enfield Lodge No. 447 agreed to a name change on their respective resolutions to merge lodges, agreeing to

a duplicate charter issued as Scotland Neck Lodge No. 447 to be located in Scotland Neck, North Carolina, and

WHEREAS, the chartered history of Scotland Neck Lodge No. 689 and Enfield Lodge No. 447, AF & AM, remains unbroken, and

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

NOW THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED: Enfield Lodge No. 447, AF & AM, Scotland Neck, North Carolina, hereby petitions the Grand Lodge of North Carolina for a duplicate charter with the name of Scotland Neck Lodge No. 447 located at Scotland Neck, North Carolina.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrew Wirtz, Master, Enfield Lodge No. 447

***See Appendix on pages 150-151 for the Resolution for Cherryville 505 to Receive a Duplicate Charter & for the Petition for Rolesville 683 to change its name*

Report of the Committee on Unfinished Business

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

The following various orders and opinions issued during the terms of Grand Master Dwight M. Sigmon, PGM, and Grand Master P. Shaun Bradshaw are to be considered during this Annual Communication.

Sigmon Order No. 3

To the Officers and members of Maxton Lodge No. 417,

I have suspended the Master of your lodge from his office until such time as the charges now filed against him by the Judge Advocate can be adjudicated.

The charges filed against him allege he is in violation of regulations 86-1.5, 86.2-11, and 86-2.13 of The Code, all of which constitute grave concern. Considering these charges, I do not believe it possible for him to carry out the duties of his office.

In the meantime, it is my ORDER that District Deputy Grand Master William A. McCrae, II, preside over Maxton Lodge No. 417 as Master Pro Tem, until such time as your suspended master may be exonerated and returned to office, or the next annual meeting and election of officers, whichever comes first.

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.

Given under my hand and seal, this 16th day of September, A.D. 2019,
A.L. 6019.

***See Appendix on page 136 for Sigmon Orders 4-8*

Bradshaw Order No. 1

It has been brought to my attention by the Grand Secretary that Lowell Lodge 590 failed to hold its annual election of officers for the year 2020 without cause on either the first stated communication in November or December, 2019, which is a violation of Chapter 54-1 of The Code. Inasmuch, it has come to my attention that upon inspection of the lodge's bylaws, there is no provision for the lodge's prescribed annual meeting and election of officers as defined in Chapter 44-7 and 54-1 of The Code, but that the lodge has elected its officers, by convention, on the first stated communication of November. And, that when the lodge did proceed to illegally elect its officers for the ensuing year, the membership did so by a show of hands and not a written ballot as prescribed in Chapter 54-3.1 of The Code.

Therefore, the election of officers held on November 19, 2019, is Null and Void.

It is my ORDER that Lowell Lodge 590 hold its election of officers at their stated communication of January 21, 2020, according to the provisions of Chapter 54-3 of The Code.

That the lodge shall, in conformity with the Uniform Code of By-Laws for a Lodge, found in Chapter 44-7, Article 8, Section 4 of The Code, permanently establish the date of its annual meeting and election of officers to either the first stated communication of November or December, and that when this amendment is adopted by the brethren, the Secretary shall forward this amendment and subsequent Form 60 to the lodge's bylaws to the Chairman of the Committee on Bylaws no later than March 3, 2020.

And, as it would appear the combination of these transgressions appear to stem from either gross ignorance or willful negligence, it is further ORDERED that the Master of the lodge read and present as Masonic Education to his lodge all the provisions and sections pertaining to the appropriate election of officers of a subordinate lodge as outlined in Chapter 54 of The Code, prior to the election of officers to take place on January 21, 2020, and that the Master and his officers take great care in further familiarizing themselves with the laws, rules, and regulations of The Code, specifically those intended to govern the actions and procedures of subordinate lodges.

Given under my hand and seal in the city of Greensboro, this 3rd day of January, 2020.

Bradshaw Order No. 2

It was brought to my attention by the Grand Secretary that the Senior Warden of Andrew Jackson Lodge No. 576 and Secretary of Spencer Lodge No. 543, TMC, has been charged with multiple felonies. Since Brother TMC has only been charged with the crimes, it is my intent to suspend him as Senior Warden of Andrew Jackson Lodge No. 576 and as Secretary of Spencer Lodge No. 543 as provided in Regulation 58-1 of *The Code*.

The Code restricts the authority of the Grand Master on suspending a membership under Regulation 13-4.11. Therefore, it is my ORDER that Brother TMC be removed as Senior Warden of Andrew Jackson Lodge No. 576 and as Secretary of Spencer Lodge No. 543 immediately and his membership re-

cord so noted. Additionally, it is also ORDERED that this case be referred to the Judge Advocate for his disposition immediately following disposal by the courts of the state.

It is noted that if Brother TMC is found to be innocent of his alleged crimes, his record will be purged of any notation of this.

Given under my hand and seal in Greensboro, North Carolina, this the 20th day of February, 2020.

Bradshaw Order No. 3

To the District Deputy Grand Masters and Lecturers of the 14th and 15th Masonic Districts, and the Masters, Wardens, and Brethren of the Hiram Lodge No. 40, William G. Hill Lodge No. 218, and Raleigh Lodge No. 500,

In consideration of the current status and trajectory of the Raleigh Masonic Temple, I believe it would be beneficial to have all three lodges of the Raleigh Masonic Temple to be within the same district. I expect this would generate greater inclusivity and momentum for the lodges to work together to decide their future.

Therefore, I am ordering Hiram Lodge No. 40 to be moved into the 14th Masonic District, where WB Jeff Sank presides as DDGM and Chris Lee presides as DDGL.

Given under my hand and seal in Greensboro, North Carolina, this the 2nd day of March, 2020.

Bradshaw Order No. 4

In light of recent events, the spread of COVID-19, and upon the recommendations of our local, state, and federal governments, it is my Order that all Freemasons and lodges in this Grand Jurisdiction conform to the recommendations and civil law of the land, and that all lodge meetings and Masonic gatherings cease at high twelve on Wednesday, March 18, 2020, until further notice.

I would encourage you to take this opportunity to remain in contact with your brothers and widows. We will be in touch with updates, plans, and notifications as the situation further develops.

Though the business of the Grand Lodge will continue, the Grand Lodge Office has been closed to non-fraternally related visitors and tourists.

Stay safe, keep healthy, remember each other, and keep the light!

Given under my hand and seal in the city of Greensboro, this the 16th day of March, 2020.

***See Appendix on page 141 for Bradshaw Orders 5-9*

Bradshaw Opinion No. 1

On March 16, 2020, I issued an order calling for the cessation of all Masonic meetings to go into effect on March 18, 2020, at high noon. This order was made as a result of the serious health risks posed by the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic. Less than two weeks later, on March 27, 2020, the Governor of the State of North Carolina issued Executive Order No. 121, commonly referred to as the Stay at Home Order, which required all persons in the State of North Carolina to shelter in place with limited exceptions. This Order went into effect on March 30, 2020.

Since that time, several lodges have attempted to continue some level of Masonic activity by meeting for social purposes using virtual platforms, calling and emailing their brethren and widows of the lodge, and working with their communities to ensure the safety and well-being of others.

Despite these ongoing Masonic activities outside the lodge rooms, some lodges believe they have urgent business to attend to, which may only be accomplished in a Stated Meeting. Specifically, on April 6, 2020, Lux Libertas Lodge No. 772 made a formal request for an opinion from the Board of Custodians on the viability of holding a Stated Communication in a virtual (online) setting.

On April 17, 2020, the Board of Custodians met to review the report and recommendations of the sub-committee formed to investigate the request. In part, the report read as follows:

“Masonry in North Carolina, as well as everyone else, is facing a challenge that it has never had to endure. From our beginning through the Revolutionary War, Civil War, two World Wars, the Korean Conflict, the Vietnam War and other wars, as well as the pandemic of 1918 our lodges have always remained open. However, due to the current pandemic we are faced with the unique situation of having to close our Lodges. Our Fraternity has and always will thrive because of the Brotherhood among us. NC Masonry needs to find a way to continue to meet as a Fraternity. There is no way of knowing how long this current situation will last or if we will have a similar situation arise in the future. The Board of Custodians’ primary responsibility is to preserve the Authorized Ritualistic Work and lectures approved by the Grand Lodge and sanctioned by The Code. Lux Libertas No. 772 has presented a proposal to the Board of Custodians seeking approval of online (virtual) meetings. After the two meetings of the Board of Custodians, our consensus is that the proposal from Lux Libertas, as it stands, falls outside the realm of Board of Custodians’ authority to approve...”

Although the Board of Custodians chose not to vote on the recommendations presented in the full report, all were in agreement that the request of Lux Libertas No. 772 to meet in a virtual setting was outside their power to decide and that the Grand Master should make the decision as to whether a lodge can meet in a Stated Communication using virtual meeting technology.

Upon review of The Code, it is clear that no part, as written today, either permits or forbids a lodge from meeting in a virtual space. In fact, until relatively recently, the technology has not existed, which would even make such a

possibility conceivable. However, given the current technological capabilities, as well as the current pandemic and the indefinite period that lodges may be unable to physically meet, the need has arisen for consideration of this matter. Therefore, pursuant to Sections 8-2 and 8-6.3 of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge and Regulation 13-2.2 and 13-2.15 of The Code I am issuing an Official Opinion on this matter.

In making the determination as to whether a lodge should be permitted to meet in a virtual setting, I have thoroughly reviewed The Code and find the following relevant sections:

1. Regulations 13-3.8(D) and 13-3.8(G) permit the Grand Master to grant a dispensation to a lodge to hold its communications in a room used for other than Masonic purposes, as well as “in case of extreme necessity” in a location other than that named in its charter or dispensation.
2. Regulation 43-5 states that “all lodge rooms shall in all respects be safe from cowans and eavesdroppers.”
3. Regulation 45-9 requires that all business of a lodge “shall be transacted in a Master Mason’s Lodge...”
4. Regulations 13-4.6 and 24-1.2 restrict the Grand Master from introducing or permitting any ceremony to be used which has not been approved by the Grand Lodge and forbids any brother from adding to or taking away any part of the Authorized Work.
5. Regulation 45-2.5 permits the Grand Master to grant a dispensation to a lodge to reschedule a Stated Communication “when inclement weather or a natural disaster compels [it]...to cancel its Stated Communication for the safety of the brethren...”

In reviewing the above cited references of The Code several questions arise, which must be answered in order to form an adequate opinion on the matter.

1. Does a virtual meeting space constitute a “room” and how do you define the “location” of a virtual meeting?

When discussing a virtual meeting there are two aspects of the “space” that must be considered: the virtual meeting space and the physical space of each of the participants in the meeting. With regards to the virtual space, the virtual technology service provider establishes a UID (Unique Identifier) for each meeting space. These meeting spaces are commonly referred to as VMRs (Virtual Meeting Rooms). Some organizations may wish to have a persistent UID, while others may prefer a new UID for each meeting, but in either case, participants may only enter the “room” if they have the proper UID. As such, a virtual meeting space constitutes a “room” which can be occupied similar to physical room.

For the purposes of determining the location of the lodge utilizing a virtual meeting space, we can look to Reg 87-14 of The Code, which defines a lodge as “a society of Masons meeting by authority of a charter or warrant from a regular grand lodge...” From this definition we see that a charter or warrant is required for a lodge to meet and therefore the member who is in physical possession of the charter (most likely the Master

or Secretary) would constitute the official physical location of the lodge.

2. Can a virtual meeting space be considered “safe from cowans and eavesdroppers” and by what standard do we compare the security of that space?

Similar to answering the first question we must consider this from two perspectives. First, each person joining the meeting must ensure their physical space is safe from cowans and eavesdroppers. This may be accomplished by ensuring that each member who accesses the virtual meeting has secured (tyled) their personal space from non-Masons, that they utilize headphones or keep the volume turned down to a level where an individual outside the physical space cannot hear the activities of the meeting, and that they have a camera which is always on so all participants can see if there is any breach of a member’s physical space. If a breach did occur, the member’s access can be immediately revoked and he can be placed in a “waiting room” outside the virtual meeting space until the physical space can be re-secured.

Second, and more importantly is the question of security of the virtual space and is it any less secure than a physical lodge room. At the time much of The Code was written, the brethren could not conceive of the level of technological advances that have been made over the last 20-30 years. In decades past, the biggest concern for the security of a lodge room was that someone might be able to spy or listen in on a meeting by being physically close to it. As a result, most lodge rooms do not have windows and per Regulation 43-5, lodges may not be on the “ground level of a building...without the express approval of the Grand Master.” While these may have been sufficient precautions to safeguard the security of a lodge meeting in the past, today’s technology makes these types of concerns almost meaningless. It is nearly impossible to guarantee the security of our lodge meetings in a physical space when practically every person who enters a lodge room carries with them a device capable of recording and videoing all lodge activities. Further, technologies exist and are readily accessible to any cowan or eavesdropper who wishes to invade the security of our lodge rooms. The reality is that our physical lodge rooms are only as secure as our preventive measures to secure them. That is, as Masons we are obligated to keep the secrets of Masonry as safe and secure as we possibly can, but that does not preclude someone who truly wants to spy on us from recording or videoing our proceedings.

In terms of securing a virtual space, it is incumbent on the brethren to ensure their meeting is as safe and secure as possible. To that end, lodges meeting in a virtual space must adhere to the following measures established by the US National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to prevent eavesdropping by unauthorized parties:

- Follow your organization’s policies for virtual meeting security.
- Limit reuse of access codes
- If the topic is sensitive, use one-time PINs or meeting identifier codes, and consider multi-factor authentication.
- Use a “green room” or “waiting room” and don’t allow the meeting

to begin until the host joins.

- Enable notification when attendees join by playing a tone or announcing names.
 - Use a dashboard to monitor attendees – and identify all attendees.
 - Don't record the meeting
 - Use only approved virtual meeting services. (see **Appendix A – The NC Grand Lodge Tech Committee Response to COVID19**)
 - Lock the meeting once you have identified all the attendees and lines in use.
3. Can a lodge effectively open and close a Master Mason's Lodge in a virtual setting and maintain the integrity of the ritual without "adding to or taking away any part of the Authorized Work"?

As noted earlier, Regulations 13-4.6 and 24-1.2 restrict the Grand Master and lodges from introducing new ceremonies or modifying our existing rituals. Further, Regulation 45-9 is clear that "All business shall be transacted in a Master Mason's Lodge..." With this in mind, I requested that the brethren of Lux Libertas Lodge No. 772 demonstrate for the Board of Custodians how they would open a Master Masons Lodge, conduct various votes, and then close the lodge. On April 21, 2020, Lux Libertas No. 772, for coaching and demonstration purposes only, opened a Master Masons Lodge in a virtual setting with members of the Board of Custodians, several Grand Lodge officers, and myself present. During the demonstration several questions regarding procedures (particularly with regard to the "Red Letter" work of the OSW) were asked, which the members of Lux Libertas No. 772 attempted to answer and demonstrate further. On April 23, 2020, the sub-committee of the Board of Custodians met and prepared a report for review and vote of the full board (see **Appendix B – Board of Custodians Subcommittee Report on Lux Libertas Lodge No. 772 Proposal to hold a Virtual Lodge Meeting**). The consensus of the subcommittee was that, with certain changes and restrictions, Lux Libertas No. 772 had sufficiently demonstrated it is possible to open and close a Master Masons Lodge in a virtual setting. On April 28, 2020, the Board of Custodians met and, by majority vote, approved the report.

4. Under what circumstances would a lodge find it necessary to meet in a virtual setting rather than utilizing Regulation 45-2.5 to request a dispensation from the Grand Master to meet at a later date when it can be done safely in a physical space?

Aside from the question of the security of a virtual lodging meeting, this is the most frequent objection to permitting a virtual meeting. If the brethren of a lodge wish to meet for social purposes, they are free to do so virtually without the necessity of opening a lodge. If there is some business that a lodge must conduct, as in an emergency situation where a lodge may have to expend funds that are not recurring or currently budgeted, then the lodge could request dispensation to meet on a date other than their regular stated meeting in order to transact that business. While this is a valid argument it does assume that the situation which caused the lodge not to be able to meet has a definite end time. That is,

in order to request a dispensation to meet at a later date, there is an assumption that the lodge can specify the date on which they plan to meet. Our current situation with the pandemic is evidence enough that such an assumption does not stand up to reality. At this point we are uncertain when lodges may be able to again safely meet – it could be weeks or it could be months – and there is a very real possibility that another wave of this virus could disrupt our lodge business again in the near future. If that were to happen, lodges that only meet on a bi-monthly or quarterly basis may find that they are, again, unable to meet to transact any lodge business.

Based on the answers to the above questions I believe it is in the best interest of the fraternity for there to be some mechanism whereby a lodge may meet in a stated meeting to conduct such business as it may find necessary during a time when the members are unable to physically gather together. While my preference would be for The Code to specifically address the instances where this is allowed and that the Authorized Work were updated in a way to make it easier for lodges, in those circumstances, to ritualistically open, that is not the situation we are in.

Accordingly, it is my Official Opinion that lodges, under extraordinary circumstances, may hold a Stated Communication in a virtual setting given the following restrictions:

1. Pursuant to Regulation 13-3.8(G) a lodge must request a dispensation from the Grand Master to hold a Stated Communication in a virtual setting. Such requests must include a detailed explanation as to why the meeting may not be postponed until a later date.
2. The Grand Master may grant the dispensation if, in his sole discretion, he believes permitting the lodge to meet in a virtual setting is in the best interest of the lodge; otherwise, he may suggest that the lodge seek relief through a request for dispensation to meet at a different time pursuant to Regulation 45-2.5.
3. A lodge which intends to meet in a virtual setting must use one of the approved virtual technology service provider platforms identified in **Appendix A – The NC Grand Lodge Tech Committee Response to COVID19**.
4. Unless or until The Code is amended to permit lodges to transact business on a degree other than that of Master Mason, the lodge must open and close a Master Masons lodge ritualistically as described in the Authorized Work. At no time shall a lodge open “symbolically” or by proclamation.
5. When opening a Master Masons Lodge in a virtual setting, lodges must follow the guidelines of the NIST (listed above), as well as follow the procedures identified in **Appendix C – A Practical Guide to a Virtual Lodge**.
6. Prior to meeting in a virtual setting and agreeable with Regulation 43-6 the Master of the lodge shall give due notice to all members of the lodge of the change of location to a virtual setting. Further, per Regulation 45-4, such notice may be sent electronically if the member has a valid email address, otherwise the member must be contacted

- by telephone service or mailed under sealed cover. Finally, the notice must specify the procedure by which the member may attend the virtual lodge meeting.
7. Aside from the Secretary in the performance of his duties as specified in Regulation 59-12 and pursuant to Regulation 86-2.9 no portion of the meeting held in a virtual setting shall be recorded in any way or manner whatsoever.
 8. The charter empowering the lodge to work must be clearly visible to all members in the virtual meeting. It is suggested that either the Master or Secretary have the charter physically present with them during the meeting.
 9. A lodge may conduct such business as the Master may deem necessary with the following exceptions:
 - a. A lodge shall not perform any degree work in virtual setting.
 - b. A lodge shall not examine a candidate in a virtual setting.
 - c. A lodge shall not conduct a secret ballot in a virtual setting.

Given under my hand and seal this 29th day of April, 2020, in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Amendment Group 1

The following amendment has been submitted by the Finance Committee.

This amendment would allow the election of a chairman for the Finance Committee prior to the installation of Grand Lodge Officers.

Reg. 34-3(c) - Subsequent to the election of officers of the Grand Lodge as provided in Chapter 12 and prior to the ~~close of the Grand Lodge installation of the Grand Lodge officers~~, the committee shall elect its Chairman from its membership.

Amendment Group 2

The following amendments have been submitted by the Board of General Purposes.

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

Chapter 43 Subordinate Lodge Powers and Duties

...

43-2.14. A lodge shall keep its property insured against reasonable replacement cost loss or damage by fire and other hazards. Any lodge failing to insure its property shall not be granted permission to ask for assistance from other lodges of this jurisdiction on account of loss except by the Grand Lodge on recommendation by the Grand Master. [60-1.3.F]. It shall be malfeasance of the three principal officers and the Trustees of the lodge pursuant to Reg 13-3.5 if the lodge fails to keep its property insured as here provided. It shall be malfeasance pursuant to Reg 13-3.5 if the Secretary fails to timely issue a

voucher to pay a properly submitted bill for insurance resulting in the loss of insurance coverage, and it shall be malfeasance pursuant to Reg 13-3.5 if the Treasurer fails to timely pay a properly issued voucher to pay for insurance resulting in the loss of insurance coverage if the lodge has the funds to pay the bill, all pursuant to Reg 13-3.5.

Amendment Group 3

The following amendment has been submitted by Mack Sigmon, (Past) Grand Master.

This amendment would allow members who do not live within the state to serve on Boards, Commissions, and Committees.

REG. 27-3 ELIGIBILITY TO SERVE.

A brother to be eligible to serve on any board, commission, or committee of this Grand Lodge shall be and remain a member in good standing in a subordinate lodge of this Grand Lodge **and shall continue to be a resident of this state** during his tenure. Failure to do so will create a vacancy.

Amendment Group 4

The following amendments have been submitted by the Transition Committee.

These amendments would require additional qualifications for Grand Lodge Officers.

REG. 11-5 GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS.

In addition to other qualifications imposed in The Code an officer of the Grand Lodge shall have the following general qualifications.

2. No brother shall be eligible for the offices of Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, or a Grand Warden, Grand Secretary, Grand Treasurer, a Grand Deacon, Grand Marshal or a Grand Steward, who is not a Past Master of a subordinate lodge. [3-3.2;12-1; 57-8].

Duties of the Grand Secretary

Amend 16-1 The duties of the Grand Secretary are as follows.

...

38. To appoint, with the approval of the Grand Master, an assistant to the Grand Secretary who shall have and maintain the qualifications required for a Grand Secretary set forth in Chapter 11, and to fill any vacancy in the same manner. For the official acts of such Assistant to the Grand Secretary, the Grand Secretary and his bondsman shall be responsible. When the Grand Secretary is unable to perform the duties of his office for any reason, the Assistant to the Grand Secretary, when directed by the Grand Master, shall perform the duties of the Grand Secretary as Acting Grand Secretary and shall receive such compensation as the Grand Master shall direct, but the Grand Master in his

discretion shall have the power to name some other qualified brother as Acting Grand Secretary. (11-11; 12-5; 21-3; 21-3.3; 21- 3.4).

39. To perform any other duties which pertain to his office and which he may be directed to perform by the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master. (22-1; 22-2; 22-4.3).

40. To assist the Personnel Committee in recommending salary and benefit packages for all Grand Lodge employees according to Personnel Committee policies and procedures, including a performance based pay plan that shall be submitted to the Board of General Purposes and Committee on Finance for approval and inclusion in the Budget.

41. To assist the Grand Master and the Personnel Committee in the process of transition of the Grand Secretary in accordance with meeting the following qualifications for his successor in office.

1. The Grand Secretary shall be a Past Master, a Past elected Grand Line officer, or Assistant Grand Secretary.

2. The Grand Secretary shall have sufficient skills in leading a state-wide non-profit organization.

42. To have a working knowledge of the United States Internal Revenue Code and assist in the preparation of the Grand Lodge 990 combined tax return.

43. To have working knowledge of the process of conducting independent audits such that he can assist with the annual audit of the Grand Lodge, as well as any audit conducted by the Internal Revenue Service or North Carolina Department of Revenue of the Grand Lodge, any of its subordinate lodges, or the North Carolina Masonic Foundation or any of its disregarded entities.

44. To have the skill to proficiently operate the Grand Lodge membership data base. The skill of the Grand Secretary shall be sufficient to provide individual instruction on the use of the membership database to the Grand Lodge office staff, lodge secretaries and Grand Lodge Officers. In addition to all individual instruction needed, the Grand Secretary shall provide educational classes for lodge secretaries on the use and operation of the membership database not less than one (1) time per year.

45. ~~40.~~ To surrender his office to his successor at the end of his term or sooner if lawfully required to do so and to deliver to him any and all property of every kind belonging to the

Grand Lodge in his possession, or for which he may be responsible. He shall take duplicate receipts therefor, one copy of which shall be delivered to the Grand Master.

46. ~~41.~~ To execute and file with the Grand Master, within fifteen days after his installation, an official surety bond in such penal sum as the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master may require but not less than \$100,000.00, with such sureties as shall be approved by the Grand Master, conditioned that he will faithfully discharge the duties of his office as provided in The Code or by any amendments thereto. The premium for said bond shall be paid by the Grand Lodge. If he shall fail to file the said bond within the prescribed time, the Grand Master shall declare the office vacant and appoint a brother who is qualified and who will file the required bond.

Amendment Group 5

The following amendment has been submitted by Cannon Memorial Lodge No. 626.

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

Amend Chapter 68-3.3 Not more than one petition or proposition shall be voted on at the same time, and the simultaneous use of different or multiple ballot boxes on different petitions or applications or propositions is hereby prohibited. The simultaneous use of different or multiple ballot boxes on different petitions, or applications or propositions is hereby prohibited. When voting upon multiple petitions, and/ or applications, all petitions, and/ or applications can be voted on at the same time. Upon examination of ballots, if any number of black cubes are found, the Lodge will vote on each candidate individually and follow existing rules set forth by The Code.

Amendment Group 6

The following amendment has been submitted by the Committee on Subordinate Lodge Special Activities.

This amendment would increase the size of the Committee to five members, up from the present three. Upon adoption, the Deputy Grand Master will appoint three members to the Committee on the terms that he selects, e.g. one for three years, one for four years and one for five years. This amendment will become effective on adoption.

CHAPTER 32 Commission on Special Activities

REG. 32-1 MEMBERS. The Commission on Special Activities shall consist of three five members to be nominated by the Board of General Purposes and elected by the Grand Lodge as follows. (27-1.3.P; 27-6; 27-7.8).

1. Each member of the Commission shall be a Past Master of a subordinate lodge in this jurisdiction well versed in the law of this Grand Lodge and in the usages and customs of the Craft and shall be experienced in handling business matters pertaining to subordinate lodges.

2. At each annual communication the Board of General Purposes shall nominate one qualified brother to serve for three five years. The Commission shall elect its chairman. In the event of a vacancy on the committee by death or for any other cause the Grand Master shall fill the vacancy by appointment for the unexpired term.

...

Amendment Group 7

The following amendments have been submitted by Grand Secretary.

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

REG. 45-2 STATED COMMUNICATION.

4. A lodge, regularly opened on the first or third degree for an emergent communication on the day of a stated communication at an earlier hour than that named in its by-laws for that stated communication, may be changed to

a stated communication without going through the ceremonies of closing and again opening in the following manner.

A. At a time not more than thirty minutes after the hour named in the by-laws for the stated communication, the Master shall announce in open lodge that “the hour for the stated communication having arrived, and the lodge having been opened on the degree of Entered Apprentice or Master Mason, further work in the emergent communication will be deferred and the business of the stated communication taken up.”

REG. 45-8 QUORUM.

Seven Master Masons, members of the lodge, one of whom shall be authorized to open the lodge and preside, shall constitute a quorum to open the lodge on any degree and for the transaction of any business that may lawfully come before an Entered Apprentice's or Master Mason's lodge. The Tyler, if a member of the lodge, may be one of the seven. [38-2; 39-11; 74-1; 87-3].

REG. 45-9 DEGREE ON WHICH LODGE OPENED.

All business ~~shall~~ may be transacted in an Entered Apprentice's or Master Mason's Lodge, except proficiency examinations and degree work in the first and second degrees, or the discipline of Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts as provided in Chapter 100. If a lodge chooses to transact business in an Entered Apprentice lodge it would be opened for the transaction of business in lieu of for work and instruction.

REG. 45-18 MASTER MASON'S LODGE CLOSED.

Every Master Mason's lodge shall be closed until the next stated communication unless sooner convened. Lodges of Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft Masons shall be closed without date unless conducting business in a lodge of Entered Apprentice in which case it shall be closed until the next stated communication unless sooner convened.

REG. 51-1 MODES OF AVOUCHMENT.

No brother shall vouch for another unless, in addition to the knowledge that the visitor is a Mason, the brother is also satisfied that the visitor is at the time in good standing. [87-5].

1. There shall be ~~three~~ four modes of avouchment of a brother as follows: [39-2.6.F.(3)].

- A. By sitting together in a regular lodge of Master Masons recognized by the Grand Lodge.
- B. By an examination authorized by the proper officer of a lodge.
- C. By one Mason definitely stating to another whom he knows to be a Master Mason that he vouches for a third brother then and there present with them as a Master Mason in good standing. The Mason who is vouching for the visitor shall state the manner in which he acquired the knowledge on which he makes the avouchment. [51-2].

- D. By sitting together with an Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft during the conferring of their respective degree

REG. 59-2 MASTER.

Some, but not all, of the powers of the Master of a lodge which are also duties to be performed by him, or at his direction and under his supervision, are as follows:

16. After having opened his lodge, he may place any capable Master Mason in the East and permit him to confer any of the degrees, the Master being present. If any regular officer is absent, his office should be filled pro tempore by a Master Mason. [24-1.1; 45-12.2; 71-15].

REG. 84-4 HOW AND BY WHOM CONDUCTED.

Any of the ceremonies provided for in this chapter may be conducted by the Grand Lodge or by a subordinate lodge at the discretion of the Grand Master, but the Grand Master or his duly appointed representative shall preside. The lodge making the request for such ceremonies shall bear the entire expense thereof.

1. The Grand Lodge, or a subordinate lodge, shall be opened on the Degree of Entered Apprentice or Master Mason, the usual ceremonies conducted and instruction and information given relative to the special ceremonies to be conducted. The minutes shall be read, approved and the Grand Lodge or subordinate lodge shall be closed, after which the special ceremonies shall be conducted. The charter of the subordinate lodge need not be removed from the lodge hall if the special ceremony is conducted in another location. [13-3.7; 38-3.1; 41-8; 38-3.4].

Amendment Group 8

The following amendment has been submitted by Eagle Lodge No. 19.

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

Chapter 36 Parliamentary Usage in the Grand Lodge

REG. 36-4 OBSTRUCTIVE MOTIONS FORBIDDEN. The formation of a committee of the whole, the call for the previous question, and all obstructive motions are forbidden. ~~This applies to subordinate lodges as well as the Grand Lodge.~~ (The Trial Code, Chapter 91).

Amendment Group 9

The following amendments have been submitted by the Grand Secretary.

This amendment would require lodges that are consolidating to execute its deed to the consolidated lodge. Also, would allow the lodge Trustees to fulfill the role until all property is sold or transferred.

REG. 48-3 CONSOLIDATED LODGE. The name and number of the consolidated lodge shall be that of the oldest lodge consolidated considering the date of charter, and no new charter shall be necessary, nor shall it be necessary

to constitute the lodge again.

7. All real estate of the lodge or lodges ceasing to exist shall become the property of the consolidated lodge. The Trustees of the lodge or lodges ceasing to exist shall execute the instruments necessary to effect the transfer of property before the consolidation is completed. Solely for the purpose of transferring property, the Trustees of the lodge or lodges ceasing to exist shall continue to have such authority until all property of the lodge or lodges ceasing to exist shall have been conveyed to the consolidated lodge.

7-8. Any life member or honorary member of a lodge ceasing to exist shall retain his same status in the consolidated lodge. (48-1.11).

REG. 48-4 NOTICE OF COMPLETION. When the consolidation has been completed, the Secretary of the consolidated lodge shall furnish the Grand Secretary copies of all deeds conveying real estate from the lodge or lodges ceasing to exist to the consolidated lodge and shall notify the Grand Secretary of the first stated or emergent communication held after the consolidation becomes effective.

Amendment Group 10

The following amendments have been submitted by William G. Hill Lodge No. 218.

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

REG. 77-25 ENDOWED MEMBERSHIPS.

20. An endowed membership may be purchased by the estate of any member in good standing and possessing a current dues card in a particular lodge of this grand jurisdiction at the time of his death.

REG. 77-26 VETERAN'S (FIFTY YEAR SERVICE AWARD) ENDOWED MEMBERSHIPS.

A Veteran's Endowed Membership may be purchased by any Master Mason of a North Carolina lodge who has received his Veteran's Award (80-3). The minimum purchase fee for a Veteran's Endowed Membership is five hundred dollars (\$500) seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00). The proportionate ratio distribution for a Veteran's Endowed Membership is fixed at seventy-five per cent (75%) for the subordinate lodge and twenty-five per cent (25%) for the Grand Lodge. *(This regulation amended, effective 1/1/2008)*

REG. 77-27 MEMORIAL ENDOWED MEMBERSHIPS.

A Memorial Endowed Membership may be purchased by any person for a deceased Master Mason of a North Carolina lodge. The minimum purchase fee for a Memorial Endowed Membership is five hundred dollars (\$500.00) seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00). The proportionate ratio distribution for a Memorial Endowed Membership is fixed at seventy-five per cent (75%) for the subordinate lodge and twenty-five per cent (25%) for the Grand Lodge.

Amendment Group 11

The following amendment has been submitted by Lebanon Lodge No. 391.

This amendment would create a Chaplain of Distinction award.

REG. 56-7 CHAPLAIN OF DISTINCTION. Any lodge at a stated communication and by majority vote, upon a written proposal signed by at least three members of the lodge and received at a previous stated communication not less than twenty-eight days before such vote, may confer the honorary title of Chaplain of Distinction on a member of such lodge in good standing, who, at the time of such proposal shall have completed five consecutive full years as Chaplain of such lodge, and who at that time, shall be a member of his lodge in good standing, and shall have rendered outstanding and meritorious service as Chaplain. The proposal shall not be sent to the Grand Secretary nor referred to a committee. On election, report thereof shall be made to the Grand Secretary within ten days.

Respectfully submitted,
William Timothy Clifford, Chairman

Report of the Representative to the Masonic Service Association

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

The Masonic Service Association of North America (MSA) was formed in 1919 with the initial purpose of providing aid and assistance to American servicemen returning from duty during World War I. Initially the War Department refused work with multiple grand lodges but did agree to work with a single agency, which resulted in the formation of the MSA.

Today the MSA performs three major functions at a national level:

1. Education and Information
2. Disaster Relief
3. Hospital Visitation

Education and Information

Perhaps the MSA is best known for publishing the Short Talk Bulletin, the most widely distributed Masonic publication in the world. The Short Talk Bulletin has been in print since 1923. The MSA and its Masonic Information Center also publish a variety of other pamphlets, digests, and brochures that provide information to the general public about our great fraternity. These publications have reached over 3 million individuals over the past 20 years.

The Masonic Home for Children School of Graphic Arts now prints and distributes the MSA's Short Talk Bulletin and Emessay Notes.

Disaster Relief

Since 1923, the MSA has collected and distributed over \$10.5 million in assistance to multiple Grand Jurisdictions following natural catastrophes.

Immediately following a natural catastrophe, an appeal for assistance from a Grand Jurisdiction to the MSA triggers their disaster relief protocol. The MSA coordinates communication of the appeal to all U.S. and Canadian Grand Lodges who then collect funds from individuals, subordinate lodges, and appendant Masonic bodies. The MSA then distributes 100% of the monies collected to the affected Grand Jurisdiction. No charges are made for administrative costs that are incurred by the MSA for coordinating these relief efforts.

In the last 23 years, North Carolina has been the recipient of over \$340,000 in assistance from MSA disaster relief efforts.

Hospital Visitation

The Masonic Hospital Visitation Program has been the foundation service of the MSA from its very beginning, and it continues to be a primary focus. With approximately 180 Hospital Representatives and State Coordinators, as well as hundreds of other volunteers at nearly every Veterans Administration (VA) Medical Center and many state veterans' hospitals, this is without a doubt the finest public relations program ever undertaken by the Masonic Fraternity.

The MSA's network of volunteers contribute untold hours of volunteer assistance to our veterans across the nation every year. Assistance extends beyond mere "visitations" and includes reading to them, writing letters for them, personal errands, taking them to Chapel Services, or to other parts of the hospital where testing or treatment is to be provided. In short, the role of MSA volunteers is humanitarian in nature. Many veterans have no family or friends and are all alone. The Masonic Hospital Visitation program provides a personal touch to help spark a smile or a ray of hope in a segment of the population that is, all too often, forgotten.

If you find yourself interested in volunteering or working as an MSA Representative, we would love to hear from you. If you are unable to contribute your time, then please consider contributing financially to the MSA's Green Envelope Appeal (<http://www.msana.com/hvpgreenenv.asp>).

Respectfully Submitted,
Larry B. Thompson, Jr., MSANA Representative

Report of the Representative to the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

At the urging of the lodge, Joseph W. Eggleston, the Grand Master of Virginia, invited every Grand Master in the United States to assemble in Alexandria-Washington Lodge on February 22, 1910, for the purpose of forming an Association to plan and build "a suitable Memorial Temple to George Washington, the Mason." Representatives from twenty-six Grand Lodges gathered on that day to endorse the erection of the Memorial, and the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association was formed. Thomas Shryock, Grand Master of Maryland, was elected the first President of the Memorial Association.

Ten years after the first official meeting of the Association, the concept of a colossal building as a Memorial “lighthouse” to Washington was approved by the Grand Lodges of the United States. The site was selected because it followed the ancient tradition for the location of temples on hilltops or mountains. It was also located on land with which General Washington was familiar, as he spent a great deal of time in Alexandria and its environs.

The groundbreaking ceremony took place on June 5, 1922. Louis A. Wares, President of the Memorial Association and Past Grand Master of Pennsylvania, and Charles H. Callahan, Past Master of Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22, and a future Grand Master of Virginia participated in the ceremony. Despite the great expense, the Memorial Association was determined not to borrow money. Construction only proceeded as money was collected for each stage of the project.

On November 1, 1923, the Memorial’s cornerstone was dedicated in a Masonic ceremony. Former President Calvin Coolidge, Chief Justice William H. Taft, and numerous other dignitaries performed the ceremony before a crowd of thousands of Freemasons from around the nation. The onset of the Great Depression did not stop work on the Memorial. For over 10 years, Freemasons steadily and faithfully contributed to the construction of the Memorial. On May 12, 1932, the bicentennial year of George Washington’s birth, the dedication of the Memorial took place with President Herbert Hoover participating.

After World War II, work on the Memorial’s interior began in earnest. By 1970, the George Washington Masonic National Memorial was completed. In 1999, the large Square and Compasses emblem was added to the front lawn, a visible sign to the Masonic nature of the Memorial.

A repository of many artifacts and the history of American Freemasons, the Memorial remains a lasting monument to George Washington, the Man, the Mason, and Father of our Country.

At its 232nd Annual Communication the Grand Lodge of North Carolina voted to join the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association’s \$1 per member program to support the upkeep and preservation of this important monument to Brother Washington and to Freemasonry. For 2019, the brethren of the GLNC contributed \$4275 to the memorial and received grateful thanks from the Association for North Carolina’s generous support.

Remember that the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association, Inc. is a non-profit organization under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code and contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent permitted by law.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevan D. Frazier, SGW, Representative

Report of the Board of Publication of the NC Mason

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:
Brethren,

It has been a year of change and discernment for the Board of Publications. Here are the highlights:

THE BUZZ

After much discussion and seeking input from brethren around the state, including our Grand Master and other members of the Grand Line, the Board opted in January 2020 to end publication of the e-newsletter, *The Buzz*.

We began offering the newsletter, designed to update the Craft with news between issues of the *NC Mason*, in Fall 2018. Brotherly participation from the field was never overwhelming, but what input we were getting (to the *NC Mason* as well) began to dwindle in mid-2019 and was not showing any signs of increasing. We were advised by brethren we consulted to take seriously the lack of submitted news and consider that brothers simply weren't interested in that form of communication.

It was the sense of this board that we may revisit this concept in the future, after lodges reopen and life returns to some form of normalcy.

THE NC MASON

The *NC Mason* won another creativity award in late 2019 from the Marcos Awards, a national contest.

It was a highlight of the year, giving credit to the work of Editor Beth Grace and Brother John Pea, who does all layout and design work on the paper itself.

The *Mason* had to make adjustments, along with the rest of the Craft, when the coronavirus forced closure of lodges and kept everyone home for months. The paper came out on schedule, however, losing only four pages an issue due to loss of lodge news and photos.

No deadlines were missed, and the *Mason* covered all major COVID-19 news, Grand Master opinions and orders, and gave extensive coverage of the historic Gathering at the Capitol with the Prince Hall Masons.

Respectfully submitted,
Kenneth Lambert, Chairman
Board of Publication

Report of the North Carolina Masonic Foundation, Inc

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

2019 was a great year in the financial markets. We are pleased to say that funds entrusted to the NCMF performed extremely well. The Equity Fund was up 30.44 percent for the calendar year. The Income Fund was up 6.58 percent for the calendar year. The three-year average annual return was 11.56 percent

for the Equity Fund and 3.54 percent for the Income Fund.

In 2019, we distributed \$586,142 or \$293,071 to each home. That amounts to a 46 percent increase from 2017. The Foundation finished the year with over \$21 million in assets and another \$59 million managed for other Masonic subscribers in North Carolina, totaling over \$80 million under our care.

2020 has been a horse of a different color. After a good start, COVID-19 and the subsequent market disruption occurred. We are happy to say that after a sharp selloff, our funds recovered nicely and as of the date of this writing, the Equity Fund is only down 2.1 percent and the Income Fund is positive 4.77 percent.

We changed how we calculate distributions to the homes from a three-year moving average to a five-year average. This will smooth out market fluctuations in the future. In 2020, we will distribute \$589,870 or \$294,935 to each home, a slight increase.

In 2019, the NCMF also:

- Made 250 in-person donor visits (53% increase over 2018) and 99 visits to lodges and appendant bodies (46% increase over 2018). The NCMF raised approximately \$396,000 from individuals and lodges to support the work of the Foundation and contributed to raising over \$4,750,000 across all NC masonic charities (i.e., NCMF, MHCO, and MESH)—an 18% increase in total giving over 2018.
- 8 new scholarships and 7 new Historic Masonic Properties funds were established.
- Re-elected MWB Robert Gresham to a five-year term and re-elected him as Vice President; Brother Mike Faulkenbury was re-elected President; RWB Walt Clapp was re-elected Secretary; MWB Lew Ledford was re-elected Treasurer. Other board members are MWB Leonard Safrit and WB Guy Cline.
- Formalized its longstanding relationship with RWB William Mills, appointing him as Counsel to the Board. Brother Mills has worked tirelessly for many years assisting the Foundation on all legal matters, offering sound guidance and wise council on all matters. He is a huge asset to Masonry and the NCMF.
- Expanded our www.mfnc.org web page to include a page dedicated solely to the Campaign for WhiteStone's Building Expansion.
- Debuted the new "Fathers & Sons" video, a gift from the foundation to the WhiteStone Campaign that can be used for years to come to tell the story of our home for senior Masons, Eastern Stars, and others.
- Continued award-winning coverage in the NC Mason, winning a Platinum Award from an international non-profit marketing association for the third year in a row.
- Held two donor-only events in 2019, one at the GALOT Motor Speedway in May, and one in October at the Governor's Western Residence in Asheville. Such events have proven to generate interest in giving

to NCMF and in our Masonic charities and also helps reunite brothers across regions.

As always, it is a great pleasure to serve with you in our work to keep Freemasonry strong, to grow our charities and to make good men better.

Fraternally,
Board of Directors
North Carolina Masonic Foundation

Report of the Committee on Masonic Education

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

While the Masonic Shutdown has effectively halted all of our offerings for the time being, members of the committee continue working on refining some of those programs.

The Davie Academy Powerpoints have been gone through and are being edited to provide more notes and information for the instructor while reducing the number of bullet points for students to read. This hopefully will make it more interesting for students and easier for the instructors, especially if it's a class they haven't taught before.

We are looking into offering some of the Davie courses in webinar format. WB Jonathan Underwood, Assistant to the Grand Secretary, has agreed to assist with the Grand Lodge Zoom account and to either moderate or allow the committee chairman to use it if he's unavailable.

Along the same thoughts we are considering having Education sessions over Zoom using Speakers' Bureau members. This would be good advertisement for the Speakers once we open back up and could also be an opportunity to showcase some of the lesser known members. We have contacted members of the Speakers' Bureau to see which are willing and have the capability to give Zoom presentations and include that information on their profile. Some Lodges have already taken the initiative to reach out and ask. After talking with Brother Underwood, we believe it is possible to add another search criteria to the webpage allowing someone to filter by those who can provide presentations through Zoom.

The Middle Chamber staff will be meeting at the end of August to discuss how to move forward, including any changes to curriculum, adding additional instructors etc...

We look forward to being able to pick up on our in-person classes with Davie and The Middle Chamber as soon as it is safe and practical to do so, but believe some of these additions will continue to benefit the Craft even after this pandemic has passed.

As always, our thanks to the Grand Master, Grand Lodge Officers, and Grand Lodge Office staff for all their support.

Respectfully submitted,
Tony Rathbone - Chairman

Report of the Grand Lodge Committee on Public Relations

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

Going into 2020 the Public Relations Committee had plans on continuing to provide social media content for our lodges and communities, and continue to promote and expand the #WeAreGLNC hashtag campaign. The Committee began plans to produce a short video highlighting North Carolina Masonry. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the inability to meet in person within our lodges and for other Masonic activities, the plan for the video and social media content will continue into 2021. As we look forward to resuming our labors as brothers and Masons, the Public Relations Committee will continue to promote Freemasonry among our lodges and to the general public.

Respectfully submitted,
Matthew N. Parker, Chairman
Grand Lodge Committee on Public Relations

Report of the Committee on Youth Organizations

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

Unfortunately, due the COVID-19 Pandemic, little, if any business, has transpired among the members of our Committee, nor of our Masonic Youth Organizations. The Rainbow Girls were able to have a one-day virtual Grand Assembly in June, to elect and appoint officers for the 2020-2021 year. The Grand Worthy Advisor is Miss Miki Reynolds, and the Grand Worthy Associate Advisor, who will serve in the Grand East in 2021-2022, is Miss Stephanie Vargas. If Phase Two is lifted in time, there are tentative plans for the 2019-2020 Grand Officers to meet in September, to perform an initiation ceremony and a “majority” ceremony, for girls who have aged out of Rainbow. (The maximum age for membership in Rainbow is 20 years old, and those girls who reach that age during the year are honored for their service to the Rainbow organization.) I extend my thanks to Mrs. Carisa Cole, the Mother Advisor of Hillsborough Assembly 77, for the Rainbow activity information. And thanks also to the Youth Committee members, even though we could not meet. I hope that in the near future we can all meet again.

Fraternally,
Alfred Serff, PM, Chair
Committee on Youth Organizations

Report of the NC Eagle Scout Task Force

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

Unfortunately, COVID had a very hard impact on the activities of the Eagle Scout Taskforce. Typically, May has been the best time to do presentation ceremonies due to that being the end of the Scout year which starts in September. Scouts do not typically earn Eagle during the summer, so May allows us to present the award to the most Scouts possible. We were also in the process of developing a fundraiser to purchase patches to present to Eagle Scouts, which was halted by new fundraisers being put on hold. The plan was

to offer patches for \$10 a piece to Masons in the state in order to offset the costs of ordering some to present to the Scouts. Information on how to order these will be provided once the sales begin. Hopefully, next year we will be able to get this finished. We look forward to the continued work of this Task Force.

Fraternally,
Will Highsmith, Chairman
Will Chriscoe
Matt Collins
Todd Frye
Jonathan Johnson
Eric Newton
Michael Saviak

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 2020 were as follows: MWB P. Shaun Bradshaw, Grand Master, Chairman Ex-Officio; Christopher Wright, Grand Lecturer; Steve M. Norris, Grand Marshal, Chairman; Tom Dolinger, Secretary; Russ Jones; Dickie Lyon; Stephen McCraw; and David Troxell. Mike Register, JGS served as the liaison to the Board of General Purposes.

This has been an extremely challenging year due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Under the leadership of Grand Master Bradshaw, and adhering to Governor Cooper's social distancing guidelines, the fraternity has endeavored to move forward in every way possible. There were many changes made this year due to the pandemic, some of which are as follows:

- Suspension of the deadline for completion of the five-hour lecture service for even numbered lodges.
- Suspension of the mandatory once a year School of Instruction
- Suspension of the Certified Lecturer and Certified Instructor exams until August 2021. Each brother due to be examined in 2020 received an extension until next August with no interruption in their years of service.
- The January Board meeting was held at the Grand Lodge building in Raleigh, while the April and July meetings were held virtually via Zoom meeting.
- Under the leadership of Grand Master Bradshaw, the Board voted to support the request of Lux Libertas Lodge No. 772 to hold the first virtual lodge meeting in our jurisdiction via Zoom meeting.

Certified brethren qualifying for the Laudamus Certificate in 2020 are: Homer Eugene Burroughs, Jr., Tabor Lodge No. 563; Leonard Ray Cherry, Jr., Mount Holly Lodge No. 544; David Lionel Cochran, Forest City Lodge No. 381; David Lee Hartsell, Ionic Lodge No. 583; Russell Elton Jones, Lafayette Lodge No. 83; Jeffrey David Martin, P.P. Turner Lodge No. 746; George Cooper Page, Kernersville Lodge No. 669; James 'Bo' Paschal, P.P. Turner Lodge No.

746; Michael Conrad Saviak, III, Mount Olive Lodge No. 208; and Ralph David Wicker, DGM, Oak Grove Lodge No. 750.

District Deputy Grand Lecturers qualifying for the Past District Deputy Grand Lecturer Certificate in 2019 are: Douglas Heath Brickhouse, Sr., District 1; William P. Horne, Jr., District 21; Roger Lee Millner, District 24; Roy Carlton West, District 27; James Ray Mills, District 29; and Brian McKennley Turner, District 32.

Four of our brothers received certificates for fifty years or more of service as Certified Lecturers. They are as follows:

- Dalton Wayne Mayo, PGM, Hiram Lodge No. 98
- Frederick Earl Oglesby, Franklin Lodge No. 109
- Bunn Tate Phillips, Jr., PGM, Rockingham Lodge No. 495
- Charles Edward Sherer, West Gate Lodge No. 738

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 being maintained on a regular basis. This page includes information of interest concerning the history of the Board, latest corrections to the OSW and Bahnson Manual, rules governing the Lecture Service and OSW/Vocabulary, various application forms, and a current roster of those Certified.

The fraternity has lost thirteen Class A Certified Brothers since Annual Communication last year. Eleven have passed on to the celestial lodge above where the Supreme Architect of the Universe presides. They are as follows:

- | | |
|--|------------|
| • Marvin Ford Asbill, Clifford Duel Lodge No. 756 | - 40 years |
| • Robert Glenn Capps, Creasy Proctor Lodge No. 679 | - 50 years |
| • Worth Bagley Gregory, Jr., Biltmore Lodge No. 446 | - 39 years |
| • Walter Ray Highsmith, Jr., Cary Lodge No. 198 | - 24 years |
| • Clarence Eugene Jernigan, Mingo Lodge No. 206 | - 64 years |
| • Charles Albert Lewis, Jr., PGM, St. John’s Lodge No. 1 | - 34 years |
| • John Rankin Litaker, West Gate Lodge No. 738 | - 52 years |
| • Rufus Adam Matthews, Pendleton Lodge No. 418 | - 31 years |
| • James Ralph Pinion, Steele Creek Lodge No. 737 | - 43 years |
| • Charles Rebert Southerland, Goldsboro Lodge No. 634 | - 53 years |
| • Clifford John Warnstaff, Derita Lodge No. 715 | - 41 years |

The other two brothers dropped from the roll were for the following reasons:

- NPD
- Suspension

The total numbers of Certified Brothers currently are as follows:

303 Class A

38 Class B

Total: 341

We have had 73 Coaches apply for and receive recognition as having passed the Coaches Proficiency Exam. Once passed the Coach receives a certificate and card. There is no expiration date on the card as this is a one time only exam. To pass the exam, the coach must recite both the questions and answers to the three catechisms.

To continue a practice re-established in 2011, the Board again unanimously recommended that the Lodge System of Masonic Education Program be recommended for use by all lodges. Dedicated support for this program will help to instruct candidates as they begin their journey through the Masonic Degrees.

The Board of Custodians expresses its appreciation to Grand Master P. Shaun Bradshaw for his enthusiastic support of the Board and the Certified Lecturer Program. The Board also wishes to thank Grand Secretary T. Walton Clapp, III; Assistant to the Grand Secretary, Jonathan Underwood; as well as Cornelia, Vicki, and Hayley for their invaluable assistance throughout the year.

The Board also expresses its appreciation to Grand Lecturer Christopher Wright for his hard work as the Grand Lecturer for 2020. To all our certified brethren throughout the state, we extend a sincere “thank you” for your continued faithful service to our beloved Fraternity, your support of your DDGLs, and lastly, your vigorous support of the Certified Lecturers and Certified Instructors Program.

Respectfully Submitted,
Steve M. Norris, Grand Marshall, Chairman
Thomas P. Dolinger II, Secretary

Report of the Committee on Subordinate Lodge Special Activities

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

The following report of the Committee on Subordinate Lodge Special Activities was received and entered on the record.

The Committee on Subordinate Lodge Special Activities presents this report in supporting lodge fundraising efforts. The following report reflects fundraising numbers from January 1 through August 5, 2020 and a final recap of 2019:

Vital Statistics for 2020

Number of Active Lodges in NC	373		
Lodges Participating in Fundraisers	94	25%	
Applications Received:	124		
Final Reports Received:	57	46%	
Total Applications & Final Reports Processed:	181		
Final Reports Past Due:	18		<u>Avg / Fundraiser</u>
Total Gross Receipts:	\$ 95,740.84		\$ 1679.66
Total Expenses:	\$ 33,003.27	34%	\$ 579.00
Net Proceeds:	\$ 62737.57		\$ 1,100.66

Net Proceeds by Fundraiser Category

<u>Category</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>ROI</u>	<u>Avg / Category</u>
Gun Raffles	4	\$ 10,409.72	58%	\$ 2,602.43
General Raffles	5	\$ 8,272.00	54%	\$ 1,654.40
Golf Tournaments	0	\$ -	0%	\$ -
BBQ	1	\$ 4,128.43	65%	\$ 4,128.43
Breakfasts	3	\$ 7,079.40	85%	\$ 2,359.80
Dinners	3	\$ 3,987.57	66%	\$ 1,329.19
Food Sales - Other	3	\$ 28,043.45	69%	\$ 9,347.82
Merchandise Sales	0	\$ -	0%	\$ -
<u>Other</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>\$ 817.00</u>	<u>86%</u>	<u>\$ 817.00</u>
Total	20	\$ 62,737.57	71%	

Net Proceeds by Charity Category

<u>Charity</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Avg / Category</u>
MHCO	14	\$ 14,744.89	\$ 1,053.21
MESH, LLC	9	\$ 5,673.67	\$ 630.41
WhiteStone	2	\$ 314.00	\$ 157.00
NCMF	11	\$ 8,679.10	\$ 789.01
Other Charities			
Chosen by Lodges	5	\$ 5,604.10	\$ 1,120.82
<u>Lodge Building Funds</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Total	41	\$ 35,015.66	

Summary for 2019

Total Gross Receipts:	\$	1,528,461.47
Total Expenses:	\$	549,578.17
Net Proceeds:	\$	978,883.30
Total Funds to Charity for 2019:	\$	818,123.76
Total Funds to Lodge Building Funds for 2019:	\$	160,760.54

All lodges are reminded that final reports of fundraising activities are due to the Committee on or before 45 days after the fundraising event; all 202 final reports must be into the Committee by December 31, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles Barrett, Chairman

Report of the Library Committee

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

In spite of the restrictions caused by the current pandemic, your Library Committee continued to work on the preservation and accessibility of many books and documents related to North Carolina Freemasonry. First, we must extend a warm and hearty thanks to Bro. Alex Wilson, who, over the course of several weeks, systematically indexed the entirety of the Grand Lodge's library. We cannot stress the complexity of this project, and how much we appreciate Bro. Wilson's work. Bro. Wilson and Bro. Steve Barrell are now working and coordinating with the Grand Lodge Office to upload this listing into a database, whereby our catalog of books will in time become accessible to the membership.

Unfortunately, with the closure of the University, our work with the North Carolina Digital Heritage Center has been suspended. While we have been unable to submit new materials for digitization to the Center, we have coordinated with their staff to clean-up and refine many of our currently listed records, for which we are most grateful. We look forward to renewing our digitization efforts with the Center as soon as is practicable.

In the meantime, we have engaged and tested the capabilities of a new pay digitization service, called Record Nations, to scan several lodge minute books and ledgers. We are pleased with the results and, in time, will recommend this service to our lodges should they wish to have their lodge records digitized for preservation purposes. The digitization will be coordinated through the Grand Lodge Office at a reduced rate based on volume. More information concerning this new service and how to participate will be sent to lodge secretaries in the near future.

Inasmuch, we are also happy to report on the services of Bro. Paul Vincent of Elizabeth City. Bro. Vincent took on the great task of professionally transcribing and publishing, through the Grand Lodge, the early minutes and proceedings of Widow's Son Lodge 75 at Camden. The Grand Lodge has submitted this manuscript to a printing company, and once the final proof has

arrived, will make that publication available to lodge members, historians, and academics. Bro. Vincent has also worked to transcribe the earliest minutes of the Grand Lodge (from 1787-1804), most of which were never printed, nor published. It is the intent of the Grand Lodge to also reproduce these proceedings professionally for the historic record. We commend Bro. Vincent's work, and recommend him to any other lodge that may be looking to transcribe its early, handwritten minutes.

Unfortunately, the re-publishing of the North Carolina Lodge of Research's volumes (NOCALORE) stalled in early 2020 due to a programming error with our publisher. However, all of the volumes have been digitized and are ready for publication. We anticipate rebooting that process shortly and as soon as the graphic editing function is corrected. At this time, volumes I through V have been re-published, and volumes VI through XIX (volumes XII through XIX are one book) remain to be re-published.

Mr. Joe Mobley, retired Historic Publications Editor for the State of North Carolina and Professor of North Carolina history at North Carolina State University, continues to write and compile the history of the Grand Lodge since the turn of the 19th Century. While Mr. Mobley's labors often utilize documents and books from the Grand Lodge's Library and Archive, much of his research was conducted through the State Library and the several University Libraries and Archives in the triangle, and has thus been hindered in completing his work when those institutions closed due to the pandemic. We remain pleased with his work and dedication. He anticipates finalizing his manuscript this autumn, and a publication date to be set in mid-Spring 2021.

We would also draw your attention to the revised and now interactive Historic List of Lodges located on the Grand Lodge's webpage. Bro. Matthew Robbins has labored to revise the historic list, locate as many original lodge sites as possible, and link them to an interactive map. The list has become a living document and will reflect changes as new information becomes available.

The committee invites and welcomes visitors to the many new online services available through the Grand Lodge's portal, and look forward to continuing to facilitate electronic availabilities of Masonic resources, as well as in-person activities, such as research, as soon as conditions permit.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jonathan A. Underwood, Chairman

Report of the Grand Lodge Committee on Personnel

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

The Grand Lodge Committee on Personnel was established in 2013 as an ad hoc committee to ensure compliance with state and federal laws and regulations, to implement and conduct annual employee performance reviews, and to make annual salary and benefit recommendations to the Grand Lodge Committee on Finance. At the 2017 Annual Communication the Grand Lodge Committee on Personnel was codified as a permanent committee.

In 2020, the Personnel Committee followed the established protocols with regard to its duties and obligations, which are as follows:

- The Grand Secretary completes the annual performance reviews for each member of the office staff and forwards those reviews to the Committee Chair. The Chair then shares the reviews with the other members of the Personnel Committee.
- The Grand Secretary completes his annual self-evaluation and forwards that self-evaluation to the Committee Chair. The Chair then shares the Grand Secretary's self-evaluation with the other members of the Personnel Committee.
- Prior to the Personnel Committee meeting, the Committee Chair meets with each member of the office staff independently to assess their employment needs, current work load, anticipated future work load, and to understand each employee's working relationship with other employees and with the Grand Secretary.
- The Committee meets with the Grand Secretary to discuss the annual performance reviews of the office staff and the Grand Secretary's self-evaluation.
- After the Personnel Committee completes its work, the Committee Chair meets with the Grand Secretary to share the Committee's evaluation of him and the office staff as well as to discuss his goals and objectives for the coming year.
- The Committee Chair forwards the Committee's recommendations for compensation adjustments, if any, to the Grand Lodge Committee on Finance.

The Personnel Committee met on August 3, 2020, at 2:00 pm via Zoom video conference. Prior to the Committee convening, the Chair met with each member of the office staff, privately, to assess their individual workloads, working conditions, and work environment. Workloads have increased due to the recent retirement of Cornelia Doherty; however, there were no complaints or grievances shared with the Chair by any member of the office staff. Each staff member interviewed expressed an appreciation of the work environment, and job satisfaction remains high. The Committee is very grateful for the willingness of the office staff to openly discuss their work conditions and appreciates their patience as the office undergoes restructuring in the days to come.

The Committee met with the Grand Secretary and discussed individual office staff performance evaluations. The Grand Secretary praised the staff for their dedication, work ethic, and job performance during an unusual time, to which the committee agreed.

The Committee also reviewed the Grand Secretary's self-evaluation and discussed progress made towards performance goals set for 2020, after which the Committee discussed performance goals set for 2021.

The Committee met privately to discuss the Grand Secretary's performance evaluation as well as the current compensation package for each employee. The Committee is in agreement that the Grand Secretary is exceeding expectations with regard to the performance of his duties.

The Chair met with the members of the Finance Committee and communicated the Personnel Committee's recommendations with regard to employee salary for the 2020 budget. The salary recommendations have been included in the proposed budget for 2020.

The Committee would like to express their appreciation to the Grand Secretary and the Grand Lodge staff for their outstanding work and dedication to our Fraternity. Their work is indelible and their dedication undoubtable. Without the Grand Secretary and the Grand Lodge Staff, the Freemasons of North Carolina would be bereft. We, as brothers in this most excellent fraternity, must not forget those that work tirelessly to make it so commendable.

Respectfully submitted,
 Larry B. Thompson, Jr., SGW, Chair
 Kevan D. Frazier, JGW, Vice Chair
 Douglas L. Caudle, PGM
 A. Gene Cobb, Jr., PGM
 William L. Dill, PGM

Report of the Scholarship Committee

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

The Grand Lodge Scholarship Committee went to work to review this year's Charles Edward Cathey Masonic Scholarship applications. The committee divided up the applications and carefully reviewed each one. Once again the response to the Charles E. Cathey Scholarship offering this year was extremely popular among high school seniors, with several hundred applications received. The scholarship winners all demonstrated strong academic performance balanced with extensive volunteer service and extracurricular activities on their communities. We are most excited to have been able to award 15 scholarships valued at \$1,000 each. We hope that, through the generosity of the brethren, additional scholarships can be awarded each year.

Respectfully submitted,
 Grand Lodge Scholarship Committee

Report of the Ad Hoc Technology Committee

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

This year Grand Master Shaun Bradshaw asked several of the brethren from North Carolina to form a committee to investigate opportunities for technology to improve the experience of the various members of the Grand Lodge. A committee was formed of known technologists from the state. Those members are:

Robert Mullis, Monroe Lodge No. 244; Truth Lodge No. 749 PM
 Chris Ford, Secretary, Copeland Lodge No. 390
 Doug Colhoun, PM, Sophia Lodge No. 767
 Srujan Katanguri, Cannon Memorial Lodge No. 626
 Bret Porterfield, Steele Creek Lodge No. 737
 Jeff Ward, PM Fairview Lodge No. 339; DDGM 35th District

Meeting Dec 19, 2019

The Committee met first on December 19, 2019, to establish a charter and elected WB Robert Mullis as Chairman. The Committee identified several opportunities for improving the Lodge experience and agreed to poll the lodges from each person's district as to what the needs of the Lodge members and secretaries were. It was decided that the following meeting there would be several measurable objectives established based on that feedback.

Meeting Jan 29, 2020

The Committee met again to discuss several targeted opportunities identified and discussed forming longer-term Grand Lodge goals related to receiving online payments; OCR and digitizing forms; data analytics; and Lodge/District level data for local lodge planning. Skill sets were identified as needed to progress the needs, and the following meeting was set to bring those ideas and people together.

Meetings March 10th through 27th

The Committee was asked to sideline the existing strategy study in favor of enabling the GL and subordinate lodges to continue business should Covid-19 become a long-term issue. At that time, the Tech Committee contacted an existing committee working on forming a virtual lodge for consultation as many of the challenges were already under consideration. The Committee eventually submitted a Report titled "The NC Grand Lodge Tech Committee Response to COVID19" Giving an option for the Grand Lodge to pursue should the Covid crisis continue indefinitely.

A sub-committee was formed to identify any means of procuring licensing from the three largest technology firms listed in the Report. A \$40,000 Licensing Grant from Microsoft was awarded to the NC Masonic Foundation for its use. This provided the GL enough licenses to cover the Grand Lodge and lodges for MSFT Teams, Office, and other applications should the need arise.

Following the recommendation, a further ask was to be made of the committee to re-evaluate "Zoom" as a possible platform due to its popularity with the membership. The committee consulted an Industry Security expert and determined that Zoom had resolved its security issues and no longer posed a risk.

Meeting June 8, 2020

The Committee on Technology convened again. The Grand Lodge foresaw the need to host the Annual Communication virtually and needed a recommendation for technology use at each district hosting its membership. The committee wrote a document detailing the hardware, software, and network requirements for each district to properly support the function. On July 5, a paper was published as a recommendation to the lodge titled "NC Grand Lodge Committee on Technology Report #2," establishing the best-case scenarios for the lodges.

In summary, the bulk of this year's work centered around around the two recommendations to enable the Grand Lodge to meet the challenges around Covid set by the state. It was a productive year for the members of the committee, and I would like to thank them all for their contributions. It is my hope that the incoming Grand Officers will see fit to continue this committee for the sake of its advisement in further issues and setting a long term direction for enabling our lodges to plan their business.

Respectfully Submitted,
Robert Mullis
Chairman

Final Report
of
Grand Master
Dwight M. Sigmon
to
the
Grand Lodge
of
Ancient, Free & Accepted Masons
of
North Carolina
at
Winston-Salem, North Carolina
September 25, 2020

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

Welcome to the 233rd annual communication of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina. It has been my privilege and most humbling honor to have served as the 166th Grand Master since our inception in 1787. We offer a special welcome to all attendees at each of the various statewide locations for our annual communication for 2020. I especially want to thank you for your flexibility, cooperation and support of this very unique communication due to the ongoing restrictions as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic we are experiencing this year. This is yet another example of how the Masons of North Carolina work well together to ensure the success of our grand jurisdiction even under the most difficult situations.

I thank you for the opportunity to travel our grand jurisdiction encouraging our members to focus on the lessons of Freemasonry, implement those lessons in their daily lives, and be an example for others to emulate.

Pursuant to the requirements of The Code, I present my Final Report for my grand master year of 2019. Listed below is an overview of various events and activities that occurred during my entire tenure as grand master from December 1, 2018, through early morning of December 7, 2019.

State of the Craft

It was my privilege to visit ninety-seven lodges throughout our grand jurisdiction and spend time in each of our forty-one districts during my term as grand master. It has been a great and humbling experience to serve the brethren of North Carolina. Many of our lodges are healthy and performing well. Their ritual work is very good, and they are fully engaged in community involvement and holding successful fundraisers for our three charities. However, we have some lodges that are struggling to reinvent themselves as a successful lodge. Two separate mergers occurred during 2019. This is a very difficult process, especially when a lodge has to struggle with giving up their historical identity. For some, major repairs required for their lodge building drives much of the discouragement. My lodge was in a similar position until early 2019. After struggling for a few years on how to raise funds for a new roof, we decided on a different approach for our ninety-two-year old building. We decided to send a letter to all our members explaining the need for investing in our building and our future. We had sent letters in the past asking for charitable contributions with success. This also gave an opportunity for those not as active to participate in contributing to the success of our lodge. We were amazed at the response. One brother stepped up and offered a matching fund challenge which was well received. Our oldest member, who was 104 years of age, sent a check for the project. The result of our efforts, with a total cost of less than \$100 for stamps and printing, raised enough money to replace the roof with some additional funds left over for future renovations. I encourage all lodges to look for creative ways to set your lodge course on a more positive journey. On a positive note, we chartered one new lodge in 2019, Knights of Solomon Lodge No. 774 located in Waynesville, NC. We congratulate them on their efforts in establishing the newest lodge in our grand jurisdiction.

It is easy to get discouraged, but great results can happen when you involve all members of your lodge. As indicated in my district meetings, I was an inactive member for twenty-one years. I was known to many as a “card carrying Mason.” I never liked this term and prefer the status of being an inactive member. I paid my dues on time, which contributed to the financial needs of our lodge. Your lodge has members like that as well. Get your inactive members involved and always make them feel welcome when they return. Many attempt to return only to be harassed when walking through the door. Be the member who offers welcoming remarks and takes the lead on introducing them to new members. One of the new mandatory items I added to the Lion and Pillar program for 2019 focused on contacting a minimum of 50% of their inactive members. These are members who had not attended any lodge activities/meetings in one year. This could be accomplished by calling the brother or making a visit. Leaving a voice message did not satisfy the requirement. I feel we can get many of these inactive members active again if we reengage them by making contact, by just having a simple conversation. That is what worked for me. My best friend, who was instrumental in my joining our fraternity in 1975, reached out again in 2003 and asked me to give the third-degree lecture for his son. He challenged me to relearn the lecture that I had not given in over twenty-one years. That challenge hooked me just like the ritual work did for me in the very beginning. I encourage each of you to reach out to our inactive members and get them involved. Sometimes, it is just that simple.

Finally, have faith that your lodge can improve with just a little more effort. Keep striving to be the best you can be in any of your laudable undertakings, both Masonically and personally. Always be the best Mason you can possibly be. Leading by example is one of the easiest things we can do to help attract others of good character to our fraternity which can make a positive impact in helping correct our membership decline. And always remember to “guard our West Gate” to ensure the well-being of our fraternity for generations to come.

2019 Initiatives

My main initiatives for 2019 focused on being better Masons, to be who we say we are, and more community involvement. I also implemented some new items in the Lion and Pillar program that focused on reconnecting with our inactive members and strengthening some areas in our ritual work where we need more resources. During my year I felt it extremely important to encourage more of our brethren to learn the Masonic Funeral Rites. Many lodges and districts are struggling to find enough brethren qualified or available to perform Masonic Rites, when asked. Many of the brethren now performing those services are elderly, and we need to prepare for the future when they are no longer able to perform this function. We do not want a Brother to choose not to have a Masonic service because he feels it is too much trouble for the lodge to fulfill his wishes when that time arrives. I am hopeful we will continue to find more Brethren willing to be the next generation that serves our craft in this capacity.

I feel it is extremely important to be seen more in our communities. My second article in the NC Mason addressed this concern. Consider this, what if we worked harder at letting our communities know who we are and what we are? Many of our lodges are out in their communities. Some do great work

with community events but mainly when combined with their fundraising activities. Our charities are critical to our homes' existence, and our fundraising activities are greatly appreciated but what else can we do above our charitable work in our communities? Some lodges are involved in periodic blood drives, both locally and on the district level. Others participate in local community parades. Consider contacting your local Chamber of Commerce for ways to get active in your community. Habitat for Humanity is a great community project. While a financial donation would benefit them, as it would to all non-profit organizations, participating in a building project as a lodge or district would also be of great value. Imagine lodge members wearing their lodge shirts and working side by side with other organizations on a building project. These types of activities provide the means of introducing yourself as a local Masonic lodge while crossing paths with someone new. You would be letting other groups or individuals experience the fellowship you enjoy as members of our fraternity while doing a worthwhile project for the community. Happiness and having fun while doing good deeds could be contagious! The same could apply to working with local schools, scouting programs, and the list goes on. We all have limited time and resources, but I encourage you as a lodge or district to have a goal of improving your visibility in the community.

Finally, and most importantly, and as I have mentioned on many occasions and throughout my twenty-six district meetings, I feel it is time the Freemasons lead the way in showing others how to live, act and treat each other. Masonry is "Work" but important work. The thing that sets us apart from all other organizations is our ritual work and the lessons they teach. Every day we have an opportunity to make this world a better place to live. No one can make that choice for us. As Freemasons, we need to constantly strive to be who we say we are and hold ourselves to a higher standard. The majority of us joined this fraternity because of someone we looked up to: a father, a grandfather, a member of our church, or maybe a community leader. As Freemasons, it is now our turn to be the person others would want to emulate. The choice of how you choose to represent our fraternity is one that you must make every day. More importantly, always remember your own actions, appearance, and words provide an opportunity for us to attract the best of the best this world has to offer in becoming a part of our historical fraternity, or they can just as easily discourage someone from exploring further an opportunity to be a part of the world's greatest and oldest fraternity. Practice Freemasonry in everything you do and say. Be the example, be part of the solution in guiding this world on a more positive journey.

Necrology

Each year it is our sad duty to report the number of deceased brethren that have been called home by the Supreme Architect of the Universe. During the period ranging from the end of the 2018 annual communication until the end of the 2019 annual communication we experienced 1048 members who had transitioned and gained entrance "through the gates into the Temple and City of our God." During my tenure as grand master from December 1, 2018, through early December 7, 2019, that number totaled 1025 members passing. We offer our continued prayers for their families and thank them for sharing their loved ones with our fraternity during each of their Masonic journeys.

We had our annual necrology service on Friday of our 2019 Annual Com-

munication and were pleased that Father Richard A. Williams, Grand Chaplain, offered the eulogy. We did not know each brother who went on to his final resting place, but we can remember them and contemplate their many valuable contributions to our great fraternity. They have lived respected and died regretted by all those who knew them as brothers. May they all rest in peace.

District Deputy Officer Conferences

For the fifth consecutive year our district planning meeting was held at one of our Masonic Campuses. Continuing the practice established at the end of 2014 by Most Worshipful Douglas L. Caudle, PGM 2014, these sessions are now rotated between WhiteStone: a Masonic and Eastern Star Community; the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford; and the Grand Lodge Office in Raleigh. The planning session for 2019 was held on November 2-3, 2018, at the Masonic Home for Children in Oxford, NC. It marked the third time we have met at our Children's Home for this district officer orientation.

This session allows us to communicate a consistent message with our district leaders, learn best practices between districts, and get these Brethren to our campuses, some for the first time. A thorough tour of the MHCO campus was held on Friday evening, followed by dinner with the children at our home. After dinner, time was allowed for casual conversation and good fellowship. On Saturday we spent over six hours discussing many topics of concern with our District Officers. In addition to the leadership team from the MHCO, we were joined by leaders from WhiteStone and the North Carolina Masonic Foundation.

I also chose to travel the state on two separate occasions holding town hall type meetings with our district officers in eight separate locations. Four sessions were held in late April – early May near the conclusion of my district meetings, and four additional meetings were held in late August prior to our annual communication. This provided an excellent opportunity to discuss the state of the Craft as it evolved throughout the year. Individual calls with the DDGMs were held when the necessity dictated. Early in my tenure, I made clear to the DDGMs and DDGLs — which also applied to the entire membership — that I operated with an open-door policy, always willing to try to address a Brother's concerns.

Listed below are DDGMs who have been given the honorary title of Past District Deputy Grand Master:

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
Benjamin Griggs Roberts	Hall Lodge No. 53	1
Robert James Morrell, Jr.	Semper Fidelis Lodge No. 680	4
Bobby Lynn Meadows	Zion Lodge No. 81	7
Christopher James Weaver	Mount Olive Lodge No. 208	10

Perry Harlee Sellers	Shallotte Lodge No. 727	12
William Curtis Chriscoe	Youngsville Lodge No. 377	13
Craig Jones Horton	J. J. Crowder Lodge No. 743	14
Jonathan Allen Underwood	State College Lodge No. 770	15
Michael Leon Wyatt	Bladen Lodge No. 646	17
William Archie McRae, II	Maxton Lodge No. 417	18
Jeffrey Lynn Bullington	Corinthian Lodge No. 542	23
Samuel Joseph Carson	Pilot Lodge No. 493	25
Jimmy Laird Myers	Farmington Lodge No. 265	27
Timothy Allen Jones	Campbell Lodge No. 374	30
Dwight Edwin Church	Mt. Pleasant Lodge No. 573	33
Christopher Lee Hall	Gastonia Lodge No. 369	36
Steve Walter Gouge	Cranberry Lodge No. 598	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 to the following Brethren who are now eligible in accordance with The Code:

Name	Lodge	District
Christopher Scott East, Sr.	Manteo Lodge No. 521	2
Hylar Wayne Cox	Atlantic Lodge No. 294	3
Charlie Leonard Hall, Sr.	Jerusalem Lodge No. 95	6
Richard Lee Smith	Berne Lodge No. 724	7
Michael Conrad Saviak, III	Mount Olive Lodge No. 208	10
Christopher William Dement	John H. Mills Lodge No. 624	13
Daniel Lee Short	St. Paul's Lodge No. 474	17
Herbert Currie Lyon	Eno Lodge No. 210	19
Christopher Lee Wright	Stokesdale Lodge No. 428	23
Stephen Matthew McCraw	Granite Lodge No. 322	25
David Carroll Simmons	Salem Lodge No. 289	26
Andrew Ray Hartman	Allen-Graham Lodge No. 695	28
Lance Baxter Hegler	Mooreville Lodge No. 496	30
Brandon Lee Penley	Riverside Lodge No. 606	34
Charles Andrew Hicklin	Fairview Lodge No. 339	35
Leonard Ray Cherry, Jr.	Mount Holly Lodge No. 544	36
Charles Elmo McCowan	Andrews Lodge No. 529	41

District Meetings

Twenty-six district meetings were held in 2019 and scattered throughout our great state from Robbinsville in the mountains to Swansboro and Swan Quarter on the coast. Our first meeting was held on January 28th in Tarboro and the final one on May 15th in my home lodge, Catawba Lodge No. 248 in Newton, NC. I thoroughly enjoyed traveling the state bringing my message of kindness and brotherly love. I have always been clear in my opinion that the best part of our Masonic journeys are the people we meet along the way. The overwhelming majority of us would have never crossed paths had it not been for our active participation in this fraternity. Traveling throughout the state allowed me to meet new members, renew old acquaintances, and enjoy the best fellowship possible. I am thankful for the strong attendance I experienced at our meetings and grateful for the warm hospitality and great food.

As with my predecessors, I attempted to impart some “words of wisdom” to the brethren with a major focus on how to live, act, and treat others in life. I stressed the difference in being a member versus being a Mason. This year I chose to have a closed tyled meeting. I allowed non-members from our various Masonic families to make remarks during our dinner hour. This was necessary in order for me to re-emphasize the importance of some of our Masonic ritual lessons. This year I also chose to include an attachment to my lapel pin. This attachment included a short interpretation of what each degree and order has meant to me, a takeaway from each that I use to guide my life and actions and a reminder of what the true purpose of Freemasonry was intended to be.

Throughout my travels I was pleased to experience all the good work taking place in our grand jurisdiction. Many thanks to Right Worshipful Brother Walt Clapp and Worshipful Brother Jonathan Underwood for their time and support in attending these meetings. As in the past, we had strong participation from each of our charitable entities. A special thanks to now Brother Mark Lewis, Executive Director for WhiteStone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Community; Worshipful Brother Kevin Otis, Administrator of the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford; and Mr. Jeff Hensley, Chief Financial Development Officer for the North Carolina Masonic Foundation, and his staff of Worshipful Brother Chris Richardson, Sister Dee Blake, and Beth Grace for their support and messages provided at our district meetings. We cannot thank each of you enough for the services you provide to our grand jurisdiction. It was also a pleasure having past Executive Director, Brother Mark Kolada, join us for a couple of our meetings. Brother Mark now serves as Director of Operations Management for Life Care Services, which assists in the management of our home in Greensboro. If you have not been to our campuses in Greensboro and Oxford, I encourage you to do so. It will truly warm your hearts to interact with the residents of both homes.

Following is a list of the 2019 district meetings:

Date	District	Host	Location
Jan 28	9	Concord 58	Tarboro
Jan 29	5	American George 17	Murfreesboro
Jan 30	1	Widow's Son 75	Elizabeth City

Jan 31	3	Atlantic 294	Swan Quarter
Feb 5	10	Richard Caswell 705	Kinston
Feb 6	4	Seaside 429	Swansboro
Mar 4	29	Meadow Branch 578	Wingate
Mar 12	26	Forsyth 707	Winston-Salem
Mar 13	27	Thomasville 214	Thomasville
Mar 14	22	Bingham 272	Mebane
Mar 20	20	Sanford 151	Sanford
Mar 25	41	Robbinsville 672	Robbinsville
Mar 26	40	Sonoma 472	Canton
Mar 27	37	Burnsville 717	Burnsville
Mar 28	33	Mt. Pleasant 573	Wilkesboro
Apr 1	18	Fairmont 528	Fairmont
Apr 2	12	Waccamaw 596	Riegelwood
Apr 3	17	Stedman 730	Stedman
Apr 10	13	John H. Mills 624	Henderson
Apr 11	15	State College 770	Raleigh
Apr 15	24	Troy 718	Troy
Apr 17	28	Cannon Memorial 626	Kannapolis
Apr 22	36	Mt. Holly 544	Mt. Holly
Apr 23	32	Charles M. Setzer 693	Charlotte
May 14	38	Western Star 91	Rutherfordton
May 15	34	Catawba 248	Newton

Due to a conflict with their Maundy Thursday observance, many members in the 14th and 15th districts and the Valley of Raleigh Scottish Rite were unable to attend the district meeting in their area held on April 11, 2019. I would like to thank the members of the Valley of Raleigh for allowing me to bring my district meeting message to their stated meeting on June 13th, 2019.

Finally, I would like to thank my grand lodge officers and many of our Past Grand Masters for attending my meetings. I offer a special thanks to Most Worshipful Gene T. Jerningan, PGM 2006, for allowing me to use his music stand which offered an easier way for me to bring my message on the lodge room floor among my brethren.

Lion and Pillar Lodges for 2019**Platinum L&P Level**

*(required a member to give his first ever Fellow Craft-Degree Lecture
or conduct his first ever Masonic Funeral Service)*

Lodge	District	Location	Yrs. Achieving Std. L&P	Qualifier
Mingo 206	11	Dunn	3	(Funeral)
William G. Hill 218	14	Raleigh	3	(FC Lecture)
Kenly 257	16	Kenly	3	(FC Lecture)
Wilmington 319	12	Wilmington	3	(FC Lecture)
Pilot 493	25	Pilot Mountain	3	(Funeral)
Cannon Memorial 626	28	Kannapolis	3	(FC Lecture)
Albemarle 703	29	Albemarle	3	(FC Lecture)
Steele Creek 737	32	Charlotte	3	(FC Lecture)
James K. Polk 759	32	Pineville	3	(FC Lecture)
Bula 409	22	Burlington	2	(Funeral)
Greensboro 76	23	Greensboro	1	(FC Lecture)
Charles M. Setzer 693	32	Charlotte	1	(Funeral)
Forsyth 707	26	Winston-Salem	1	(FC Lecture)

Standard L&P Level

Lodge	District	Location	Yrs. Achieving L&P
St. John's 4	10	Kinston	3
Eagle 19	19	Hillsborough	3
Columbus 102	20	Pittsboro	3
Oxford 122	13	Oxford	3
Pleasant Hill 304	10	Deep Run	3
Bald Creek 397	37	Burnsville	3
Thomas M. Holt 492	22	Graham	3
Semper Fidelis 680	4	Jacksonville	3
Berne 724	7	New Bern	3
Ashlar 765	12	Hampstead	3
Lux Libertas 772	19	Hillsborough	3
Copeland 390	25	Dobson	2
Mount Holly 544	36	Mount Holly	2
Acacia 674	23	High Point	2
Stump Sound 733	4	Sneads Ferry	2
Royal White Hart 2	8	Halifax	1

Statesville 27	30	Statesville	1
Granite 191	16	Clayton	1
Corinthian 230	9	Rocky Mount	1
Meadow Branch 578	29	Wingate	1
Waccamaw 596	12	Riegelwood	1
Riverside 606	34	Catawba	1
Walnut Cove 629	26	Walnut Cove	1
Federal Point 753	12	Carolina Beach	1

In the history of the Lion and Pillar program, seventy-one lodges have received the award at least once. In 2017, there were fifty-six initial recipients of the award. In 2018, there were seven new lodges added to the all-time roster and twenty-nine lodges not repeating for a total of thirty-four lodges receiving the award. In 2019, there were twelve new lodges added to the roster as well as thirteen Platinum level recipients. Four met the requirement doing Masonic Funerals and nine doing the Fellow Craft Degree Lecture for the first time. The total number of lodges applying for 2019 was thirty-seven. 100% of those who applied met the requirements. Thirty-five percent received the new Platinum Award established for 2019. I would like to offer a special thanks to Most Worshipful A. Gene Cobb, Jr., PGM 2017, for his continued support of the program he initially implemented and for again serving as the Chairman of the Lion and Pillar Lodge of Excellence Awards for 2019.

Joseph Montfort Medals

Each Grand Master has been given the privilege by The Code since April 17, 1940, to present three Joseph Montfort Medals in recognition of outstanding Masonic service and fraternal contributions to our fraternity. Immediately after being installed as Grand Master, I presented my first medal to Worshipful Brother Fred Lee Sherrill, Jr., (PM, PDDGM) of Conover Lodge No. 709. Worshipful Brother Sherrill is a charter member of Conover Lodge and Orphans Lodge No. 761. He served as Master of Conover Lodge No. 709 in 1960, afterwards transitioning to secretary, a position he has held for the past fifty-eight years. It would be extremely difficult to count the number of masters and members he has mentored in his sixty-four years of Masonic service. Worshipful Brother Fred is a past Harris-Dudley Grand Secretary award recipient. He is a true example of the definition of a Mason.

My second award was presented on September 27, 2019, at the annual communication in Winston-Salem, NC. Worshipful Brother Hyler Wayne Cox, PM, CL, current DDGL of the 3rd District and PDDGL for the old 3rd and current 2nd District was the recipient. As of 2019, he has served as a DDGL for twenty-four years not counting one additional partial year filling an unexpired term. He is the current secretary of Atlantic Lodge No. 294. He served as an out of district DDGL for thirteen years traveling to the three lodges on the Outer Banks. Worshipful Brother Wayne served another eight years covering the Outer Banks lodges, but at that time those lodges were part of his district even though he lived on the mainland. He was a member of the Board of Custodians from 2002-2004, serving as Chairman in 2003-2004. He became a Certified Lecturer in 1986 and is well-respected for his many contributions by

the members of his district.

My third and final award was presented to Worshipful Brother Leroy Beaman Whitfield, PM, CL, PDDGM, PDDGL at a special meeting of members of the 6th District in Greenville, NC, on October 29, 2019. Worshipful Brother Leroy was first certified on September 20, 1955. He has been an active Certified Lecturer for over sixty-four years and is one of only two brethren to achieve this milestone. He served as Master of Jerusalem Lodge No. 95 five times, Secretary for nine years, Treasurer for seventeen years, and he wrote the lodge newsletter for fifteen years. Jerusalem Lodge No. 95 is a small lodge of approximately forty-five members and has four Certified Lecturers, all taught by Worshipful Brother Leroy. Worshipful Brother Leroy truly represents the type of Mason others would want to emulate.

Physical Disabilities

In the case of petitioners having physical disabilities, The Code requires the District Deputy Grand Master to conduct an investigation and advise the Grand Master as to whether the petition should proceed through its normal process. During my term as grand master, three requests were made known to me requiring an investigation, and in each case, based on the information provided by the DDGM, the petition was approved for processing. The Code provisions are in place to assist in determining whether an applicant is physically able to go through the initiation process and whether he would become an immediate financial burden to the Lodge. My thanks go to the District Deputy Grand Masters who thoroughly investigated these specific instances and made a proper report which helped to expedite my final decisions.

Dispensations

During the period of December 1, 2018, through early December 7, 2019, I granted 97 dispensations for various Lodge needs and situations. Listed below are the Dispensations granted:

1. Knights of Solomon Lodge No. 766 to hold their four stated meeting at various locations for 2019. Issued 12-3-18.
2. Blackmer Lodge No. 127 to dispense with their stated meeting on 1-1-19 which is a legal holiday. Issued 12-3-18.
3. Mosaic Lodge No. 762 to hold their installation of 2019 officers in University Lodge 408. Issued 12-3-18.
4. Terry L. Washam to serve as Master of Orphans Lodge No. 761 & James B. Green Lodge No. 735. Issued 12-4-18.
5. Balfour Lodge No. 188 for permission to elect a Secretary on December 18, 2018, since one was not previously elected. Issued 12-5-18.
6. Spencer Lodge No. 543 for permission to elect a Secretary on December 11, 2018, since one was not previously elected. Issued 12-5-18.
7. Pilot Lodge No. 493 to move annual meeting to December 17, 2018, due to inclement weather. Issued 12-7-18.
8. Numa F. Reid Lodge No. 344 to move annual meeting to December 17, 2018, due to inclement weather. Issued 12-7-18.

9. Keller Memorial Lodge No. 657 to move annual meeting to December 18, 2018, due to inclement weather. Issued 12-7-18.
10. Hominy Lodge No. 491 to move their December stated meeting to December 15, 2018, due to inclement weather. Issued 12-11-18.
11. Apex Lodge No. 584 to move annual meeting to January 14, 2019, due to inclement weather. Issued 12-11-18.
12. Person Lodge No. 113 to move annual meeting to December 18, 2018, due to inclement weather. Issued 12-11-18.
13. Royal Hart Lodge No. 497 to move annual meeting to December 17, 2018, due to inclement weather. Issued 12-11-18.
14. Durham Lodge No. 352 to move annual meeting to December 19, 2018, due to inclement weather. Issued 12-11-18.
15. Long Creek Lodge No. 205 to move annual meeting to December 18, 2018, due to inclement weather. Issued 12-11-18.
16. Winston Lodge No. 167 to move their December stated meeting to December 17, 2018, due to inclement weather. Issued 12-11-18.
17. Lillington Lodge No. 302 to move annual meeting to December 18, 2018, due to inclement weather. Issued 12-11-18.
18. Wake Forest Lodge No. 282 to move annual meeting to December 18, 2018, due to inclement weather. Issued 12-11-18.
19. Union Lodge No. 618 to move their December stated meeting to December 12, 2018, due to inclement weather. Issued 12-11-18.
20. Maiden Lodge No. 592 to move annual meeting to December 18, 2018, due to inclement weather. Issued 12-11-18.
21. Gate City Lodge No. 694 to move annual meeting to December 15, 2018, due to inclement weather. Issued 12-11-18.
22. Catawba Lodge No. 248 to move their December stated meeting to December 18, 2018, due to inclement weather. Issued 12-11-18.
23. Bula Lodge No. 409 to move annual meeting to December 14, 2018, due to inclement weather. Issued 12-11-18.
24. Hanks Lodge No. 128 to move annual meeting to December 17, 2018, due to inclement weather. Issued 12-15-18.
25. Bush Hill Lodge No. 732 to move annual meeting to December 18, 2018, due to inclement weather. Issued 12-15-18.
26. Pigeon River Lodge No. 386 to move annual meeting to December 18, 2018, due to inclement weather. Issued 12-15-18.
27. Lovelady Lodge No. 670 to move their December stated meeting to December 17, 2018, due to inclement weather. Issued 12-17-18.
28. Cherokee Lodge No. 146 to hold their 2019 officer installation at Tri-County Community College, 12-17-18. Issued 12-13-18.
29. William G. Hill Lodge No. 218 to move their December stated meeting to December 19, 2018, due to inclement weather. Issued 12-17-18.
30. Knights of Solomon Lodge No. 764 to hold their four stated meetings at various locations for 2019. Issued 1-7-19

31. Allen-Graham Lodge No. 695 for permission to elect a Junior Warden on January 17, 2019, since one was not previously elected. Issued 1-7-19
32. Cliffside Lodge No. 460 for permission to elect a Senior Warden on January 14, 2019, since the one previously installed resigned. Issued 1-9-19.
33. Mosaic Lodge No. 762 for permission to hold their stated meeting of February 19, 2019, at University Lodge No. 408. Issued 1-17-19.
34. Charles M. Setzer Lodge No. 693 for permission to hold an emergent communication at the MHCO on March 30, 2019. Issued 1-17-19.
35. Lux Libertas Lodge No. 772 for permission to hold their February 7, 2019, stated meeting in Stokes Lodge No. 32 in Concord, NC. Issued 1-17-19.
36. Stump Sound Lodge No. 733 for permission to elect a Junior Warden on January 22, 2019. Issued 1-22-19.
37. Greensboro Lodge No. 76 for permission to cancel their stated meeting of February 14, 2019, due to its falling on Valentine's Day. Issued 1-30-19.
38. Harmony Lodge No. 340 for permission to elect a Junior Warden on February 14, 2019, since the one previously installed resigned. Issued 2-1-19.
39. Waxhaw Lodge No. 562 for permission to dispense with stated meeting due to loss of power in the building. Issued 2-4-19.
40. Wilkerson College Lodge No. 760 to hold their six stated meetings at various locations for 2019. Issued 2-5-19
41. William T. Bain Lodge No. 231 for permission to hold all stated and emergent communications without a charter until such time as Knights of Solomon Lodge UD for permission to hold their stated meeting of February 16, 2019, at Nichols-West Asheville Lodge No. 650. Issued 2-8-19.
42. Acacia Lodge No. 674 for permission to hold an emergent communication on June 15, 2019, at WhiteStone to confer the Master Mason degree. Issued 3-13-19.
43. Radiance Lodge No. 132 for permission to hold an emergent communication on May 11, 2019, at a different location to confer the Master Mason degree. Issued 3-13-19.
44. West Gate Lodge No. 738 for permission to elect a Senior Warden on March 18, 2019. Issued 3-18-19.
45. Mount Vernon Lodge No. 359 for permission to elect a Junior Warden on March 26, 2019. Issued 3-18-19.
46. Knights of Solomon Lodge No. 768 for permission to hold their stated meeting of May 4, 2019, at Blackmer Lodge No. 127. Issued 3-18-19.
47. Knights of Solomon Lodge UD for permission to hold their stated meeting of May 18, 2019, at Vesper Lodge No. 554; July 20, 2019, meeting at Robbinsville Lodge No. 672; and September 21, 2019, at Montgomery Lodge No. 426. Issued 3-18-19.

48. Acacia Lodge No. 674 for permission to elect a Senior Warden on April 4, 2019. Issued 3-18-19.
49. St. John's Lodge No. 1 for permission to hold an emergent communication on September 14, 2019, at a different location (Battleship) to confer the Master Mason degree. Issued 3-22-19.
50. Orphans Lodge No. 761 for permission to hold an emergent communication on April 13, 2019, at a different location (Alumni Picnic Shelter) to confer the outdoor Master Mason degree. Issued 3-29-19.
51. Mosaic Lodge No. 762 for permission to hold an emergent communication on April 25, 2019, at a different location (University Lodge No. 408) to confer the Master Mason degree. Issued 4-5-19.
52. State College Lodge No. 770 for permission to hold an emergent communication on April 11, 2019, at a different location (McKimmon Center) to host the Grand Master district meeting. Issued 4-5-19.
53. Yadkin Falls Lodge No. 637 for permission to hold an emergent communication on July 1, 2019, at a different location (Denton Farm Park) for business and receiving the Grand Master. Issued 4-5-19.
54. Unanimity Lodge No. 7 for permission to hold their stated meeting of April 25, 2019, at Providence Lodge No. 678. Issued 4-10-19.
55. Kilwinning Lodge No. 64 to dispense with their stated meeting on 4-11-19 due to the funeral service of their Master, W... Dennis L. "Pete" Cook. Issued 4-11-19.
56. Grassy Knob Lodge No. 471 for permission to hold an emergent communication on April 30, 2019, at a different location, Statesville Lodge No. 27, to confer the Fellow Craft Degree. Issued 4-17-19.
57. Camp Call Lodge No. 534 for permission to hold their stated and emergent communications in Lawndale Lodge No. 486 until such time as their roof is repaired and declared safe. Issued 4-18-2019.
58. Spencer Lodge No. 543 for permission to hold an emergent communication on May 25, 2019, at a different location (NC Transportation Museum) to confer the Master Mason Degree. Issued 5-8-19.
59. Orphans Lodge No. 761 for permission to hold their stated communication on June 8, 2019, at a different location (MESH Lodge No. 771). Issued 5-9-19.
60. Belmont Lodge No. 627 for permission to hold their stated and emergent meetings at Mt. Holly Lodge No. 544 until their lodge is repaired as a result of vandalism on May 11, 2019. Issued 5-13-2019.
61. Grifton Lodge No. 243 for permission to dispense with their stated meeting on July 3rd due to conflicts with the July 4th Holiday. Issued 5-31-2019.
62. Marietta Lodge No. 444 for permission to dispense with their stated meeting on June 7, 2019, due to conflicts with lodge officer schedules. Issued 5-31-2019.
63. P.P. Turner Lodge No. 746 for permission to elect a Junior Warden on June 6, 2019. Issued 6-6-19.
64. Mosaic Lodge No. 762 for permission to hold an emergent meeting

- on July 9th in Olive Lodge No. 36, PHA, for conferral of the Entered Apprentice Degree. Issued 6-18-2019.
65. Mosaic Lodge No. 762 for permission to hold all stated and emergent meetings at Olive Lodge No. 36, PHA, until their by-laws are updated to reflect this address. Issued 6-18-2019.
 66. Andrew Jackson Lodge No. 576 for permission to dispense with their stated meeting on July 4, 2019. Issued 6-21-19.
 67. Vance Lodge No. 293 for permission to attend the Tri-State River Degree in TN and confer the NC Master Mason Degree. Issued 6-27-19.
 68. Widow's Son Lodge No. 75 for permission to dispense with their stated meeting on July 4, 2019. Issued 7-2-19.
 69. Lodge of the Nine Sisters No. 773 for permission to confer the Master Mason Degree at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria, VA, on August 3, 2019. Issued 7-30-2019.
 70. Harmon Lodge No. 420 for permission to hold an emergent communication on August 24, 2019, at a different location (Brother Allan Norman's cabin in East Bend) to confer the Master Mason Degree. Issued 8-1-19.
 71. North Wilkesboro Lodge No. 407 for permission to attend the 24th Annual Moonlight Degree in Dixon Springs, TN, and confer the Master Mason Degree on September 14, 2019. Dispensation also received by the Grand Master of Tennessee, M. W. Robert T. Reed. Issued 8-5-2019.
 72. Wendell Lodge No. 565 for permission to hold their stated and emergent communications in Zebulon Lodge No. 609 until such time as their floor has been repaired. Issued 8-5-2019.
 73. Zion Lodge No. 81 for permission to dispense with their stated meeting on August 15, 2019, in order to have a fraternal with Doric Lodge No. 568 in New Bern, NC, whose stated meeting is also on that same date. Issued 8-5-2019.
 74. Orient Lodge No. 395 for permission to dispense with their stated meeting on September 5, 2019, due to Hurricane Dorian. Issued 9-3-19.
 75. Richlands Lodge No. 564 for permission to dispense with their stated meeting on September 5, 2019, due to Hurricane Dorian. Issued 9-3-19.
 76. Gatesville Lodge No. 126 for permission to dispense with their stated meeting on September 5, 2019, due to Hurricane Dorian. Issued 9-3-19.
 77. St. John's Lodge No. 13 for permission to dispense with their stated meeting on September 5, 2019, due to Hurricane Dorian. Issued 9-4-19.
 78. Widow's Son Lodge No. 75 for permission to dispense with their stated meeting on September 5, 2019, due to Hurricane Dorian. Issued 9-5-19.
 79. Hibriten Lodge No. 262 for permission to hold an emergent communication on September 7, 2019, at a different location (Russell

- Bridges's property) to confer the Second Section of the Master Mason Degree. Issued 9-5-19.
80. Lebanon Lodge No. 391 for permission to move their stated meeting on September 5, 2019, to September 10, 2019, due to Hurricane Dorian. Issued 9-5-19.
 81. Clay Lodge No. 301 for permission to hold an emergent communication on October 5, 2019, at a different location (Brother Dennis Curtis's cabin in Brasstown) to confer the Master Mason Degree by a Civil War Degree Team. Issued 9-6-19.
 82. Zion Lodge No. 81 for permission to move their stated meeting on September 2, 2019, to September 10, 2019, due to Hurricane Dorian. Issued 9-9-19.
 83. Lodge of the Nine Sisters No. 773 for permission to hold an emergent communication on September 21st in J.J. Crowder Lodge No. 743 for a Masonic education program for two speakers. Issued 9-13-19.
 84. Scotch Ireland Lodge No. 154 for permission to combine their stated communication of September 24, 2019, with a stated communication of Spencer Lodge No. 543 on the same date for the purpose of a Master Mason Degree. Issued 9-17-19.
 85. Forest City Lodge No. 381 for permission to hold their stated and emergent communications in Western Star Lodge No. 91 until such time as their lodge building has been repaired. Issued 10-3-19.
 86. Lodge of the Nine Sisters No. 773 for permission to hold their stated communication on October 24th in J.J. Crowder Lodge No. 743. Issued 10-18-19.
 87. Forsyth Lodge No. 707 for permission to allow W... Larry James Toth to serve as Master of their lodge while serving as Master of Piedmont-Pioneer Lodge No. 685, both located in Winston-Salem, NC. Issued 10-25-19
 88. Perquimans Lodge No. 106 for permission to elect officers at the stated communication of December 3, 2019. Issued 11-13-19.
 89. Lodge of the Nine Sisters No. 773 for permission to hold their stated communication on November 20th in J.J. Crowder Lodge No. 743. Issued 11-13-19.
 90. Lodge of the Nine Sisters No. 773 for permission to hold their stated communication on December 18th in J.J. Crowder Lodge No. 743. Issued 11-13-19.
 91. Knights of Solomon Lodge No. 774 for permission to hold their stated meeting of February 15, 2020, at Dillsboro Lodge No. 459, May 16, 2020, stated meeting at Bakersville Lodge No. 357, July 18, 2020, stated meeting at Junaluskee Lodge No. 145, September 19, 2020, stated meeting at Mystic Tie Lodge No. 237, and November 21, 2020, stated meeting at Waynesville Lodge No. 259. Issued 11-20-19.
 92. Joseph Warren Lodge No. 92 for permission to move their annual meeting to December 5, 2019, due to not having a quorum at the original date in November. Issued 11-21-19.
 93. Piedmont-Pioneer Lodge No. 685 for permission to hold an election
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- for Secretary at their stated meeting of December 4, 2019. Issued 11-22-19.
94. Hominy Lodge No. 491 for permission to move their annual meeting to December 10, 2019, due to inclement weather on the original date in December. Issued 12-3-19.
 95. Darrin A. Helton for permission to wear light head wear (toboggan or head band) during the months experiencing colder weather due to a medical condition. Issued 12-3-19.
 96. Mocksville Lodge No. 134 for permission to move their annual meeting to their stated meeting of January 7, 2020, due to the fact they have no heat in their building at this time. Issued 12-3-19.
 97. Vanceboro Lodge No. 433 for permission to hold their election of officers at their stated meeting of November 26, 2019. Issued 11-12-19.

Orders

During the period of December 1, 2018, through early December 7, 2019, I issued eight Orders for various Lodge needs and situations. Listed below are the Orders issued:

1. Stedman Lodge No. 730 for the purpose of a rebalot due to an illegal ballot held on July 1, 2019. Rebalot to occur on August 5, 2019. Issued 7-22-19.
2. Whetstone Lodge No. 515 for the purpose of a rebalot due to improper conduct unbecoming of a Mason after election and before notification of the petitioner's election. Rebalot to occur on August 27, 2019. Issued 7-29-19.
3. Maxton Lodge No. 417 for the purpose of suspending the Master, J.E.B., based on charges brought upon him by the Board of Custodians concerning a falsified signature on Form 38. I appointed District Deputy Grand Master, W.A.M. as Master Pro-Tem until such time as the Master may be exonerated or the next annual meeting and election of officers, whichever occurs first. Issued 9-16-19.
4. Proctorville Lodge No. 643 for the purpose of suspending J.E.B. as Secretary for charges brought upon him by the Board of Custodians concerning a falsified signature on Form 38. This person was also suspended as Master of Maxton Lodge No. 417. Issued 9-16-19.
5. Proctorville Lodge No. 643 to perform a fifteen-hour Lecture Service to be completed before December 1, 2019, and conducted by members of the Board of Custodians. This as a result of a falsified Form 38 submitted to the Board of Custodians and the treatment of a guest Lecturer who attempted to conduct their required five-hour service. Issued 9-16-19. After full compliance and cooperation on November 2nd and November 9th, I reduced this requirement to a total of ten-hours.
6. Proctorville Lodge No. 643 for the purpose of suspending R.G.C. as Master for charges brought upon him by the Board of Custodians concerning a falsified signature on Form 38. Issued 9-16-19.

7. St. Andrew's Lodge No. 702 for the purpose of a rebalot due to an illegal ballot on Brother R.L.W. for affiliation held on August 21, 2019. The ballot was taken without a quorum present. The rebalot to occur on November 20, 2019. Issued 10-1-19.
8. Suspension of R.G.C. of Proctorville Lodge No. 643 to hold any elected or appointed subordinate lodge office for a period of three years at the recommendation of the Trial Commission. This action was taken in accordance with Reg. 13-2.10 for serious infractions on his part in carrying out his sworn duties as Master of his lodge as related to his leadership identified in Order No. 6 . This suspension removes him from office and from the ability of serving as an elected or appointed officer of a subordinate lodge for a period of three years effective immediately. Issued 10-23-19.

Approvals

During the period of December 1, 2018, through early December 7, 2019, I issued twelve Approvals for various Lodge needs and situations. Listed below are the Approvals issued:

1. Clemmons Lodge No. 755 for my approval of the resignation of the Tyler. Issued 1-1-19
 2. Harmony Lodge No. 340 for my approval of the resignation of the Junior Warden. Issued 2-1-19
 3. Approval of Royal White Hart Lodge No. 2 to use the first floor for tyled meetings. Issued 2-25-19
 4. Approval of Wiccacon Lodge No. 240 to use the first floor for tyled meetings. Issued 3-6-19
 5. West Gate Lodge No. 738 for my approval of the resignation of the Senior Warden. Issued 3-12-19
 6. Sparta Lodge No. 423 for my approval of the resignation of the Master. Issued 5-9-19
 7. Orient Lodge No. 395 for my approval of the resignation of the Senior Warden. Issued 5-16-19
 8. Relief Lodge No. 431 for my approval of the resignation of the Secretary. Issued 5-24-2019
 9. Oak Island Lodge No. 758 for my approval of the resignation of the Master. Issued 6-4-2019
 10. James B. Green Lodge No. 735 for my approval of the resignation of the Junior Warden. Issued 6-12-2019
 11. Atlantic Lodge No. 294 for my approval of the resignation of the Senior Warden. Issued 6-14-2019
 12. Approval of resignation of a member of the Grand Lodge Special Activities Committee. Issued 10-11-2019
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Emergent Communications

One emergent communication of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina was conducted during my term as Grand Master.

1. November 29, 2018, in Newton for the purpose of installing the 2019 Grand Lodge Officers on December 1, 2018. The grand lodge was opened with the officers of Catawba Lodge No. 248 acting as grand lodge officers pro tempore.

The North Carolina Masonic Foundation, Inc.

For an overview of the activities of the North Carolina Masonic Foundation, Inc. during my tenure as Grand Master, I refer you to their reports found in the 2019 and 2020 book of Reports submitted by the Board of Directors and Staff and led by Michael Faulkenbury, Chairman.

I was honored to participate in four events sponsored by the Foundation as Grand Master.

On February 21, 2019, I attended and participated in honoring a founding member of the Bridge Builder Society for the North Carolina Masonic Foundation. Worshipful Brother William Pete Franklin, PM, of Charles B. Newcomb Lodge No. 740 was recognized for his contribution. This event was well attended by members of his lodge and district. We thank Worshipful Brother Pete for his many years of dedicated service to our fraternity, especially his support of our annual communications.

Worshipful Brother E. Earl Wells, Past Grand Lecturer, and his staff at the GALOT Motorsports Park in Dunn, NC, hosted a thank-you celebration for supporters of the NCMF on May 21, 2019. Many in attendance shared stories about our Masonic charities. Those brave enough were able to take a ride down the drag strip as a passenger in an official bracket-style race car. We thank Worshipful Brother Earl for his continued support of our North Carolina Masonic charities and his leadership service to our fraternity.

On August 5, 2019, my wife Linda and I attended and participated in honoring additional founding members of the Bridge Builder Society for the North Carolina Masonic Foundation. Brother Robert “Bobby” Broughton Carr of Mingo Lodge No. 206 and Mrs. Loray Carr were recognized for their contributions. This event was well attended by members of his community, lodge, and district. We thank the Carr family for their many years of dedicated service to our fraternity.

Former North Carolina Governor, Brother James G. Martin, 1985-1993, served as the host for our fourth Foundation event on October 16, 2019, held at the Governor’s Western Residence in Asheville, NC. Governor Martin gave a brief history of the mansion/residence, which has housed eleven governor administrations since 1964. The Foundation then presented the video “Keep the Promise” which was first shown at the 2019 annual communication. Afterwards, I provided brief remarks and encouraged those in attendance to support my “Keeping the Promise” letter campaign to be sent to approximately 36,000 members in early November 2019.

I want to offer a special thanks to the North Carolina Masonic Foundation for their support during my tenure as Grand Master, especially their financial

support of the letter I referenced above. I am hopeful that each member of our fraternity will respond to my request and keep supporting their charitable obligations going forward. It is our Masonic responsibility at all times to be the best Mason we can possibly be.

WhiteStone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Community

WhiteStone, our Masonic and Eastern Star Community in Greensboro turned 107 years old in 2019. If you have never visited our home in Greensboro, I encourage you to do so and see what your donations are supporting. Several years ago, we established a foundation called the Masonic and Eastern Star Home, LLC. Please note that a donation to this foundation, made out to *MESH Foundation, LLC*, qualifies as a 501(c)3 tax deductible donation. Donating to this foundation guarantees that your contributions will go to support only Masonically connected residents both internally and those served through the Outreach program.

Exciting activities are happening at our campus in Greensboro. On May 11th we celebrated a ground-breaking ceremony in the Rotunda area of our campus. The Long-Range Committee/Development Team is working hard to finalize plans for the new expansion. This will add additional Independent Living units, provide an Assisted Living option that is not currently available, relocate the Memory Care area, and renovate the Care and Wellness Center providing for some private accommodations.

I would like to thank Chairman, Most Worshipful Gene T. Jernigan, PGM 2006, and the entire team of Board of Directors for their many hours of service and continued support to ensure our home in Greensboro continues to be successful.

Many of our lodges are donating to the MESH Foundation, LLC, but I am disappointed that many are still choosing not to donate. I encourage each of you to consider, as a priority, your own personal financial support of our retirement community. As Masons we are obligated individually to support our elderly brothers and their widows. However, as indicated in my district message, lodge fundraisers are greatly appreciated, and I hope they will continue but should be considered a bonus in our charitable giving.

To the Masons of our grand jurisdiction, I thank you for your continued support of our home in Greensboro. Someday you too, like me, may want to call this place your residence as well. We have much to offer our residents and having a Masonic Lodge, MESH Lodge No. 771, and OES Chapter, MESH Chapter No. 379, allows your WhiteStone experience to be even more fulfilling. Remember we are one of only four grand jurisdictions that still operate both a children's home and a retirement community. I hope that never changes.

For more detailed information concerning our home in Greensboro I refer you to the reports found elsewhere in these proceedings submitted by Worshipful Brother Donald E. Kehler, Junior Grand Deacon and Chairman of the Committee on WhiteStone for 2019, and Worshipful Brother Robert W. Rideout, Junior Grand Deacon and Chairman of the Committee on WhiteStone for 2020.

Masonic Home for Children at Oxford

Our Masonic Home for Children at Oxford turned 146 years old in 2019. If you have never visited our home in Oxford, I encourage you to do so and see what your donations are supporting. Donations to our Children's Home can be made out to *MHCO*, which qualifies as a 501(c)3 tax deductible charity.

Exciting activities are also happening at our Children's Home. On May 10th we celebrated the ribbon cutting to open our new swimming pool. I would like to thank all who supported the efforts of raising funds to support this project. Our old pool had become unsafe, but thanks to the support of many we now have a new swimming pool to last for decades to come. Opportunities still exist to contribute to this important project.

I would like to thank Chairman, Most Worshipful Dewey R. Preslar, Jr., PGM 2013, and the entire team of Board of Directors for their many hours of service and continued support to ensure our home in Oxford continues to be successful. We have a team of district Ambassadors working to update lodges in their district on activities and needs for operating our home. I offer a special thanks for your continued support. I would also like to thank lodges who not only support the home financially but offer additional support in labor, materials, and financial scholarships for our graduates. All your efforts are greatly appreciated.

If you have never attended the annual Masonic Homecoming Festival, I strongly encourage you to consider attending the upcoming 10th annual festival as the one to begin that practice. This year's festivities begin on Friday evening October 9th. The annual parade and delicious barbecue will be cooked during the night and will be available on Saturday the 10th. The parade featuring our three Shrine Temples in North Carolina — Sudan, Amran, and Oasis — begins this year at 11 am. Invite your family and friends to attend and experience the activities on our campus. Orphans Lodge will also meet at 8:00 am on Saturday morning. This will allow you to enjoy a brief lodge meeting with Masons statewide.

One of my most special moments during my term as Grand Master was having the opportunity to be with the graduates of the Masonic Home for Children in Oxford at their annual Baccalaureate service on May 19th, 2019. This was a unique experience for me as it occurred nine days prior to the fiftieth anniversary of my high school graduation in 1969. I wished each of our four graduates a very successful journey, and I am thankful to the Masons of our grand jurisdiction for leading the way in ensuring their success.

To the Masons of our grand jurisdiction, I thank you for your continued support of our home in Oxford. We are fortunate to have a chartered lodge on our campus, Orphans Lodge No. 761, and I encourage you to visit at any of our meetings. As indicated in my overview above of WhiteStone, I encourage each of you to consider, as a priority, your own personal financial support of our Children's Home as well. Again, as Masons we are obligated individually to support our orphans. Always remember, lodge fundraisers are greatly appreciated, and I hope they will continue, but should be considered a bonus in our charitable giving.

For more detailed information concerning our home in Oxford I refer you to the reports found elsewhere in these proceedings submitted by Worshipful Brother Kevan D. Frazier, Senior Grand Deacon and Chairman of the Com-

mittee on the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford for 2019, and Worshipful Brother Donald E. Kehler, Senior Grand Deacon and Chairman of the Committee on the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford for 2020.

Veterans' Hospital Visits

The Veteran's Administration Hospital Visitation Program, sponsored by the Masonic Service Association, is carried on entirely by voluntary contributions. Contributions are received from Grand Lodges throughout the United States who vote on special funds or assessments. Our Grand Lodge annually elects to maintain its membership with the Masonic Service Association, supporting such programs as the Hospital Visitation program. Visitation is limited by the fact that veterans who are Masons must volunteer that information because privacy rules do not allow us to ask.

North Carolina has four Veteran's Administration Hospitals: Asheville, Salisbury, Durham, and Fayetteville. I was able to arrange a visit to the hospital in Salisbury on August 15th and visit with three Masons. I had the honor of presenting one of my lapel pins to each of these Masonic Veterans. I would like to offer a special thanks to Worshipful Brothers Richard D. Starnes of Andrew Jackson Lodge No. 576 and David L. Wyatt of Riverside Lodge No. 606 for their support in serving as Masonic Service Association Representative and Deputy for the Salisbury location.

Sadly, on August 6th, Brother William "Bill" McEntire, Sonoma Lodge No. 472, our Masonic Service Association Representative for the Asheville Hospital, passed away. We thank Brother Bill for his many years of service to this worthy cause. On October 3, 2019, I approved the appointment of Worshipful Brother John Marvin Burchfield as the new Representative for the Charles George VA Medical Center in Asheville. Several days later, October 8th, I approved the appointment of Brother Antonio Kazimir Nowacki as Deputy for this location supporting Worshipful Brother Burchfield. I appreciate both brethren accepting their appointments and wish them well in this important endeavor.

The hospitals in Durham and Fayetteville do not have a Masonic Service Association Representative or Deputy at this time to assist with visitations therefore I was unable to make a visit to those locations.

Conference of Grand Masters of North America

The Grand Lodge of North Carolina is a member of the Conference of Grand Masters of North America. This conference consists of recognized Grand Jurisdictions in all fifty U.S. states, Provinces of Canada, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the states of Mexico, and the American Canadian Grand Lodge of Germany. The Conference is the largest gathering of Grand Masters in the world and assembles Grand Masters to learn items currently affecting the Craft, discuss best practices, and learn of new programs that can assist grand jurisdictions in operating more efficiently.

The annual meeting for 2019 was held February 16-19 in Rapid City, South Dakota.

I was privileged to have been elected at the 2018 conference to serve as an officer and member of the Planning Committee for the Conference in

2019 along with Grand Masters from four other grand jurisdictions. It was even more special to serve on this committee since Past Grand Master Bryant Webster served as its Chairman in 2016. His committee was responsible for making incremental changes to improve the annual program and interaction between Grand Lodges while attending. Those improvements continue to be practiced today. The conference also realized significant improvements beginning in mid-2018 led by our new conference secretary, Most Worshipful Michael DeWolf, PGM, and current Grand Secretary of Wisconsin. Most Worshipful DeWolf implemented a new website which has streamlined communications and provides on-line registration for the various conference activities.

Also attending with me were Deputy Grand Master, Right Worshipful Brother Shaun Bradshaw; our Senior Grand Warden, Right Worshipful Brother David Wicker; our Junior Grand Warden, Right Worshipful Brother Larry Thompson; and our Assistant to the Grand Secretary, Worshipful Brother Jonathan Underwood. We had a great conference despite temperatures ranging from plus eight degrees to minus ten degrees, not counting the wind chill factor. This was a bittersweet conference for me as it was my last as an elected grand lodge officer.

Northeast Conference of Grand Masters, Deputy Grand Masters, and Grand Secretaries

The Grand Lodge of North Carolina is a member of the Northeast Conference which consists of Grand Lodges in the states of: Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Indiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, and Wisconsin.

This year's conference was held in Bangor, Maine, on July 19-21 and featured one main presentation and two separate afternoon breakout sessions. The main presentation by Brother Christopher Howard, PhD, focused on The Modern Social Landscape. Breakout sessions were held for Grand Masters and Deputy Grand Masters/Wardens providing each group an opportunity to discuss a variety of topics affecting the Craft. Ample time was also given for informal communication with counterparts from other states to discuss various Masonic issues. Also attending with me were Deputy Grand Master, Right Worshipful Brother Shaun Bradshaw; our Senior Grand Warden, Right Worshipful Brother David Wicker; our Grand Treasurer, Most Worshipful Lewis R. Ledford; and our Grand Secretary, Right Worshipful T. Walton Clapp, III. Separate breakout sessions were held for the grand secretaries.

Membership Services

Our Membership Service Committee, co-chaired by Worshipful Brother William "Bill" Faison and Right Worshipful Brother P. Shaun Bradshaw, Deputy Grand Master, were part of an experienced group of lodge secretaries charged to evaluate current industry market software packages and make recommendations on what would best serve our grand jurisdiction for the future. This committee began their evaluation task in late fourth quarter of 2018. Two suppliers were evaluated, our current vendor MORI located in New York and another experienced vendor, Grand View, located in Louisiana.

After an extensive process of reviewing what the market currently had

to offer, the committee recommended at this time that we negotiate a new contract with MORI, including enhancements to their product which are to be implemented as part of the new package. A new two-year contract was signed in July 2019 providing expected near-term software enhancements. I would like to thank each member of this committee for their efforts in completing this project. Another evaluation of both companies is expected to take place again in early 2021.

Board of Custodians and Grand Lecturer

It was an honor to attend the first Board of Custodians meeting on January 11, 2019, as Grand Master and initially preside as Chairman ex-officio as required by our Code. I had the privilege to serve on this Board from 2006-2014, serving as its twelfth secretary from 2007-2013. This was my first ever grand lodge board or committee appointment, having been a member for thirty-one years at the time of my appointment. I wish to once again thank Most Worshipful Gene T. Jernigan, PGM 2006, for this appointment. I quite often describe this as a life changing experience. Serving in this capacity allowed me to cross paths with many Masons across our grand jurisdiction. I appreciate the kindness and respect I have always received, especially during this time.

I was also honored to have had the opportunity of appointing my long-time mentor, Most Worshipful Dalton W. Mayo, PGM 2014, as my Grand Lecturer. Most Worshipful Dalton completed his forty-ninth year as a Certified Lecturer in 2019. He became only the second member of our Grand Jurisdiction to have served as Grand Master, Grand Lecturer, and Chairman and Secretary of the Board of Custodians. The only other to serve in each of these capacities was Most Worshipful Leon Cash, PGM 1925, completing this series of services in 1934.

I would like to offer a special congratulations to two of our Certified Lecturers who during 2019 were presented fifty-year Certified Lecturer certificates. It was my honor to make both of those presentations, first to Worshipful Brother James Beauford Kiser (Charles M. Setzer No. 693) on July 7th at his home and second to Worshipful Brother Robert Glenn Capps (Creasy Proctor No. 679) at his lodge on July 9th. Only twenty-one other Brothers have previously accomplished this milestone since the Certification Program, as we now know it, was instituted on January 24, 1941.

In-State Visitation and Special Activities

Order of the Eastern Star – Sister Debbie Owen, Worthy Grand Matron; Worshipful Brother J. Allen Hughes, Worthy Grand Patron; and our grand lodge hosted a joint cookout on May 25, 2019, at Camp Gray Rock in Foscoe, NC. This event was held to continue to strengthen the bond between Masons and Eastern Stars. I was honored to speak at the Grand Chapter OES Annual Session June 10th in Durham. Later in the week on June 12th, Sister Louise Taylor was elected Worthy Grand Matron and Worshipful Brother Cutler Dillon was elected as Worthy Grand Patron for the 2019-2020 calendar year. At their annual session a check from the OES Ruck fund was presented to Brother Mark Lewis, Executive Director of WhiteStone: a Masonic and Eastern Star Community in the amount of \$290,333. I enjoy my membership in the Eastern Star, and it should be of no surprise of my fondness of their initiation ritual

work and the lessons therein portrayed. I had the honor of serving as Associate Patron Pro Tem for Kernersville Chapter No. 205 and Lincoln Chapter No. 114 for their initiations and gave the full lecture for these degrees. Sadly, on October 7, 2019, Worshipful Brother Cutler Scott Dillon, Worthy Grand Patron, passed after a brief illness. I was honored to have been asked to conduct his Masonic Memorial service on October 13th, held at the First Baptist Church in Cherryville, NC. My thoughts and prayers remain with his wife Gayle and the entire Grand OES family for this sudden and unexpected loss.

Shrine – North Carolina has and continues to enjoy excellent relationships with all three Shrine Temples. The dedicated Masons who are members of Amran, Oasis, and Sudan Shriners are doing great work in supporting their 22 Shriners Hospitals for Children. Our Temples in 2019 were led by Ill. Sir Donald Slaughter (Amran), Ill. Sir Kenneth Jarrett (Oasis), and Ill. Sir Carl Smith (Sudan). I was fortunate to attend the installations for each Potentate and his Divan officers. Having been a member of the Oasis Ritual team since 2008, it was extremely special for me to fill the position of Potentate as the sitting Grand Master at two of the 2019 Oasis ceremonials and named as Class Honoree at the Black Tie Ceremonial held in my home town on August 24th. I also served as High Priest and Prophet for one ceremonial.

Scottish Rite – We are fortunate to continue to enjoy the great leadership of Illustrious and Most Worshipful Brother William B. Brunk, Past Grand Master, Sovereign Grand Inspector General for the Orient of North Carolina. Supporting their language disorders clinics is the main charity of this group with clinics at the universities of East Carolina and Appalachian State. My home Valley, the Valley of Charlotte, honored me with a Table Lodge meeting on August 23rd. We enjoyed an evening of good food, fellowship, toasts, and singing.

York Rite Bodies – For the majority of my term as Grand Master, the Grand York Rite Bodies of North Carolina were led by Most Excellent Thomas Bridges (Grand Royal Arch Chapter), Most Illustrious Kevin Wood (Grand Council Royal and Select Masters) and Right Eminent Michael Daniels (Grand Commandery Knights Templar). These dedicated Brothers work diligently to promote and support all York Rite Masons in North Carolina. I was honored to attend their Annual Communication in Clemmons beginning March 17th-19th, 2019, and offer remarks as the keynote speaker. During the Grand Encampment annual Easter observance weekend in Alexandria and Arlington, VA, I had a very special opportunity to be part of a wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers. The following morning an Easter Sunrise service was held at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. I appreciate the invitation allowing me to participate in these special events extended to me by our NC Grand Commandery. In July, I participated in the activities of the 82nd Summer Assembly in Maggie Valley from July 13th-16th, 2019. On Saturday prior to the beginning of this session a statewide Royal Arch degree was conferred with participants from several York Rite bodies, including one out-of-state body from Georgia. I was honored to be allowed to fill the part of the Principal Sojourner for the Royal Arch degree. Twenty-five candidates participated in the conferral of this degree. Finally, it was a very

special treat to be asked to confer, serving as Eminent Commander, the Order of the Temple at a statewide event. This special Order was conferred at Castle McCulloch in the Jamestown community on October 9, 2019.

Thirty-seven candidates were knighted by Right Eminent Michael Daniels and me during this special conferral.

Youth Organizations - In late March I attended the annual North Carolina Masonic Youth Leadership Conference at the Winston-Salem Masonic Center. What a great experience to spend time with our future leaders. Anyone concerned about the future of our fraternity needs only to attend one of our youth meetings. You will have a different perspective after spending time with our Masonic youth. I had the privilege of witnessing the Rainbow Girls initiation and the DeMolay Degree. I was very impressed with the dedication and performance of their ritual work. Outstanding!! On June 23rd I attended and spoke at the eighty-second Grand Assembly of NC, International Order of Rainbow for Girls in Raleigh. This was another great experience to be with our future leaders. Finally, on November 17, 2019, Linda and I attended the Institution, Initiation and Installation of Officers for the newest Rainbow for Girls Assembly, Trinity Assembly No. 93, located in Dunn, NC. I would like to thank the members of Palmyra Lodge No. 147 for their support and allowing this assembly to meet in their lodge building.

National Sojourners – On February 4th, 2019, I was inducted as an Honorary Member of the National Sojourners, Camp Lejeune Chapter No. 329 in Jacksonville, NC, and became a Member in Perpetuity. I want to thank all members who made this special honor possible. I offer a special thanks to Brother MGYSGT Denny Norris, National Third Vice President who sponsored me. This induction occurred at their annual stated meeting held at Semper Fidelis Lodge No. 680 in Jacksonville, NC. After the induction, I was honored to receive a framed copy of the Toast to the Flag. On August 19, 2019, I was again honored to receive a Member in Perpetuity of Old Fort Chapter No. 553 in Old Fort, NC. I would like to thank the members of my new chapter for the confidence bestowed in me by electing me as one of their members.

On January 4th, I attended five blood drives in my area. I made brief stops at Statesville Lodge No. 27 in Statesville, Andrew Jackson No. 576/Fulton Lodge No. 99 in Salisbury, Hickory Lodge No. 343 in Hickory, Conover Lodge No. 709 in Conover, attempted Lee Lodge No. 253 in Taylorsville but I was mistaken on the location, and Snow Creek Lodge No. 571 in the northern Statesville area. My congratulations to all who participated in this annual event. We are working with the Red Cross to promote additional locations throughout the state in 2019. Later in the year, Nichols-West Asheville Lodge No. 650 hosted a blood drive as a new lodge joining others in supporting this important mission. We welcomed representatives from the Red Cross to our 2019 annual communication and greatly appreciated their brief message at the public session Friday afternoon. They had a display table in the vendor area during our 2019 session.

During my term as Grand Master, I have participated in several fundrais-

ers, notably the 62nd Annual Brunswick Stew Fundraiser in late February at Andrew Jackson Lodge in Salisbury, NC, and the 56th Annual Ham Day in early March at Riverside Lodge in Catawba, NC. I thank all lodges for their continued support of our charities by holding annual fundraisers.

In addition to the activities listed above, I participated in many other events, several degrees, installations, and many award presentations. A summary of other activities included the following:

- Travelled in the Grand Master's car a total of 44,286 miles
- Attended and participated in three hundred eighteen Masonic events
- Visitation made to ninety-seven lodges and all forty-one districts
- Officially received as Grand Master sixty-four times
- Attended two Scottish Rite Reunions participating in a total of seven ritual parts
- Attended two York Rite festivals and two special ritual events participating in a total of six ritual parts
- Attended three Shrine Ceremonials participating in a total of three ritual parts
- Conferred one complete Master Mason degree for Orphans Lodge No. 761
- Filled the station of the East for conferring the Second Section of the Master Mason's degree for six lodges
- Gave the Master Mason Degree lecture for four lodges
- Gave the Associate Patron lecture for two OES chapters
- Installed lodge officers for 2019 for twenty-five lodges (ten at one time for the 6th district) and officers for 2020 for three lodges
- Gave a Masonic education program at nine lodges
- Conducted eleven Masonic funerals, and
- Presented service awards to seventy-five brethren: (15) twenty-five, (31) Fifty, (13) Sixty, and (16) Seventy Year awards. It was a very special treat for me to present Most Worshipful Richard G. Moore, PGM 1993, with his sixty-year Diamond Jubilee award on April 22nd at the district meeting in Mount Holly. Several of the seventy-year awards were presented at the Brothers' homes due to health issues.

I thank all Lodges, Eastern Star Chapters, Scottish and York Rite bodies, and Shrine Temples for giving me the opportunities to participate in your special events. For the seven lodges that I had to decline invitations due to previous commitments, I am sorry I could not attend your important event. If I could have found a way to be in two locations at the same time, I would have supported your request as well. This has been a wonderful journey, and as a ritualist it has been a great honor to have been invited to participate in your special activities.

Each of these events and many more gave me the opportunity to cross paths with many members of our fraternity and their families. The best part

of our journeys has been, is now, and will forever be the people you meet along the way. Never take these opportunities lightly or for granted. Each occurrence is a special and unique memory.

New Lodge Charters and Dispensations

On October 19, 2019, we traveled to Waynesville, NC, and conducted the official Charter Ceremony for our newest lodge, Knights of Solomon Lodge No. 774. The charter was presented, and the officers for this new lodge were formally installed. Worshipful Brother Gregory Clifton Grindstaff was installed as the first official Master of this lodge. This charter was approved by the delegates at our annual communication on Friday afternoon, September 27, 2019.

It was a special honor to grant a dispensation to form a new lodge in my hometown of Newton, NC. Prometheus Lodge UD was given this dispensation on November 22, 2019, as our fourth Traditional Observance type lodge in North Carolina. According to our Dispensation Ceremony, I officially charged the Master, Wardens, and members of this new lodge and set them on their journey to officially become our newest lodge at the annual communication of 2020. Worshipful Julian Cody Setzer was selected by the charter members to become their first Master.

Out of State Visitations

My first out of state trip after installation was to represent North Carolina at the 82nd annual Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas held in Spartanburg, SC. It was a pleasure being on the field at halftime with Worshipful Brother Tommy Watson, Grand Marshal of South Carolina. Since the first game in 1937, over \$75 million dollars has been raised from this event supporting the Shriners Hospital in Greenville, SC, and twenty-one other Shriners hospitals across the United States.

I was invited to several out of state annual communications. Regretfully my schedule would not allow me to attend many. I did have the opportunity to attend the annual communications of South Carolina in late April and Oregon in early June. At each event, I was warmly received and experienced generous hospitality during my visit. It is a valuable experience seeing how other grand jurisdictions conduct their business and manage the challenges and successes concerning their Craft. My thanks to Most Worshipful Michael D. Smith, Grand Master of South Carolina, and Most Worshipful James L. Morgan of Oregon for making Linda and me feel welcome at the various events we attended.

As customary, the three Shrine Temples Amran, Oasis, and Sudan invited Linda and me to attend the 145th Imperial Session from June 30th through July 4th in Nashville, Tennessee. We certainly can be thankful for the support we continue to receive from our North Carolina Temples.

We appreciate the hospitality received, and I am delighted in the message promoted by the Imperial Shrine of encouraging their members to be active in their blue lodges. We can also learn a lesson from how well the Shriners effectively market and implement their programs.

I was honored to be a part of a large number of Grand Masters in attendance supporting Shriners International at their annual session. At this session, Imperial Sir Jeffrey L. Sowder was elected and installed as the new

Imperial Potentate becoming what was thought to be the first Past Grand Master ever elected to this position. Most Worshipful and Imperial Sir Jeff is a Past Grand Master of Kansas. It was later brought to my attention that our own Most Worshipful Hubert M. Poteat also served as Imperial Potentate in 1950-51 after serving as Grand Master of Masons in North Carolina in 1923 which could have made him the first to serve both positions.

From August 17th through August 21st, I attended the Biennial Session of the Supreme Council in Washington, DC. This event was well organized and well attended as usual. What an honor to be officially received with thirty-four other Grand Masters worldwide at the opening session. This communication witnessed a changing of the guard with Illustrious Ronald A. Seale stepping down after sixteen years as Sovereign Grand Commander and Illustrious James D. Cole, 33°, Lieutenant Grand Commander, becoming the new Sovereign Grand Commander. Illustrious and Most Worshipful Cole is also a Past Grand Master of Virginia, with North Carolina roots from the Asheville, NC, area.

Honorary Memberships

It was my distinct pleasure to have received honorary memberships from eight lodges, one grand lodge, and one Eastern Star Chapter during my tenure as Grand Master. Certainly, none were expected, and all are appreciated more than words can adequately express.

Meadow Branch Lodge No. 578, Wingate
Veritas Lodge No. 769, Asheville
Kernersville Chapter No. 205, Order of the Eastern Star
Grand Lodge of Oregon, A.F. & A.M.
Numa F. Reid Lodge No. 344, High Point
Andrew Jackson Lodge No. 576, Salisbury
Sonoma Lodge No. 472, Waynesville
Granite Lodge No. 322, Mt. Airy
Mt. Herman Lodge No. 118, Asheville
Cannon-Memorial Lodge No. 626, Kannapolis
Hibriten Lodge No. 262, Lenoir

Wilkerson College, the Davie Academy, and the Middle Chamber

Wilkerson College is sponsored jointly by the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, Orient of North Carolina, and the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina. The college was created with a single mission in mind: to provide Freemasonry with the best trained leaders possible. It was named in honor of retired Major General H. Lloyd Wilkerson who was formerly Sovereign Grand Inspector General of the Scottish Rite in North Carolina.

The 2019 class was very special for two reasons. First, it is the largest class ever conducted, with sixty students attending. This year served as an

evaluation process whereby we structured our classes in a manner allowing us to serve more students in each location. Previous classes were limited to thirty-six students until 2017 and 2018 when forty students were accepted. Prior to accepting applications for the 2020 class on October 1, 2019, we evaluated adjustments thought to be necessary, and structured the program to consistently meet higher demands when necessary. After the evaluation was completed, we determined that a maximum of fifty students would be in the best interest of all who participate in the college. With the completion of the 2019 class we now have five-hundred eighty-four graduates since the college first began in 2002.

Second, it marked the year of the 100th birthday of Worshipful Brother, Major General H. Lloyd Wilkerson, USMC (retired), for whom the school was named. He was also the first Master of Wilkerson College Lodge No. 760. Since 2012, I have been honored to have served as the Dean of Admissions of the College. I am a part of a great team of officers fully dedicated to the mission of the College. Prior to 2019, we had one-hundred fifty lodges take advantage of the special training provided to deacons of lodges across the state. Fourteen new lodges attended and sent students to the college for the first time in 2019. However, that means two-hundred seven lodges still have not experienced the benefits of the leadership training that the college provides. Being master of a lodge can be challenging at times. The curriculum set forth by the college is an excellent resource to better prepare principle officers to face those challenges head-on.

The Davie Academy is another resource offered by our grand jurisdiction that is available for other non-deacon officers and any member not currently eligible to attend Wilkerson College. Their curriculum provides similar training but in one-day segments specializing in subjects to help manage the operation of a lodge.

If you are looking to improve your knowledge of allegory and symbolism, the Middle Chamber program is available a few times each year. In 2019 several of our Masons visited other grand jurisdictions to present this program and offer guidance on how they can implement similar education programs for their members.

North Carolina is blessed to have wonderful training and education programs available for its members. I hope you will choose to take advantage of some of these while traveling on your Masonic journey.

Summons and Summary Trial

During my term as Grand Master, I was fortunate not to have the need to issue any summonses or summary trials for 2019. There were, however, several summonses issued by the Judge Advocate for non-masonic conduct for his action or that of a Trial Commission. I refer you to the Report of the Judge Advocate for details of those actions. Each item was reviewed, and a recommendation made to the delegates at our 2019 annual communication for their consideration and action.

Recommended Legislation

We often assume that brethren who choose to live across state lines do so in order to reduce their tax liabilities. While this may be the case in some areas

we currently have brethren living in the same communities where they were born and raised and those communities, while slightly across the state line, are much closer to a North Carolina subordinate lodge than one in their own state. The Code allows them to serve as officers of their lodges and serve as district officers if selected. All these positions allow them the right to represent their subordinate lodges with voting rights at our annual communication, if their officer position or proxy selection so allows. However, in accordance with the current Code Regulation 27-3, they are currently not available to serve on a grand lodge board or committee even if they have the talent and skill set that would be in the best interest of our grand jurisdiction. Counting the various standard boards and committees, new district officer selections or reappointments and ad-hoc committees an incoming Grand Master may need to appoint up to 226 appointments. Someone living across the state line with the proper skill set should be available for selection to a board or committee should the incoming Grand Master so choose. The following proposed amendment was submitted to the Grand lodge office on December 18th, well before the December 31st deadline for consideration by the delegation at the 2020 annual communication. I am hopeful that this proposed amendment will be favorably received allowing all members an opportunity to serve their grand jurisdiction if so chosen.

REG. 27-3 ELIGIBILITY TO SERVE.

A brother to be eligible to serve on any board, commission, or committee of this Grand Lodge shall be and remain a member in good standing in a subordinate lodge of this Grand Lodge ~~and shall continue to be a resident of this state~~ during his tenure. Failure to do so will create a vacancy. [3-2; 28-1; 31-1.1; 33-1; 34-1; 34-19; 35-1]

Acknowledgements and Special Appreciations

I am deeply honored and humble to have been elected on September 29, 2018, and officially installed as the 166th Grand Master of Masons in North Carolina on December 1, 2018, in my hometown of Newton.

Serving as Grand Master is not a journey you make alone. There are many Masons whose wise counsel becomes an extremely valuable necessity in helping guide our craft on a proper and positive course. Words cannot adequately express my appreciation for all the support given to me, not just this year, but the entire eight-year journey.

I offer a special thanks to all members of my home lodge, Catawba Lodge No. 248. There are too many names to mention individually. Their efforts were a key factor in making my installation weekend a success. Words cannot adequately express what your friendship means to me. I apologize that I was not available to attend many meetings this year. Many Masonic events occur on Tuesdays, which made attending lodge extremely difficult. With a much lighter schedule next year, I look forward to attending and participating on a more regular basis as I have in the past.

On May 15th my final district meeting was held at our lodge, Catawba Lodge No. 248, as is customary in our jurisdiction. Again, each member rose to the challenge to help make this last meeting a huge success. Countless hours were spent cleaning, painting, and preparing for visitors statewide. Despite attempting to cool our lodge room to a very low level, one hundred thirty-five

dedicated Masons quickly elevated the temperature to a much warmer level. Not one attendee complained to be but instead offered their appreciation for being a part of this special evening. I will never forget this homecoming experience. It will remain with me forever as vivid as it was that evening.

During my installation on December 1, 2018, I was honored to have as part of my Installing Officers every Grand Master that I served under since I began this journey in late 2011: PGMs Bob Gresham; Dewey Preslar, Jr.; Dalton Mayo; Doug Caudle; Bryant Webster; A. Gene Cobb, Jr.; and C. Speed Hallman. I was also privileged to have two other Past Grand Masters who played a special part in my journey. Past Grand Master Gene Jernigan and Past Grand Master Leonard Safrit, my Masonic Grandfather, who appointed Past Grand Master Gresham. I thank each of you for your wise counsel and continued support and look forward to being part of such a fine group of Past Grand Masters when my term is completed.

For many years Worshipful Brother Johnny Surlles and Worshipful Brother Bobby Meadows have helped direct many of our annual grand lodge installation ceremonies. Linda and I want to thank both of these fine Masons for their help in making our installation ceremony a less stressful experience. Both of you were readily available any time we had a question or needed some help. Your many years of service in directing these installation ceremonies and your support of other Masonic events is greatly appreciated.

On September 24, 2005, I was appointed to the Board of Custodians for my first term (2006 to 2008) by Most Worshipful Gene T. Jernigan. This was my first appointment to a Grand Lodge Board or Committee in my thirty-first year as a member. This specific board governs the ritual work of our grand jurisdiction and was a great fit for me due to my love of the ritual. I had the pleasure to serve a total of nine years (three separate terms) on this board, seven as their Secretary. I quite often refer to this as a life changing experience as it gave me the opportunity to meet many members of this fraternity statewide. I want to thank Most Worshipful Gene, Most Worshipful Dalton W. Mayo, and Worshipful Brother Robert D. Street, Past Grand Lecturer, for this special opportunity and their support of me during my time on the Board of Custodians. That support continues to this day and I am very grateful.

I would like to thank my Grand Lodge Officers for their continued support of my year as Grand Master. Your patience with my many details and suggestions was greatly appreciated. It was important to me to provide historical information based on my experience serving as a grand lodge officer, and I am hopeful it becomes useful during your journey to the grand east. You have my continued support of your journey, and you can be assured I will help each of you with any task that you may need.

Our Past Grand Masters and their families continue to support us in many ways. They have laid the solid foundation that makes us thrive and have done so since our inception as a Grand Lodge in 1787. Words cannot adequately express our appreciation for all that they have done and continue to do for us. Each past and current Grand Lodge Officer is proud to be a part of this grand line family.

Our District Deputy Grand Masters, District Deputy Grand Lecturers, and Board/Committee members provide a voluntary service that is essential in managing our grand jurisdiction, many donating their time and expenses for the betterment of North Carolina Freemasonry. I thank each of you for serving

on our team for 2019.

Again, I want to thank those lodges and chapters that gave me honorary memberships. These are listed earlier in this report. I consider these memberships as special gifts which I will always treasure. I also extend a thank you for all the other gifts that were so generously presented to me throughout my travels. I will treasure your special generosity and thoughtfulness forever.

A special thank you to all Masters, Wardens, Secretaries, officers, and members of the lodges across North Carolina. Your service to our fraternity does not go unnoticed. You are the Grand Lodge of North Carolina, and without your work, fundraisers, support of our distressed Brother Master Masons, widows, orphans and many others we would not be able to continue as the oldest and greatest fraternity in the world.

At my installation, I displayed a lighted candle in memory of all those Mentors no longer with us but who played a special part in my Masonic Journey, which began in 1975 as mentioned many times in my travels throughout our jurisdiction. I continued the current tradition started, I believe in recent years, by Most Worshipful Bryant D. Webster, PGM 2016. It would have been extremely difficult, if not impossible, for me to have had the opportunity to serve as your Grand Master had it not been for the wise counsel and the guidance those Mentors provided, especially in my early years. Those include Worshipful Brothers Dewey L. Butler, Master of my lodge when I joined; Dr. John F. Sinnett, who appointed me to my first office in our lodge, Grady F. Beck; Curtis R. Sharpe, Sr.; Charles C. Campbell; Michael L. Butler, who I will mention more later in this report; J. Glenn Henline; Jack C. Lutz; Jacob R. Abernathy, Sr.; Jimmy L. Griffin; F. Foy Williams; Jack H. Elmore; and Brother Dr. William T. MacLauchlin (one of my namesakes, who brought me into this world and three days before his passing in 2006, I was honored to present him with his Sixty Year Diamond Jubilee Veteran's Award). There are many more Masons in my life not mentioned here, no longer with us, that I am glad our paths crossed. I thank each of them for the positive influence they had on my life during our time together.

To the Butler family, Sherry (Past Executive Director for the Old Post Office Playhouse/Green Room Community Theater where my installation was held), Pam, Garry, and William I offer you special thanks for your continued support. Without Dewey and Mike none of this would have been possible. Especially Mike, my best friend in school, and a friendship which continued until his final days in August of 2008. It was his enthusiasm in late 1974 and early 1975 that piqued my interest in becoming a member of this fraternity. He helped coach me on my catechisms and taught me the first and second degree lectures. He was like the true brother I never had. I am honored that his sons, Garry and William, both members of our lodge in Newton, could be a part of my installation representing their father. Your dad would have been extremely very proud of you.

It would be extremely difficult for our grand jurisdiction to be successful without the work of our office staff at the Grand Lodge Office. Right Worshipful Brother Walt Clapp is the longest serving Grand Secretary in the United States, and he has a great team located in Raleigh. My continued thanks to Walt, Worshipful Brother Jonathan Underwood, Cornelia Doherty, Vicki Lam, and Hayley Moll for all that they continue to do for the approximately 36,000 members of our fraternity. I appreciate your efficiency, patience, and help in

supporting my many questions and requests. We can never thank each of you enough! I would like to offer a special thanks to Worshipful Brother Jonathan Underwood for his assistance in helping coordinate many of my special activities. I especially thank him for helping with the design of my Grand Master lapel pin. The final layout/design reflected exactly what I wanted to indicate in supporting my message for 2019. It reminds us that the Supreme Architect is watching over all our actions as taught in our many ritual lessons and our own specific Books of Faith. I hope this will continue to serve as a constant reminder to everyone for the rest of our life's journey.

None of this journey would have been possible without the support of many throughout our grand jurisdiction. I would like to offer a very special thanks to Most Worshipful Robert E. Gresham, Jr. (my Masonic father who appointed me to the grand lodge line in late 2011), and his wife Carolyn (Linda's Masonic mother). Not only did you afford us this very special opportunity, but we can never thank you enough for your continued support and wise counsel during our journey. We hope we have made you proud parents!

Finally, I owe a deep gratitude to all members of my family both at home and abroad in Malaysia for their many sacrifices during this journey, especially Linda. You have been more than patient in my many absences over the past decade. I am glad that you have been able to travel with me at times and establish your own relationships with many Masonic families across this state and other grand jurisdictions as well. Before accepting and starting this journey, we discussed that this would be a long journey and we would need to start this journey together or not at all. She has been and continues to be my biggest supporter. I love you and thank you for all that you have done for me for the past forty-nine years!

So, I end this report as I have most of my Masonic events for 2019, with a deep appreciation for the opportunity to serve the Masons of our grand jurisdiction and the kindness and respect shown not just to me but to the office of Grand Master. It has been a wonderful experience with many memories of special events that will last forever. I have enjoyed crossing paths with many of the brothers and friends established over the years and grateful for the opportunity allowing me to establish new connections that I hope will last until my journey in this life is completed.

I truly am blessed that our paths crossed!

Fraternally and respectfully submitted,
Dwight M. "Mack" Sigmon
Grand Master, 2019

Interim Report
of
Grand Master
P. Shaun Bradshaw
to
the
Grand Lodge
of
Ancient, Free & Accepted Masons
of
North Carolina
at
Winston-Salem, North Carolina
September 25, 2020

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

Pursuant to Regulation 13-2.5 of the CODE it is my privilege to make this report of my interim activities and the general condition of Freemasonry within our Grand Jurisdiction. While 2020 will certainly go down as one of the most interesting years in our Craft's storied history it has nevertheless been an honor and a most humbling experience to serve as your 167th Grand Master. Further, although I would have much preferred to preside over the 233rd Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina in our typical manner, given my background in technology, I suppose it is only appropriate that I should have the privilege of presiding over our Grand Jurisdiction's first ever virtual Annual Communication. I am thankful that the technology exists, which permits us to safely and securely hold this historic meeting.

My plan for this year was to share with you the true value of our fraternity through stories and examples of the Principle Tenets of Freemasonry — Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. As is common to those with eyes to see, Divine Providence, as symbolized by the Blazing Star in the center of every lodge, has given us the opportunity to not only contemplate these tenets, but to live them as well, as we have dealt with the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, protests over racial injustices, and other challenges of our time. While I have not had the chance to share my story with all of you in the way I had hoped, my belief is that this year, with its many challenges, has given us all a story to tell. I pray that one day, in the not too distant future, we can each look back to this most unusual time and see many examples and tell many stories of the best in our Craft and in our brethren.

State of the Craft

Last year, Most Worshipful Mack Sigmon's emphasis was on the need for each of us to study our ritual and practice the lessons they teach. As he said so well, "Masonry is Work" — important work. He reminded us that it is our ritual and symbols that set us apart from other fraternal and civic organizations and that we should strive every day to make the world a better place by choosing to hold ourselves to the higher standards inculcated by them. My intent was to build on his message by encouraging the Craft to look beyond the simple, outward explanations of our symbols, and to contemplate on their deeper meanings — just as we are taught to do by the third Principle Tenet of Truth. My hope was to share a deeper understanding of our ritual which so many of our members are seeking in order to experience the transformational nature of Freemasonry's initiatic experience. Unfortunately, governmental restrictions put in place to minimize the spread of COVID-19 required me to cancel the last twelve District meetings and I was unable to share this message as I had hoped. I remain hopeful that one day soon I can complete some of the meetings and enlighten my brethren on the esoteric perspective of our symbols.

In describing the State of the Craft during 2020, I have chosen to divide the year so far into four separate periods — each with its own distinct set of circumstances, major activities, and reflections on the Craft.

Pre-Pandemic

At the beginning of my tenure as Grand Master, none of us imagined we would eventually have to cease all Masonic business meetings due to a worldwide pandemic. From December 7, 2019, until March 17, 2020, I was pleased to be able to travel across the state sharing “my story” and the value of our great fraternity with my brethren. Having introduced myself on many occasions as a “proud Masonic esotericist” many brethren contacted me to thank me for openly discussing the deeper aspects and meanings of our rituals and to share their own stories. Throughout the year I have made it a regular habit to post on the Grand Master’s Facebook page my personal thoughts on several of our key symbols. While a few brethren questioned the need or desirability to share these ideas in a relatively public forum, the vast majority of brethren seem to have appreciated the insights and were encouraged to begin their own deeper contemplation of those symbols. Further, I have used my column in the *NC Mason* to regularly share what I hope are intriguing insights into the esoteric nature of our rituals and symbols.

While the evidence is anecdotal, it appears to me from my interactions and communications with the brethren, that a significant number of them joined Freemasonry seeking to understand our rituals at a deeper level and to be transformed by their experience in the fraternity. These Masons realize the more we come to understand the esoteric nature of our symbols, the more we are led to contemplate our own thoughts, words, and actions. Thus, by understanding our true nature — that the divine ray of Deity lives within each of us — we find it easier to navigate the world around us and ultimately to act through our God-given **will** rather than react through our baser material nature.

Shutdown

In the first week of March 2020 it became obvious that COVID-19 was rapidly spreading and likely to impact part of our Masonic activities. Unfortunately, due to the rising health concerns of many York Rite brethren it became necessary for me to direct the Grand York Rite of North Carolina to postpone their planned Annual Meeting scheduled to begin on March 14, 2020. This was shortly followed by news that the Governor of NC would issue an Executive Order requiring all North Carolinians to “Shelter in Place” in an attempt to slow the spread of the virus. With this in mind, on March 16th I made the difficult decision to order the cessation of all in-person Masonic events effective at high noon on March 18th. This order effectively cancelled the remainder of the planned district meetings and, in order to ensure as many people as possible had access to the message, a small group of brethren were invited to attend a special meeting at Phoenix Lodge No. 8 on March 17th where we recorded a version of the district speech. The speech can be viewed on YouTube by searching for “[Grand Master Shaun Bradshaw’s Message March 17, 2020.](#)”

Despite the order to cease in-person Masonic activities, Masonry did not stop in North Carolina. In conjunction with the order, I also issued a challenge to the Masters and Secretaries to contact EVERY member of their lodge, as well as their widows, on a weekly or bi-weekly basis, and provide any assistance they could during this time of need. I also encouraged all members to check in with their neighbors, particularly those at higher risk if exposed to the virus. Thus, I urged the Craft to “Live Your Masonry” outside the lodge. Dur-

ing this period of shutdown, I met via virtual platform with the District Deputy Grand Masters and received reports that the vast majority of lodges heeded my call to action and were actively reaching out to their brethren, widows, and other members of their community. In fact, to this day I still receive reports from a few lodges on their ongoing outreach activities.

As the shutdown continued and based on a request from Lux Libertas No. 772, I saw a need for lodges to be able to conduct business even if they could not meet in person. This led me to issue my first Official Opinion on May 1, 2020, which permits lodges to meet virtually for certain purposes, with dispensation from the Grand Master. At the time, I thought this would be the most controversial decision I would have to make as Grand Master, but 2020 had more in store than I thought. Also, it appears now that this decision was even more important than I might have imagined given that this year's Grand Lodge Annual Communication will be mostly virtual.

Racial Equity and Social Upheaval

It is a fact that, since its founding, our country has struggled with racial inequities. Even our great fraternity has not been spared from this very real struggle. Throughout our nation's history there have been periods of upheaval, generally triggered by some local or national example of injustice. In the midst of a worldwide pandemic, with people already on edge, just such an event occurred on May 25, 2020, which resulted in mostly peaceful protests across the country. Unfortunately, there are always a few people who use social movements to agitate and cause harm by rioting and destroying property.

During one such protest in Raleigh, NC, one of the Prince Hall lodges was vandalized. When I learned about the vandalism, I contacted Most Worshipful Daniel "DT" Thompson, Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of North Carolina to offer our support and assistance. During our conversation, we discussed our mutual desire to release a joint statement condemning violence while acknowledging the need for Freemasons to lead the way in promoting more social and racial equity as taught by the Principle Tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. In addition to releasing a joint statement we also committed to holding a special event at the Capitol Building in Raleigh to show our unified stance in promoting Freemasonry as an organization that forges bonds of friendship capable of breaking the boundaries of racial and social prejudice.

On June 13, 2020, Most Worshipful DT and I, with brethren and sisters from both our Grand Jurisdictions, came together at the Capitol Building to celebrate the ability of our fraternity to unify men regardless of differences in race, religion, social, political, or any other persuasion; and to be a model for the difficult conversations and debates our country continues to have. Leading up to this event, some (a vocal few) of my brethren believed this gathering would be political in nature and was unnecessary, because they believe we live in a post-racial nation.

It is unfortunate that many brethren believe that systemic racism no longer exists in our country, when many of our own lodges are prime examples of that very form of discrimination. For historical purposes I believe it is necessary to address this difficult topic now and I hope my brethren understand the need to do so. Despite having recognized our Prince Hall counterparts on No-

vember 21, 2008, and the fact that our CODE has no restriction with regards to a petitioner's race, many of our lodges remain segregated to the point where not only are Prince Hall brethren not welcome to visit the lodge, but worse yet, a black petitioner is very likely to be rejected based only on the color of his skin.

Let me be clear, it is unacceptable that our great fraternity, with a core teaching that we are to “do good unto all” and that we should strive to “unite men of every country, sect, and opinion,” should continue to allow a few racists in our lodges to prevent progress towards the promise of uniting all men as the children of God. Racism — overt, covert, or indirect — has no place in our lodges and it is well past time for us, as Grand Lodge, to live up to the tenet of Brotherly Love.

On June 27, 2020, the day of the Wilkerson College Symposium, I mentioned this concern to a small group of trusted brethren and asked their advice. At the time I had considered writing an article about this topic in the *NC Mason*, but I was not certain if it was completely appropriate. Each of the brethren concurred that the issue of racism continues to plague our Grand Jurisdiction although many of our lodges are becoming more open to men of color.

Once again, Divine Providence made its presence known to me when, just two days later, I received the following text message from a younger member of one of our rural lodges:

“Hey brother I have a quick question. Had a black guy ask to join Masonry and in my small town I just know he wouldn't get the votes. So without sounding racist I want to lead him to the Prince Hall lodge. I think the easy route would be to let him apply to my lodge and have the lodge deny him, but I don't want to waste his time - he seems legitimately interested. I plan on giving him the history of the two Grand Lodges and explain why I believe he would have more luck going Prince Hall. Just looking for a more experienced opinion on how you would go about it. Thanks - hope I am not disturbing you.”

After receiving this text, I immediately called the brother. I told him I understood this was a difficult situation, even more so because the man who asked about joining had been a childhood friend. My advice, in the end, was to direct the man to the Prince Hall Lodge rather than putting him through the potential embarrassment of being rejected by one of our lodges. In that moment I acquiesced to the systemic racism in our lodges, but I am committed to never do it again.

To all my brethren who read this report, if you believe as one of our 30+ year members wrote to me that “I have NOTHING against the colored man. BUT I DO NOT wish to sit in LODGE with them” then you do not understand the lesson of Brotherly Love, and I suggest you either contemplate further on the Principle Tenet of Brotherly Love or immediately demit from this fraternity and seek membership in another organization more aligned with your way of thinking!

Our Craft is a “beautiful system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols.” There is nothing beautiful about racism or religious intolerance. There is nothing moral about rejecting a man because of the color of his skin. Our fraternity is better than that!

We do not all have to agree on the solutions to the injustices and divisions in our country, but as Freemasons we must understand the meaning, the hope, of brotherly love. This tenet pushes us to see beyond those divisions, and as such, should help bring us together despite — and sometimes, because of — our differences. It should unite us. It should help us see ourselves in our brethren and love them for who they are — men who are also traveling on that dark and difficult path, working to transform themselves into smoother, more level, and more upright members of society.

Post Shutdown

At the time I issued my first order to stop Masonic business meetings I believed the state-wide shutdown would be over in a matter of weeks; however, the impact of the virus continues across our state and the state-wide restrictions must remain in place.

Given that the Governor's Executive Order No. 141 restricts "meeting halls" to only ten people and seeing the need for the brethren to have some further interaction with the candidates and officers I initially issued an amendment to my previous order allowing candidates and coaches to use lodges for coaching sessions. I also allowed up to ten officers to meet for the purposes of practicing their ritual in anticipation of the state moving to Phase 3 on June 24, 2020; however, as that date approached the Governor announced he would extend Phase 2.

At this point, a number of brethren had been waiting months to stand proficiency and move to the next degree. After a thorough review of the Executive Order and in consultation with the Board of Custodians and Grand Line officers I again amended my previous order to permit lodges to request a dispensation to hold a lodge meeting outdoors for the purpose of either examining a candidate or conducting degree work. As of late August, I have issued 28 dispensations to lodges permitting them to hold an outdoor degree, probably the most in the history of our grand lodge.

As we approach our Grand Lodge Annual Communication, we have worked hard to ensure the safety of our brethren while maintaining the feel of a normal Grand Lodge. We have done this by establishing a hybrid in-person/virtual setting which allows the voting delegates to attend a lodge in their local district and connect virtually to the Winston-Salem Masonic Center where the Grand Lodge Officers will host the meeting.

As we look to the future, we do not know what the remainder of the year holds for us, but I can assure my brethren that I will continue to make decisions which I believe to be in the best interest of the fraternity as well as their individual health and well-being.

Necrology

Every year at Annual Communication we fulfill our solemn duty to remember our brethren who have passed "to that undiscovered country, from whose bourne no traveler returns." Since our last Annual Communication in 2019, 876 of the Craft have transitioned from their earthly presence to their pure spiritual essence. Included in that number are two Past Grand Masters: Most Worshipful Lester Poindexter Martin, Jr. (1991) and Most Worshipful Charles Albert Lewis, Jr. (2003).

Each of our brethren who have passed are precious to us. We are grateful to all of them for their service to the fraternity and the communities in which they lived. We pray that the memories of those we knew will continue to serve as positive examples for our own lives.

District Officers Meetings

In November of 2019 I held four orientation meetings for the District Deputy Grand Lecturers. These meetings were held at Lebanon Lodge No. 391 on 11/12, Concord Lodge No. 58 on 11/14, the Winston-Salem Masonic Center on 11/18, and the Asheville Masonic Temple on 11/20. The Grand Lecturer, Worshipful Brother Christopher Lee Wright, various members of the Board of Custodians and other members of the Grand Line were present for these meetings. During these meetings I discussed my intent to focus on Masonic Philosophy and the esoteric aspect of our rituals. I also stressed the important role DDGLs play in ensuring lodges keep their focus on the candidates during degree work so each candidate feels the transformative power of our ritual.

I met with the District Deputy Grand Masters in Greensboro at the Greensboro Masonic Temple on November 24, 2020. During this meeting we provided updates on the NC Masonic Foundation, the Masonic Home for Children, and Whitestone, which the brethren had an opportunity to tour the previous night. We also held a facilitated retrospective for the districts including discussions on what works well in the lodges, what does not work well in lodges, and what improvements should be implanted in lodges. Each of the DDGMs came away with several new ideas on how to improve Freemasonry in their districts. I then laid out the 2020 initiatives which included:

- Promoting more usage of the MESH LLC Outreach program
- Requesting each district contribute at least \$500 to the MHCO Pool Project
- Requesting each district contribute at least \$500 to the Whitestone Expansion project
- Encouraging lodges to regularly discuss Masonic Philosophy in meetings

I know several DDGMs were able to complete official visits prior to the state-wide shutdown and since that time many of them have continued to stay in close contact with the officers of their lodges. I want to express my deep appreciation to all of the District Officers for everything they have done so far during these most unusual circumstances. I realize I have called on them to handle issues we never imagined we would have to deal with, not least of which is facilitating and hosting the district-level locations for the virtual Annual Communication this year. I know it is not enough, but thank you from the bottom of my heart to each of you!

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
Jerry O. Combs	Manteo Lodge No. 521	2
B. Keith Phelps	Perseverance Lodge No. 59	5
Joseph T. Fuller	Corinthian Lodge No. 230	9
Benjamin W. Burger	Wallace Lodge No. 595	11
Ted M. Sherrod	Kenly Lodge No. 257	16
Paul A. Tate	Laurinburg Lodge No. 305	21
Robert A. Burgess, Jr.	Union Lodge No. 618	28
Stephen T. Hamlin	William Lodge No. 176	31
Edward J. Steel	Matthew Lodge No. 461	32
Boyd E. Canter	Sonoma Lodge No. 472	40

Honorary Title of Past District Deputy Grand Lecturer

I recommend that this Grand Lodge grant the honorary title of Past District Deputy Grand Lecturer to the following brethren who are now eligible in accordance with the CODE:

Name	Lodge	District
Douglas H. Brickhouse, Sr.	Eureka Lodge No. 317	1
William P. Horne, Jr.	Hamlet Lodge No. 532	21
Roger L. Millner	Liberty Lodge No. 714	24
Roy C. West	Lexington Memorial Lodge No. 473	27
James R. Mills	Truth Lodge No. 749	29
Brian M. Turner	Matthews Lodge No. 461	32

District Meetings

We began the year with a plan to hold 23 district meetings, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic we were only able to complete 11 of them prior to the shutdown. My message to the brethren was centered around the value of the fraternity from the perspective of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. The value and strength of Freemasonry is derived from our impact to our communities and each brother's personal transformative experience, not the number of names on a roster. This part of the message resonated with many members who realize that the bubble of increased membership which occurred after World War 2 actually created more complacency, reduced the percentage of active members, and led lodges to keep their dues artificially low — eventually resulting in the loss of many of our buildings over the last 30 years.

Instead, I asked the brethren to consider the value of helping a man with

a genuine desire to be transformed by our ritual. This is the true benefit of membership in our fraternity. I then explained various ways contemplating our ritual and symbols could aid in that transformation and that “initiation [into Freemasonry] is designed to give us certain experiences that allow us to discover new things about ourselves.”

After laying out my case concerning the nature of our rituals and symbols, including certain esoteric aspects, which cannot be shared in this report, I then went on to tell my personal story and why this fraternity is so valuable to me.

In putting together the district schedule it was imperative that the first district meeting be held at Doric Lodge No. 568 in New Bern, NC. At that meeting on January 27, 2020, I had the privilege of being able to share my message and my story for the first time with the brethren. I explained that, like many of them, I joined the Freemasons because of someone I knew, but unlike most of them, this person was not a member of the fraternity — in fact, he was my son. I noted that I grew up without a father and when my son was born, I knew I needed role models of what a good father should be. That is why I joined the fraternity, and I most definitely found what I was looking for. I described to the brethren how I came to find out that I shared something in common with my father — it turns out, he too was a Freemason! As I came to the conclusion of the story, I slowly approached the east, climbed the steps towards the Master’s chair and turned to face the brethren. It was at this point I revealed one important fact — my father, Ronald Willard “Buddy” Davis, had been raised in Doric Lodge No. 568 and that was why the first district meeting had to be held there. Even I was surprised by the audible gasp from the members!

The remainder of the district meetings followed a similar pattern, although I would regularly change or emphasize a different point of the talk based on my understanding of the lodge or district — in hopes to better connect with the brethren present. My final official district meeting was held at Sophia Lodge No. 767 on March 12, 2020. At the time, I didn’t realize it would be my final district meeting, and I continue to hold out hope that the pandemic will subside enough that I can go back out to the lodges and share my message.

The following was the district meeting schedule for 2020:

Date	District	Host	Location
01/27/2020	7	Doric 568	New Bern
01/28/2020	10	Wayne 112	Goldsboro
02/25/2020	22	Caswell Brotherhood 11	Yanceyville
02/26/2020	8	Johnston-Caswell 10	Warrenton
02/27/2020	14	Lodge of the Nine Sisters 773	Raleigh
03/03/2020	1	New Lebanon 314	Elizabeth City
03/04/2020	5	Charity 5	Windsor
03/05/2020	9	Queen City 602	Rocky Mount
03/10/2020	20	Siler City 403	Siler City
03/11/2020	24	Blackmer 127	Mt. Gilead
03/12/2020	28	Sophia 767	Salisbury

03/23/2020	12	St. John's 1 CANCELLED	Wilmington
03/24/2020	17	Phoenix 8 Rescheduled to 03/17/2020	Fayetteville
03/25/2020	18	St. Albans 114 CANCELLED	Lumberton
03/31/2020	35	Cleveland 202 CANCELLED	Shelby
04/01/2020	32	Phalanx 31 CANCELLED	Charlotte
04/13/2020	40	East LaPorte 358 CANCELLED	Cullowhee
04/14/2020	38	Kedron 387 CANCELLED	Hendersonville
04/15/2020	34	Mystic Tie 237 CANCELLED	Marion
04/16/2020	33	Liberty 45 CANCELLED	Wilkesboro
04/20/2020	2	Cape Hatteras 698 CANCELLED	Buxton
04/21/2020	3	Washington 675 CANCELLED	Washington
04/30/2020	23	Stokesdale 428 CANCELLED	Stokesdale

I would like to thank Right Worshipful Brother Walt Clapp and Worshipful Brother Jonathan Underwood for their time and support in attending these meetings. I would also like to thank Brother Mark Lewis, Executive Director for WhiteStone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Community; Worshipful Brother Kevin Otis, Administrator of the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford; Brother Mark Kolada, and Worshipful Brother Chris Richardson for taking the time to share their stories and support for our charities. I especially want to thank the several Past Grand Masters and grand line officers who attended the meetings.

The Lion and Pillar Lodge of Excellence Award — 2020

Despite the many challenges arising from the pandemic this year, 27 lodges qualified for the Lion and Pillar Lodge of Excellence award, 18 of which qualified for the Platinum level of the award. I would like to offer a special thanks to Most Worshipful A. Gene Cobb, Jr., (2017), for overseeing the program again this year.

Platinum Level

Lodge	District	Location	Years Qualified
Kilwinning 64	29	Wadesboro	1
Zion 81	7	Trenton	3
Oxford 122	13	Oxford	4
Carthage 181	21	Carthage	1
William G. Hill 218	14	Raleigh	4
Kenly 257	16	Kenly	4
Hibriten 262	34	Lenoir	1
Wilmington 319	12	Wilmington	4
Bula 409	22	Burlington	3
Thomas M. Holt 492	22	Graham	4
Pilot 493	25	Pilot Mountain	4

Mount Holly 544	36	Mount Holly	3
Cannon Memorial 626	28	Kannapolis	4
Semper Fidelis 680	4	Jacksonville	4
Steele Creek 737	32	Charlotte	4
Clemmons 755	26	Clemmons	1
James K. Polk 759	32	Pineville	4
Lux Libertas 772	19	Hillsborough	4

Standard Level

Lodge	District	Location	Year Qualified
Statesville 27	30	Statesville	2
Stokes 32	28	Concord	1
Granite 191	16	Clayton	1
Cleveland 202	35	Shelby	1
Mingo 206	11	Dunn	4
West Bend 434	26	Lewisville	1
Albemarle 703	29	Albemarle	4
Shallotte 727	12	Shallotte	1
Ashlar 765	12	Hampstead	4

Joseph Montfort Medals

In 1940 the Grand Lodge established the Joseph Montfort Medal to be presented by the Grand Master to any Master Mason in good standing who, in his opinion, deserves such recognition for his distinguished Masonic service or achievement. Regulation 80-1.1 of the CODE permits the Grand Master to present up to three of these medals during his term of service.

Freemasonry differs from other fraternities and civic organizations through the use of ritual and symbols to assist our brethren in understanding their true nature and aid in transforming them into better men. As such, I believe it is appropriate to honor those men who have dedicated their Masonic careers to preserving and teaching our rituals to our brethren. With that as the basis of my criteria, I presented the first Montfort Medal to Worshipful Brother Ray Howard Coltrane on February 8, 2020, during the stated communication of MESH Lodge No. 771. Brother Coltrane is well-known across the 20th, 23rd, and 24th Masonic Districts as the premier coach's coach. Over the years, Bro. Coltrane coached innumerable brethren to become Certified Lecturers. He is fond of telling the brethren he coaches that they cannot stop with the catechisms or officers' parts, but if he's going to coach them, they have to learn all of the ritual.

The second Montfort Medal was presented to Most Worshipful Brother Dalton Wayne Mayo, (PGM 2014) at Phoenix Lodge No. 8 on March 17, 2020. Prior to presenting the Montfort Medal, MW Bro. Dalton's Masonic Father, MW Bro. Gene Jernigan, and his Masonic Son, Right Worshipful R. David

Wicker, presented him with his 50 year service award and 50 year Certified Lecturer's certificate. In terms of his dedication to preserving the ritual of our Grand Jurisdiction I can think of no one more deserving than him. MW Bro. Dalton became a certified lecturer just 6 months after being raised on March 3, 1970. Since that time, he served as a member, secretary, and chairman of the Board of Custodians, District Deputy Grand Master, District Deputy Grand Lecturer, Grand Lecturer, and Grand Master. He is the only person in our Grand Lodge's history to have served in all these positions and is now a proud recipient of the Montfort Medal.

I intend to present the final Montfort Medal before my term ends on December 5, 2020.

Physical Disabilities

Per Regulation 13-3.8(F) of the CODE, it is the responsibility of the Grand Master to approve all petitions for the degrees on which the petitioner indicates a physical disability. It is the duty of the District Deputy Grand Master to investigate and advise the Grand Master as to whether the petition should proceed through the normal process. To date I have received one such petition. In this case I accepted the recommendation of the DDGM and approved the petition to be voted on by the lodge.

Dispensations

Regulation 13-3.8 provides the Grand Master with the authority to issue dispensations to lodges for certain activities outside the normal practice or outside their approved by-laws. With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and my order limiting the types of Masonic activities permitted within our lodges it has been necessary to issue a large number of dispensations. As of this writing, I have approved the following 70 Dispensations:

1. Elect officers - Davie 39
2. Elect officers - Wendell 565
3. Move stated communication - Mooresville 496
4. Elect officers - Newport 706
5. Elect officers - Stump Sound 733
6. Elect officers - Royal White Hart 2
7. Master of two lodges - Revolution 552
8. Master of two lodges - Pilot 493
9. Masonic rites for NPD in error - Bula 409
10. Move annual meeting location - State College 770
11. Stated Communications - Knights of Solomon 764
12. Move stated communication - Knights of Solomon 768
13. Elect Secretary - Mint Hill 742
14. Move stated communication - Lodge of the Nine Sisters 773
15. Move stated communication - Veritas 769
16. Emergent communication - Veritas 769
17. Emergent communication - Veritas 769
18. Battleship Degree - St. John's 1

19. Elect officers - John H. Mills 624
 20. Dispense with stated - Perquimans 106
 21. Dispense with stated - Perquimans 106
 22. Stated Communications - Wilkerson College 760
 23. Cancel stated - Sonoma 472
 24. Move stated communication - Lebanon 391
 25. Move stated communication - Monroe 244
 26. Move stated communication - Temple 676
 27. Dispense with stated - Campbell 374
 28. Dispense with stated - Orr 104
 29. Elect officers - Royal White Hart 2
 30. Elect Senior Warden - Rodgers 525
 31. Operate without Charter - Millbrook 97
 32. Move stated communication - Fellowship 84
 33. Dispense with stated - Perquimans 106
 34. Elect Junior Warden - Wake Forest 282
 35. Elect Master - Lovelady 670
 36. Cancel Stated - Orphans 761
 37. Cancel Stated - Veritas 769
 38. Virtual Stated Communication - Lux Libertas 772
 39. Virtual Emergent Communication - Glenville 551
 40. Virtual Stated Communication - Fuquay 258
 41. Outdoor degree - Hibriten 262
 42. Outdoor degree - Henderson 229
 43. Virtual Stated Communication - Lux Libertas 772
 44. Outdoor degree & catechisms - Kenly 257
 45. Outdoor degree & catechisms - Relief 431
 46. Outdoor degree - Mystic Tie 237
 47. Outdoor degree - Revolution 552
 48. Outdoor degree - Western Star 91
 49. Outdoor degree - Salem 289
 50. Outdoor degree - Semper Fidelis 680
 51. Outdoor degree - Granite 322
 52. Outdoor examination - Kenly 257
 53. Outdoor examination - Whetstone 515
 54. Outdoor degree - Truth 749
 55. Outdoor degree - Pythagoras 249
 56. Outdoor degree - Cranberry 598
 57. Outdoor degree - Bakersville 357
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58. Outdoor degree - Cannon Memorial 626
59. Outdoor examination - Kenly 257
60. Outdoor degree - Kenly 257
61. Outdoor degree - Round Peak 616
62. Outdoor degree - Granite 191 POSTPONED
63. Outdoor degree - Maiden 592
64. Outdoor catechism and degree - Angier 686
65. Outdoor degree - French Broad 292
66. Outdoor degree - Bula 409
67. Outdoor degree - Granite 322
68. Outdoor degree - Whetstone 515
69. Outdoor degree - Cherry Point 688
70. Virtual Stated Communication - Fuquay 258

Orders

As of this writing, I have issued eight (8) Orders for various Lodge needs and situations. Listed below are the Orders issued:

1. **Lowell Lodge No. 590** for the purpose of electing officers due to irregularities in the method of election held on November 19, 2019. The new election to occur on January 21, 2020. Issued on 01/03/2020.
 2. **Andrew Jackson Lodge No. 576** for the purpose of removing the Senior Warden from his office due to conduct unbefitting of a Mason. Issued on 02/20/2020.
 3. **Hiram Lodge No. 40** for the purpose of moving the lodge to the 14th Masonic District. Issued on 03/02/2020.
 4. **All subordinate lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina, A. F. & A. M.** for the purpose of ceasing all Masonic meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions put in place by the Governor of North Carolina. This is effective as of high noon on March 18, 2020. Issued on 03/16/2020.
 5. **All subordinate lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina, A. F. & A. M.** for the purpose of permitting the following limited activities within the lodges: 1) Up to 10 officers of the lodge may utilize the lodge facility for ritual practices, and 2) coaches and candidates may meet in lodges for in-person coaching. Issued on 05/13/2020.
 6. **All subordinate lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina, A. F. & A. M.** for the purpose of extending the cessation of all Masonic meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions put in place by the Governor of North Carolina, except as those instances duly noted in my Order of May, 13, 2020. This is effective as of June 24, 2020. Issued 6/25/2020.
 7. **All subordinate lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina, A. F. & A. M.** for the purpose of permit-
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ting lodges to request dispensation to perform degree work outside with up to 25 members present. Issued on 07/15/2020.

8. **All subordinate lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina, A. F. & A. M.** for the purpose of extending the cessation of all Masonic meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions put in place by the Governor of North Carolina, except as those instances duly noted in my Order of May, 13, 2020. This is effective as of August 5, 2020. Issued 8/11/2020.

Opinions

As of this writing, I have issued one (1) Official Opinion. The Opinion is summarized below:

1. Based on a request from Lux Libertas No. 772, I saw a need for lodges to be able to conduct certain urgent business, even if they could not meet in person. After consultation with the Board of Custodians and the Grand Lodge's Ad Hoc Tech Committee, I issued my first Official Opinion permitting lodges to meet virtually for certain purposes, with dispensation from the Grand Master. Issued 05/01/2020.

Emergent Communications

An Emergent Communication of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina was held at Stokesdale Lodge No. 428, on Tuesday, December 3, 2019, at 9:00am, for the purpose of installing the Grand Lodge Officers.

2020 Initiatives

Upon being elected Grand Master, I introduced myself to the Craft as “a proud Masonic Esotericist” who firmly believes that our rituals and symbols hold the keys to great universal truths. I also believe that by reflecting on those truths we can transform ourselves from being mostly ego-driven men, to acting through the will of Deity. My hope was to be able to focus on the deeper aspects of our rituals and symbols — to acknowledge that we, as Freemasons, are the custodians of rituals and symbols rich in ethical, moral, and spiritual truths. To demonstrate to the Craft that we are **KEEPERS OF THE LIGHT!**

Our ritual teaches us that truth, in the Masonic sense, is the “divine attribute and the foundation of every virtue” and that we are to “contemplate” truth “and by its dictates endeavor to regulate our conduct.” I hoped to speak to lodges about the need to understand Truth at this deeper level, because when we do, we learn to see the root of our very nature and our connection to Deity. And by understanding that connection, that relationship with Deity, we can be transformed into men who are viewed by society as something beyond our ego-driven selves.

Although we have not been able to focus heavily on many of these ideas so far this year, I still believe the following initiatives are important for our Craft to thrive and meet the needs of the current and future members of our fraternity.

- Ensure Masonic Philosophy is a regular topic at every lodge meeting.
- Emphasize the need for deeper, more meaningful conversations among the brethren particularly on the topic of Truth
- Focus on being Masonic, not just doing Masonry by

- Helping brethren internalize the lessons of the degrees
- Engaging regularly in fraternalism
- Memorizing AND studying the ritual
- Focusing our energy and intent on the candidates during degree work

I also understand the importance of storytelling in helping engage both members and non-members alike in our fraternity. As such I have encouraged brethren throughout the year to “tell your story,” and many brethren have done so — through letters, emails, and phone calls. To all the brethren who have shared your story with me and others, please know how privileged I feel to learn the stories of why you joined the fraternity, what deeper meaning you found in the symbols, how proud you are of your Masonic connections, and what you hope the future of the fraternity holds for yourself and others. Thank you, my brethren and remember to Keep the Light and Tell Your Story!

Whitestone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Community

I want to encourage each of you to read the report of the Grand Lodge Committee on Whitestone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Community, which will provide a more detailed explanation of the recent activities of the home, its residents, and staff. It has been my honor to serve on the Board of Directors of Whitestone for the past three years — under the able leadership of our chairman, Most Worshipful Gene Jernigan and the Executive Director, Brother Mark Lewis. Our amazing retirement community, located less than four miles from my home, is well on its way towards realizing our strategic vision of expanding the services and facilities offered to the residents. This expansion will increase the number of Independent Living units, provide an Assisted Living option that is not currently available, update the Memory Care area, and renovate the Care and Wellness Center to better meet the needs of our residents.

Because I live so close to Whitestone, I have had many occasions to visit and see its growth and adaptation to the changing needs of the community it serves. I realize, however, that many of my brethren have not had the same opportunities to visit, and I want to encourage you, once the pandemic is past, to make time to come and visit your home in Greensboro, to speak with the residents, and to see why it has earned its five-star rating and is recognized as one of the best retirement communities in North Carolina.

As I mentioned earlier in this report, I challenged the District Deputy Grand Masters to share information about the Outreach program (supported by the MESH LLC charity). This program has helped sisters and brothers all over our state to stay in their own homes and communities, without the need to move to Greensboro. I also challenged every district in the state to donate at least \$500 to the Whitestone expansion project. I know many districts can and will give more, and I look forward to seeing every district recognized for their support for our community and the brothers and sisters who live there.

Masonic Home for Children at Oxford

I made my first pilgrimage to the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford on June 26, 2004, to participate in the St. John’s Day celebration. On my first visit I felt the warmth and love afforded the children in our care, and I continue to see the depth of caring from the administration, staff, and brethren across the state who support this magnificent charity. Through my association with Wilk-

erson College, the Middle Chamber program, and the Grand Line I have had many opportunities to visit the beautiful campus, and I am grateful for every chance I have had to be in this awe-inspiring place.

Having served over 10,000 children over the past 147 years, there is no doubt that the Masonic Home for Children does God's work. It has been a special privilege to serve on the Board of the Home under the leadership of my Masonic Father, Most Worshipful Dewey Preslar, (2013) and our home's Executive Director Worshipful Brother Kevin Otis. Two things strike me about these men — their passion for the mission of the home and their love for our fraternity. They are both leading examples of men who live their obligation to care for the orphans.

On May 10, 2019, we celebrated the ribbon cutting of our new swimming pool on the campus, but as of today, we still have not raised all the funds to cover the cost of the pool. This is why I have asked the District Deputy Grand Masters to ensure their districts each have made a \$500 contribution to the pool fundraiser. With this relatively small amount from each district the pool will be fully funded and the districts can be suitably recognized for their contributions.

Our continued support of the MHCO is vital to the future development of the children and young adults we support at the home. For more details concerning our home in Oxford I refer you to the report of the Committee on the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford in the Reports book.

North Carolina Masonic Foundation

The NC Masonic Foundation continues to play an instrumental role in safeguarding the assets and investments of our Grand Lodge, many of our lodges, appendant organizations, and charities. In 2019 the financial returns of the Foundations investments, like the rest of the market, saw substantial gains, only to see an equally large drop earlier this year as the nation experienced widespread business shutdowns due to the pandemic. However, just prior to writing this report I am pleased to report that the investments are all back in the black for the year — probably one of the quickest investment recoveries we have ever seen.

Over the last couple of years I have attended the Foundation business meetings and have been pleased to see how well the Directors work together, each bringing their own insights and expertise to the benefit of all. I have personally known the Directors for several years and can attest to their passion for the mission of the Foundation, the charities it supports, and our fraternity. However, I especially want to call out the outstanding leadership of the Chairman, Bro. Mike Faulkenbury. Bro. Mike and I have met, emailed, and called each other countless times this year, and I have always found him to be fair, level-headed, and superbly insightful — all the best qualities you would want in someone overseeing the investments of our charities and fraternity.

In 2017 the Foundation established a full-blown Development program. Under the direction of Jeff Hensley, Worshipful Chris Richardson, and sister Dee Blake, the investments in this new endeavor have begun to show positive results in terms of outreach to potential donors, lodge fundraising, and legacy gifts. These three, along with the communications director and editor of the NC Mason, Beth Grace, have truly opened up an understanding among the brethren of what the Foundation does and how it can, and does, help our chari-

ties and fraternity.

Veterans' Hospital Visits

The Veteran's Administration Hospital Visitation Program is sponsored by the Masonic Service Association of North America, and it is the tradition for every Grand Master to visit as many of the hospitals as we can in our year. North Carolina has four Veteran's Administration Hospitals: Asheville, Salisbury, Durham, and Fayetteville. In recent years it has become more difficult to identify suitable volunteers to aid with the program and, as such, most recent Grand Masters have only been able to visit one or two of them. Unfortunately, I have been unable to visit any of the hospitals due to COVID-19 restrictions. At this time I do not foresee being able to carry on this honorable tradition, but I am hopeful that my successors will be able to return in the coming years.

World Conference of Grand Lodges

The 17th World Conference of Regular Masonic Grand Lodges was scheduled to begin on May 31, 2020, in Tel Aviv, Israel. As the COVID-19 pandemic spread across the world we hoped it would subside prior to the start of the conference; however, as the pandemic worsened and more countries found it necessary to implement travel restrictions, the Grand Lodge of the State of Israel, A. F. & A. M., found it necessary to cancel the conference. The next World Conference is scheduled for November 2021 in Germany, and we are optimistic that it will proceed as planned.

Conference of Grand Masters of North America

The 2020 annual meeting of the Conference of Grand Masters of North America was held on February 15-18 in Louisville, KY. I was joined at the conference by our Deputy Grand Master, Right Worshipful David Wicker; Senior Grand Warden, Right Worshipful Larry Thompson, Jr.; Junior Grand Warden, Right Worshipful Kevan Frazier; our Grand Treasurer, Most Worshipful Lew Ledford; Grand Secretary, Right Worshipful Walt Clapp; and our Assistant to the Grand Secretary, Worshipful Jonathan Underwood.

The presentations and overall content of this conference has improved dramatically over the last several years with more focus on issues relevant to the Grand Lodges rather than lodge-level types of talks. One of the most impressive (and controversial) presentations this year was a discussion on difficult topics that Grand Lodges have to deal with, such as race, politics in the lodges, sexual orientation, and other social issues of the day. Several Grand Masters were upset that their Grand Lodges were listed on a slide showing the few remaining Grand Jurisdictions that do not recognize their Prince Hall counterparts. They objected that their "Grand Lodge shouldn't be listed on that page." I agreed with the sentiment, but not for the same reason. I noted that their Grand Lodges would not have been listed on the slide if they simply recognized Prince Hall in their Grand Jurisdiction.

In addition, to the useful information provided by some of the presentations, the really important information tends to come from the side conversations we have with our counterparts in other Grand Jurisdictions. For example, Right Worshipful Tim Wheeland, Grand Senior Warden in the Grand Lodge of Ohio, has been working with several grand jurisdictions to gather membership data to compare trends across Grand Lodges and identify potential programs that we can model based on positive outcomes in other jurisdictions. It is often said, but it has proven true based on my experience at these conferences, that

our Grand Lodge is miles ahead of many other grand jurisdictions in terms of how it operates and how well the Grand Line officers get along. I have no doubt our current Grand Line will be able to maintain that solid lead for years to come.

Northeast Conference of Grand Masters

The Grand Lodge of North Carolina is a member of the Northeast Conference which consists of Grand Lodges in the states of Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Indiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Virginia.

The conference was scheduled to be held in Detroit, Michigan, on July 18-20; however, due to travel restrictions and quarantine requirements from the pandemic, the conference was cancelled.

Visitation and Special Activities

Most of my brethren understand that serving as Grand Master is as close to a full-time job as you can get. In a typical year a Grand Master will travel 25,000 to 35,000 miles, attend 250+ Masonic related events, respond to 2000 to 3000 emails, and make 1000 or more phone calls. Of course, 2020 is not a typical year, but I still count it as a privilege to serve our Craft and I am truly thankful for the support, prayers, and respect which the brethren give the Grand Master.

Below is a list of the Masonic events that I attended or were scheduled this year.

Date	Location	Event/Activity
12/06/2019	Greensboro	GL Installation Banquet
12/07/2019	Greensboro	GL Installation
12/09/2019	Raleigh	Meet with Raleigh Masonic Temple Lodges
12/11/2019	Wilmington	Wilmington Scottish Rite Building Dedication honoring Ill. Bro. Earl Wells, 33°
12/12/2019	Oxford	MHCO Christmas Dinner
12/13/2019	Washington, DC	Grand Lodge of DC Grand Installation Banquet
12/14/2019	Washington, DC	Grand Lodge of DC Grand Installation
12/16/2019	Online	Zoom Meeting with Miscellaneous Ceremonies Committee
12/17/2019	Stokesdale	Stokesdale Lodge No. 428 Installation

Date	Location	Event/Activity
12/18/2019	Online	Meet with the Public Relations Committee
	Online	Meet with VA Assistance Committee
	Winston-Salem	<u>Meet with MW Daniel “DT” Thompson, PHA GM for a podcast interview</u>
12/20/2019	Spartanburg, SC	Shrine Bowl banquet
12/21/2019	Spartanburg, SC	Shrine Bowl game
12/27/2019	Online	Meet with Wilkerson College Deans to discuss the 2020 schedule
12/28/2019	Kernersville	Install Officers for Kernersville Lodge No. 669
	Greensboro	Visit with Marian Simpson
01/04/2020	Charlotte	Oasis Shrine Installation
01/07/2020	Greensboro	Meet with Bernhardt Watch Company Representative
	Walnut Cove	Walnut Cove Lodge No. 629 for Grand Tyler’s Sword presentation for WB Gary Handy
01/08/2020	Greensboro	Greensboro Scottish Rite Meeting
01/09/2020	Greenville	Install District 6 officers at Crown Point Lodge No. 708
01/10/2020	Raleigh	Board of Custodians meeting
	Winston-Salem	SRICF Meeting
01/11/2020	Greensboro	Greensboro Scottish Rite Banquet hosting Ill. Bro. Robert Davis, 33° GC
01/13/2020	Kernersville	1st Degree at Kernersville Lodge No. 669
01/15/2020	Raleigh	Raleigh Masonic Temple Board Meeting
01/18/2020	Raleigh	Amran Shrine Installation
01/21/2020	Raleigh	NCMF Meeting
01/24/2020	New Bern	Sudan Shrine Installation banquet
01/25/2020	New Bern	Sudan Shrine Installation

Date	Location	Event/Activity
01/27/2020	New Bern	District Meeting (Doric Lodge No. 568)
01/28/2020	Goldsboro	District Meeting (Wayne Lodge No. 112)
01/30/2020	Winston-Salem	Conduct Summary Trial
1/31 - 02/02/2020	Carolina Beach	Grand Lodge Officers Retreat
02/03/2020	Jacksonville	Inducted into Jacksonville National Sojourners
02/05/2020	Online	Audit Meeting
02/06/2020	Raleigh	Charity Summit
	Oxford	MHCO Development Committee Meeting
02/07/2020	Oxford	MHCO Board Meeting
	Greensboro	Grand Line Officer's Quarterly Meeting
02/08/2020	Greensboro	Whitestone Board Meeting
	Greensboro	MESH Lodge No. 771 - Present Montfort Medal to Ray Howard Coltrane
02/11/2020	Dunn	WB Eugene Jernigan's Funeral
02/13/2020	Raleigh	Meeting of GL Finance Committee
02/15 - 02/19/2020	Louisville, KY	Conference of Grand Masters of North America
02/21 - 02/22/2020	Raleigh	Host the American Masonic Renaissance Ingathering - Grand Lodge Office
02/23/2020	Mocksville	MW Lester Martin's Funeral
02/24/2020	Greensboro	Meet with Fred Amos to discuss GM's watch design
02/25/2020	Yanceyville	District Meeting (Caswell Brotherhood Lodge No. 11)
02/26/2020	Warrenton	District Meeting (Johnston-Caswell Lodge No. 10)
02/27/2020	Salisbury	Andrew Jackson Lodge No. 576 Brunswick Stew
	Raleigh	District Meeting (Lodge of the Nine Sisters No. 773)

Date	Location	Event/Activity
02/28 - 03/01/2020	Wilmington	Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of NC, F&AM — 150th Anniversary Celebration
03/03/2020	Elizabeth City	District Meeting (New Lebanon Lodge No. 314)
03/04/2020	Eure	Visit with Bro. Cecil Taylor — Survivor of Attack on Pearl Harbor
03/04/2020	Ahoskie	District Meeting (Charity Lodge No. 5/Davie Lodge No. 39)
03/05/2020	Rocky Mount	District Meeting (Queen City Lodge No. 602)
03/06/2020	Raleigh	Board of General Purposes Meeting
03/07/2020	Greensboro	Wilkerson College Session I at Whitestone
03/08/2020	Online	<u>Interview for Ft. Worth Lodge No. 148 (GL of TX) podcast</u>
03/10/2020	Siler City	District Meeting (Siler City Lodge No. 403)
03/11/2020	Mount Gilead	District Meeting (Blackmer Lodge No. 127)
03/12/2020	Greensboro	Prepare communication about COVID-19
	Salisbury	District Meeting (Sophia Lodge No. 767)
03/14/2020	Salisbury	Sophia Lodge No. 767 — Education program and harmony with Rob Herd (Last major Masonic event before shut down)
03/16/2020	CANCELLED	Grand York Rite of NC
	Greensboro	Send letter requesting lodges do outreach to members and windows while shutdown
	Greensboro	Prepare Order for all lodges to cease business meetings effective at high-twelve on 03/18/2020

Date	Location	Event/Activity
03/17/2020	Fayetteville	<p><u>Address Phoenix Lodge No. 8 — videoed the program to be posted online</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present 50 Year Service Award to MW Gene Jernigan • Present 50 Year Certified Lecturer Certificate and 50 Year Service Award to MW Dalton Mayo • Present 2nd Montfort Award to MW Dalton Mayo
03/20/2020	Online	Scottish Rite Orient Workshop Conference Call — Discussed need to support Whitestone expansion campaign
03/23/2020	Greensboro	Issued clarification on order to cease Masonic meetings
	CANCELLED	District Meeting (St. John's Lodge No. 1)
03/24/2020	CANCELLED	District Meeting (Phoenix Lodge No. 8)
03/25/2020	CANCELLED	District Meeting (St. Albans Lodge No. 114)
03/31/2020	CANCELLED	District Meeting (Cleveland Lodge No. 202)
04/01/2020	CANCELLED	District Meeting (Phalanx Lodge No. 31)
04/02/2020	CANCELLED	Present 50 Year Certificates for Fellowship Lodge No. 84
04/04/2020	CANCELLED	Wilkerson College Session II
	CANCELLED	Grand York Rite Banquet for Grand Commander Mike Daniels
04/06/2020	CANCELLED	Visit French Broad Lodge No. 292
04/10/2020	Online	Board of Custodians Meeting
	Online	Whitestone Board of Director's Update on COVID Response
04/11/2020	CANCELLED	Bob Gresham's Grandson's 3rd degree
	CANCELLED	Casar Lodge No. 579 Stair Chair Dedication in memory of Bro. Robert Beam

Date	Location	Event/Activity
04/13/2020	CANCELLED	District Meeting (East LaPorte Lodge No. 358)
04/14/2020	CANCELLED	District Meeting (Kedron Lodge No. 387)
	Online	Online Masonic Education: North Carolina Masonic Research Society Presents Chuck Dunning
04/15/2020	CANCELLED	District Meeting (Mystic Tie Lodge No. 237)
	Online	Raleigh Masonic Temple Meeting
04/16/2020	Online	Meeting to discuss the use of technology in Freemasonry
	CANCELLED	District Meeting (Liberty Lodge No. 45)
04/17/2020	Online	Board of Custodians — Meeting to discuss ideas on virtual lodge meetings
04/18/2020	CANCELLED	MHCO Landscape Day & 3rd Degree
04/20/2020	CANCELLED	District Meeting (Cape Hatteras Lodge No. 698)
04/21/2020	Online	NCMF Meeting
	CANCELLED	District Meeting (Washington Lodge No. 675)
	Online	Lux Libertas Lodge No. 772 Virtual Meeting discussion
04/22/2020	Online	DDGM Quarantine Check-in
04/23/2020	CANCELLED	Grand Lodge of SC
	Online	DDGM Quarantine Check-in
04/24/2020	CANCELLED	SRICF Meeting
04/27/2020	Online	Online Masonic Education: The Quadrivium - Understanding the Language of the Creator
04/28/2020	Online	Board of Custodians Meeting — vote on use of ritual on virtual platforms
	CANCELLED	Mooreville Lodge No. 496 Dedication for the newly renovated Lodge Hall

Date	Location	Event/Activity
04/30/2020	Online	NC Masonic Foundation Zoom Meeting
	CANCELLED	District Meeting (Stokesdale Lodge No. 428)
05/01/2020	Greensboro	Issued Opinion on Virtual Lodge Meetings
	Greensboro	Issued dispensations to 3 lodges to meet virtually: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lux Libertas Lodge No. 772 • Glenville Lodge No. 551 • Fuquay Varina Lodge No. 258
05/02/2020	CANCELLED	Wilkerson College Session III
	Online	Lux Libertas Virtual Meeting
05/05/2020	CANCELLED	York Rite Day
05/07/2020	CANCELLED	Dinner with MHCO Graduates (small gift for each)
	Online	Online Meeting with DDGMs
	Online	MHCO Financial Development Committee Meeting
05/08/2020	Online	MHCO Board of Directors Meeting
05/09/2020	Online	Whitstone Board of Directors Meeting
	CANCELLED	Spencer Lodge No. 543 Train Museum Degree
05/11/2020	CANCELLED	Hanks Lodge No. 128 Fish Fry
05/13/2020	Greensboro	Interview with Beth Grace
	Online	Online Scottish Rite Meeting - Appointed new PR for Greensboro Valley
5/15 - 05/16/2020	CANCELLED	Pig Jig
05/18/2020	CANCELLED	Rhode Island Grand Lodge
05/19/2020	Online	Northeast Conference of Grand Masters — Weekly Zoom Meeting
05/21/2020	Online	Online Education Meeting: An Evening of Freemasonry
05/22/2020	CANCELLED	Greensboro Scottish Rite Reunion

Date	Location	Event/Activity
05/23/2020	CANCELLED	Greensboro Scottish Rite Reunion
	CANCELLED	Quarry Degree
05/25/2020	CANCELLED	Memorial Day Parade - Thomasville
05/26/2020	Online	Northeast Conference of Grand Masters — Weekly Zoom Meeting
05/27/2020	Online	MHCO Executive/Finance Committee Meeting
	CANCELLED	Amran Shrine Dinner
05/31/2020	CANCELLED	World Conference of Regular Grand Lodges
06/01/2020	Greensboro	<u>Haircut with Bro. Dewey Misenheimer — Masonic Barbershop Talk</u>
06/03/2020	Online	Meeting of the NC Masonic Foundation Board
06/04/2020	Online	Zoom with Marian Simpson
	CANCELLED	Oasis Shrine Ceremonial
06/08/2020	CANCELLED	Grand Chapter OES
	Raleigh	Sign Joint Statement with MW Daniel “DT” Thompson, PHA GM
06/09/2020	Online	Northeast Conference of Grand Masters — Weekly Zoom Meeting
06/11/2020	Online	Online Meeting with Scottish Rite Valley of Wilmington
06/12/2020	Online	Board of General Purposes Meeting
06/13/2020	Raleigh	<u>United We Stand Event with MW Daniel “DT” Thompson, PHA GM at the Capitol Building</u>
06/16/2020	Online	Northeast Conference of Grand Masters — Weekly Zoom Meeting
06/17/2020	Online	Greensboro Scottish Rite virtual meeting
06/18/2020	Online	Speak at Harmon Lodge No. 420 — The Hero’s Journey
06/19/2020	CANCELLED	SRICF Annual Meeting

Date	Location	Event/Activity
06/20/2020	CANCELLED	York Rite Honors Day and Grand York Rite Annual Meeting
06/23/2020	Online	Northeast Conference of Grand Masters — Weekly Zoom Meeting
06/24/2020	Online	MHCO Executive/Finance Committee Meeting
06/25/2020	Online	Zoom Lunch Meeting with DDGMs to discuss Annual Communication 2020
	Online	Zoom Dinner Meeting with DDGMs to discuss Annual Communication 2020
06/26/2020	Online	Special Meeting of the NCMF
06/27/2020	Greensboro	<u>Wilkerson College Symposium - Online</u>
	Valdese	Outdoor Entered Apprentice Degree - Hibriten Lodge No. 262
06/30/2020	Online	NC Piedmont York Rite College No. 124 - Virtual Assembly
	Online	Northeast Conference of Grand Masters — Weekly Zoom Meeting
07/01/2020	Online	Virtual York Rite Meeting
07/05 - 07/09/2020	CANCELLED	Imperial Shrine - Kansas City
07/07/2020	Online	Zoom Meeting of Scottish Rite Personal Representatives and Secretaries
	Online	Northeast Conference of Grand Masters — Weekly Zoom Meeting
07/10/2020	Online	Board of Custodians Meeting
07/11 - 07/14/2020	CANCELLED	York Rite Summer Assembly
07/13/2020	Online	Wilkerson College Officers Meeting
07/14/2020	Durham	Meet with MW DT Thompson, PHA GM
	Online	Northeast Conference of Grand Masters — Weekly Zoom Meeting
07/15/2020	Online	Attend Charlotte Scottish Rite

Date	Location	Event/Activity
07/17/2020	CANCELLED	Speak at Prometheus Lodge UD - Beauty of Balance
07/21/2020	Online	NCMF Meeting
	CANCELLED	Speak at Cannon Memorial
07/23/2020	Raleigh	Summary Trials
07/25/2020	Online	Online Masonic Education: 2020 Mid-Atlantic Esotericon
07/27/2020	CANCELLED	Present Service Awards for Numa F. Reid Lodge No. 344
07/28/2020	Online	Northeast Conference of Grand Masters — Weekly Zoom Meeting
07/29/2020	Raleigh	Meet with Ill. Sir Alvin Billings
07/29/2020	Online	Meet with Board of General Purposes
07/30/2020	Online	WhiteStone Finance Committee
07/31/2020	Online	Orient of North Carolina Summer Workshop
08/03/2020	CANCELLED	Speak at Yadkin Lodge No. 162
08/05/2020	Online	Greensboro York Rite - Zoom meeting
08/07/2020	Online	Finance Committee Meeting
08/11/2020	Online	DDGM Meeting to Discuss Annual Communication 2020
08/12/2020	CANCELLED	Greensboro Scottish Rite Consistory Feast
	Online	Greensboro Scottish Rite Zoom Meeting
	Online	Wilkerson College 2020/2021 Meeting
08/13/2020	Online	DDGM Meetings to Discuss Annual Communication 2020
	Oxford	MHCO Committee Meetings

Date	Location	Event/Activity
08/14/2020	Oxford	MHCO Board Meeting
	Oxford	MHCO Bridge Dedication & Celebration
	Online	Quarterly Meeting of the Grand Line Officers
08/15/2020	Online	Whitestone Board Meeting
08/18/2020	Online	Northeast Conference of Grand Masters — Weekly Zoom Meeting
08/20/2020	CANCELLED	70 Year Veteran's Award - Caswell Brotherhood
08/21 - 08/23/2020	CANCELLED	Alexandria / GWNMM Trip
	Online	Marian Simpson Birthday Celebration by Zoom
	Online	Orient of NC, Scottish Rite - Virtual Reunion Discussion Zoom Meeting
08/22/2020	Mount Gilead	Middle Chamber Planning/ Training
08/26/2020	Online	MHCO Executive/Finance Committee Meeting
	Online	Webinar — Grand Lodge Budget Review
	Online	Online Masonic Education: Sophia Lodge No. 767 Presents Bro. Ryan Flynn
08/27/2020	Online	Webinar — Grand Lodge Amendments Review
08/29/2020	CANCELLED	Oasis Shrine Black Tie Ceremonial
08/30/2020	Burlington	Illustrious Sir Alvin Billings Drive By Birthday Celebration
08/31/2020	Hope Mills	Present 70 year award to Kenneth Ware Porter at Lebanon Lodge No. 391
	Online	Webinar — Grand Lodge Amendments Review
09/01/2020	Online	Webinar — Grand Lodge Budget Review

Out of State Visitations

I was pleased to represent the Grand Lodge of North Carolina at the Grand Installation of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the District of Columbia in December and then, a week later, at the 83rd Annual Shrine Bowl in Spartanburg, SC. I had several other out of state visitations planned, but they were all cancelled, restricted in size, or postponed to an as yet undetermined date.

Summonses and Summary Trials

This year I issued summonses to six brethren for Summary Trials.

One was summoned to explain writing in an OSW, which belonged to him. During the Summary Trial I determined that the brother had been given the OSW when he first joined the fraternity and had made minor notations (including highlighting and references to other pages) as he attempted to learn the Junior Deacon's part without any assistance from other brethren. At the time of the offense the brother was ignorant of Regulation 86-2.9 and was unable to decipher the General Rules pertaining to the use of the OSW. In consultation with members of the Board of Custodians concerning the offense, I issued a judgement calling for the brother to be re-obligated on the First Degree obligation.

Four were summoned in relation to financial improprieties in their lodge. After reviewing all the evidence, including an extensive review and analysis of the financial records, along with the testimony of the several brethren, I issued the following judgements:

I found one brother innocent of all charges. I found one brother guilty of failing to properly fulfill his duties as Treasurer of the lodge for which he will receive a reprimand when lodges are able to physically meet again. Two brethren pleaded guilty prior to the trial. One brother admitted to preparing and delivering false documentation to the Grand Lodge on behalf of the lodge. I issued a two year suspension for this brother. The other brother admitted to failing to collect monies owed to the lodge totaling \$3,900, falsified records indicating his and other brethren's dues were paid when they had not been paid, and recorded collecting \$1,800 that was never deposited into the lodge's bank account. I expelled this brother from the fraternity.

Three brethren (two from the previous trial and one other) were summoned in relation to charges of electioneering at the Grand Lodge Annual Communication in 2018 and in their own lodge in the election for the 2020 officers.

After hearing testimony from witnesses to the electioneering, which was uncontested by the charged brethren, I made the following rulings: one brother was found guilty on all charges and suspended for two years after which he is barred from serving in any Masonic office for an additional four years. One brother, who was suspended in the previous trial, was found guilty of electioneering at Grand Lodge, was suspended for one year (to be served concurrent to the previous suspension) and is barred from serving in any Masonic office for an additional two years. One brother, who was expelled in the previous trial, was found guilty of electioneering at Grand Lodge, was expelled and should he ever return, is barred from serving in any Masonic office indefinitely.

Lodges Under Dispensation

On November 15, 2019, Most Worshipful Mack Sigmon granted a dispensation to Prometheus Lodge UD at Newton, NC. This will be North Carolina's third Traditional Observance lodge and they anticipated receiving their charter this year. Unfortunately, due to the current restrictions they were unable to fulfill the requirements to receive their charter and will need to apply for an extension to be considered for a charter next year.

The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of North Carolina

Most Worshipful Daniel “DT” Thompson, Grand Master of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge, and I have enjoyed a close friendship for several years now. I was pleased to have him in attendance at my Grand Installation and since that time he and I have met on many occasions, working to foster a closer relationship between our two Grand Lodges. On February 28, 2020, Right Worshipful R. David Wicker and I, accompanied by our wives, attended the 150th Anniversary celebration of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge in Wilmington. Less than three months later, MW DT and I issued our Joint Statement condemning racism, violence, and injustice. On June 13th at the Capitol Building, we came together again, to deliver our vision for a society that sees beyond race, where the internal qualities rather than their external qualities of a person are used to judge their character. We acknowledged that, while our rituals speak of unity, our Grand Lodges have not always lived up to the standards exemplified by those rituals, and we committed to working more closely together over the coming months and years. To that end we have several joint projects planned beginning with a Legislative Social to be held at our Grand Lodge office, which will bring together Masonic legislators from both Grand Lodges, as well as the Grand Line Officers of both Grand Lodges. Next we intend to jointly sponsor a canned food drive during the holiday season, which will be followed by a blood drive sometime after the new year.

Masonic Education

I am a firm believer that Masonic education should be a cornerstone of every lodge meeting in the state. Too many of our brethren are aching for a better understanding of how our lodges work, how Grand Lodge operates, and what our rituals and symbols mean — especially at a deeper level. I am delighted that our Grand Lodge has some of the premier educational programs available in any Grand Jurisdiction, and I want to personally thank the members of our Committee on Masonic Education (past and present) for all of their contributions to making North Carolina's educational programs the envy of other states.

My first experience with our Grand Lodge's Masonic education programs were when I served as Master of Stokesdale Lodge No. 428 in 2003 and promoted the Masonic Education Committee's Lodge Night Programs as a regular part of our meeting agendas. Since then, I was honored to join the faculty of Wilkerson College in 2007 and have served as an instructor of several classes ever since. The mission of the College is to provide Freemasonry with the best trained leaders possible, and I believe it lives up to its mission. I highly encourage every deacon of every lodge in our state to apply for one of the 50 slots available in this program. The knowledge and experience gained from attending Wilkerson College cannot be overstated. In fact, about a few years ago we analyzed the charitable giving and attendance of lodges whose Masters were graduates of the College. We found that these lodges did substantially better

than others across the state. So, if you believe your lodge needs improving then you need to attend Wilkerson College.

In late 2016 I was asked to join a small group of brethren with a vision to create a new educational program, similar to Wilkerson College, but focused on the esoteric aspects of our Craft, rather than the “rules and tools” taught in the College and Davie Academy. Since that time, not only has our vision of this program grown in our state — with hundreds of brethren having attended the Middle Chamber program — but we have promoted it in other grand jurisdictions for them to adapt and use. Let me simply say this. If you joined the Freemasons in search of a deeper understanding of yourself, your relationship to the world, and your connection to Deity then you NEED to go through the Middle Chamber program!

By all accounts, North Carolina has the best training and education programs available for its members, and I encourage all of my brethren to take full advantage of them.

Recommended Legislation

Over the years I have had many opportunities to review the CODE and have frequently been awestruck by the craftsmanship with which it was written; however, there are several regulations which I believe should be reworded for clarity or were appropriate at one time, but should be updated or removed based on modern expectations. I have outlined my thoughts on these changes below and intend to submit future legislation that I believe appropriate and beneficial to our craft.

Initiation Fees

The current minimum initiation fee for a candidate is \$50.00. Of that amount \$21.00 is paid to the Grand Lodge and \$29.00 is retained by the lodges. Regulation 21-1.2 states that from the \$21.00, \$10.00 is for charity, \$5.00 is for the George Washington National Masonic Memorial (GWNMM), \$5.00 is for the Grand Lodge building fund, and \$1.00 is for the general fund of the Grand Lodge.

In reviewing past proceedings, I found that the \$10.00 amount for charity was established in 1919, and the \$1.00 amount for the Grand Lodge general fund was established in 1914. It seems to me that these amounts are long past due for an increase. As such, I recommend increasing the minimum initiation fee to \$125.00. Of this amount \$50.00 would be retained by the subordinate lodge and \$75.00 would be paid to Grand Lodge to be distributed as follows: the charity amount should be increased from \$10.00 to \$60.00, the Grand Lodge general fund should be increased from \$1.00 to \$5.00, and the amounts for the GWNMM and Grand Lodge building fund should remain the same.

To paraphrase the 1919 proceedings, I know a proposition of this kind may not meet with approval of all, but you must admit that an initiation fee of \$50.00 is entirely too low and to add \$75.00 to the fee charged by any of the subordinate lodges will cause no hardship on a petitioner and in itself will not keep him from applying for the degrees.

Un-Masonic Conduct and Lodge Restrictions

A fair number of regulations and penalties for un-Masonic conduct were instituted in an era which is socially and legally substantially different than

today. In light of more modern sensibilities and considering the shift in societal norms I recommend the following changes:

1. A regulation should be added which makes it a Masonic offense to cast a negative ballot against a petitioner due to his race, color, creed, or nation of origin.
2. Regulation 43-3.4 prohibits a lodge from sponsoring or holding any gathering in a place where alcohol may be present. In the strictest interpretation of this regulation a lodge would not be permitted to hold a Christmas party at a restaurant where alcohol is permitted or served. I believe this regulation is overly restrictive and should be removed.
3. Regulation 86-2.33 prohibits a brother from earning a living as a professional gambler or operating a business where gambling is permitted. There was a time when gambling was illegal in nearly every part of the nation, but this is no longer the case. I have no doubt many brethren have seen televised poker tournaments and realize the level of skill and mathematical ability necessary to be successful enough to make a career of it. As such, I recommend removing this regulation.
4. Regulation 86-2.34 prohibits a brother from gambling “in any manner.” As mentioned above, gambling used to be illegal in nearly every part of the nation and this regulation may have made sense at the time given that it would have been a civil offense, as well as a Masonic offense. Now, however, not only does our CODE permit raffles (a form of gambling), but many states permit some form of legal gambling. As such I recommend changing the wording of this regulation to state that “illegal gambling” constitutes a Masonic offense.
5. Regulation 86-2:51 states that it is a Masonic offense to circulate a “chain letter.” Given today’s technology, this regulation is outdated and may not be necessary. I recommend removing the regulation.

Acknowledgements and Special Appreciations

Throughout this year I have shared my story — how I was raised by my mother and grandmother with no real father figure in the house. Although neither my mother nor my grandmother were alive to see my appointment to the Grand Line, I have no doubt of their continued presence with me, helping guide me through life despite their departure from this earthly plane. They both knew my love for the fraternity and understood my attraction to Freemasonry because they raised me to believe in and act on Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. I love and miss them both and thank them for the many sacrifices they made to give me the best possible upbringing they could.

I have also spoken on many occasions about my conviction that Divine Providence brought me to our Craft for a reason. Having grown up without a father, I was determined to give my children what I did not have. That determination led me to search for an organization with men of strong moral character who I could look up to and who would counsel me in my new role as a father. In 1997 that search, that hope, “ended in fruition” when I asked Ted Wright, father of my college roommate, Chris, about becoming a Mason. I knew I found what I was looking for when I saw the spark in Ted’s eyes as he began talking about Freemasonry. Thank you so much, Bro. Ted, for sharing your enthusiasm for the fraternity with me, for signing my petition, and for every-

thing you have done for me and my family over the years. I love you, brother.

I petitioned Stokesdale Lodge No. 428 in May of 1997. Most Worshipful Bill Simpson, (1996), Worshipful Ray Comer, and Worshipful Clyde Howerton served as my primary mentors, along with my coach, Worshipful Jesse Joyce. They each taught me something different about the brotherhood — the mystery, the tradition, the ritual, the need for patience and humility, and the importance of communication. I thank each of them for the roles they played in helping make me the man and Mason I became. I also want to thank all the brethren of Stokesdale Lodge, as well as Sophia Lodge No. 767, for their ongoing support over the years. I love you all, and I love our lodge!

Soon after joining the lodge I petitioned to join the Greensboro Scottish Rite and later the Greensboro York Rite. Again, Most Worshipful Bill Simpson and Worshipful Ray Comer along with Worshipful Gene Lewellyn provided excellent examples of leadership in these appendant bodies. I also want to thank Brother John Elmore and Steve Pendergrass, the past General Secretary and past Personal Representative of the Greensboro Scottish Rite. They were two of the most forward-thinking brethren I was exposed to in my early years of the fraternity, and I truly appreciate all the opportunities they gave me to serve the Greensboro Valley.

I first met my Masonic Father, Most Worshipful Dewey Preslar, when Right Worshipful Larry Thompson, Jr. and I crashed Most Worshipful Billy Dill's installation banquet. While we were helping ourselves to the buffet, I was asked to come speak with Bro. Dewey who had just been appointed to oversee an Orient-wide fundraiser for the Scottish Rite. Brother Stan Dodd thought I might be able to assist Bro. Dewey by serving on the committee with him and wanted to introduce us. Through our years of working together on the Scottish Rite fundraisers and attending the GAP International training, we came to be close friends. I can only assume that Bro. Dewey saw in me some traits he believed would be useful to our fraternity, and I am grateful to him for giving me the opportunity to serve our Grand Lodge as Grand Master. Thank you, Dewey. I love you, brother.

As I advanced through the Grand Line, I had the opportunity to learn something from each of the men who took on the role of Grand Master before me. As Grand Master, I have leaned on several of these brethren for assistance, insight, and advice on many occasions. I especially want to thank Most Worshipful Doug Caudle for his friendship, Bryant Webster for his legal and level-headed advice, Gene Cobb for his prayers and support, Mack Sigmon for his fatherly love and mentorship, Gene Jernigan for his example of steady and thorough leadership, and Bill Brunk for his advice on some particularly difficult issues I had to consider during the year. I love each of you, my brethren.

Our Grand Jurisdiction has much to be proud of, but especially the experience, skills, and passion for the fraternity from our current Grand Line officers. I appreciate the diverse perspectives on the different issues we have dealt with this year and each brother's willingness to be open and forthright about the situation. I believe it makes us stronger when we are able to consider many points of view, and I am grateful for the opportunity to be able to call on these men when I have an area of concern where they can advise me. My brethren, I love you all, and I know our Grand Lodge will be in great hands for several years to come.

I have no doubt every Grand Master has certain friends who regular-

ly check on them and my experience has been no different. To my cherished brethren — Stephen McCraw, David Wicker, Kevan Frazier, Mike Register, Paschal Dobbins, Alvin Billings, and Gary Handy — thank you so much for your prayers, support, attentive ear, and sound advice. You will never know how much your calls, texts, private messages, and emails have helped me throughout the year. I love each and every one of you!

In any typical year the Grand Master may have to call on substantial assistance from a handful of DDGMs or DDGLs. But, this has not been a typical year, and I am certain each of these brethren have put far more time and effort into their roles this year than they anticipated. I am particularly proud of our DDGMs who, due to the nature of how we are conducting Annual Communication this year, are being asked to do so much more coordination and facilitation to ensure Grand Lodge is as successful as possible. Thank you, my brethren, for all you have done and continue to do to for our Grand Lodge!

In 2006, Brother Larry Thompson and I began working with Brother Ron Page to oversee the preparations and execution of the Annual Communication. I served in that capacity until 2013 and during that time I formed a close relationship with members of our office staff, especially Cornelia Doherty, Vicki Lam, and Brother Jonathan Underwood. Being so close to them, and since becoming Grand Master, I decided to work from the Grand Lodge office every week, usually on Thursdays. I have come to appreciate even more the work done by our Grand Lodge staff and Grand Secretary, Right Worshipful Walt Clapp. I am amazed at how well Vicki manages the various budget and finances of the Grand Lodge, the NCMF, and still finds time to help the lodges with their own budgets and forms. Hayley Moll has been an exceptional addition to our Grand Lodge team, since she joined us 4 years ago. It is a pleasure to see how efficiently she works through her various projects despite the many interruptions she deals with daily. We were sad to see Cornelia retire this year, but are thrilled she can enjoy more time with her grandchildren now. Since her retirement we have brought on Brother Matt Robbins who will take on many of Cornelia's duties along with working on a new lodge outreach program. He is a welcome addition to the team! As my year as Grand Master draws to a close, I think this is the one thing I will miss most. My time with Walt, Jonathan, Vicki, Hayley, and Matt — our conversations, sharing stories over lunch, taking an occasional break to sit on the patio under the umbrella. Yes, these are memories I will cherish deeply. You are my favorites, and I love you all!

Serving as Grand Master is essentially a full-time job and as someone who still works, it requires juggling a number of my work activities so everything gets done in a timely manner. With this in mind, I want to thank my business partners, Chris Laney and David Dang, for their patience, support, and understanding this year. When I was first appointed to the Grand Line, I warned them this year would be busy, and they've taken it in stride. I also want to thank my key staff members at Zenergy Technologies — Walter Laney, Erika Levitan, and Snoa Garrigan for stepping up to ensure each of our clients remained delighted with our service despite my frequent absences.

And of course, I want to thank my family: Sharon, Graham, and Brantleigh. My desire to be a better husband and father is what inspired me to become a Freemason, and I hope you trust I made the right decision when I joined. I realize I could not have made this journey without you, and it has been even more special having your encouragement and support over the years. I love you

all so much, and I am deeply grateful to have you in my life.

Freemasonry has been invaluable in shaping me as a husband, father, business man, and citizen. Without this fraternity - this organization comprised of men dedicated to Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth - so many aspects of my life would be different. I cannot fathom where or who I would be without its influence on me, without YOUR influence on me. So, to all my brethren, thank you for giving me this great and humbling opportunity to serve you. It has not been the year I planned, but no matter the circumstance, I am grateful to have been able to serve as the 167th Grand Master of Masons in North Carolina.

Finally brethren, remember to keep the light and tell your story!

With warm fraternal love,
Φaul Shaun Bradshaw
Grand Master, 2020

Necrology Service

Opening of the Grand Lodge of Sorrow

Grand Master: Brother Junior Warden, what is the hour?

Junior Grand Warden: Low Twelve: time to call the Craft to remembrance of our deceased brethren.

Grand Master: Brother Grand Marshal, You will present the Chair of the Masonic Necrology, the Grand Chaplain, and other persons as necessary so that this Grand Lodge may prepare to remember our deceased brethren.

Grand Marshal: Most Worshipful Grand Master, your order has been obeyed. All are in place.

Grand Master: MW Brother Mark M. Vickers, Grand Chaplain will lead our service.

(The Grand Master calls up the Grand Lodge for prayer by the Grand Chaplain)

Grand Chaplain: Opens the Grand Lodge by prayer and proclamation. (No responses from the Grand Lodge or Line Officers; Grand Chaplain will go straight through to the next section)

Eulogies for deceased Past Grand Masters:

PGM Lester Poindexter Martin, Jr., Date of Death February 20, 2020

PGM Charles Albert Lewis, Jr., Date of Death August 5, 2020

(Eulogies were prepared by PGM Tom Gregory and PGM Lewis Ledford)

Homily for all other Masons - Grand Chaplain Vickers

Rememberance of all deceased Entered Apprentices, Fellow Crafts, and Master Masons by Grand Chaplain Vickers (Roses will be placed on the altar)

Funeral Grand Honors: Led by Grand Chaplain Vickers with Grand Lodge Officers participating.

Grand Master: Brethren, the purpose of the Committee on Necrology having been accomplished, we will now close this Grand Lodge of Sorrow. Before I declare this Grand Lodge of Sorrow closed, Brother Grand Chaplain lead our devotions.

Closing Prayer: Grand Chaplain Vickers

Grand Master: I now declare the Grand Lodge of Sorrow for the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina opened and closed for the year 2019. Let us not forget those we have remembered today.

The Grand Officers return to their places and the Grand Master seats the Grand Lodge.

Appendix

Sigmon Order No. 3

To the Officers and members of Maxton Lodge No. 417,

I have suspended the Master of your lodge from his office until such time as the charges now filed against him by the Judge Advocate can be adjudicated.

The charges filed against him allege he is in violation of regulations 86-1.5, 86.2-11, and 86-2.13 of The Code, all of which constitute grave concern. Considering these charges, I do not believe it possible for him to carry out the duties of his office.

In the meantime, it is my ORDER that District Deputy Grand Master William A. McCrae, II, preside over Maxton Lodge No. 417 as Master Pro Tem, until such time as your suspended master may be exonerated and returned to office, or the next annual meeting and election of officers, whichever comes first.

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.

Given under my hand and seal, this 16th day of September, A.D. 2019, A.L. 6019.

Sigmon Order No. 4

To JEB:

In consideration of the charges now made against you by the Judge Advocate in violation of regulations 86-1.5, 86.2-11, and 86-2.13 of The Code,

And, Inasmuch as you are the sitting master, a Past Master, and Past District Deputy Grand Master who should be in full knowledge and compliance of The Code, you cannot plead ignorance to the charges now pending against your actions, nor in consideration of the conversations we have already had earlier this year concerning your actions as Master of Maxton Lodge No. 417,

And, In consideration of the disharmony your actions have caused between the members of your lodge, the District Deputy Grand Lecturer, and the Board of Custodians,

BE IT KNOWN, that according to Regulation 58-1 of The Code, and for the good of the Masonic fraternity in general and for the good of Proctorville Lodge No. 643 in particular, I hereby SUSPEND you from the office of Secretary of Proctorville Lodge No. 643 as of this date,

BE IT FURTHER KNOWN, that under the same provision of Regulation, 58-1, I hereby ALSO SUSPEND you from the office of Master of Maxton Lodge No. 417 as of this date,

THAT, FURTHER, you will not hold any position, office, trusteeship, proxy, or any other office of fraternal trust, until such time as the charges now pending against you shall be adjudicated, at which time your restoration to office or permanent removal shall be in effect.

Given under my hand and seal, this 16th day of September, A.D. 2019, A.L. 6019.

Sigmon Order No. 5

To the Officers and members of Proctorville Lodge No. 643,

It has been brought to my attention that several members of Proctorville Lodge No. 643 disrupted the work of a Certified Lecturer in the performance of his duties to instruct you in the ritual work during a mandatory 5-hour lecture service. This behavior is in contravention to the requirements of Chapter 29-10 of The Code, as well as potentially violating Chapter 86-12 by “arresting” the legitimate work of a lodge.

The actions of your lodge’s Master and Secretary further confused this situation and both of them have been suspended from office until such time as a Trial Commission shall determine their guilt or innocence in this matter.

The disruption and negligence of our sacred work is detrimental to the tenants of our Masonic fraternity. In order to redeem the name of your lodge and correct these grievous errors,

It is MY ORDER, that Proctorville Lodge No. 643 shall abide by the will, pleasure, and guidance of my District Deputy Grand Master William A. McCrae, II, in selecting a Master and Secretary pro tem to lead Proctorville Lodge No. 643 until its suspended Master and Secretary shall be absolved of the charges now held against them, or the lodge may hold its annual election of officers.

I FURTHER ORDER that Proctorville Lodge No. 643 will hold a 15-hour lecture service before December 1, 2019, in conformity with the provisions of The Code. This service is to be conducted by members of the Board of Custodians. I expect full cooperation and compliance, otherwise, additional disciplinary actions may apply.

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.

Given under my hand and seal, this 16th day of September, A.D. 2019, A.L. 6019.

Sigmon Order No. 6

To RGC:

In consideration of the charges now made against you by the Judge Advocate in violation of regulations 86-1.5, 86.2-11, and 86-2.13 of The Code,

And, Inasmuch as you are the sitting master and a Past Master who should be in full knowledge and compliance of The Code, you cannot plead ignorance to the charges now pending against your actions,

And, In consideration of the disharmony your actions have caused between the members of your lodge, the District Deputy Grand Lecturer, and the Board of Custodians,

BE IT KNOWN, that according to Regulation 58-1 of The Code, and for the good of the Masonic fraternity in general and for the good of Proctorville Lodge No. 643 in particular, I hereby SUSPEND you from the office of Master of Proctorville Lodge No. 643 as of this date,

THAT, FURTHER, you will not hold any position, office, trusteeship, proxy, or any other office of fraternal trust, until such time as the charges now

pending against you shall be adjudicated, at which time your restoration to office or permanent removal shall be in effect.

Given under my hand and seal, this 16th day of September, A.D. 2019, A.L. 6019.

Sigmon Order No. 7

It has been brought to my attention by the District Deputy Grand Master of the 31st Masonic District that on August 21, 2019, St. Andrew Lodge No. 702 balloted on the application for affiliation of Brother RLW without a quorum of members present, which is in contravention to Regulation 45-8 of The Code.

The ballot taken on August 21, 2019, was clearly illegal under the language of Regulation 45-8 of The Code and is, therefore, NULL and VOID.

Since the Grand Master is empowered to order another ballot in such cases, I hereby ORDER a rebalot and grant dispensation to St. Andrew Lodge No. 702 to ballot again on the application for affiliation of Brother RLW at the stated communication of the lodge, to be held on November 20, 2019.

This Order shall be read to the lodge at the stated communication to be held on October 16, 2019, entered on the minutes of that communication, and a proper notation made on the margin of the minutes fro the communication at which the illegal ballot was taken (August 21, 2019), referring to this order and the date it was recorded in the minutes.

Given under my hand and seal at Newton, North Carolina, this 1st day of October 2019 AD; 6019 AL.

Sigmon Order No. 8

Worshipful Brother RGC:

On September 11, 2019, the Board of Custodians preferred Masonic charges against you as a result of some very troubling irregularities, which they discovered in reference to the mandatory lecture service required for Proctorville Lodge No. 643 in 2019. On October 16, 2019, a Masonic Trial was conducted in the Grand Lodge Office Building to determine your guilt or innocence concerning this matter.

The case was prosecuted by the Judge Advocate and heard by three distinguished past masters serving as trial commissioners. After careful deliberation the trial commissioners determined that you were not guilty of the Masonic charges against you, and you were duly informed.

However, the trial commissioners noted that during the trial, testimony was heard, some of which was provided by you, indicating a serious failure on your part to properly carry out your sworn duties as master of a lodge. You testified that at least two and one-half hours of the required lecture service was conducted without a certified lecturer present and that you were present at the time that occurred. Apparently, you made no effort from April through June to secure the services of a certified lecturer to complete the lecture service. Additionally, you testified that you never signed a Form 38 indicating the lecture service had taken place, stating that the lodge secretary had said he “took care of it.” You knew — or should have known — that the Form 38 could not be

lawfully submitted without your signature and that the lecture service could not be “taken care of” without properly completing the five hours of instruction mandated by the Grand Lodge. There is no doubt you knew that your lodge had not satisfactorily met the requirements mandated for lecture services.

For these reasons the trial commission unanimously recommended that the Grand Master suspend your privilege of holding any Masonic office, elected or appointed, for a substantial period of time. After very thoughtful consideration, and in view of the trial commission’s recommendation, in conformity with and by authority of Regulation 13-2.10 of THE CODE, it is my Order that your privilege to hold any Masonic office in this Grand Jurisdiction, elected or appointed, be suspended for a period of three years commencing immediately.

Please understand this action is not punitive in nature, but is enacted as a result of your demonstrated mismanagement while holding the very important office of lodge master. It is my most sincere hope that you will take this opportunity to reflect upon your errors and endeavor to take steps to better educate yourself in the administration and operation of blue lodges and the duties and responsibilities of lodge leaders.

Given under my hand and seal at Newton, North Carolina, this 23rd day of October 2019 AD; 6019 AL.

Bradshaw Order No. 1

It has been brought to my attention by the Grand Secretary that Lowell Lodge 590 failed to hold its annual election of officers for the year 2020 without cause on either the first stated communication in November or December, 2019, which is a violation of Chapter 54-1 of The Code. Inasmuch, it has come to my attention that upon inspection of the lodge’s bylaws, there is no provision for the lodge’s prescribed annual meeting and election of officers as defined in Chapter 44-7 and 54-1 of The Code, but that the lodge has elected its officers, by convention, on the first stated communication of November. And, that when the lodge did proceed to illegally elect its officers for the ensuing year, the membership did so by a show of hands and not a written ballot as prescribed in Chapter 54-3.1 of The Code.

Therefore, the election of officers held on November 19, 2019, is Null and Void.

It is my ORDER that Lowell Lodge 590 hold its election of officers at their stated communication of January 21, 2020, according to the provisions of Chapter 54-3 of The Code.

That the lodge shall, in conformity with the Uniform Code of By-Laws for a Lodge, found in Chapter 44-7, Article 8, Section 4 of The Code, permanently establish the date of its annual meeting and election of officers to either the first stated communication of November or December, and that when this amendment is adopted by the brethren, the Secretary shall forward this amendment and subsequent Form 60 to the lodge’s bylaws to the Chairman of the Committee on Bylaws no later than March 3, 2020.

And, as it would appear the combination of these transgressions appear to stem from either gross ignorance or willful negligence, it is further ORDERED that the Master of the lodge read and present as Masonic Education to his lodge all the provisions and sections pertaining to the appropriate election of

officers of a subordinate lodge as outlined in Chapter 54 of The Code, prior to the election of officers to take place on January 21, 2020, and that the Master and his officers take great care in further familiarizing themselves with the laws, rules, and regulations of The Code, specifically those intended to govern the actions and procedures of subordinate lodges.

Given under my hand and seal in the city of Greensboro, this 3rd day of January, 2020.

Bradshaw Order No. 2

It was brought to my attention by the Grand Secretary that the Senior Warden of Andrew Jackson Lodge No. 576 and Secretary of Spencer Lodge No. 543, TMC, has been charged with multiple felonies. Since Brother TMC has only been charged with the crimes, it is my intent to suspend him as Senior Warden of Andrew Jackson Lodge No. 576 and as Secretary of Spencer Lodge No. 543 as provided in Regulation 58-1 of *The Code*.

The Code restricts the authority of the Grand Master on suspending a membership under Regulation 13-4.11. Therefore, it is my ORDER that Brother TMC be removed as Senior Warden of Andrew Jackson Lodge No. 576 and as Secretary of Spencer Lodge No. 543 immediately and his membership record so noted. Additionally, it is also ORDERED that this case be referred to the Judge Advocate for his disposition immediately following disposal by the courts of the state.

It is noted that if Brother TMC is found to be innocent of his alleged crimes, his record will be purged of any notation of this.

Given under my hand and seal in Greensboro, North Carolina, this the 20th day of February, 2020.

Bradshaw Order No. 3

To the District Deputy Grand Masters and Lecturers of the 14th and 15th Masonic Districts, and the Masters, Wardens, and Brethren of the Hiram Lodge No. 40, William G. Hill Lodge No. 218, and Raleigh Lodge No. 500,

In consideration of the current status and trajectory of the Raleigh Masonic Temple, I believe it would be beneficial to have all three lodges of the Raleigh Masonic Temple to be within the same district. I expect this would generate greater inclusivity and momentum for the lodges to work together to decide their future.

Therefore, I am ordering Hiram Lodge No. 40 to be moved into the 14th Masonic District, where WB Jeff Sank presides as DDGM and Chris Lee presides as DDGL.

Given under my hand and seal in Greensboro, North Carolina, this the 2nd day of March, 2020.

Bradshaw Order No. 4

In light of recent events, the spread of COVID-19, and upon the recommendations of our local, state, and federal governments, it is my Order that all Freemasons and lodges in this Grand Jurisdiction conform to the recommenda-

tions and civil law of the land, and that all lodge meetings and Masonic gatherings cease at high twelve on Wednesday, March 18, 2020, until further notice.

I would encourage you to take this opportunity to remain in contact with your brothers and widows. We will be in touch with updates, plans, and notifications as the situation further develops.

Though the business of the Grand Lodge will continue, the Grand Lodge Office has been closed to non-fraternally related visitors and tourists.

Stay safe, keep healthy, remember each other, and keep the light!

Given under my hand and seal in the city of Greensboro, this the 16th day of March, 2020.

Bradshaw Order No. 5

I hope this communication finds you safe and well. As most of you may be aware, on May 5, 2020, Governor Cooper issued Executive Order No. 138 easing restrictions on travel, business operations, and mass gatherings – commonly referred to as Phase 1. While I am aware that many of my brethren are anxious to resume our normal meetings and continue the business, fund raisers, and social gatherings of our lodges, I believe it is prudent that we remain cautious in returning to our lodges for any type of masonic-related activities. With this in mind, and in consultation with the other Grand Line Officers, I intend to follow a similar “phased approach” to return to our **in-lodge** activities.

I have closely reviewed the executive order and associated guidance from the NC DHHS. I find that section 6.A. of the Executive Order prohibits mass gatherings in a “meeting hall” and defines a “mass gathering” as convening “more than ten (10) persons at the same time in a single space”. I realize there are a number of lodge officers that could benefit from resuming practices of Opening and Closing the lodge on the Master Masons Degree, as well as preparing for degree work, which we hope can resume as the crisis related to this pandemic begins to subside.

As such, effective Wednesday, May 13, 2020, at 5:00pm, I will permit the following limited **in-lodge activities** to resume:

1. At the Master’s discretion and with due consideration of the health and well-being of his members, up to ten (10) officers of the Lodge may utilize the lodge facility for ritual practices
2. Coaches and candidates, if they choose and at the Master’s discretion, may meet in lodges for in-person coaching

Please note, if the Master of a lodge chooses to allow the permitted activities within the lodge, the following restrictions and requirements must be met:

- If the lodge building is managed by a temple board, the Master of the lodge must receive their permission to meet in the building prior to doing so
- Lodge practices are limited to officers of the lodge and one Past Master or Certified Lecturer. At no time shall more than ten (10) people be present in the lodge facility at the same time
- During lodge practices, it is recommended that all members present wear face masks and take sufficient precautions to ensure adequate social distancing is maintained

- No business may be transacted during these practice sessions
- At the conclusion of the practice, the members present will take care to disinfect any objects or surfaces touched during the practice
- If a coach and candidate wish to use the lodge facility for in-person coaching, they must first receive permission from the Master of the lodge to do so
- If coaching sessions are permitted at the lodge, it is recommended that both the coach and candidate wear face masks throughout the session
- At the conclusion of the coaching session, the coach shall be responsible for disinfecting any objects or surfaces touched during the session

Also, in preparation for when lodges are permitted to resume regular business meetings, I urge the Masters of the lodges to ensure their lodges have adequate disinfectant, cleaning supplies, and hand sanitizer available in the lodge and that all surfaces which members may come into contact with are regularly disinfected prior to and following any gathering in the lodge. Further, the Master should take an inventory of the number of pairs of white gloves they have available, as many members may wish to wear gloves once meetings are permitted to resume. If a lodge does not have a sufficient number of pairs of gloves available, they may want to consider purchasing additional pairs as soon as possible. I have checked with the owner of Dean & Associates Masonic Supplies – <https://bluelodgeaprons.net/> – and he has confirmed that they currently have gloves in stock.

Finally, regardless of whether your lodges choose to meet for the allowed purposes or not, I want to encourage each of you to continue your outreach activities to your brethren and widows.

If you have any questions or concerns about any information presented here, please do not hesitate to contact me directly or contact our Grand Lodge office.

Bradshaw Order No. 6

Once more, I hope this communication finds you safe and well. As most of you are aware, on July 14, 2020, Governor Cooper extended the duration of Executive Order No. 141 — commonly referred to as Phase II — to July 17. As anxious as I am, like many of our brethren, to return to lodge and other Masonic activities, I believe it remains prudent that we remain cautious in returning to our usual activities. Inasmuch, per my order of May 13, 2020, **we shall continue to operate at a minimum through July 17.**

As a reminder, those limited in-lodge activities include:

1. At the Master's discretion and with due consideration of the health and well-being of his members, up to ten (10) officers of the Lodge may utilize the lodge facility for ritual practices.
2. Coaches and candidates, if they choose and at the Master's discretion, may meet in lodges for in-person coaching.

Please note, if the Master of a lodge chooses to allow the permitted activities within the lodge, the following restrictions and requirements must be met:

- If the lodge building is managed by a temple board, the Master of the lodge must receive their permission to meet in the building prior to doing so
- Lodge practices are limited to officers of the lodge and one Past Master or Certified Lecturer. At no time shall more than ten (10) people be present in the lodge facility at the same time
- During lodge practices, it is recommended that all members present wear face masks and take sufficient precautions to ensure adequate social distancing is maintained
- No business may be transacted during these practice sessions
- At the conclusion of the practice, the members present will take care to disinfect any objects or surfaces touched during the practice
- If a coach and candidate wish to use the lodge facility for in-person coaching, they must first receive permission from the Master of the lodge to do so
- If coaching sessions are permitted at the lodge, it is recommended that both the coach and candidate wear face masks throughout the session
- At the conclusion of the coaching session, the coach shall be responsible for disinfecting any objects or surfaces touched during the session

Also, in preparation for when lodges are permitted to resume regular business meetings, I expect the Masters of our lodges to ensure their lodges have adequate disinfectant, cleaning supplies, and hand sanitizer available in the lodge and that all surfaces which members may come into contact with are regularly disinfected prior to and following any gathering in the lodge. Each lodge should establish a disinfectant protocol, similar to the guidelines previously issued and attached to this letter for reference.

Also, the Master should take an inventory of the number of pairs of white gloves they have available, as many members may wish to wear gloves once meetings are permitted to resume. If a lodge does not have a sufficient number of pairs of gloves available, they may want to consider purchasing additional pairs as soon as possible. I have checked with the owner of Dean & Associates Masonic Supplies — <https://bluelodgeaprons.net/> — and he has confirmed that they currently have gloves in stock.

And, be it known that masks and gloves will be required to be worn during meetings once Masonic meetings and functions resume.

Finally, regardless of whether your lodges choose to meet for the allowed purposes or not, I want to encourage each of you to continue your outreach activities to your brethren and widows.

If you have any questions or concerns about any of the information presented here, please do not hesitate to contact me directly or contact our Grand Lodge office.

Bradshaw Order No. 7

Once more, I hope this communication finds you safe and well. As most of you are aware, on July 14, 2020, Governor Cooper extended the duration of Executive Order No. 141 — commonly referred to as Phase II — to August 7. As anxious as I am, like many of our brethren, to return to lodge and other

Masonic activities, I believe it remains prudent that we remain cautious in returning to our usual activities. Inasmuch, per my order of May 13, 2020, **we shall continue to operate at a minimum through August 7.**

As a reminder, those limited in-lodge activities include:

1. At the Master's discretion and with due consideration of the health and well-being of his members, up to ten (10) officers of the Lodge may utilize the lodge facility for ritual practices so long as the previously issued restrictions and requirements are met.
2. Coaches and candidates, if they choose and at the Master's discretion, may meet in lodges for in-person coaching.

However, given the circumstances, **I will entertain petitions for dispensations to hold outdoor degree work** for all three degrees as well as examinations on catechisms, so long as the location is approved by the District Deputy Grand master and ALL health recommendations and orders are followed to the letter. DDGMs must forward their written approval for the location (via email or USPS) to the Grand Lodge before any dispensation will be granted.

If you have any questions or concerns about any of the information presented here, please do not hesitate to contact me directly or contact our Grand Lodge office.

Bradshaw Order No. 8

Once more, I hope this communication finds you safe and well. As most of you are aware, on August 5, 2020, Governor Cooper once again extended the duration of Executive Order No. 141 — commonly referred to as Phase II — to September 11. As anxious as I am, like many of our brethren, to return to lodge and other Masonic activities, I believe it remains prudent that we remain cautious in returning to our usual activities. Inasmuch, per my order of May 13, 2020, **we shall continue to operate at a minimum through September 11.**

As a reminder, those limited in-lodge activities include:

1. At the Master's discretion and with due consideration of the health and well-being of his members, up to ten (10) officers of the Lodge may utilize the lodge facility for ritual practices so long as the previously issued restrictions and requirements are met.
2. Coaches and candidates, if they choose and at the Master's discretion, may meet in lodges for in-person coaching.
3. Lodges may hold outdoor degrees and examinations on catechisms, **with dispensation from the Grand Master**, as long as the DDGM has approved the location, lodges have insurance for the off-site meeting, and ALL health recommendations and orders are followed to the letter.

Additionally, within the next week, lodge secretaries can expect information regarding the procedures for this year's Annual Communication. Due to pervading conditions, the Annual Communication is expected to take place on Friday, September 25 and will be virtual. Delegates will convene in their districts with their District Deputy Grand Masters and partake in an abbreviated

meeting in order to review essential amendments, the budget, and election of Grand Line Officers. More information will be forthcoming.

If you have any questions or concerns about any of the information presented here, please do not hesitate to contact me directly or contact our Grand Lodge office.

Bradshaw Order No. 9

I hope this correspondence finds you and your loved ones safe and well. During recent months our meetings, along with those of all appendant, concordant, and adjunct bodies under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina have remained suspended by my order. The first restrictions were ordered in conjunction with our governor's Executive Order in mid-March which closed schools and non-essential businesses. Since that time, I have permitted some limited in-person and outdoor Masonic activities as the Governor has issued updated guidance for the state.

As most of you may be aware, on September 1, 2020, Governor Cooper issued Executive Order No. 163, which eases restrictions on the number of people permitted in a mass gathering. I have reviewed the Executive Order and associated guidance from the NC DHHS. I find that section 7.A. of the Executive Order defines a mass gathering as convening "more than twenty-five (25) people indoors or more than fifty (50) people outdoors at the same time in a single confined indoor or outdoor space, such as an auditorium, stadium, arena, or meeting hall."

In lieu of the Governor's most recent Executive Order and given that the vast majority of our lodges have fewer than 25 members in regular attendance, I believe it is suitable to permit subordinate lodges, appendant, concordant, and adjunct Masonic organizations to resume holding stated and emergent communications in lodge buildings with certain restrictions applied.

As such, it is my Order that effective Monday, September 7, 2020, at 5:00pm, at the Master's discretion and with due consideration for the health and well-being of his members, up to twenty-five (25) members of a Lodge (or 50% of the maximum capacity of the lodge, if less than 25) may utilize the lodge facility for stated and/or emergent communications. Further, at the Master's discretion and upon the review and approval of the District Deputy Grand Master, a lodge may request dispensation for an outdoor degree with up to fifty (50) members present.

Although this Order permits lodges and other affiliated Masonic organizations to conduct regular business meetings, the following guidelines, requirements, and restrictions shall be strictly adhered to:

1. No member may be required to attend any Lodge or Masonic-related function if that person believes it is unsafe to do so; not withstanding an official Summons from the Grand Master, Master, or presiding officer, in which case due precautions shall be taken to protect the health and safety of the member when such summons is executed.
2. If the Master of the lodge determines it is in the best interest of his Lodge to remain closed during the COVID-19 pandemic it will be allowed to remain closed until such time as the Grand Master has determined that restrictions have eased sufficiently for the lodge to reopen.

3. The Grand Presiding Officer(s) of Masonic affiliated organizations shall require their particular organizations to adhere to this order, as well as their own appendant body's rules and regulations.
4. The Master shall ensure his lodge has adequate disinfectant, cleaning supplies, and hand sanitizer available in the lodge prior to reopening.
5. Prior to entry into the lodge building, all members must submit to and sign a health questionnaire (see Attachment A). Entry shall be denied if any questionnaires are answered in the affirmative. Temperature checks with a "no touch" thermometer are encouraged.
6. Proper signage (see Attachment B) must be in place outside the lodge building to inform members not to enter if they are sick, do not feel well, are under quarantine restrictions, or have tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 14 days.
7. **Wearing a face covering (cloth face masks, surgical masks, and N95 respirators are acceptable) in the proper manner (i.e. over the nose and mouth at all times) is required at all Masonic functions.** While the following exceptions are permitted, it is highly recommended that any person with a health condition which does not allow them to wear a face mask should consider refraining from all large gatherings at this time.
 - Any member with a documented respiratory medical condition whereby wearing a face covering would prevent the member from properly breathing, may be exempted from wearing a face mask.
 - However, the Master retains the right to refuse a brother entry into the lodge per Regulation 59-2.7 and Regulation 59-2.9, if the Master, in his discretion, deems a brother's entry averse to the function and well-being of the lodge.
 - Any member, during the performance of a ritualistic speaking part may remove his face mask while he is speaking as long as he maintains proper social distancing from his brethren.
8. During meetings, all members present shall ensure adequate social distancing is maintained. Per CDC guidelines, proper social distancing requires at least six (6) feet between individuals.
9. To prevent cross-contamination of the lodge registry, the Secretary shall record all members present for the meeting in the registry book.
10. Members are encouraged to bring their own aprons to the meetings. Should a member require the use of a lodge apron, the Master will ensure all used aprons are properly cleaned prior to the next meeting.
11. Shaking hands is discouraged.
12. Hand sanitizer shall be provided by the lodge and shall be readily available both inside and outside the lodge room. Running water, soap, and disposable paper towels are required in all rest rooms.
13. Prior to the meeting the Tyler will attend the door to the lodge room and take up the pass as each brother enters. The pass may be given in a regular voice and from a moderate distance from the Tyler. All members shall maintain proper social distancing while they await entry into the lodge room. Upon opening the lodge, the Deacons will

receive the pass from the Tyler who received it from the brethren as they entered the lodge.

14. Visitation of members from other lodges is permitted; however, all members of the lodge shall be seated before visitors are granted entry.
15. Degree work is permitted in the lodge; however, it is preferred that lodges request dispensations for outdoor degrees as long as weather permits.
16. Those brethren who come into contact with the candidate(s) must wear gloves in addition to masks.
17. Each candidate shall have his own Volume of Sacred Law to use during the obligation.
18. The lodge may wish to provide individual, temporary squares and compasses for each candidate, meaning each lodge may consider purchasing extra sets of squares and compasses to have for each candidate, which he can keep with his Volume of Sacred Law and continue to use throughout his degrees.
19. Candidates may be examined in lodge.
20. No meals shall be prepared or served in the lodge building. Members are encouraged to eat prior to attending the meeting.
21. Voting by a show of hands and written ballots are permitted. Prior to a written ballot, each member shall use hand sanitizer prior to handing out and turning in the paper ballot. In addition, the Master or Secretary shall have sufficient pens or pencils available for each member present during the vote.
22. Petitions for candidates may be received by the lodge and **secret ballots are permitted unless a member of the lodge is denied entry into the meeting** due to the lodge reaching its maximum capacity (the lesser of 25 members or 50% of the maximum capacity of the lodge room). Prior to taking a secret ballot, the Master shall ensure that the ballot box, all white balls, and black cubes have been properly sanitized. When voting begins, each member shall use hand sanitizer prior to voting.
23. Masters are encouraged to keep meetings to 1 hour or less.
24. The Master shall ensure all high-touch surfaces in the lodge building are properly disinfected before and after each meeting.
25. Any lodge or other Masonic affiliated organization that has a confirmed COVID-19 exposure or infection at a Masonic function shall:
 - Immediately contact the District Deputy Grand Master and Grand Lodge office with the date of the exposure and names of all members in attendance.
 - The Master shall contact all exposed members so they may take proper precautions by quarantining and/or getting tested for the virus.
 - Shut down the building until it has been properly sanitized by a commercial cleaner.

It is important to note that the **Master of the lodge shall be held**

strictly accountable for upholding each of the guidelines, requirements, and restrictions set out in this order; any violation of which will require the Master to show just cause as to why he should not be removed from office and the lodge's charter arrested. Further, **any brother who willfully or maliciously refuses to follow the above guidelines, requirements, and restrictions shall be held accountable** by the Grand Master to show just cause as to why he should not be expelled for his willful violation of the order and for putting his brethren at risk.

While I understand some of my brethren may believe the above guidelines, requirements, and restrictions are onerous or unnecessary, I assure you that my only goal is to permit our lodges to operate in the safest manner possible during this pandemic. We must not lose sight that the COVID-19 pandemic has not yet fully run its course and there remains a risk that infections and deaths could increase at any time in the future.

I am asking each of you to have patience as we transition to this next step of reopening our lodges. It is of utmost importance for the health and safety of ourselves, our families, and our communities that we follow the proper precautions. It is my highest hope to be able to reopen our lodges to full capacity before I leave office, but in order to do so we must each do our part, abide by the requirements, and proceed with caution each time we meet. This will allow us to expand our ability to get our lodges up and running at full capacity in a shorter amount of time.

Finally, I want to continue to encourage each of you to maintain your outreach activities to your brethren and widows.

If you have any questions or concerns about any information presented here, please do not hesitate to contact me directly or contact our Grand Lodge office.

Given under my hand and seal, this the 4th day of September, 2020.

Bradshaw Opinion No. 1

On March 16, 2020, I issued an order calling for the cessation of all Masonic meetings to go into effect on March 18, 2020, at high noon. This order was made as a result of the serious health risks posed by the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic. Less than two weeks later, on March 27, 2020, the Governor of the State of North Carolina issued Executive Order No. 121, commonly referred to as the Stay at Home Order, which required all persons in the State of North Carolina to shelter in place with limited exceptions. This Order went into effect on March 30, 2020.

Since that time, several lodges have attempted to continue some level of Masonic activity by meeting for social purposes using virtual platforms, calling and emailing their brethren and widows of the lodge, and working with their communities to ensure the safety and well-being of others.

Despite these ongoing Masonic activities outside the lodge rooms, some lodges believe they have urgent business to attend to, which may only be accomplished in a Stated Meeting. Specifically, on April 6, 2020, Lux Libertas Lodge No. 772 made a formal request for an opinion from the Board of Custodians on the viability of holding a Stated Communication in a virtual (online) setting.

On April 17, 2020, the Board of Custodians met to review the report and recommendations of the sub-committee formed to investigate the request. In part, the report read as follows:

“Masonry in North Carolina, as well as everyone else, is facing a challenge that it has never had to endure. From our beginning through the Revolutionary War, Civil War, two World Wars, the Korean Conflict, the Vietnam War and other wars, as well as the pandemic of 1918 our lodges have always remained open. However, due to the current pandemic we are faced with the unique situation of having to close our Lodges. Our Fraternity has and always will thrive because of the Brotherhood among us. NC Masonry needs to find a way to continue to meet as a Fraternity. There is no way of knowing how long this current situation will last or if we will have a similar situation arise in the future. The Board of Custodians’ primary responsibility is to preserve the Authorized Ritualistic Work and lectures approved by the Grand Lodge and sanctioned by The Code. Lux Libertas No. 772 has presented a proposal to the Board of Custodians seeking approval of online (virtual) meetings. After the two meetings of the Board of Custodians, our consensus is that the proposal from Lux Libertas, as it stands, falls outside the realm of Board of Custodians’ authority to approve...”

Although the Board of Custodians chose not to vote on the recommendations presented in the full report, all were in agreement that the request of Lux Libertas No. 772 to meet in a virtual setting was outside their power to decide and that the Grand Master should make the decision as to whether a lodge can meet in a Stated Communication using virtual meeting technology.

Upon review of The Code, it is clear that no part, as written today, either permits or forbids a lodge from meeting in a virtual space. In fact, until relatively recently, the technology has not existed, which would even make such a possibility conceivable. However, given the current technological capabilities, as well as the current pandemic and the indefinite period that lodges may be unable to physically meet, the need has arisen for consideration of this matter. Therefore, pursuant to Sections 8-2 and 8-6.3 of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge and Regulation 13-2.2 and 13-2.15 of The Code I am issuing an Official Opinion on this matter.

In making the determination as to whether a lodge should be permitted to meet in a virtual setting, I have thoroughly reviewed The Code and find the following relevant sections:

1. Regulations 13-3.8(D) and 13-3.8(G) permit the Grand Master to grant a dispensation to a lodge to hold its communications in a room used for other than Masonic purposes, as well as “in case of extreme necessity” in a location other than that named in its charter or dispensation.
2. Regulation 43-5 states that “all lodge rooms shall in all respects be safe from cowans and eavesdroppers.”
3. Regulation 45-9 requires that all business of a lodge “shall be transacted in a Master Mason’s Lodge...”
4. Regulations 13-4.6 and 24-1.2 restrict the Grand Master from intro-

ducing or permitting any ceremony to be used which has not been approved by the Grand Lodge and forbids any brother from adding to or taking away any part of the Authorized Work.

5. Regulation 45-2.5 permits the Grand Master to grant a dispensation to a lodge to reschedule a Stated Communication “when inclement weather or a natural disaster compels [it]...to cancel its Stated Communication for the safety of the brethren...”

In reviewing the above cited references of The Code several questions arise, which must be answered in order to form an adequate opinion on the matter.

1. Does a virtual meeting space constitute a “room” and how do you define the “location” of a virtual meeting?

When discussing a virtual meeting there are two aspects of the “space” that must be considered: the virtual meeting space and the physical space of each of the participants in the meeting. With regards to the virtual space, the virtual technology service provider establishes a UID (Unique Identifier) for each meeting space. These meeting spaces are commonly referred to as VMRs (Virtual Meeting Rooms). Some organizations may wish to have a persistent UID, while others may prefer a new UID for each meeting, but in either case, participants may only enter the “room” if they have the proper UID. As such, a virtual meeting space constitutes a “room” which can be occupied similar to physical room.

For the purposes of determining the location of the lodge utilizing a virtual meeting space, we can look to Reg 87-14 of The Code, which defines a lodge as “a society of Masons meeting by authority of a charter or warrant from a regular grand lodge...” From this definition we see that a charter or warrant is required for a lodge to meet and therefore the member who is in physical possession of the charter (most likely the Master or Secretary) would constitute the official physical location of the lodge.

2. Can a virtual meeting space be considered “safe from cowans and eavesdroppers” and by what standard do we compare the security of that space?

Similar to answering the first question we must consider this from two perspectives. First, each person joining the meeting must ensure their physical space is safe from cowans and eavesdroppers. This may be accomplished by ensuring that each member who accesses the virtual meeting has secured (tyled) their personal space from non-Masons, that they utilize headphones or keep the volume turned down to a level where an individual outside the physical space cannot hear the activities of the meeting, and that they have a camera which is always on so all participants can see if there is any breach of a member’s physical space. If a breach did occur, the member’s access can be immediately revoked and he can be placed in a “waiting room” outside the virtual meeting space until the physical space can be re-secured.

Second, and more importantly is the question of security of the virtual space and is it any less secure than a physical lodge room. At the time much of The Code was written, the brethren could not conceive of

the level of technological advances that have been made over the last 20-30 years. In decades past, the biggest concern for the security of a lodge room was that someone might be able to spy or listen in on a meeting by being physically close to it. As a result, most lodge rooms do not have windows and per Regulation 43-5, lodges may not be on the “ground level of a building...without the express approval of the Grand Master.” While these may have been sufficient precautions to safeguard the security of a lodge meeting in the past, today’s technology makes these types of concerns almost meaningless. It is nearly impossible to guarantee the security of our lodge meetings in a physical space when practically every person who enters a lodge room carries with them a device capable of recording and videoing all lodge activities. Further, technologies exist and are readily accessible to any cowan or eavesdropper who wishes to invade the security of our lodge rooms. The reality is that our physical lodge rooms are only as secure as our preventive measures to secure them. That is, as Masons we are obligated to keep the secrets of Masonry as safe and secure as we possibly can, but that does not preclude someone who truly wants to spy on us from recording or videoing our proceedings.

In terms of securing a virtual space, it is incumbent on the brethren to ensure their meeting is as safe and secure as possible. To that end, lodges meeting in a virtual space must adhere to the following measures established by the US National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to prevent eavesdropping by unauthorized parties:

- Follow your organization’s policies for virtual meeting security.
 - Limit reuse of access codes
 - If the topic is sensitive, use one-time PINs or meeting identifier codes, and consider multi-factor authentication.
 - Use a “green room” or “waiting room” and don’t allow the meeting to begin until the host joins.
 - Enable notification when attendees join by playing a tone or announcing names.
 - Use a dashboard to monitor attendees – and identify all attendees.
 - Don’t record the meeting
 - Use only approved virtual meeting services. (see **Appendix A – The NC Grand Lodge Tech Committee Response to COVID19**)
 - Lock the meeting once you have identified all the attendees and lines in use.
3. Can a lodge effectively open and close a Master Mason’s Lodge in a virtual setting and maintain the integrity of the ritual without “adding to or taking away any part of the Authorized Work”?

As noted earlier, Regulations 13-4.6 and 24-1.2 restrict the Grand Master and lodges from introducing new ceremonies or modifying our existing rituals. Further, Regulation 45-9 is clear that “All business shall be transacted in a Master Mason’s Lodge...” With this in mind, I requested that the brethren of Lux Libertas Lodge No. 772 demonstrate for the Board of Custodians how they would open a Master Masons Lodge, conduct various votes, and then close the lodge. On April 21, 2020, Lux

Libertas No. 772, for coaching and demonstration purposes only, opened a Master Masons Lodge in a virtual setting with members of the Board of Custodians, several Grand Lodge officers, and myself present. During the demonstration several questions regarding procedures (particularly with regard to the “Red Letter” work of the OSW) were asked, which the members of Lux Libertas No. 772 attempted to answer and demonstrate further. On April 23, 2020, the sub-committee of the Board of Custodians met and prepared a report for review and vote of the full board (see **Appendix B – Board of Custodians Subcommittee Report on Lux Libertas Lodge No. 772 Proposal to hold a Virtual Lodge Meeting**). The consensus of the subcommittee was that, with certain changes and restrictions, Lux Libertas No. 772 had sufficiently demonstrated it is possible to open and close a Master Masons Lodge in a virtual setting. On April 28, 2020, the Board of Custodians met and, by majority vote, approved the report.

4. Under what circumstances would a lodge find it necessary to meet in a virtual setting rather than utilizing Regulation 45-2.5 to request a dispensation from the Grand Master to meet at a later date when it can be done safely in a physical space?

Aside from the question of the security of a virtual lodging meeting, this is the most frequent objection to permitting a virtual meeting. If the brethren of a lodge wish to meet for social purposes, they are free to do so virtually without the necessity of opening a lodge. If there is some business that a lodge must conduct, as in an emergency situation where a lodge may have to expend funds that are not recurring or currently budgeted, then the lodge could request dispensation to meet on a date other than their regular stated meeting in order to transact that business. While this is a valid argument it does assume that the situation which caused the lodge not to be able to meet has a definite end time. That is, in order to request a dispensation to meet at a later date, there is an assumption that the lodge can specify the date on which they plan to meet. Our current situation with the pandemic is evidence enough that such an assumption does not stand up to reality. At this point we are uncertain when lodges may be able to again safely meet – it could be weeks or it could be months – and there is a very real possibility that another wave of this virus could disrupt our lodge business again in the near future. If that were to happen, lodges that only meet on a bi-monthly or quarterly basis may find that they are, again, unable to meet to transact any lodge business.

Based on the answers to the above questions I believe it is in the best interest of the fraternity for there to be some mechanism whereby a lodge may meet in a stated meeting to conduct such business as it may find necessary during a time when the members are unable to physically gather together. While my preference would be for The Code to specifically address the instances where this is allowed and that the Authorized Work were updated in a way to make it easier for lodges, in those circumstances, to ritualistically open, that is not the situation we are in.

Accordingly, it is my Official Opinion that lodges, under extraordinary circumstances, may hold a Stated Communication in a virtual setting given

the following restrictions:

1. Pursuant to Regulation 13-3.8(G) a lodge must request a dispensation from the Grand Master to hold a Stated Communication in a virtual setting. Such requests must include a detailed explanation as to why the meeting may not be postponed until a later date.
2. The Grand Master may grant the dispensation if, in his sole discretion, he believes permitting the lodge to meet in a virtual setting is in the best interest of the lodge; otherwise, he may suggest that the lodge seek relief through a request for dispensation to meet at a different time pursuant to Regulation 45-2.5.
3. A lodge which intends to meet in a virtual setting must use one of the approved virtual technology service provider platforms identified in **Appendix A – The NC Grand Lodge Tech Committee Response to COVID19**.
4. Unless or until The Code is amended to permit lodges to transact business on a degree other than that of Master Mason, the lodge must open and close a Master Masons lodge ritualistically as described in the Authorized Work. At no time shall a lodge open “symbolically” or by proclamation.
5. When opening a Master Masons Lodge in a virtual setting, lodges must follow the guidelines of the NIST (listed above), as well as follow the procedures identified in **Appendix C – A Practical Guide to a Virtual Lodge**.
6. Prior to meeting in a virtual setting and agreeable with Regulation 43-6 the Master of the lodge shall give due notice to all members of the lodge of the change of location to a virtual setting. Further, per Regulation 45-4, such notice may be sent electronically if the member has a valid email address, otherwise the member must be contacted by telephone service or mailed under sealed cover. Finally, the notice must specify the procedure by which the member may attend the virtual lodge meeting.
7. Aside from the Secretary in the performance of his duties as specified in Regulation 59-12 and pursuant to Regulation 86-2.9 no portion of the meeting held in a virtual setting shall be recorded in any way or manner whatsoever.
8. The charter empowering the lodge to work must be clearly visible to all members in the virtual meeting. It is suggested that either the Master or Secretary have the charter physically present with them during the meeting.
9. A lodge may conduct such business as the Master may deem necessary with the following exceptions:
 - a. A lodge shall not perform any degree work in virtual setting.
 - b. A lodge shall not examine a candidate in a virtual setting.
 - c. A lodge shall not conduct a secret ballot in a virtual setting.

Given under my hand and seal this 29th day of April, 2020, in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Resolution for Cherryville Lodge 505 to Receive a Duplicate Charter

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

WHEREAS, Cherryville Lodge No. 505, AF & AM located in Cherryville, North Carolina, is a regular lodge originally chartered in 1901 and accepted a charter by the Grand Lodge of North Carolina in that same year, and

WHEREAS, the chartered history of Cherryville Lodge No. 505, AF & AM remains unbroken, and

WHEREAS, Cherryville Lodge No. 505, AF & AM's 1901 charter issued by the Grand Lodge of AF & AM of North Carolina is now illegible due to age and deterioration, and

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

NOW THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED: Cherryville Lodge No. 505, AF & AM, Cherryville, NC, hereby petitions the Grand Lodge of North Carolina for a duplicate charter. It also requests consideration for the original charter to be "loaned" as part of the "furniture" of the lodge in lieu of surrendering to the Grand Secretary's office as required in Regulation 41-4.2.

Respectfully submitted,
William A. McSwain, III, Master

Petition for Rolesville Lodge 683 to Change its Name

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

WHEREAS, W G Arnold was an active member and the mainstay of Rolesville Masonic Lodge No. 683 for over 30 years and served as Master eight times, and

WHEREAS, W G Arnold, by his steadfast devotion and selfless efforts, saved Rolesville Lodge from extinction on several occasions over the years, and

WHEREAS, W G Arnold was an active member of the community and projected an extremely favorable image of Masons to all who came in contact with him, and

WHEREAS, W G Arnold died in an automobile crash on September 21, 2020, and

WHEREAS, The members of Rolesville Lodge No. 683 have twice voted unanimously to petition the Grand Lodge of North Carolina, AF & AM, for approval to rename the lodge in his honor,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Grand Lodge of North Carolina change the name of Rolesville Lodge No. 683 to W G Arnold Lodge No. 683 at the Grand Lodge Session in 2020.

Respectfully submitted,
R. Vann Johnson, II, Master

Appendix

Sigmon Order No. 3

To the Officers and members of Maxton Lodge No. 417,

I have suspended the Master of your lodge from his office until such time as the charges now filed against him by the Judge Advocate can be adjudicated.

The charges filed against him allege he is in violation of regulations 86-1.5, 86.2-11, and 86-2.13 of The Code, all of which constitute grave concern. Considering these charges, I do not believe it possible for him to carry out the duties of his office.

In the meantime, it is my ORDER that District Deputy Grand Master William A. McCrae, II, preside over Maxton Lodge No. 417 as Master Pro Tem, until such time as your suspended master may be exonerated and returned to office, or the next annual meeting and election of officers, whichever comes first.

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.

Given under my hand and seal, this 16th day of September, A.D. 2019, A.L. 6019.

Sigmon Order No. 4

To JEB:

In consideration of the charges now made against you by the Judge Advocate in violation of regulations 86-1.5, 86.2-11, and 86-2.13 of The Code,

And, Inasmuch as you are the sitting master, a Past Master, and Past District Deputy Grand Master who should be in full knowledge and compliance of The Code, you cannot plead ignorance to the charges now pending against your actions, nor in consideration of the conversations we have already had earlier this year concerning your actions as Master of Maxton Lodge No. 417,

And, In consideration of the disharmony your actions have caused between the members of your lodge, the District Deputy Grand Lecturer, and the Board of Custodians,

BE IT KNOWN, that according to Regulation 58-1 of The Code, and for the good of the Masonic fraternity in general and for the good of Proctorville Lodge No. 643 in particular, I hereby SUSPEND you from the office of Secretary of Proctorville Lodge No. 643 as of this date,

BE IT FURTHER KNOWN, that under the same provision of Regulation, 58-1, I hereby ALSO SUSPEND you from the office of Master of Maxton Lodge No. 417 as of this date,

THAT, FURTHER, you will not hold any position, office, trusteeship, proxy, or any other office of fraternal trust, until such time as the charges now pending against you shall be adjudicated, at which time your restoration to office or permanent removal shall be in effect.

Given under my hand and seal, this 16th day of September, A.D. 2019, A.L. 6019.

Sigmon Order No. 5

To the Officers and members of Proctorville Lodge No. 643,

It has been brought to my attention that several members of Proctorville Lodge No. 643 disrupted the work of a Certified Lecturer in the performance of his duties to instruct you in the ritual work during a mandatory 5-hour lecture service. This behavior is in contravention to the requirements of Chapter 29-10 of The Code, as well as potentially violating Chapter 86-12 by “arresting” the legitimate work of a lodge.

The actions of your lodge’s Master and Secretary further confused this situation and both of them have been suspended from office until such time as a Trial Commission shall determine their guilt or innocence in this matter.

The disruption and negligence of our sacred work is detrimental to the tenants of our Masonic fraternity. In order to redeem the name of your lodge and correct these grievous errors,

It is MY ORDER, that Proctorville Lodge No. 643 shall abide by the will, pleasure, and guidance of my District Deputy Grand Master William A. McCrae, II, in selecting a Master and Secretary pro tem to lead Proctorville Lodge No. 643 until its suspended Master and Secretary shall be absolved of the charges now held against them, or the lodge may hold its annual election of officers.

I FURTHER ORDER that Proctorville Lodge No. 643 will hold a 15-hour lecture service before December 1, 2019, in conformity with the provisions of The Code. This service is to be conducted by members of the Board of Custodians. I expect full cooperation and compliance, otherwise, additional disciplinary actions may apply.

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.

Given under my hand and seal, this 16th day of September, A.D. 2019, A.L. 6019.

Sigmon Order No. 6

To RGC:

In consideration of the charges now made against you by the Judge Advocate in violation of regulations 86-1.5, 86.2-11, and 86-2.13 of The Code,

And, Inasmuch as you are the sitting master and a Past Master who should be in full knowledge and compliance of The Code, you cannot plead ignorance to the charges now pending against your actions,

And, In consideration of the disharmony your actions have caused between the members of your lodge, the District Deputy Grand Lecturer, and the Board of Custodians,

BE IT KNOWN, that according to Regulation 58-1 of The Code, and for the good of the Masonic fraternity in general and for the good of Proctorville Lodge No. 643 in particular, I hereby SUSPEND you from the office of Master of Proctorville Lodge No. 643 as of this date,

THAT, FURTHER, you will not hold any position, office, trusteeship, proxy, or any other office of fraternal trust, until such time as the charges now

pending against you shall be adjudicated, at which time your restoration to office or permanent removal shall be in effect.

Given under my hand and seal, this 16th day of September, A.D. 2019, A.L. 6019.

Sigmon Order No. 7

It has been brought to my attention by the District Deputy Grand Master of the 31st Masonic District that on August 21, 2019, St. Andrew Lodge No. 702 balloted on the application for affiliation of Brother RLW without a quorum of members present, which is in contravention to Regulation 45-8 of The Code.

The ballot taken on August 21, 2019, was clearly illegal under the language of Regulation 45-8 of The Code and is, therefore, NULL and VOID.

Since the Grand Master is empowered to order another ballot in such cases, I hereby ORDER a rebalot and grant dispensation to St. Andrew Lodge No. 702 to ballot again on the application for affiliation of Brother RLW at the stated communication of the lodge, to be held on November 20, 2019.

This Order shall be read to the lodge at the stated communication to be held on October 16, 2019, entered on the minutes of that communication, and a proper notation made on the margin of the minutes fro the communication at which the illegal ballot was taken (August 21, 2019), referring to this order and the date it was recorded in the minutes.

Given under my hand and seal at Newton, North Carolina, this 1st day of October 2019 AD; 6019 AL.

Sigmon Order No. 8

Worshipful Brother RGC:

On September 11, 2019, the Board of Custodians preferred Masonic charges against you as a result of some very troubling irregularities, which they discovered in reference to the mandatory lecture service required for Proctorville Lodge No. 643 in 2019. On October 16, 2019, a Masonic Trial was conducted in the Grand Lodge Office Building to determine your guilt or innocence concerning this matter.

The case was prosecuted by the Judge Advocate and heard by three distinguished past masters serving as trial commissioners. After careful deliberation the trial commissioners determined that you were not guilty of the Masonic charges against you, and you were duly informed.

However, the trial commissioners noted that during the trial, testimony was heard, some of which was provided by you, indicating a serious failure on your part to properly carry out your sworn duties as master of a lodge. You testified that at least two and one-half hours of the required lecture service was conducted without a certified lecturer present and that you were present at the time that occurred. Apparently, you made no effort from April through June to secure the services of a certified lecturer to complete the lecture service. Additionally, you testified that you never signed a Form 38 indicating the lecture service had taken place, stating that the lodge secretary had said he “took care of it.” You knew — or should have known — that the Form 38 could not be

lawfully submitted without your signature and that the lecture service could not be “taken care of” without properly completing the five hours of instruction mandated by the Grand Lodge. There is no doubt you knew that your lodge had not satisfactorily met the requirements mandated for lecture services.

For these reasons the trial commission unanimously recommended that the Grand Master suspend your privilege of holding any Masonic office, elected or appointed, for a substantial period of time. After very thoughtful consideration, and in view of the trial commission’s recommendation, in conformity with and by authority of Regulation 13-2.10 of THE CODE, it is my Order that your privilege to hold any Masonic office in this Grand Jurisdiction, elected or appointed, be suspended for a period of three years commencing immediately.

Please understand this action is not punitive in nature, but is enacted as a result of your demonstrated mismanagement while holding the very important office of lodge master. It is my most sincere hope that you will take this opportunity to reflect upon your errors and endeavor to take steps to better educate yourself in the administration and operation of blue lodges and the duties and responsibilities of lodge leaders.

Given under my hand and seal at Newton, North Carolina, this 23rd day of October 2019 AD; 6019 AL.

Bradshaw Order No. 1

It has been brought to my attention by the Grand Secretary that Lowell Lodge 590 failed to hold its annual election of officers for the year 2020 without cause on either the first stated communication in November or December, 2019, which is a violation of Chapter 54-1 of The Code. Inasmuch, it has come to my attention that upon inspection of the lodge’s bylaws, there is no provision for the lodge’s prescribed annual meeting and election of officers as defined in Chapter 44-7 and 54-1 of The Code, but that the lodge has elected its officers, by convention, on the first stated communication of November. And, that when the lodge did proceed to illegally elect its officers for the ensuing year, the membership did so by a show of hands and not a written ballot as prescribed in Chapter 54-3.1 of The Code.

Therefore, the election of officers held on November 19, 2019, is Null and Void.

It is my ORDER that Lowell Lodge 590 hold its election of officers at their stated communication of January 21, 2020, according to the provisions of Chapter 54-3 of The Code.

That the lodge shall, in conformity with the Uniform Code of By-Laws for a Lodge, found in Chapter 44-7, Article 8, Section 4 of The Code, permanently establish the date of its annual meeting and election of officers to either the first stated communication of November or December, and that when this amendment is adopted by the brethren, the Secretary shall forward this amendment and subsequent Form 60 to the lodge’s bylaws to the Chairman of the Committee on Bylaws no later than March 3, 2020.

And, as it would appear the combination of these transgressions appear to stem from either gross ignorance or willful negligence, it is further ORDERED that the Master of the lodge read and present as Masonic Education to his lodge all the provisions and sections pertaining to the appropriate election of

officers of a subordinate lodge as outlined in Chapter 54 of The Code, prior to the election of officers to take place on January 21, 2020, and that the Master and his officers take great care in further familiarizing themselves with the laws, rules, and regulations of The Code, specifically those intended to govern the actions and procedures of subordinate lodges.

Given under my hand and seal in the city of Greensboro, this 3rd day of January, 2020.

Bradshaw Order No. 2

It was brought to my attention by the Grand Secretary that the Senior Warden of Andrew Jackson Lodge No. 576 and Secretary of Spencer Lodge No. 543, TMC, has been charged with multiple felonies. Since Brother TMC has only been charged with the crimes, it is my intent to suspend him as Senior Warden of Andrew Jackson Lodge No. 576 and as Secretary of Spencer Lodge No. 543 as provided in Regulation 58-1 of *The Code*.

The Code restricts the authority of the Grand Master on suspending a membership under Regulation 13-4.11. Therefore, it is my ORDER that Brother TMC be removed as Senior Warden of Andrew Jackson Lodge No. 576 and as Secretary of Spencer Lodge No. 543 immediately and his membership record so noted. Additionally, it is also ORDERED that this case be referred to the Judge Advocate for his disposition immediately following disposal by the courts of the state.

It is noted that if Brother TMC is found to be innocent of his alleged crimes, his record will be purged of any notation of this.

Given under my hand and seal in Greensboro, North Carolina, this the 20th day of February, 2020.

Bradshaw Order No. 3

To the District Deputy Grand Masters and Lecturers of the 14th and 15th Masonic Districts, and the Masters, Wardens, and Brethren of the Hiram Lodge No. 40, William G. Hill Lodge No. 218, and Raleigh Lodge No. 500,

In consideration of the current status and trajectory of the Raleigh Masonic Temple, I believe it would be beneficial to have all three lodges of the Raleigh Masonic Temple to be within the same district. I expect this would generate greater inclusivity and momentum for the lodges to work together to decide their future.

Therefore, I am ordering Hiram Lodge No. 40 to be moved into the 14th Masonic District, where WB Jeff Sank presides as DDGM and Chris Lee presides as DDGL.

Given under my hand and seal in Greensboro, North Carolina, this the 2nd day of March, 2020.

Bradshaw Order No. 4

In light of recent events, the spread of COVID-19, and upon the recommendations of our local, state, and federal governments, it is my Order that all Freemasons and lodges in this Grand Jurisdiction conform to the recommenda-

tions and civil law of the land, and that all lodge meetings and Masonic gatherings cease at high twelve on Wednesday, March 18, 2020, until further notice.

I would encourage you to take this opportunity to remain in contact with your brothers and widows. We will be in touch with updates, plans, and notifications as the situation further develops.

Though the business of the Grand Lodge will continue, the Grand Lodge Office has been closed to non-fraternally related visitors and tourists.

Stay safe, keep healthy, remember each other, and keep the light!

Given under my hand and seal in the city of Greensboro, this the 16th day of March, 2020.

Bradshaw Order No. 5

I hope this communication finds you safe and well. As most of you may be aware, on May 5, 2020, Governor Cooper issued Executive Order No. 138 easing restrictions on travel, business operations, and mass gatherings – commonly referred to as Phase 1. While I am aware that many of my brethren are anxious to resume our normal meetings and continue the business, fund raisers, and social gatherings of our lodges, I believe it is prudent that we remain cautious in returning to our lodges for any type of masonic-related activities. With this in mind, and in consultation with the other Grand Line Officers, I intend to follow a similar “phased approach” to return to our **in-lodge** activities.

I have closely reviewed the executive order and associated guidance from the NC DHHS. I find that section 6.A. of the Executive Order prohibits mass gatherings in a “meeting hall” and defines a “mass gathering” as convening “more than ten (10) persons at the same time in a single space”. I realize there are a number of lodge officers that could benefit from resuming practices of Opening and Closing the lodge on the Master Masons Degree, as well as preparing for degree work, which we hope can resume as the crisis related to this pandemic begins to subside.

As such, effective Wednesday, May 13, 2020, at 5:00pm, I will permit the following limited **in-lodge activities** to resume:

1. At the Master’s discretion and with due consideration of the health and well-being of his members, up to ten (10) officers of the Lodge may utilize the lodge facility for ritual practices
2. Coaches and candidates, if they choose and at the Master’s discretion, may meet in lodges for in-person coaching

Please note, if the Master of a lodge chooses to allow the permitted activities within the lodge, the following restrictions and requirements must be met:

- If the lodge building is managed by a temple board, the Master of the lodge must receive their permission to meet in the building prior to doing so
- Lodge practices are limited to officers of the lodge and one Past Master or Certified Lecturer. At no time shall more than ten (10) people be present in the lodge facility at the same time
- During lodge practices, it is recommended that all members present wear face masks and take sufficient precautions to ensure adequate social distancing is maintained

- No business may be transacted during these practice sessions
- At the conclusion of the practice, the members present will take care to disinfect any objects or surfaces touched during the practice
- If a coach and candidate wish to use the lodge facility for in-person coaching, they must first receive permission from the Master of the lodge to do so
- If coaching sessions are permitted at the lodge, it is recommended that both the coach and candidate wear face masks throughout the session
- At the conclusion of the coaching session, the coach shall be responsible for disinfecting any objects or surfaces touched during the session

Also, in preparation for when lodges are permitted to resume regular business meetings, I urge the Masters of the lodges to ensure their lodges have adequate disinfectant, cleaning supplies, and hand sanitizer available in the lodge and that all surfaces which members may come into contact with are regularly disinfected prior to and following any gathering in the lodge. Further, the Master should take an inventory of the number of pairs of white gloves they have available, as many members may wish to wear gloves once meetings are permitted to resume. If a lodge does not have a sufficient number of pairs of gloves available, they may want to consider purchasing additional pairs as soon as possible. I have checked with the owner of Dean & Associates Masonic Supplies – <https://bluelodgeaprons.net/> – and he has confirmed that they currently have gloves in stock.

Finally, regardless of whether your lodges choose to meet for the allowed purposes or not, I want to encourage each of you to continue your outreach activities to your brethren and widows.

If you have any questions or concerns about any information presented here, please do not hesitate to contact me directly or contact our Grand Lodge office.

Bradshaw Order No. 6

Once more, I hope this communication finds you safe and well. As most of you are aware, on July 14, 2020, Governor Cooper extended the duration of Executive Order No. 141 — commonly referred to as Phase II — to July 17. As anxious as I am, like many of our brethren, to return to lodge and other Masonic activities, I believe it remains prudent that we remain cautious in returning to our usual activities. Inasmuch, per my order of May 13, 2020, **we shall continue to operate at a minimum through July 17.**

As a reminder, those limited in-lodge activities include:

1. At the Master's discretion and with due consideration of the health and well-being of his members, up to ten (10) officers of the Lodge may utilize the lodge facility for ritual practices.
2. Coaches and candidates, if they choose and at the Master's discretion, may meet in lodges for in-person coaching.

Please note, if the Master of a lodge chooses to allow the permitted activities within the lodge, the following restrictions and requirements must be met:

- If the lodge building is managed by a temple board, the Master of the lodge must receive their permission to meet in the building prior to doing so
- Lodge practices are limited to officers of the lodge and one Past Master or Certified Lecturer. At no time shall more than ten (10) people be present in the lodge facility at the same time
- During lodge practices, it is recommended that all members present wear face masks and take sufficient precautions to ensure adequate social distancing is maintained
- No business may be transacted during these practice sessions
- At the conclusion of the practice, the members present will take care to disinfect any objects or surfaces touched during the practice
- If a coach and candidate wish to use the lodge facility for in-person coaching, they must first receive permission from the Master of the lodge to do so
- If coaching sessions are permitted at the lodge, it is recommended that both the coach and candidate wear face masks throughout the session
- At the conclusion of the coaching session, the coach shall be responsible for disinfecting any objects or surfaces touched during the session

Also, in preparation for when lodges are permitted to resume regular business meetings, I expect the Masters of our lodges to ensure their lodges have adequate disinfectant, cleaning supplies, and hand sanitizer available in the lodge and that all surfaces which members may come into contact with are regularly disinfected prior to and following any gathering in the lodge. Each lodge should establish a disinfectant protocol, similar to the guidelines previously issued and attached to this letter for reference.

Also, the Master should take an inventory of the number of pairs of white gloves they have available, as many members may wish to wear gloves once meetings are permitted to resume. If a lodge does not have a sufficient number of pairs of gloves available, they may want to consider purchasing additional pairs as soon as possible. I have checked with the owner of Dean & Associates Masonic Supplies — <https://bluelodgeaprons.net/> — and he has confirmed that they currently have gloves in stock.

And, be it known that masks and gloves will be required to be worn during meetings once Masonic meetings and functions resume.

Finally, regardless of whether your lodges choose to meet for the allowed purposes or not, I want to encourage each of you to continue your outreach activities to your brethren and widows.

If you have any questions or concerns about any of the information presented here, please do not hesitate to contact me directly or contact our Grand Lodge office.

Bradshaw Order No. 7

Once more, I hope this communication finds you safe and well. As most of you are aware, on July 14, 2020, Governor Cooper extended the duration of Executive Order No. 141 — commonly referred to as Phase II — to August 7. As anxious as I am, like many of our brethren, to return to lodge and other

Masonic activities, I believe it remains prudent that we remain cautious in returning to our usual activities. Inasmuch, per my order of May 13, 2020, **we shall continue to operate at a minimum through August 7.**

As a reminder, those limited in-lodge activities include:

1. At the Master's discretion and with due consideration of the health and well-being of his members, up to ten (10) officers of the Lodge may utilize the lodge facility for ritual practices so long as the previously issued restrictions and requirements are met.
2. Coaches and candidates, if they choose and at the Master's discretion, may meet in lodges for in-person coaching.

However, given the circumstances, **I will entertain petitions for dispensations to hold outdoor degree work** for all three degrees as well as examinations on catechisms, so long as the location is approved by the District Deputy Grand master and ALL health recommendations and orders are followed to the letter. DDGMs must forward their written approval for the location (via email or USPS) to the Grand Lodge before any dispensation will be granted.

If you have any questions or concerns about any of the information presented here, please do not hesitate to contact me directly or contact our Grand Lodge office.

Bradshaw Order No. 8

Once more, I hope this communication finds you safe and well. As most of you are aware, on August 5, 2020, Governor Cooper once again extended the duration of Executive Order No. 141 — commonly referred to as Phase II — to September 11. As anxious as I am, like many of our brethren, to return to lodge and other Masonic activities, I believe it remains prudent that we remain cautious in returning to our usual activities. Inasmuch, per my order of May 13, 2020, **we shall continue to operate at a minimum through September 11.**

As a reminder, those limited in-lodge activities include:

1. At the Master's discretion and with due consideration of the health and well-being of his members, up to ten (10) officers of the Lodge may utilize the lodge facility for ritual practices so long as the previously issued restrictions and requirements are met.
2. Coaches and candidates, if they choose and at the Master's discretion, may meet in lodges for in-person coaching.
3. Lodges may hold outdoor degrees and examinations on catechisms, **with dispensation from the Grand Master**, as long as the DDGM has approved the location, lodges have insurance for the off-site meeting, and ALL health recommendations and orders are followed to the letter.

Additionally, within the next week, lodge secretaries can expect information regarding the procedures for this year's Annual Communication. Due to pervading conditions, the Annual Communication is expected to take place on Friday, September 25 and will be virtual. Delegates will convene in their districts with their District Deputy Grand Masters and partake in an abbreviated

meeting in order to review essential amendments, the budget, and election of Grand Line Officers. More information will be forthcoming.

If you have any questions or concerns about any of the information presented here, please do not hesitate to contact me directly or contact our Grand Lodge office.

Bradshaw Order No. 9

I hope this correspondence finds you and your loved ones safe and well. During recent months our meetings, along with those of all appendant, concordant, and adjunct bodies under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina have remained suspended by my order. The first restrictions were ordered in conjunction with our governor's Executive Order in mid-March which closed schools and non-essential businesses. Since that time, I have permitted some limited in-person and outdoor Masonic activities as the Governor has issued updated guidance for the state.

As most of you may be aware, on September 1, 2020, Governor Cooper issued Executive Order No. 163, which eases restrictions on the number of people permitted in a mass gathering. I have reviewed the Executive Order and associated guidance from the NC DHHS. I find that section 7.A. of the Executive Order defines a mass gathering as convening "more than twenty-five (25) people indoors or more than fifty (50) people outdoors at the same time in a single confined indoor or outdoor space, such as an auditorium, stadium, arena, or meeting hall."

In lieu of the Governor's most recent Executive Order and given that the vast majority of our lodges have fewer than 25 members in regular attendance, I believe it is suitable to permit subordinate lodges, appendant, concordant, and adjunct Masonic organizations to resume holding stated and emergent communications in lodge buildings with certain restrictions applied.

As such, it is my Order that effective Monday, September 7, 2020, at 5:00pm, at the Master's discretion and with due consideration for the health and well-being of his members, up to twenty-five (25) members of a Lodge (or 50% of the maximum capacity of the lodge, if less than 25) may utilize the lodge facility for stated and/or emergent communications. Further, at the Master's discretion and upon the review and approval of the District Deputy Grand Master, a lodge may request dispensation for an outdoor degree with up to fifty (50) members present.

Although this Order permits lodges and other affiliated Masonic organizations to conduct regular business meetings, the following guidelines, requirements, and restrictions shall be strictly adhered to:

1. No member may be required to attend any Lodge or Masonic-related function if that person believes it is unsafe to do so; not withstanding an official Summons from the Grand Master, Master, or presiding officer, in which case due precautions shall be taken to protect the health and safety of the member when such summons is executed.
2. If the Master of the lodge determines it is in the best interest of his Lodge to remain closed during the COVID-19 pandemic it will be allowed to remain closed until such time as the Grand Master has determined that restrictions have eased sufficiently for the lodge to reopen.

3. The Grand Presiding Officer(s) of Masonic affiliated organizations shall require their particular organizations to adhere to this order, as well as their own appendant body's rules and regulations.
 4. The Master shall ensure his lodge has adequate disinfectant, cleaning supplies, and hand sanitizer available in the lodge prior to reopening.
 5. Prior to entry into the lodge building, all members must submit to and sign a health questionnaire (see Attachment A). Entry shall be denied if any questionnaires are answered in the affirmative. Temperature checks with a "no touch" thermometer are encouraged.
 6. Proper signage (see Attachment B) must be in place outside the lodge building to inform members not to enter if they are sick, do not feel well, are under quarantine restrictions, or have tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 14 days.
 7. **Wearing a face covering (cloth face masks, surgical masks, and N95 respirators are acceptable) in the proper manner (i.e. over the nose and mouth at all times) is required at all Masonic functions.** While the following exceptions are permitted, it is highly recommended that any person with a health condition which does not allow them to wear a face mask should consider refraining from all large gatherings at this time.
 - Any member with a documented respiratory medical condition whereby wearing a face covering would prevent the member from properly breathing, may be exempted from wearing a face mask.
 - However, the Master retains the right to refuse a brother entry into the lodge per Regulation 59-2.7 and Regulation 59-2.9, if the Master, in his discretion, deems a brother's entry averse to the function and well-being of the lodge.
 - Any member, during the performance of a ritualistic speaking part may remove his face mask while he is speaking as long as he maintains proper social distancing from his brethren.
 8. During meetings, all members present shall ensure adequate social distancing is maintained. Per CDC guidelines, proper social distancing requires at least six (6) feet between individuals.
 9. To prevent cross-contamination of the lodge registry, the Secretary shall record all members present for the meeting in the registry book.
 10. Members are encouraged to bring their own aprons to the meetings. Should a member require the use of a lodge apron, the Master will ensure all used aprons are properly cleaned prior to the next meeting.
 11. Shaking hands is discouraged.
 12. Hand sanitizer shall be provided by the lodge and shall be readily available both inside and outside the lodge room. Running water, soap, and disposable paper towels are required in all rest rooms.
 13. Prior to the meeting the Tyler will attend the door to the lodge room and take up the pass as each brother enters. The pass may be given in a regular voice and from a moderate distance from the Tyler. All members shall maintain proper social distancing while they await entry into the lodge room. Upon opening the lodge, the Deacons will
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receive the pass from the Tyler who received it from the brethren as they entered the lodge.

14. Visitation of members from other lodges is permitted; however, all members of the lodge shall be seated before visitors are granted entry.
15. Degree work is permitted in the lodge; however, it is preferred that lodges request dispensations for outdoor degrees as long as weather permits.
16. Those brethren who come into contact with the candidate(s) must wear gloves in addition to masks.
17. Each candidate shall have his own Volume of Sacred Law to use during the obligation.
18. The lodge may wish to provide individual, temporary squares and compasses for each candidate, meaning each lodge may consider purchasing extra sets of squares and compasses to have for each candidate, which he can keep with his Volume of Sacred Law and continue to use throughout his degrees.
19. Candidates may be examined in lodge.
20. No meals shall be prepared or served in the lodge building. Members are encouraged to eat prior to attending the meeting.
21. Voting by a show of hands and written ballots are permitted. Prior to a written ballot, each member shall use hand sanitizer prior to handing out and turning in the paper ballot. In addition, the Master or Secretary shall have sufficient pens or pencils available for each member present during the vote.
22. Petitions for candidates may be received by the lodge and **secret ballots are permitted unless a member of the lodge is denied entry into the meeting** due to the lodge reaching its maximum capacity (the lesser of 25 members or 50% of the maximum capacity of the lodge room). Prior to taking a secret ballot, the Master shall ensure that the ballot box, all white balls, and black cubes have been properly sanitized. When voting begins, each member shall use hand sanitizer prior to voting.
23. Masters are encouraged to keep meetings to 1 hour or less.
24. The Master shall ensure all high-touch surfaces in the lodge building are properly disinfected before and after each meeting.
25. Any lodge or other Masonic affiliated organization that has a confirmed COVID-19 exposure or infection at a Masonic function shall:
 - Immediately contact the District Deputy Grand Master and Grand Lodge office with the date of the exposure and names of all members in attendance.
 - The Master shall contact all exposed members so they may take proper precautions by quarantining and/or getting tested for the virus.
 - Shut down the building until it has been properly sanitized by a commercial cleaner.

It is important to note that the **Master of the lodge shall be held**

strictly accountable for upholding each of the guidelines, requirements, and restrictions set out in this order; any violation of which will require the Master to show just cause as to why he should not be removed from office and the lodge's charter arrested. Further, **any brother who willfully or maliciously refuses to follow the above guidelines, requirements, and restrictions shall be held accountable** by the Grand Master to show just cause as to why he should not be expelled for his willful violation of the order and for putting his brethren at risk.

While I understand some of my brethren may believe the above guidelines, requirements, and restrictions are onerous or unnecessary, I assure you that my only goal is to permit our lodges to operate in the safest manner possible during this pandemic. We must not lose sight that the COVID-19 pandemic has not yet fully run its course and there remains a risk that infections and deaths could increase at any time in the future.

I am asking each of you to have patience as we transition to this next step of reopening our lodges. It is of utmost importance for the health and safety of ourselves, our families, and our communities that we follow the proper precautions. It is my highest hope to be able to reopen our lodges to full capacity before I leave office, but in order to do so we must each do our part, abide by the requirements, and proceed with caution each time we meet. This will allow us to expand our ability to get our lodges up and running at full capacity in a shorter amount of time.

Finally, I want to continue to encourage each of you to maintain your outreach activities to your brethren and widows.

If you have any questions or concerns about any information presented here, please do not hesitate to contact me directly or contact our Grand Lodge office.

Given under my hand and seal, this the 4th day of September, 2020.

Bradshaw Opinion No. 1

On March 16, 2020, I issued an order calling for the cessation of all Masonic meetings to go into effect on March 18, 2020, at high noon. This order was made as a result of the serious health risks posed by the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic. Less than two weeks later, on March 27, 2020, the Governor of the State of North Carolina issued Executive Order No. 121, commonly referred to as the Stay at Home Order, which required all persons in the State of North Carolina to shelter in place with limited exceptions. This Order went into effect on March 30, 2020.

Since that time, several lodges have attempted to continue some level of Masonic activity by meeting for social purposes using virtual platforms, calling and emailing their brethren and widows of the lodge, and working with their communities to ensure the safety and well-being of others.

Despite these ongoing Masonic activities outside the lodge rooms, some lodges believe they have urgent business to attend to, which may only be accomplished in a Stated Meeting. Specifically, on April 6, 2020, Lux Libertas Lodge No. 772 made a formal request for an opinion from the Board of Custodians on the viability of holding a Stated Communication in a virtual (online) setting.

On April 17, 2020, the Board of Custodians met to review the report and recommendations of the sub-committee formed to investigate the request. In part, the report read as follows:

“Masonry in North Carolina, as well as everyone else, is facing a challenge that it has never had to endure. From our beginning through the Revolutionary War, Civil War, two World Wars, the Korean Conflict, the Vietnam War and other wars, as well as the pandemic of 1918 our lodges have always remained open. However, due to the current pandemic we are faced with the unique situation of having to close our Lodges. Our Fraternity has and always will thrive because of the Brotherhood among us. NC Masonry needs to find a way to continue to meet as a Fraternity. There is no way of knowing how long this current situation will last or if we will have a similar situation arise in the future. The Board of Custodians’ primary responsibility is to preserve the Authorized Ritualistic Work and lectures approved by the Grand Lodge and sanctioned by The Code. Lux Libertas No. 772 has presented a proposal to the Board of Custodians seeking approval of online (virtual) meetings. After the two meetings of the Board of Custodians, our consensus is that the proposal from Lux Libertas, as it stands, falls outside the realm of Board of Custodians’ authority to approve...”

Although the Board of Custodians chose not to vote on the recommendations presented in the full report, all were in agreement that the request of Lux Libertas No. 772 to meet in a virtual setting was outside their power to decide and that the Grand Master should make the decision as to whether a lodge can meet in a Stated Communication using virtual meeting technology.

Upon review of The Code, it is clear that no part, as written today, either permits or forbids a lodge from meeting in a virtual space. In fact, until relatively recently, the technology has not existed, which would even make such a possibility conceivable. However, given the current technological capabilities, as well as the current pandemic and the indefinite period that lodges may be unable to physically meet, the need has arisen for consideration of this matter. Therefore, pursuant to Sections 8-2 and 8-6.3 of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge and Regulation 13-2.2 and 13-2.15 of The Code I am issuing an Official Opinion on this matter.

In making the determination as to whether a lodge should be permitted to meet in a virtual setting, I have thoroughly reviewed The Code and find the following relevant sections:

1. Regulations 13-3.8(D) and 13-3.8(G) permit the Grand Master to grant a dispensation to a lodge to hold its communications in a room used for other than Masonic purposes, as well as “in case of extreme necessity” in a location other than that named in its charter or dispensation.
2. Regulation 43-5 states that “all lodge rooms shall in all respects be safe from cowans and eavesdroppers.”
3. Regulation 45-9 requires that all business of a lodge “shall be transacted in a Master Mason’s Lodge...”
4. Regulations 13-4.6 and 24-1.2 restrict the Grand Master from intro-

ducing or permitting any ceremony to be used which has not been approved by the Grand Lodge and forbids any brother from adding to or taking away any part of the Authorized Work.

5. Regulation 45-2.5 permits the Grand Master to grant a dispensation to a lodge to reschedule a Stated Communication “when inclement weather or a natural disaster compels [it]...to cancel its Stated Communication for the safety of the brethren...”

In reviewing the above cited references of The Code several questions arise, which must be answered in order to form an adequate opinion on the matter.

1. Does a virtual meeting space constitute a “room” and how do you define the “location” of a virtual meeting?

When discussing a virtual meeting there are two aspects of the “space” that must be considered: the virtual meeting space and the physical space of each of the participants in the meeting. With regards to the virtual space, the virtual technology service provider establishes a UID (Unique Identifier) for each meeting space. These meeting spaces are commonly referred to as VMRs (Virtual Meeting Rooms). Some organizations may wish to have a persistent UID, while others may prefer a new UID for each meeting, but in either case, participants may only enter the “room” if they have the proper UID. As such, a virtual meeting space constitutes a “room” which can be occupied similar to physical room.

For the purposes of determining the location of the lodge utilizing a virtual meeting space, we can look to Reg 87-14 of The Code, which defines a lodge as “a society of Masons meeting by authority of a charter or warrant from a regular grand lodge...” From this definition we see that a charter or warrant is required for a lodge to meet and therefore the member who is in physical possession of the charter (most likely the Master or Secretary) would constitute the official physical location of the lodge.

2. Can a virtual meeting space be considered “safe from cowans and eavesdroppers” and by what standard do we compare the security of that space?

Similar to answering the first question we must consider this from two perspectives. First, each person joining the meeting must ensure their physical space is safe from cowans and eavesdroppers. This may be accomplished by ensuring that each member who accesses the virtual meeting has secured (tyled) their personal space from non-Masons, that they utilize headphones or keep the volume turned down to a level where an individual outside the physical space cannot hear the activities of the meeting, and that they have a camera which is always on so all participants can see if there is any breach of a member’s physical space. If a breach did occur, the member’s access can be immediately revoked and he can be placed in a “waiting room” outside the virtual meeting space until the physical space can be re-secured.

Second, and more importantly is the question of security of the virtual space and is it any less secure than a physical lodge room. At the time much of The Code was written, the brethren could not conceive of

the level of technological advances that have been made over the last 20-30 years. In decades past, the biggest concern for the security of a lodge room was that someone might be able to spy or listen in on a meeting by being physically close to it. As a result, most lodge rooms do not have windows and per Regulation 43-5, lodges may not be on the “ground level of a building...without the express approval of the Grand Master.” While these may have been sufficient precautions to safeguard the security of a lodge meeting in the past, today’s technology makes these types of concerns almost meaningless. It is nearly impossible to guarantee the security of our lodge meetings in a physical space when practically every person who enters a lodge room carries with them a device capable of recording and videoing all lodge activities. Further, technologies exist and are readily accessible to any cowan or eavesdropper who wishes to invade the security of our lodge rooms. The reality is that our physical lodge rooms are only as secure as our preventive measures to secure them. That is, as Masons we are obligated to keep the secrets of Masonry as safe and secure as we possibly can, but that does not preclude someone who truly wants to spy on us from recording or videoing our proceedings.

In terms of securing a virtual space, it is incumbent on the brethren to ensure their meeting is as safe and secure as possible. To that end, lodges meeting in a virtual space must adhere to the following measures established by the US National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to prevent eavesdropping by unauthorized parties:

- Follow your organization’s policies for virtual meeting security.
 - Limit reuse of access codes
 - If the topic is sensitive, use one-time PINs or meeting identifier codes, and consider multi-factor authentication.
 - Use a “green room” or “waiting room” and don’t allow the meeting to begin until the host joins.
 - Enable notification when attendees join by playing a tone or announcing names.
 - Use a dashboard to monitor attendees – and identify all attendees.
 - Don’t record the meeting
 - Use only approved virtual meeting services. (see **Appendix A – The NC Grand Lodge Tech Committee Response to COVID19**)
 - Lock the meeting once you have identified all the attendees and lines in use.
3. Can a lodge effectively open and close a Master Mason’s Lodge in a virtual setting and maintain the integrity of the ritual without “adding to or taking away any part of the Authorized Work”?

As noted earlier, Regulations 13-4.6 and 24-1.2 restrict the Grand Master and lodges from introducing new ceremonies or modifying our existing rituals. Further, Regulation 45-9 is clear that “All business shall be transacted in a Master Mason’s Lodge...” With this in mind, I requested that the brethren of Lux Libertas Lodge No. 772 demonstrate for the Board of Custodians how they would open a Master Masons Lodge, conduct various votes, and then close the lodge. On April 21, 2020, Lux

Libertas No. 772, for coaching and demonstration purposes only, opened a Master Masons Lodge in a virtual setting with members of the Board of Custodians, several Grand Lodge officers, and myself present. During the demonstration several questions regarding procedures (particularly with regard to the “Red Letter” work of the OSW) were asked, which the members of Lux Libertas No. 772 attempted to answer and demonstrate further. On April 23, 2020, the sub-committee of the Board of Custodians met and prepared a report for review and vote of the full board (see **Appendix B** – *Board of Custodians Subcommittee Report on Lux Libertas Lodge No. 772 Proposal to hold a Virtual Lodge Meeting*). The consensus of the subcommittee was that, with certain changes and restrictions, Lux Libertas No. 772 had sufficiently demonstrated it is possible to open and close a Master Masons Lodge in a virtual setting. On April 28, 2020, the Board of Custodians met and, by majority vote, approved the report.

4. Under what circumstances would a lodge find it necessary to meet in a virtual setting rather than utilizing Regulation 45-2.5 to request a dispensation from the Grand Master to meet at a later date when it can be done safely in a physical space?

Aside from the question of the security of a virtual lodging meeting, this is the most frequent objection to permitting a virtual meeting. If the brethren of a lodge wish to meet for social purposes, they are free to do so virtually without the necessity of opening a lodge. If there is some business that a lodge must conduct, as in an emergency situation where a lodge may have to expend funds that are not recurring or currently budgeted, then the lodge could request dispensation to meet on a date other than their regular stated meeting in order to transact that business. While this is a valid argument it does assume that the situation which caused the lodge not to be able to meet has a definite end time. That is, in order to request a dispensation to meet at a later date, there is an assumption that the lodge can specify the date on which they plan to meet. Our current situation with the pandemic is evidence enough that such an assumption does not stand up to reality. At this point we are uncertain when lodges may be able to again safely meet – it could be weeks or it could be months – and there is a very real possibility that another wave of this virus could disrupt our lodge business again in the near future. If that were to happen, lodges that only meet on a bi-monthly or quarterly basis may find that they are, again, unable to meet to transact any lodge business.

Based on the answers to the above questions I believe it is in the best interest of the fraternity for there to be some mechanism whereby a lodge may meet in a stated meeting to conduct such business as it may find necessary during a time when the members are unable to physically gather together. While my preference would be for The Code to specifically address the instances where this is allowed and that the Authorized Work were updated in a way to make it easier for lodges, in those circumstances, to ritualistically open, that is not the situation we are in.

Accordingly, it is my Official Opinion that lodges, under extraordinary circumstances, may hold a Stated Communication in a virtual setting given

the following restrictions:

1. Pursuant to Regulation 13-3.8(G) a lodge must request a dispensation from the Grand Master to hold a Stated Communication in a virtual setting. Such requests must include a detailed explanation as to why the meeting may not be postponed until a later date.
2. The Grand Master may grant the dispensation if, in his sole discretion, he believes permitting the lodge to meet in a virtual setting is in the best interest of the lodge; otherwise, he may suggest that the lodge seek relief through a request for dispensation to meet at a different time pursuant to Regulation 45-2.5.
3. A lodge which intends to meet in a virtual setting must use one of the approved virtual technology service provider platforms identified in **Appendix A – The NC Grand Lodge Tech Committee Response to COVID19**.
4. Unless or until The Code is amended to permit lodges to transact business on a degree other than that of Master Mason, the lodge must open and close a Master Masons lodge ritualistically as described in the Authorized Work. At no time shall a lodge open “symbolically” or by proclamation.
5. When opening a Master Masons Lodge in a virtual setting, lodges must follow the guidelines of the NIST (listed above), as well as follow the procedures identified in **Appendix C – A Practical Guide to a Virtual Lodge**.
6. Prior to meeting in a virtual setting and agreeable with Regulation 43-6 the Master of the lodge shall give due notice to all members of the lodge of the change of location to a virtual setting. Further, per Regulation 45-4, such notice may be sent electronically if the member has a valid email address, otherwise the member must be contacted by telephone service or mailed under sealed cover. Finally, the notice must specify the procedure by which the member may attend the virtual lodge meeting.
7. Aside from the Secretary in the performance of his duties as specified in Regulation 59-12 and pursuant to Regulation 86-2.9 no portion of the meeting held in a virtual setting shall be recorded in any way or manner whatsoever.
8. The charter empowering the lodge to work must be clearly visible to all members in the virtual meeting. It is suggested that either the Master or Secretary have the charter physically present with them during the meeting.
9. A lodge may conduct such business as the Master may deem necessary with the following exceptions:
 - a. A lodge shall not perform any degree work in virtual setting.
 - b. A lodge shall not examine a candidate in a virtual setting.
 - c. A lodge shall not conduct a secret ballot in a virtual setting.

Given under my hand and seal this 29th day of April, 2020, in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Resolution for Cherryville Lodge 505 to Receive a Duplicate Charter

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

WHEREAS, Cherryville Lodge No. 505, AF & AM located in Cherryville, North Carolina, is a regular lodge originally chartered in 1901 and accepted a charter by the Grand Lodge of North Carolina in that same year, and

WHEREAS, the chartered history of Cherryville Lodge No. 505, AF & AM remains unbroken, and

WHEREAS, Cherryville Lodge No. 505, AF & AM's 1901 charter issued by the Grand Lodge of AF & AM of North Carolina is now illegible due to age and deterioration, and

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

NOW THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED: Cherryville Lodge No. 505, AF & AM, Cherryville, NC, hereby petitions the Grand Lodge of North Carolina for a duplicate charter. It also requests consideration for the original charter to be "loaned" as part of the "furniture" of the lodge in lieu of surrendering to the Grand Secretary's office as required in Regulation 41-4.2.

Respectfully submitted,
William A. McSwain, III, Master

Petition for Rolesville Lodge 683 to Change its Name

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

WHEREAS, W G Arnold was an active member and the mainstay of Rolesville Masonic Lodge No. 683 for over 30 years and served as Master eight times, and

WHEREAS, W G Arnold, by his steadfast devotion and selfless efforts, saved Rolesville Lodge from extinction on several occasions over the years, and

WHEREAS, W G Arnold was an active member of the community and projected an extremely favorable image of Masons to all who came in contact with him, and

WHEREAS, W G Arnold died in an automobile crash on September 21, 2020, and

WHEREAS, The members of Rolesville Lodge No. 683 have twice voted unanimously to petition the Grand Lodge of North Carolina, AF & AM, for approval to rename the lodge in his honor,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Grand Lodge of North Carolina change the name of Rolesville Lodge No. 683 to W G Arnold Lodge No. 683 at the Grand Lodge Session in 2020.

Respectfully submitted,
R. Vann Johnson, II, Master
