



REPORTS

2015
ANNUAL COMMUNICATION

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

September 25–26, 2015

228th Annual Communication

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

Friday, September 25, 2015

- 10:00 A.M. Open Grand Lodge,
Grand Pavilion
- 10:45 A.M. Address of Grand Orator,
Andrew Hammer
- 12:00 P.M. Lunch Break
- 1:15 P.M. Call to Order
Report of Grand Master Douglas L. Caudle
and Miscellaneous Business
- 4:30 P.M. Adjourn First Day

Saturday, September 26, 2015

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

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

Secretary Seminar on Thursday, September 24.

Reports

of

The Grand Master

The Grand Treasurer

The Grand Secretary

Boards, Commissions and Committees

at the

228th

Annual Communication

of

The Grand Lodge of

Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons

of North Carolina

at

Winston-Salem, North Carolina

September 25–26, 2015

Table of Contents

Report of the:	
Grand Treasurer	5
Grand Secretary	6
Committee on Charity	9
Grand Historian	9
Lodge Service Commission	11
Committee on Fraternal Correspondence	12
Petitions for Restoration	13
Judge Advocate	13
Committee on By-laws	14
Committee on WhiteStone	19
Committee on The Masonic Home for Children at Oxford	22
Committee on Finance	25
Petition for a Charter from Knights of Solomon Lodge U.D., Holly Springs	26
Petition for a Charter from Veritas Lodge U.D., Asheville, NC	26
Committee on Unfinished Business	27
Representative to the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association	32
Representative to the Masonic Service Association of North America	33
Code Commission	34
North Carolina Masonic Foundation, Inc.	35
Board of Publication of the <i>North Carolina Mason</i>	38
Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Education	39
Committee on Public Relations	40
Committee on Youth Organizations	41
Board of Custodians	43
Grand Lodge Personnel Committee	45
Scholarship Committee	45
Committee on Permanent Building	46
Commission on subordinate Lodge Special Activities	46
Library Committee	47
Final Report of Grand Master Dalton Mayo	49
Interim Report of Grand Master Douglas Caudle	63

Report of the Grand Treasurer

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

I submit this interim report as of June 30, 2015. Included in this report is the total receipts and disbursements, special funds and the securities held by this Grand Lodge.

Total Funds available 01/01/2015 (General Funds & Special Funds)	\$953,468
Total Receipts YTD	824,471
Total Disbursements YTD	(399,940)
Total Cash To Be Accounted For	\$1,377,999

Deposits:	Rate	Maturity	Issue Date	Amount
Petty Cash				\$100
1st Citizens Bank (operating account)				\$263,691
Certificate of Deposits:				
Yadkin Valley Bank	2.23%	9/30/2015	3/31/2015	\$100,253
Money Markets:				
North State Bank	VARI			\$1,472
PNC Bank	VARI			\$12,845
Suntrust Bank	VARI			\$125,366
BB& T - CD	VARI			\$106,391

Wells Fargo Advisors, Investment	Principle Balance	Current Market Value	\$767,881
2014	\$767,881	\$780,912	

Unrealized gain \$13,031

Total Cash Accounted For **\$1,377,999**

Total Cash & Principle Securities YTD

Special Funds Summary	12/31/14	06/30/15
Special Contingency Reserve	\$ 200,000	\$200,000
Emblems and Awards Reserve	\$8,265	8,265
Automobile Reserve	46,178	61,615
Operation Reserve	129,246	110,996
Building Reserve	144,703	150,813
Office Equipment Reserve	7,958	3,299
Charity Fund	66,941	79,161
Total Special Funds	\$603,291	\$614,148

Total Special Funds 1/31/15	\$614,148
Total General Funds Available	<u>\$763,850</u>

Total Of All Funds 6/30/2015 **\$1,377,999**

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, 2015, and a suggested budget for calendar year 2016.

INCOME

	Budget 2015	Proposed Budget 2016
34,734 Estimate Master Masons @ \$20 for 2016		\$694,680
35,584 Actual Master Masons @ \$20 for 2015	\$708,000	
1,559 Endowed Members	19,000	24,000
1,300 2014-Initiation Fees @ \$21.00 {1,222 actual}		
1,238 2015-Initiation Fees @ \$21.00 {1,038 actual}	26,000	24,000
[NC Charities @ \$10.00]	-12,380	(10,470)
[GL Building @ \$5.00]	-6,190	(5,235)
[GWNMA @ \$5.00]	-6,190	(5,235)
Initiation Fees Retained [@\$1.00]		
Membership Services	41,880	41,880
Penalty for Late Returns	400	250
Dividends and Interest	8,000	8,000
Background check billed	18,600	18,600
Miscellaneous Income	2,000	1,000
Total Income	\$799,120	\$791,470

EXPENSES

Acct. No.	Account Name	Budget 2015	Proposed Budget 2016
800-00	Philanthropy		
800-01	Masonic Home for Children	\$12,500	12,500
800-02	Masonic and Eastern Star Home	12,500	12,500
800-03	Charity	4,000	4,000
800-04	Hospital Visitation (MSA)	2,000	200
800-05	Hospital Visitation (NC)	300	2,000
800-06	Masonic Youth Organizations	4,250	4,250
800-07	Wilkerson College	2,500	2,500
	Total	\$38,050	\$37,950
810-00	Salaries and Fees		
810-01	Grand Secretary	87,359	89,543
810-03	Office Personnel	86,106	88,171
810-04	Retirement/Health and Life Insurance	45,258	44,213
810-05	Social Security Tax	17,286	17,803
810-06	Unemployment Tax	520	850
810-08	Assistant to the Grand Secretary	52,500	55,000
810-09	Summer Intern	1,500	1,500
810-10	Drewry Memorial Grand Secy. Fund	-20,000	(20,000)
	Total	\$270,529	\$277,080
820-00	Administration Cost		
820-02	*Printing (Routine)	14,000	10,500
820-04	Office Expenses	10,000	12,000
820-05	Postage	8,500	10,000
820-06	Office Equipment	3,000	3,000
820-07	Office Equipment Maintenance	8,500	10,500
820-08	Telephone/Internet	7,000	8,000
820-09	MORI Data Base Program Maintenance	39,500	39,500
820-11	Auditing/Tax Services	10,000	10,000
820-13	Legal Fees	3,000	3,000

820-14	Background check expenses	16,100	12,000
	Total	\$119,600	\$118,500
830-00	Building Expenses		
830-01	Utilities	10,000	10,000
830-02	Building Grounds Maintenance	15,500	17,000
830-03	Building Equipment Maintenance	5,000	5,000
830-04	Hazard Insurance	8,000	8,000
830-05	Bldg. Reserve-Transfer to Building Reserve	10,000	10,000
	Total	\$48,500	\$50,000
840-00	Membership Fees and Dues		
840-01	Masonic Service Association	2,250	2,250
840-02	Conference of Grand Masters	750	750
840-03	GMC Committee on Recognition	100	100
840-05	Northeastern Regional Masonic Conf.	900	300
	Total	\$4,000	\$3,400
850-00	Travel and Officers Expense		
850-01	Grand Master's Travel	10,000	10,000
850-02	Grand Master's Automobile	6,000	6,000
850-03	Grand Master's Office	1,250	1,250
850-04	Grand Secretary's Travel	7,500	7,500
850-05	Grand Secretary's Automobile	4,500	4,500
850-06	Travel - Other	7,500	7,500
850-07	DDGM/DDGL Orientation	5,000	5,000
	Total	\$41,750	\$41,750
860-00	Boards, Commissions, and Committees		
860-01	Board of General Purposes	4,000	4,500
860-02	Board of Custodians	4,000	4,000
860-04	Masonic Public Relations	5,000	4,000
860-05	Finance Committee	500	500
860-06	Code Commission	300	300
860-07	Lodge Service Commission	100	100
860-08	Masonic Education / Wardens Boot Camps	3,000	4,000
	Total	\$16,900	\$17,400
870-00	Out-of-State Visitation		
870-01	Visiting other Grand Lodges	3,000	3,000
870-02	Conference of Grand Masters	6,500	6,500
	Conference of Grand Secretaries	2,000	2,000
870-05	Regional Conference (NE)	3,000	3,000
870-06	**World Masonic Conference	4,000	4,000
	Total	\$18,500	\$18,500
	**World Masonic Conf.-San Francisco		
880-00	Annual Communication / GLO Installation		
	Grand Lodge Officers		
	Past Grand Master		
	DDGM Travel		
	DDGL Travel		
	Boards, Committees, & Comm.		
	Guests		
	Auditorium, Banquets, Etc.		
	Printing		
	Installation Expenses		
	Lump sum costs	68,000	68,000
	Total	\$68,000	\$68,000

890-00	Miscellaneous Expenses		
890-01	Awards, Aprons, and Emblems	13,000	13,000
890-02	Grand Master's Portrait	500	500
890-04	Miscellaneous	1,000	1,000
890-06	Grand Lodge Library & Archives	3,000	3,000
	Total	\$17,500	\$17,500
900-00	Communications		
900-01	Communications Director	25,510	29,110
900-02	Social Security Tax	1,952	2,227
900-03	Printing	44,000	51,600
900-04	Postage	41,500	38,000
900-05	Retirement/Life and Health Insurance	5,596	2,620
900-07	Travel	4,000	4,000
900-08	Equipment and Supplies	4,000	2,000
900-09	Internet Services/Web Page Domain	2,250	1,500
900-10	MBO (Management Bonus Objective)		1,000
	Total	\$128,808	\$132,057
910-00	Development Program		
910-01	Accounting Specialist	49,375	50,610
910-02	Social Security - Accounting Specialist	3,777	3,872
910-03	Retirement/Life and Health Insurance	8,530	8,610
910-04	Travel Expenses	1,000	1,000
910-05	Telephone	2,500	2,500
910-06	Postage	3,500	3,500
910-07	Office Supplies	4,500	4,500
910-09	Office Equipment	4,500	4,500
	Program Development	77,682	79,092
910-12	Program Reimbursement from NCMF	-77,682	(79,092)
	Total	0	0
			Proposed
	Account Name	Budget 2015	Budget 2016
Acct. No.	EXPENSE SUMMARY		
800-00	Philanthropy	\$38,050	37,950
810-00	Salaries and Fees	270,529	277,080
820-00	Administration Costs	119,600	118,500
830-00	Building Expenses	48,500	50,000
840-00	Membership Fees and Dues	4,000	3,400
850-00	Travel and Officers Expense	41,750	41,750
860-00	Boards and Committees Office and Travel	16,900	17,400
870-00	Out-of-State Visitation	18,500	18,500
880-00	Annual Communication	68,000	68,000
890-00	Miscellaneous Expenses	17,500	17,500
900-00	North Carolina Mason	128,808	132,057
910-00	Development Program	0	0
	Total Expenses (Series 800 - 910)	\$772,137	782,137
	ESTIMATED SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	\$26,983	9,333

2014 Membership Statistics

Membership 1/1/2014.....	42,297
Initiated.....	1,038
Raised.....	867
Admitted.....	430
Restored.....	369
Total Gains.....	1,666

Expelled	8
Suspended UMC	0
Excluded NPD	1,070
Demitted	334
Died	1,205
Total Losses	2,617
 Total Membership 12/31/2014	 41,346

Service Awards for 2015

Twenty-five Year Service Awards presented	709
Fifty Year Veteran Awards presented	561
Sixty-Year Awards	221
Seventy-five Year Award	1

Report of the Committee on Charity

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

Your Committee on Charity wishes to report the following disbursements since our annual communication last year:

To CJ Savard’s widow	\$1,000
To MHCO	5,000
To Whitestone	5,000

Respectfully submitted,
Grover Lackey, Chairman

Report of the Grand Historian

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

The Grand Lodge Office in Raleigh is a treasure trove of Masonic history. Some would think, no doubt, that Solomon’s treasure may likely be hidden in one of its vaults. However, until that discovery, we will have to content ourselves with the plethora of objects of documents that illustrate the rich history of Freemasonry in North Carolina.

Shortly after his arrival, our new Assistant to the Grand Secretary, Jonathan Underwood, ran across an old, unidentified pasteboard box within the deep recesses of the Grand Lodge Office’s basement. The box was unassuming to say the least, but contained a remarkable treasure—a nearly complete set of old jewels.

The jewels were inscribed, “The Grand Lodge of North Carolina.” However, the shape and depictions were so different from our modern impression of officer jewels that their immediate disposition was in question.

After a little cleaning, the stamped name of “E.T. Weaver” became discernible. After some research, it was discovered that E.T. Weaver was Emmor Trego Weaver (1786-1860), a Philadelphia silversmith who, according to an 1822 advertisement from Winchester Pennsylvania, specialized in “Masonic

Jewels, Medals, Aprons, and Sashes.”

Weaver, a Past Master of Lodge No. 2 in Philadelphia, was the son of a silversmith and quite prolific during the first half of the nineteenth century. His wares, particularly examples of his flatware, can still be acquired today and are highly sought after. Several other examples of his work, such as swords and tea sets are prominently displayed in museums up and down the east coast.

A review of our Grand Lodge proceedings reveals in 1826 John L. Taylor, Louis D. Wilson, and John E. Lewis were appointed a committee “to inquire into the state of the jewels of the Grand Lodge, and, if necessary, to procure new ones... and report at the next Grand Annual Communication.” The report of 1827 stated:

“That so far as respects the jewels of the Grand Lodge, your committee are of opinion, that it is proper to purchase new ones for the officers thereof; that the present jewels are old and clumsy, and do not comport with the dignity of the Grand Lodge. Your committee are of opinion, that the jewels worn by the Grand Officers should be of gold or gilt, suspended from collars of garter blue ribband, 4 inches wide; the aprons should be white satin, lined with blue silk, and bound with garter blue edging, 2 inches deep with gold tassels, one at each corner.”

The proceedings reveal Grand Master Louis Wilson, a member of the original committee, contracted for a set of jewels and clothing for the officers of the Grand Lodge, “which cost in Philadelphia, two hundred and fifty-five dollars.” However, the jewels were not procured until 1828, then only materialized January 1, 1829. By most accounts of inflation, \$255.00 in 1828 would amount to more than \$5,400.00 in today’s dollars. A proposal for services from Weaver to the Grand Lodge is still extant in the Grand Lodge’s archives.

As of December 18, 1828—the 6th day of the Annual Communication, the jewels had not arrived, but were “held up” in Petersburg, Virginia, probably because of bad weather. On the ninth day of the Annual Communication—New Years Day 1829—the proceedings read, “The jewels and clothing of the Grand Lodge having been received, were distributed to the respective officers.”

Nine of the 1828 silver-gilt jewels from Weaver still exist (or have been found)—the Grand Master’s jewel, Senior and Junior Grand Wardens, Grand Treasurer, Senior and Junior Grand Deacons, Grand Pursuivant, Grand Sword Bearer, and Grand Tyler. Unfortunately, the Deputy Grand Master and Grand Secretary’s jewels are either lost or yet to be found. However, one collar from the mid-nineteenth century does still exist, though it was probably manufactured a few years after the jewels were made.

If there were Grand Stewards’ or Grand Chaplain’s jewels, they too have yet to be discovered. At the time of the jewels’ manufacture, Masonic officer jewels—and even Grand Lodge offices—were not standardized and some officers did not possess a jewel at all. Hence, there may not have been a jewel for the offices mentioned. Interestingly, the offices of the Grand Pursuivant and Grand Sword Bearer no longer exist within the Grand Lodge of North Carolina.

The appearance and whereabouts of the Grand Lodge officers’ jewels prior to 1829 is unknown. However, we know Weaver’s set of jewels were used by the Grand Lodge officers until 1879 when jeweler Henry Mahler of Raleigh made

the current Grand Master's jewel.

Research is ongoing into the history and disposition of the jewels of 1828. Several portraits of the Grand Masters of Tennessee, including Andrew Jackson, reveal that jurisdiction used a similar jewel. Weaver was in fact recommended to the Grand Lodge by the Grand Lodge of Tennessee.

This year Grand Master Douglas Caudle wore the Weaver-made jewel of his office during the rededication of the cornerstone of the State Capitol and on the 175th anniversary of the opening of the Capitol. It is the same jewel Grand Master Simmons Baker wore at the original dedication of the Capitol's cornerstone, and, as far as is known, it is the first time a Grand Master has worn this excellent jewel in 136 years.

Respectfully Submitted,
Richard J. Smith
Grand Historian

Report of Lodge Service Commission

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

The Lodge Service Commission wishes to thank Grand Master Douglas L. Caudle for his vote of confidence in our commission this year. As Chairman, I want to thank each of our commission's members for their timely and helpful input on the subjects addressed this year. The LSC is comprised of Christopher L. Burti, John D. Carmichael, William L. Mills, III, and Herbert T. Mullen. Each of these brethren has been very helpful, informative, and patient with me as the newest member of the LSC. They never hesitated to take the time to provide explanations regarding the background, previous actions, and history of the items being addressed.

In 2014 the LSC drafted a proposed set of uniform temple association bylaws, providing a standardization of purpose for our temple associations across the state. This document was approved by the Board of General Purposes and presented for review before the delegates of the Grand Lodge in September of 2014. This document is now used as a template for temple association bylaws across the state.

The following is a report of the various applications and inquiries made to the Lodge Service Commission during 2015:

The formation of a new Temple Association in Charlotte involving Excelsior Lodge No. 261 and Temple Lodge No. 261 is in progress. The bylaws are being reviewed by the lodges and will be submitted for approval by the LSC and Grand Lodge.

Hibriten Lodge No. 262 in Lenoir sold their former building and purchased a new building.

Widow's Son Lodge No. 519 in Roanoke Rapids submitted an application which is currently on hold.

The LSC met or communicated with two other lodges involved in the conceptual stages of projects. These projects are not far enough along to provide detail for the formal application to be submitted. The Commission expects an application in the coming months.

Most Worship Grand Master, Grand Lodge Officers, and staff, we wish to thank you for the service you have given the LSC and Masons of North Carolina. Thank you for the opportunity to serve the Grand Lodge.

Respectfully and Fraternaly,
James W. Howell, Chairman

Report of the Committee on Fraternal Correspondence

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

We have received two formal requests for recognition this year. 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 also monitors when there are conflicts or problems with foreign grand lodges. 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.

Gran Logia Simbolica del Paraguay

The Commission presented the following on the Gran Logia Simbolica del Paraguay from their 2014 report:

The Commission on Recognition has continued to study the split in the Grand Lodge of Paraguay for the past six years. The information this Commission received leads it to the conclusion that the Grand Lodge Symbolic whose Grand Master is M.W. Brother Euclides Acevedo (now Past Grand Master) is the only Grand Lodge in Paraguay that meets the standards of recognition.

It is the opinion of this committee to approve recognition of this Grand Lodge.

Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Delaware

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

Respectfully submitted,
Charles A. Lewis, Jr, PGM
Chairman

Petitions for Restoration

R.S.B (docket no. 826), formerly a member of Round Peak Lodge No. 616, was expelled for un-Masonic conduct on August 25, 2011. He has filed for restoration with the lodge on April 28, 2015 and with the Grand Secretary on June 15, 2015.

J.T.H. (docket no. 783), formerly a member of Grantham Lodge No. 725, New Bern, was expelled on March 5, 2009. He has filed for restoration with the lodge on January 7, 2015 and with the Grand Secretary on January 24, 2013.

A.B.C. (docket no. 803), formerly a member of Henderson Lodge No. 229, Henderson, was expelled on March 25, 2010. He has filed for restoration with the lodge on March 11, 2015 and with the Grand Secretary on April 17, 2015.

Report of the Judge Advocate

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

This report is prepared as of 1 August 2015 and is most respectfully submitted for your information and disposition.

Docket No. 864, July 2, 2014 – Worshipful Brother TLB, a Master Mason and member of Richard Caswell Lodge No. 705 was accused of un-Masonic Conduct. The charges were dismissed by the Judge Advocate on February 13, 2015 for good and just cause and in the best interest of Masonry.

Docket No. 865, 14 October 2014 Brother TAM, a Master Mason and member of Tabor Lodge No. 563 was expelled by the Judge Advocate after he pled guilty to two counts of felonious statutory sex offense with a child in the Superior Court of Columbus County on August 8, 2014. Brother TAM did not answer the Masonic charges against him.

Docket No. 866, 14 November 2014 Brother DSL, a Master Mason and member of Newport Lodge No. 706 was expelled by the Judge Advocate after he was found guilty of First Degree Murder, a felony, in the Superior Court of Jones County on August 14, 2014. Brother DSL did not answer the Masonic charges against him.

Docket No. 867, 21 November 2014 Brother DBF, a Master Mason, and member of Hall Lodge No. 53 was expelled by the Judge Advocate after he admitted having illegal carnal communication with the wife of a brother Master Mason.

Docket No. 868, 30 December 2014 Brother CKB, a Master Mason and member of Fairview Lodge No. 339 was expelled by the Judge Advocate after he pled guilty to two felonious counts of receiving and possessing child pornography in the United States District Court, Western District of North Carolina on August 18, 2014. Brother CKB did not answer the Masonic charges against him.

Docket No. 869, 13 February 2015 Brother TJL, a Master Mason and member of Mt. Pleasant Lodge No. 573 was suspended for two (2) years by the Trial Commission after he pled guilty (Alford Plea) to Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor (as part of a plea bargain), a crime involving moral turpitude. Brother TJL appeared before the Trial Commission and testified.

Docket No. 870, 27 January 2014 Brother JSB, a Fellow Craft and member of Excelsior Lodge No. 261 was charged with un-Masonic Conduct in that he re-

vealed secrets of the Fellow Craft Degree to an Entered Apprentice and secrets of the First and Second Degree to a profane. He also was charged with making lewd and vulgar remarks about a Master Mason's wife to that Mason. The charges were dismissed by the Judge Advocate because Brother JSB has, on a number of occasions, requested an extension to complete his Fellow Craft work and has been rejected by the Lodge. At this time he has no Masonic status and cannot proceed in Masonry without the consent of Excelsior Lodge.

Docket No. 871, 17 February 2015 Brother MAL, a suspended Master Mason and member of Chadbourn Lodge No.190, was expelled by the Judge Advocate after he was found guilty in the Superior Court of Columbus County for Trafficking Opium/Heroin, a felony in this state, on October 1, 2014. He is currently serving a 9 year 9 month active sentence in the NC Department of Corrections. Brother MAL did not answer the Masonic charges against him.

Docket No. 872, 6 April 2015 Brother JDH, a Master Mason and member of Snow Lodge No.363, was expelled by the Judge Advocate after he pled guilty on December 16, 2014 in the Superior Court of Watauga County to a sex offense against a child while in a parental role, which is a felony. He is currently incarcerated in the state prison system serving a seven year sentence. Brother JDH did not answer the Masonic charges against him.

Docket No. 873, 6 April 2015 Brother MGG, a Master Mason and member of Crissie Wright Lodge No. 741, was expelled by the Judge Advocate for committing an act that would constitute a felony in the state of North Carolina. As the result of a plea bargain, Brother MGG pled guilty to misdemeanor larceny January 6, 2015, when in fact he had embezzled several thousand dollars from the Carteret County Shrine Club. Brother MGG did not answer the Masonic charges against him.

Docket No. 874, 22 April 2015 Brother LEC, a Master Mason and member of Hominy Lodge No. 491 was expelled by the Judge Advocate for committing an act that would constitute a felony in the state of North Carolina. Although no criminal charges were preferred against him, Brother LEC did in fact forge and present as authentic, military discharge papers. Brother LEC did not answer the Masonic charges against him.

Docket No. 875, 12 May 2015 Brother HWP, a Master Mason and member of Wilmington Lodge No. 319 was expelled by the Judge Advocate after he was convicted of felony embezzlement on 18 November 2014 in the Superior Court of New Hanover County. Brother HWP did not answer the Masonic charges against him.

Respectfully submitted,
Jimmy Stevens
Judge Advocate

Report of the Committee on By-Laws

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

Your Committee on By-Laws reports amendments to the by-laws of the following lodges were approved during the year 2014-2015. They are listed in lodge order.

St John's 1

Art 19 permitting facilities to be rented with

		alcohol permitted
Royal White Hart 2	Complete revision of bylaws	
St. John's 3	Complete revision of bylaws	
St. John's 4	Art 22q	ban tobacco use in building
	Art 22r	banning alcoholic beverages on lodge property
	Art 8	disapproved - cannot alter the language of this Article
St John's 4	Art 8	dispense with communications during July and August
Unanimity 7	Art 10	dues increased to \$100 plus per capita
Stokes 32	Art 19	institute special ballot procedures
Hall 53	Complete revision of bylaws	
Widow's Son 75	Art 8	changing meeting night of lodge
	Art 10	dues increased to \$65 plus per capita
	Art 22r	banning alcoholic beverages on lodge property
LaFayette 83	Complete revision of bylaws	
Fellowship 84	Art 22r	banning alcoholic beverages on lodge property
Hiram 98	Art 22r	banning alcoholic beverages on lodge property
Hiram 98	Art 19	institute special ballot procedures
Columbus 102	Art 13	charity amount increased to \$100
Wayne 112	Art 10	dues increased to \$100
Person 113	Art 9	initiation fee raised to \$150 plus investigation fee
	Art 11	affiliation fee increased to \$51.50
St. Alban's 114	Art 10	dues increased to \$60 plus per capita
	Art 19	Master may appoint Chaplain
Holly Springs 115	Art 19	permitting facilities to be rented with alcohol permitted
Mt. Lebanon 117	Art 10	dues increased to \$110 plus per capita
Mt. Hermon 118	Art 19	permitting facilities to be rented with alcohol permitted
Radiance 132	Art 22r	banning alcoholic beverages on lodge property
Palmyra 147	Art 10	dues increased to \$100
Pee Dee 150	Art 22r	banning alcoholic beverages on lodge property
Sanford 151	Art 22r	banning alcoholic beverages on lodge property
White Stone 155	Complete revision of bylaws	
Archer 165	Art 1	correcting the lodge street address
	Art 10	dues increased to \$200 plus per capita

Blackmer 170	Art 10	dues increased to \$80 plus per capita
Williams 176	Art 22r	banning alcoholic beverages on lodge property
Carthage 181	Art 22r	banning alcoholic beverages on lodge property
Lebanon 207	Art 22r	banning alcoholic beverages on lodge property
Eno 210	Art 8	changing meeting night of lodge
Catawba Valley 217	Art 22r	banning alcoholic beverages on lodge property
Corinthian 230	Art 19	institute special ballot procedures
	Art 22q	prohibiting tobacco use in lodge building
	Art 22r	banning alcoholic beverages on lodge property
William T. Bain 231	Complete	revision of bylaws
Catawba 248	Art 8	changing meeting night of lodge Kenly 257
	Art 10	dues increased to \$80 effective 2016
	Art 10	dues increased to \$90 effective 2017
	Art 10	dues increased to \$100 effective 2018
Waynesville 259	Complete	revision of bylaws
Excelsior 261	Complete	revision of bylaws
Bingham 272	Art 19	permitting facilities to be rented with alcohol permitted
French Broad 292	Art 9	initiation fee increased to \$125
	Art 13	charity amount increased to \$300
	Art 22r	banning alcoholic beverages on lodge property
		(disapproved - under wrong Article)
French Broad 292	Art 8	annual meeting in November
Vance 293	Art 10	dues increased to \$100
Harmony 299	Complete	revision of bylaws
Pleasant Hill 304	Art 22r	banning alcoholic beverages on lodge property
	Art 10	dues increased to \$105
Raeford 306	Art 8	changing meeting night of lodge
	Art 9	initiation fee increased to \$100
	Art 11	affiliation fee eliminated
Granite 322	Art 22r	banning alcoholic beverages on lodge property
Bakersville 357	Art 8	changing meeting nights of lodge
	Art 10	dues increased to \$80 plus per capita
Snow 363	Complete	revision of bylaws
Youngsville 377	Art 22r	banning alcoholic beverages on lodge property

Jefferson Penn 384	Art 9	initiation fee raised to \$160
	Art 10	dues increased to \$51 plus per capita
Kedron 387	Art 22r	banning alcoholic beverages on lodge property
Copeland 390	Art 22r	banning alcoholic beverages on lodge property
North Wilkesboro 407	Complete	revision of bylaws
Bula 409	Art 22	banning alcoholic beverages on lodge property
James A. Johnson 413	Art 8	changing meeting night of lodge
	Art 8	annual meeting in November
Seaside 429	Art 22r	banning alcoholic beverages on lodge property
Vanceboro 433	Art 8	annual meeting in November
	Art 8	changing meeting night of lodge
	Art 22r	banning alcoholic beverages on lodge property
Biscoe 437	Art 22r	banning alcoholic beverages on lodge property
Marietta 444	Art 22r	banning alcoholic beverages on lodge property
Elkin 454	Art 19	permitting facilities to be rented with alcohol permitted
Dillsboro 459	Complete	revision of bylaws
Southern Pines 484	Art 19	permitting facilities to be rented with alcohol permitted
Lawndale 486	Complete	revision of bylaws
Linville 489	Art 9	initiation fee increased to \$75
	Art 10	dues increased to \$100 plus per capita
Thomas M. Holt 492	Art 10	dues increased to \$80 plus per capita
	Art 22r	banning alcoholic beverages on lodge property
Royal Hart 497	Art 9	initiation fee increased to \$125
	Art 10	dues increased to \$60 plus per capita
	Art 22r	banning alcoholic beverages on lodge property
Cherryville 505	Art 22r	banning alcoholic beverages on lodge property
Belhaven 509	Art 22r	banning alcoholic beverages on lodge property
Rodgers 525	Art 10	dues increased to \$60 plus per capita
Andrews 529	Art 8	changing meeting night of lodge
Vesper 554	Art 8	changing meeting night of lodge
Waxhaw 562	Art 22r	banning alcoholic beverages on lodge property

Richlands 564	Art 22r	banning alcoholic beverages on lodge property
Casar 579	Art 22r	banning alcoholic beverages on lodge property
Ionic 583	Art 22q	no smoking allowed in lodge room
	Art 22r	banning alcoholic beverages on lodge property
Apex 584	Art 10	dues increased to \$75 plus per capita
Stoney Point 593	Art 8	annual meeting in November
Zebulon 609	Complete	revision of bylaws
Atkinson 612	Art 22r	banning alcoholic beverages on lodge property
St. Patrick's 617	Art 8	changing meeting night of lodge
	Art 22r	banning alcoholic beverages on lodge property
Union 618	Art 19	permitting facilities to be rented with alcohol permitted
Yadkins Falls 637	Complete	revision of bylaws
Garland 664	Art 22r	banning alcoholic beverages on lodge property
Fort Bragg 667	Complete	revision of bylaws
Robbinsville 672	Art 10	dues increased to \$75
Providence 678	Art 22r	banning alcoholic beverages on lodge property
Semper Fidelis 680	Art 10	dues increased to \$80 plus per capita
Fellowship 687	Art 1	changing the location of the lodge
	Art 8	change in meeting nights
Cherry Point 688	Art 22r	banning alcoholic beverages on lodge property
Gate City 694	Art 8	changing meeting time of lodge
Garner 701	Art 9	initiation fee raised to \$160 plus the cost of background check
	Art 22r	banning alcoholic beverages on lodge property
King Solomon 704	Art 19	Dress code for officers
	Art 22r	banning alcoholic beverages on lodge property
Newport 706	Art 22r	banning alcoholic beverages on lodge property
Wilson 712	Art 10	dues increased to \$100
Liberty 714	Art 22r	banning alcoholic beverages on lodge property
Derita 715	Art 10	dues increased to \$100
Stedman 730	Art 10	dues increased to \$85
James B. Green 735	Art 19	not approved, cannot assess members

Steele Creek 737	Art 10	dues increased to \$80 plus per capita tax
PP Turner 746	Art 8	changing meeting time of lodge
Mosaic 762	Art 8	changing meeting time of lodge
		Respectfully submitted, T. Walton Clapp, III, Chairman

Report of the Committee on WhiteStone

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

We are pleased to report that this past year WhiteStone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Community began its 102nd year of care for our elderly brothers, sisters, and family members in need. From its humble beginnings in 1913, serving a few residents and employing a small staff, WhiteStone today, a four star rated community, serves approximately 310 residents, employs 250 full-time and part-time employees and operates on a \$14 million annual budget. This would not be possible without the ongoing support of individual brothers, their lodges, and the Grand Lodge.

Our committee is charged with visiting the Home in Greensboro and reporting to the Grand Lodge on conditions and management. Committee members sat in on board meetings, participated in the annual Family Day in May and toured our Home. We are grateful for Brother Mark Kolada's assistance with our work and for his consistently excellent leadership throughout the year. We also extend our thanks to the Home's staff for their dedication and service to residents and their support of our committee this year.

We are again pleased to report that the Home is financially strong, the condition of the property is excellent, and operations are efficient and professional. Occupancy is high, with 98 percent of units sold and only three units remaining to be filled to reach the 100 percent mark. More than 35 people are on the waiting list for the residency at WhiteStone.

As we submit this report WhiteStone's board is launching a strategic planning process to set priorities and identify potential growth areas and additional services which may be offered over the next three, five, and 10 years. The Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) has met on several occasions and has recently conducted a survey to identify future needs. In early 2015, the LRPC and the Board of Directors formally adopted updated principles, vision, and mission statements as follows:

Principles

Reflecting the values of Freemasonry and the Order of the Eastern Star, we will conduct all relationships with honor and respect, upholding our moral principles; create a culture of friendship that enhances life quality; take responsibility for our actions; and practice generosity and compassion, treating all with kindred love.

Vision Statement

We will provide for the needs and expectations of seniors to live a complete life in the WhiteStone community and beyond based on our tradition of fraternal values and generosity.

Mission Statement

We deliver senior living hospitality and services that reflect our fraternal values by providing housing, physical, spiritual, and intellectual stimulation and care in a comfortable setting in the WhiteStone community.

Our Board of Directors and their committees continue to work hard in directing the path for a successful future.

Fraternal giving was slightly higher in 2014, with approximately \$1.1 million collected in overall donations, of which \$469,597 came from Masonic support. In 2013 approximately \$1 million was given, of which \$371,000 came from Masonic support.

Masonic contributions in fiscal years 2012 through 2014

Masonic Charities	<u>FY 2014</u>	<u>FY 2013</u>	<u>FY 2012</u>
Blue Lodge Donations Directly to WhiteStone	\$ 124,503	\$ 119,043	\$ 268,233
Blue Lodge Donations Directly to NC MESH Foundation LLC	\$ 132,584	\$ 119,829	NA
NC Masonic Foundation Directly to WhiteStone	**	\$ 39,899	\$34,155
NC Masonic Foundation Directly to NC MESH Foundation LLC	\$ 197,599	\$ 79,798	NA
Grand Lodge Directly to WhiteStone	**	**	\$ 17,500
Grand Lodge Directly to NC MESH Foundation LLC	\$ 14,361	\$ 12,500	NA
Other Masonic Bodies	\$ 550	\$ 300	\$ 1,564
Masonic Total	\$ 469,597	\$ 371,368*	\$ 321,452

* Does not include \$106,000 contributed to the LLC's brick drive in 2013.

Donors included individuals, lodges, the Grand Lodge, and The Masonic Foundation and the Eastern Star Foundation.

** Donations from the Grand Lodge and The Masonic Foundations shifted strictly to the LLC beginning in 2013 or 2014.

The committee thanks our generous brethren, their lodges, the Grand Lodge, and the NC Masonic Foundation for their continued support of our beloved charity. Contributions by lodges to the LLC continue to grow. In 2014 the LLC directed \$379,591 to WhiteStone compared to \$339,621 the previous year. The LLC ensures that every donated fraternal dollar benefits fraternal residents in need while protecting WhiteStone from discrimination claims by non-fraternal residents who might request charity.

At the end of 2014, the community subsidized approximately 35 fraternal related residents (22 Eastern Star Members, 1 Masonic Member, and 12 Masonically affiliated family members) at a total cost of \$1,115,000. This support came in the form of paying for room and board, medical supplies, pharmacy needs, and other expenses that the residents otherwise could not afford to pay

for by themselves. Of these 35 residents, 13 were in a Medicaid nursing home bed, and 22 were living in a residential apartment.

However, we are disappointed to report at the end of 2014 that one-hundred thirty lodges failed to contribute any donations to WhiteStone or the new Masonic and Eastern Star Foundation, LLC—many for several years. To further address the importance of caring for our elderly Masonic brothers and widows, Grand Master Caudle held the annual combined district officer planning meeting for 2015 at WhiteStone. District Deputy Grand Masters and District Deputy Grand Lecturers met in November 2014 on our campus for this planning session, many for the first time. During the meeting a session was held to identify misconceptions about WhiteStone and answer questions about how the home is operated. In May of 2015, Grand Master Caudle directed the District Deputy Grand Masters to schedule visits with their non-contributing lodges and complete a report listing the concerns and questions they have and their reasons for not contributing to this important charity.

The buy-a-brick campaign which began in 2013 to commemorate the Home's 100th anniversary and raise funds to help fraternal members who don't have the financial means to pay WhiteStone's full entrance fee completed its initial phase. This campaign proved so successful that it was decided by the WhiteStone Charity Committee in early 2015 to continue accepting donations further expanding this project. Many lodges, chapters and individuals have participated by honoring or memorializing brothers, sisters, lodges, and chapters throughout the state. We hope you will take time to visit our campus soon and see this beautiful addition to our campus. If a lodge or individual Brother would like to order a brick, you can call WhiteStone directly at 1-888-558-2999 or order online at www.liveatwhitestone.org.

Last year marked an important turning point in the charitable program, whereby for the first time since 2005 WhiteStone, in a partnership with the NC Masonic and Eastern Star Home Foundation LLC, made available four one bedroom units and two studio rooms for fraternal members who could not afford either the entrance fee and/or monthly fee prior to moving into the community. The NC Masonic and Eastern Star Home Foundation LLC had 10 fraternal applications approved in 2014 to receive financial assistance to move into WhiteStone. 2 were existing residents, 4 applicants moved in, 1 applicant in the process of moving, and 3 applicants withdrew their application or their application is pending. Of the 10 approved applications, the foundation had 1 couple from Newbern, 1 from Albermarle, 1 from Charlotte, 2 from Statesville, 1 from Clemmons, 1 from Wilmington and 3 from Greensboro. The foundation LLC continues to accept applications of any Masonic and Eastern Star Members and their families who need financial assistance to get into WhiteStone.

In addition to this direct financial support for fraternal residents, WhiteStone offers an "adopt a resident" program, whereby various Masonic lodges and Eastern Star chapters adopt a fraternal resident and provide gifts, cards, and other support directly to those individuals on an ongoing basis. In 2014, 63 Eastern Star Chapter and 37 Masonic Lodges had adopted specific fraternally related residents in need. In addition, WhiteStone continues to help fraternal members across the state with its medical equipment loan and information hotline. The Home routinely loans surplus equipment to fraternal members and provides guidance for members and their families who need information on Medicaid, Medicare, and VA support and services.

On June 14-17 WhiteStone, with the assistance of the Masonic Home for Children in Oxford, hosted the annual Masonic Communities and Services Association conference at the Marriot hotel in downtown Greensboro. Tours were conducted at both homes during this conference. This association is comprised of 56 member organizations representing Masonic Retirement Communities, Masonic Children's Homes, and Masonic Outreach programs located throughout the U.S. This conference provides an excellent opportunity for our homes to share best practices and further their education on important subjects related to the care of our children and elderly sisters and brothers. Brother Mark Kolada currently serves as the Chairman of the Board for the Association. The committee wishes to thank Brother Mark and his staff for their efforts in hosting this important event.

Wilkerson College held its first session of 2015 at WhiteStone. In the past the first session was held in the Greensboro area with only a short tour conducted of the WhiteStone community. Classes for this year's deacon's college were held on site allowing more interaction of the students with the WhiteStone staff and residents. The regents and officers of Wilkerson College would like to thank WhiteStone for hosting our entire first session this year.

Our committee thanks 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 *our* Home and see for yourself the impact of our fraternity's involvement. Consider holding a lodge meeting at WhiteStone to enjoy fellowship with Masonic residents who aren't able to travel to meetings. And, 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. Contact Mark Kolada if you'd like to explore this idea.

Respectfully submitted,
Dwight M. Sigmon, Junior Grand Deacon,
Chairman
H. Wayne Craddock
Albert E. Gaylord
James R. McKee
Eddie N. Rimmer

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

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

The Grand Lodge Committee on the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford visited your home on May 8, 2015. We sat in on the board of directors meeting, attended the Hayes Neal donor luncheon and visited Master Mason Cottage with Administrator and Brother Kevin Otis.

We found a home that retains the traditional beauty of a 142-year old institution while finding creative ways to meet the challenges of 21st century child care. Brother Otis characterized those challenges as finding qualified house parents, developing expanded services to meet the needs of today's youth, encouraging charitable contributions to fund current operations, and

securing planned gifts – primarily through wills and estates – that will sustain the home in the years to come.

In concert with the Grand Master's message regarding the numbers of Masons versus the quality of our Masonry, the home is considering whether capacity should be measured solely by the number of occupied beds or by striking the right balance between available facilities, qualified house parents, opportunities for learning and growth, a positive and nurturing environment, and children who are motivated to excel within the program. The home leans toward the latter approach.

Figures at the end of May indicated that 52 youth (24 females and 28 males) were in the home's care, a 5 percent decrease from the same time last year. This includes 39 children in the Direct Care program and 13 in the Independent Living Program. The average age in Direct Care was 11.7 years, which was 16 months younger than the average for the same time last year. The average length of stay is 22 months, six months less than the same time last year.

The capacity in Direct Care is 64 (32 females and 32 males) and in Independent Living is 18 (9 females and 9 males) based on current child care staffing and cottage availability.

While the home exceeds the industry average for longevity of house parents, the need for qualified house parents is ongoing.

Independent Living will remain near capacity for the time being as Direct Care residents who are high school seniors transition to the program after graduation, while only one Independent Living resident is scheduled to leave this summer. All are currently enrolled in four-year or two-year college programs, or GED programs, and all are employed.

The home continues to develop its marketing and outreach efforts to communicate with the public about its mission, services and needs. This year the board of directors authorized a marketing committee to ensure that Masons and the public have easy access to current and accurate information about the home. A new website is scheduled to debut at www.mhc-oxford.org in August. The web, social media such as Facebook, and a quarterly e-newsletter sent to all lodge secretaries who have current email addresses registered with the Grand Lodge are crucial in getting the word out. Please contact the home if you want to receive the e-newsletter.

Every program and service offered by the home must be grounded on the historic foundations of education, vocation, spirituality, recreation, responsibility, and respect that have served our children so well for more than a century. These facets of character development will be the basis of all new and enhanced programming.

Existing programs are continuously enhanced to offer increased services and institute best practices. For instance, a new Vocation Counselor helps older residents find jobs. In 2014, more than 80 percent of residents 16 and older were employed. Last year, the home established a full-time Educational Coordinator position rather than maintain a shared position with the Granville County Public Schools. The change has been positive for students by increasing the availability of tutoring and providing attention to individual needs and other academic services.

Partnerships within the community continue to be developed and refined. The goal is for partnerships to offer benefits to our residents and their families while extending the home's reach to support additional families.

The home works with Wheels for Hope (www.wheels4hope.org), a faith-based nonprofit dedicated to helping low-income families and individuals by selling them reliable and affordable used vehicles. Transportation is vital to the success of Independent Living residents as they pursue educational and occupational opportunities, and in 2014 four Independent Living residents received vehicles through Wheels for Hope. To qualify, residents must complete a Wheels for Hope educational program, demonstrate the ability to afford a vehicle and insurance, and meet the home's program requirements. The home has a continuing need for safe and working vehicles, and we encourage brothers to contact the staff if they can donate a car or know of cars that friends, family members, or other brothers may want to donate.

The partnership with the Boy Scouts of America continues to develop through the home's Troop 629. The troop was cited as the most improved and the home was recognized as the Charter Organization of the Year for the Awahili District. Several Eagle Scout projects are scheduled, underway or completed. This benefits our campus, introduces us to new potential supporters and extends our community involvement.

A two-week Summer Academy in July engaged a select group of 14- to 16-year-olds with experiences and opportunities to help prepare them for adulthood and independence. The students traveled off campus for programs focused on education, vocations, career building, job seeking, financial management and philanthropy. Masons across the state helped by scheduling visits and providing meals for the students. This is yet another example of Masons advancing the home's mission and contributing directly to the care and success of the children.

Vance-Granville Community College and the Granville County Public Schools are ongoing partners in educational and vocational collaborations for the benefit of our residents.

Volunteers, interns, and lodges continue to support the home by providing labor, resources, and expertise for program enhancements such as training and tutoring, as well as labor for projects such as refurbishing buildings and landscaping the grounds. Many of these services and projects would not be possible without the support of Masonic and community partners.

Donors are funding new energy efficient exterior LED lighting for the campus, increasing the security and enhancing the nighttime beauty. As this report is written, more than \$150,000 has been pledged for the project, which needs an additional \$75,000 to be completed. The home is rolling out an opportunity for donors to place their names, the names of loved ones, or lodge names on banners that will hang from the light posts. Proceeds will help complete funding for the project.

The funding needs of the home continue to be great and lodges have responded with an increased number of new fundraisers while building on the success of established charitable activities. Individual Masons are making a difference through employer matching gift programs and the State Employees Combined Campaign. Companies are giving money, goods, services and employee time to address the needs and interests of the home.

A concentrated effort on planned giving, and your participation is crucial in building a secure financial base for the home's future. The home will be communicating with you about the importance of wills and estates, annuities, trusts, and other ways to help the home while addressing your personal financial goals. Planned giving can be a win-win for you and the home. Watch for additional information and please contact the home's Financial Development staff with questions or for further discussion.

The children continue to amaze and inspire as they overcome significant challenges and traumatic events. This year, seven will graduate from high school and one from Vance-Granville Community College with an associate's degree in business administration. They participate in sports and extracurricular activities, work in campus and community jobs, attend a regular study hall and engage in campus activities. Special activities and trips sponsored by lodges, individuals, and other groups provide life-long memories.

The home invites you to visit any time to see the life changing work being accomplished each day. Plan to attend the Masonic Homecoming Festival October 9-11. We guarantee a weekend of fun, food, and fellowship under the oaks. This year's headline entertainment is *The Embers* featuring Craig Woolard.

Our committee appreciates the hospitality of Brothers Kevin Otis and Chris Richardson during our visit to the campus and we thank them for their assistance with this report. We commend them and the home's staff for their dedication to the children in their care.

For more information we encourage you to read the home's 2014 Annual Achievement Report, which summarizes the year's accomplishments and provides a complete financial report, including figures for each lodge's annual contribution and its per-member giving. The report is published on the home's website and a copy is available by mail upon request by contacting the home.

Respectfully submitted,
Speed Hallman, chairman
Gene M. Mahaffey
Conrad P. Millsaps
David R. Millsaps
James H. Millsaps
Stephen C. Souther

Resolution of the Committee on Finance

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

Resolved, That the report of the Committee on Finance shall be the first order of business at the morning session of the Grand Lodge held on Saturday, September 26, 2015, and,

Resolved further, That all resolutions, motions, and reports asking for or carrying appropriations and expenditures not included in the 2016 proposed budget, shall be placed before the Grand Lodge before 4:00 p.m. on Friday September 25, 2015, and,

Resolved further, That all such matters offered after 4:00 p.m. on Friday, September 25, 2015, be carried over to the next business communication of this

Grand Lodge when the 2017 budget will be considered.

Respectfully submitted,
Grover Dees, Chairman

Petition for a Charter from Knights of Solomon Lodge U.D., Holly Springs

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

The subscribers hereto respectfully represent that, on the twentieth day of November, CE 2014, AL 6014, a dispensation was issued by the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in North Carolina for the establishment of a new lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons at Holly Springs in the County of Wake, by the name of Knights of Solomon Lodge, and that said lodge has worked regularly since that time as appears from the transcript of its records, bylaws, and returns herewith presented.

They, therefore, now pray that a charter be granted to the said lodge, with the following officers, to-wit: Brother Robert Clark Barron, Master; Brother Thomas James Zelickman, Senior Warden; and Brother Michael John Spencer, Junior Warden. And they do promise, as heretofore, in strict conformity to the edicts of the Grand Master, and to the Constitution and laws of the Grand Lodge.

Given under our hands on this the 11th day of July, CE 2015, AL 6015.

Respectfully submitted,
The members of Knights of
Solomon Lodge U.D.

Petition for a Charter from Veritas Lodge U.D., Asheville, NC

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

The subscribers hereto respectfully represent that, on the twenty-ninth day of October, CE 2014, AL 6014, a dispensation was issued by the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in North Carolina for the establishment of a new lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons at Asheville in the County of Buncombe, by the name of Veritas Lodge, and that said lodge has worked regularly since that time as appears from the transcript of its records, bylaws, and returns herewith presented.

They, therefore, now pray that a charter be granted to the said lodge, with the following officers, to-wit: Brother John Marvin Burchfield, Master; Brother John Robert Yarnall, Senior Warden; and Brother Michael Jason Fizer, Junior Warden. And they do promise, as heretofore, in strict conformity to the edicts of the Grand Master, and to the Constitution and laws of the Grand Lodge.

Given under our hands on this the 27th day of July, CE 2015, AL 6015.

Respectfully submitted,
The members of Veritas Lodge U.D.

Report of the Committee on Unfinished Business

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

The following various orders issued during the terms of Grand Master Dalton W. Mayo and Grand Master Douglas L. Caudle are to be considered during this Annual Communication.

Mayo Order No. 3

It has been brought to my attention that Raeford Lodge No. 306, AF & AM, Raeford, NC held a stated communication on October 14, 2014 and balloted on an application for affiliation for Brother J.L.B. who was subsequently rejected.

During the communication, the acting master failed to re-ballot on the application for affiliation as required under the procedure established under Regulation 68-3.14. The acting Master then declared the results of the ballot before enacting the procedure as established by *The Code*.

Regulation 68-8 of *The Code* states that when positive evidence of improper balloting has occurred, the Grand Master is permitted to declare the ballot null and void and order another ballot.

I hereby declare the ballot held on October 14, 2014 to be Null and Void. I hereby Order a re-ballot on the petition for the degrees for Brother J.L.B to be held at the stated communication for December 9, 2014.

Also, in compliance with Regulation 68-8.2, I hereby Order you to notify the members of your lodge of the re-ballot on the application for affiliation, being certain to give the members at least ten day's notice.

This Order shall be read to the lodge at the stated communication to be held on November 11, 2014, entered on the minutes of that communication and a proper notation made in the margin of the minutes of October 14, 2014 referring to this Order and the date it was recorded in the minutes.

Given under my hand and seal this 6th day of November, 2014.

Caudle Order No. 1

It has been brought to my attention by the Grand Secretary's office that Gate City Lodge No. 694 elected petitions for the degrees on R.E.P., II, C.S.A., and S.C.A. at a ballot collectively administered at their stated communication on March 24, 2015. A ballot taken on petitions for the degrees shall be taken individually and any deviation is clearly in violation of Regulation 68-3.3 of *The Code*.

The ballot taken on March 24, 2015 is clearly illegal under the positive language of Regulation 68-3.3 of *The Code*, and I, therefore, declare this ballot NULL and VOID.

Since the Grand Master is empowered to order another ballot in cases of this kind, I hereby order Gate City Lodge No. 694, AF & AM to re-ballot on the petitions for the degrees for the above referenced petitioners at the stated communication to be held on April 14, 2015.

This order shall be read to the lodge at the next stated communication, entered on the minutes of that communication, and a proper notation made on the margin of the minutes of March 24, 2015, referring to this Order and the date it was recorded in the minutes.

Given under my hand and seal at Statesville, North Carolina, this the 1st day of April, 2015.

Caudle Order No. 2

It has been brought to my attention by the Grand Secretary's office that Zion Lodge No. 81 read and elected Mr. F.M.H. to membership on March 5, 2015. Since the time the election occurred, additional information was obtained. An objection to the initiation has been received and the Master has requested another ballot.

Since the Grand Master is empowered under Regulation of 73-3 of *The Code* to order another ballot in cases of this kind, I hereby ORDER a re-ballot in Zion Lodge No. 81 on the above named petition at a stated communication to be held on June 4, 2015.

This Order shall be read to the lodge at the stated communication to be held on May 21, 2015, entered on the minutes of that communication and a proper notation made on the margin of the minutes for the stated communication at which the original ballot occurred (March 5, 2015) referring to this Order and the date it was recorded in the minutes.

Given under my hand and seal at Statesville, North Carolina, this 15th day of May, 2015.

Proposed Amendments to *The Code*

To: All officer and members of the Grand Lodge of AF & AM of North Carolina; to all subordinate lodges under this jurisdiction; and to all brethren mentioned in Section 3-1 and 72-1 of *The Code*.

Enclosed are the proposed amendments which will be considered at Annual Communication September 25 and 26, 2015.

Amendment Group 1

Proposed by Charles M. Setzer Lodge No. 693. This amendment would allow a member living out of state to serve on a Grand Lodge Board, Committee, or Commission.

REG. 27-3 ELIGIBILITY TO SERVE.

(this proposed amendment was tabled at the 2014 communication)

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]

Substitute amendment:

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, except by dispensation of the Grand Master. Failure to do so will create a vacancy. The Grand Master shall have authority to grant a dispensation to allow a brother, otherwise qualified, to live outside the State of North Carolina while serving on a board, commission, or committee of this Grand Lodge. [3-2; 28-1; 31-1.1; 33-1; 34-1; 34-19; 35-1]

Amendment Group 2

Proposed by Charles M. Setzer Lodge No. 693. This amendment would allow a member living out of state to serve District Deputy Grand Master.

Reg. 26-2 Qualifications:

(this proposed amendment was tabled at the 2014 communication) Each District Deputy Grand Master shall ~~be and remain a resident of his district and~~ remain a member of a subordinate lodge in that district.

Substitute amendment:

Each District Deputy Grand Master shall ~~be and remain a resident of his district and~~ remain a member of a subordinate lodge in that district. The Grand Master shall have authority to grant a dispensation to allow a brother, otherwise qualified, to live outside the State of North Carolina while serving as a District Deputy Grand Master.

Amendment Group 3

Proposed by Grand Master Douglas Caudle. This amendment would set a standard initiation fee across the state. This fee would be set annually by the Grand Master and approved by the Board of General Purposes.

REG. 64-1 MINIMUM INITIATION FEE.

The fees to confer the Symbolic degrees in Masonry shall be uniform throughout the State of North Carolina and in an amount set by the Grand Master of Masons and approved by the Board of General Purposes. After the fees are set by the Grand Master, the Grand Secretary shall notify the secretary of each subordinate lodge of the fees. Unless otherwise set out, any change in the fees by the Grand Master shall become effective January 1. No lodge in this state shall confer any of the Symbolic degrees in Masonry for less than fifty dollars the amount set by the Grand Master. [5-2.1; 49-10.1].

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

Amendment Group 4

Proposed by Stump Sound Lodge No. 733. This amendment would allow two past masters of the lodge as additional delegates to the annual meeting of the grand lodge.

Section 3-1.3: Membership of Grand Lodge

3. The Masters, Wardens ~~and two Past Masters-at-Large~~ of its chartered and constituted subordinate lodges, for the time being, or their legally appointed proxies. (19-3; 59-2.44; 59-9.2; 59-10.3)

Section 3-3. Proxies

No member of Grand Lodge shall be represented therein by proxy except: Masters, Wardens ~~and the two designated Past Masters~~ of subordinate lodges.

Section 3-4. Chartered Lodge Representatives

Each chartered lodge shall be entitled to at least five representatives; these shall be the Master, the Senior Warden, the Junior Warden of the lodge, and two Past Masters (at-large) and if any one of them is unable to attend the Grand Lodge, he may give his proxy in writing to a member of his lodge.

Section 3-5. Lodges under Dispensation

Each lodge under dispensation shall be entitled to at least five delegates to the Grand Lodge; these shall be the Master, the Senior Warden, the Junior Warden and two Past Masters (at-large) and may participate in the deliberations of the Grand Lodge but shall not vote or appoint proxies.

Reg 19-3.1. Who May Vote at Grand Lodge

1. Each subordinate lodge represented therein be entitled to at least five votes to be cast by the three principal officers, and two Past Masters at-large or their duly appointed proxies, (3-4; Official Form 43)

Amendment Group 5

Proposed by Lebanon Lodge No. 391 and Junaluskee 145. This amendment would allow a lodge to hold an additional fund-raiser for lodge use.

Reg. 43-12

7. A subordinate lodge desiring to conduct any fund-raising activity for its own benefit or any fundraising activity other than those specified in Regulation 43-12.3 or in a manner other than that specified in Regulations 43-12.1 and 43-12.2 shall first submit an application detailing the planned project and purpose to the Commission on Special Activities and must receive its approval before actively undertaking the project. A lodge may request more than one fund raising activity during a calendar year for lodge use, provided that prior to having a second fundraising activity for lodge use, a charitable fundraising activity must be held with one hundred percent of the net proceeds going to an approved organization.

...

Substitute Amendment Group 5

Proposed substitute amendment submitted by Committee on Subordinate Lodge Special Activities Committee would require all lodges to obtain prior approval for all fundraisers.

REG. 43-12 FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES.

A subordinate lodge desiring to conduct fundraising activities ~~for Masonic Charity~~ may do so provided the following conditions are met.

1. The activity event is conducted over a period of no more than three consecutive days.
2. The activity is conducted no more than annually.
3. The lodge is one of the following; shall first submit an application detailing the planned project and purpose to the Commission on Special Activities and must receive its approval before actively undertaking the project
 - A. The sale of food or food products;
 - B. The sale of pre-priced goods, provided the marketing of such items shall not be perceived as a discredit to Masonry, or

C. The sale of items by auction:

4. The lodge keeps careful financial records of the project and a report filed with the Commission on Subordinate Lodge Special Activities within 45 days of its completion.
5. The lodge protects itself against general and special liabilities. [77-1; 27-1.3.P].
6. Either substantially all of the work performed by or on behalf of the Lodge in preparing, delivering, or selling food or goods shall be performed by members of the Lodge or others on a volunteer basis without compensation, or substantially all of the food or goods sold must be received by the Lodge as gifts or contributions.
7. A subordinate lodge desiring to conduct any fundraising activity for its own benefit or any fund raising activity ~~other than those specified in Regulation 43-12.3 or in a manner other than that specified in Regulations 43-12.1 and 43-12.2~~ shall first submit an application detailing the planned project and purpose to the Commission on Special Activities and must receive its approval before actively undertaking the project. [32-4.3].
8. A subordinate lodge conducting any project without obtaining prior approval when required, or in a manner other than allowed by this regulation, or who shall divert funds for other than the stated purpose shall be required to show cause why its charter should not be arrested.
9. A subordinate lodge conducting any fundraising activity shall file a financial report on the project within ~~60~~ 45 days after completing the project with the Commission on Special Activities. The Lodge shall report the type of project, the purpose for which it was conducted, funds to be accounted for, and distribution of profits.
10. A lodge conducting any fund raising activity shall complete that activity within one hundred twenty (120) days of beginning the project.
11. Lodges conducting any fund-raising activity shall complete any fund-raising project already underway before beginning another project.

The Grand Lodge Committee for Subordinate Lodge Special Activities shall have the power to approve charitable fund-raising sporting events and any normally acceptable related contest within such events so long as the fund-raising event and its related contest stay within the realm of amateur activities.

(Move Regulation 43-3.12 (a) (b) and renumber to 43-12.13 (a) (b) to better organize fundraising regulations)

13. The holding or sponsoring by a lodge of lotteries, game of chance, gambling, or any activities which would discredit masonry, for any purposes, is prohibited. [43-7; 86-2.32; 86-2.35]. A raffle may be held as follows:
 - A. Raffles shall be conducted with the conformity to North Carolina State Laws except that cash prizes shall not be permitted.
 - B. No raffle shall be conducted without prior written approval by the Commission on Subordinate Lodges Special Activities.

Amendment Group 6

Proposed by Montgomery Lodge No. 426. This amendment would permit the announcement of the degrees of a Fellowcraft or Master Mason.

REG. 43-3 LIMITATIONS.

7. No lodge shall publish the name of any one who is to be balloted on except as provided in Regulation 68-8.2, nor shall it publish the name of a candidate to receive the first degree unless enclosed in a cover or envelope. Postal cards and post cards shall not be used for this purpose. [68-1; 68-11].

Amendment Group 7

Proposed by Belhaven Lodge No. 509. This amendment would disallow any defeated amendment from consideration for a five year period..

Section 10-1.2.

C. After an amendment has been voted upon at an annual communication and defeated, neither that amendment nor a substantially similar amendment shall be brought before the Grand Lodge for a period of five (5) years.

Amendment Group 8

Proposed by the Grand Secretary. This amendment is housekeeping and cleaning up a regulation missed in previous approved updates.

REG. 74-2 STATUS.

Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts are Masons of their respective degrees, ~~but shall not be permitted to participate in nor to receive Masonic burial, nor they shall be subject to dues~~ but they shall not be subject to dues. They are not members of the lodge. [63-4; 65-4; 75-7; 76-2.1; 91-4].

Amendment Group 9

Proposed by NC Masonic Foundation. This amendment would allow the Board to increase the number of directors as specified in its by-laws.

REG. 35-1 BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

The North Carolina Masonic Foundation, Incorporated, a corporation under the laws of the State of North Carolina, shall be managed by a board of ~~five~~ directors as provided in its ~~charter by-laws~~. The Grand Lodge, at its annual communication, shall nominate a director to succeed the director whose term will next expire and shall nominate a director to serve the remaining term of any director whose seat has become vacant for any reason.

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

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

“To inspire humanity through education to emulate and promote the virtues, character ,and vision of George Washington; the Man, the Mason, and Father of our Country.” Thus reads the Memorial’s Vision Statement. And, thus, begins our obligations to the Memorial.

This magnificent structure, built in the 1920s by the generous support of over two million American Freemasons, is still privately funded through the grateful contributions of Freemasons and others, and remains open to the public seven days a week. And although it serves many purposes for both Masonry and the public in general it has been and always will be a memorial to

honor and perpetuate the memory, character, and virtues of the man who best exemplifies what Freemasons are and ought to be.

Opportunities to support the Memorial are many, and should be seriously considered by every Lodge and every Freemason in North Carolina. Such contributions may take many forms, including direct contributions, the Memorial Society Membership, the Society of Washington Lodges, and the planting of a Memorial Tree. Finally, it is earnestly recommended that the Grand Lodge of North Carolina remain a member of the Association, and to continue its annual contributions.

Respectfully submitted,
Jimmie B. Hicks, Jr., JGW
GWMNMA Representative

Report of the Representative to the Masonic Service Association of North America

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

From the newly designed webpage for The Masonic Service Association of North America we read:

The Masonic Service Association of the United States was created in 1918 by the Grand Lodges in the United States. The name was changed to the Masonic Service Association of North America in 1995 when the organization became truly representative of the whole continent. The initial reason for MSA's formation was so U.S. Freemasonry could provide aide to our military servicemen near the end of World War I. The War Department (now Defense Department) refused to work with 49 (at that time) different Grand Lodges, but the government department agreed to work with just one agency. So Grand Masters gathered in Cedar Rapids in 1918 to discuss and formulate the concept of MSA, and again in 1919 to formally give birth to the new organization. MSA's goal from the start was to provide services to the Grand Lodges that they could not perform as easily individually. MSA was given the charge to provide services to our military, create informational and educational materials, and to issue disaster relief appeals and distribute funds collected for that purpose.

The 2015 meeting of the Masonic Service Association of North America was held during the North American Conference of Grand Masters in Vancouver, British Columbia February 14-17, 2015. We are still acting as one agency!

One of the most interesting offerings of the MSANA is the "Short Talk Bulletins," which provide information and educational material of interest to lodges for their meetings. It contains an essay about various topics of current or historic interest. Likewise, the "Emessay Notes" that normally accompany the "Short Talk Bulletin" provide quick talking points for programs of interest to individuals and to lodges. It is a piece of mail worthy of our time and effort as we learn and improve ourselves in Masonry.

Another feature of the MSANA is the Masonic Information Center (MIC). Regular one sheet publications in the same mailing which contains the "Short

Talk Bulletin” and “Emessay Notes” titled “Focus,” now celebrating over twenty years of service to Freemasonry, gives additional and relevant information concerning the work of the Craft. Resources and tidbits of information found in these resources continue to illuminate our curiosity and knowledge of the Craft.

Volume I and II of the *Complete Collection of Short Bulletins* have been published in hardback and Volume III will include material in the *Short Talk Bulletins* from 1953 and 1967. It will be more than 700 pages, re-edited, re-typeset, and indexed. Masons interested in collecting this excellent resource for program and education may contact the MSANM at 3905 National Drive, Suite 280, Burtonsville, Maryland 20866. The telephone number is (301) 476-7330. The fax number is (301) 476-9440. The email address is msaoffice@msana.com.

Another point of emphasis supported by the MSANA is the “Hospital Visitation Program.” There are four VA medical centers in North Carolina. Each year, the Most Worshipful Grand Master makes a visit to these hospitals to encourage and show support for our sick and wounded military members. There are more than a half a million volunteers in the VA hospitals around the country. Many of them are Masons!

At the time of this report July 17, 2015, there have been no charitable relief efforts underway and no appeals sent forth on behalf of MSANA. The total raised for charity by MSANA is \$10,077,187.00 from 1923-2014. Of that amount, \$242,000.00, or 2.4 % has been raised in the last two years. MSANA is a 501c3 tax deductible contribution and every gift is acknowledged.

Please note that Grand Lodges are members by choice of the Masonic Service Association of North America. Individuals may support MSANA through a \$12.00 annual subscription through the webpage www.msana.com. To find out more about the Masonic Service Association, please visit the website or go to the Facebook page and “Like” it.

Since the MSANA has so many opportunities to receive funding for its many projects that are or could soon be digital AND; since we can continue to support the charitable relief opportunities around the world when they arise AND; since we need to be doing more for our military veterans right here in North Carolina: this year’s budget recommendations will reflect both our continued support for MSANA and our continued commitment to those in our Veterans Administration Hospitals here in North Carolina.

As we continue to learn and improve who we are and what we are, the Masonic Service Association of North America is a great resource to aid us in the journey. Check it out. You might learn something that will make our lodge experience better—all for the good of Masonry.

Respectfully submitted,
A. Gene Cobb, Jr., MSANA Representative

Report of *The Code Commission*

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

The Code Commission for 2015 met by telephone conference call on May 21, 2015, to review proposed amendments to *The Code* pursuant to Reg. 33-2

and to ascertain that each was in order for submission to the Grand Lodge. The following is a summary of the proposed amendments, which have now been submitted for consideration at the 2015 Annual Communication.

Amendment Group 1 was submitted by Charles M. Setzer Lodge No. 693, and would allow a member living outside of North Carolina to serve on a Grand Lodge Board, Committee, or Commission.

Amendment Group 2 was also submitted by Charles M. Setzer Lodge No. 693, and would allow a member living outside of North Carolina to serve as a District Deputy Grand Master.

Amendment Group 3 was proposed by Grand Master Douglas Caudle. The proposed amendment would establish a uniform initiation fee for all lodges in the state, to be set annually by the Grand Master with approval by the Board of General Purposes.

Amendment Group 4 was submitted by Stump Sound Lodge No. 733, and would increase the number of lodge delegates to the Grand Lodge Annual Communication by adding two past masters from each subordinate lodge.

Amendment Group 5 was submitted by Lebanon Lodge No. 391 and Junaluskee Lodge No. 145. The proposed amendment would allow a subordinate lodge to hold more than one fund-raising activity or event during a calendar year for lodge use, after holding a charitable fundraiser.

Amendment Group 6 was submitted by Montgomery Lodge No. 426, and would allow for the announcement of Fellowcraft and Master Mason degrees.

Amendment Group 7 was submitted by Belhaven Lodge No. 509. The effect of the proposed amendment would be to ban a proposed amendment that was rejected by the Grand Lodge from being re-introduced for a period of five years.

Amendment Group 8 was proposed by the Grand Secretary as a house-keeping item to clarify the status of Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts under Reg. 74-2 to conform with other provisions pursuant to amendments previously adopted.

Amendment Group 9 was submitted by the NC Masonic Foundation. The amendment would allow the board of the foundation to be changed as provided in the bylaws of the foundation.

Respectfully Submitted,
Curtis R. Sharpe, Jr., P.M., Chairman

The North Carolina Masonic Foundation, Inc.

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

This Year the Foundation spent a significant amount of time and money doing a thorough investigation into creation a Development program for both of our charities and the Foundation. Experts say during the next ten years our country will see the greatest transfer of wealth ever. While Oxford currently has a program, the Foundation and the Boards of both home believe we should give this issue much greater attention. A six month study was commissioned with a professional to examine the potential of a broad program, to assess the cost, and suggest the design for the program. The Foundation underwrote the

cost of this study. The 141 Page report shows the potential to be great and the project is moving forward. A nationwide search for a Chief Development Officer should begin soon. We hope to be up and running in 2016.

The investments of the North Carolina Masonic Foundation (larger) Equity Fund finished 2014 with a 9.4% gain and through June 2015 is up 4.7%. The (smaller) Income Fund recorded a modest 6.1% gain in a horrible interest rate environment. The Income fund is up .7% through June 2015.

The Board of Directors also spent this year interviewing our present fund managers to insure that they were staying on target and creating the results our Foundation expects. We are constantly looking for even better gains while controlling volatility and insuring a high quality portfolio. Our Financial Advisors, The Golden Group with Wells Fargo, Charlotte were reviewed by a team led by Foundation Director Brother Mike Faulkenbury. Fund Performance, reporting services, educational services and fund managers overview were accessed as was our fee structure. A copy of the statement of value of our foundation and position is attached.

The board watched with pride again this year as one of its non-profit entities, The Masonic and Eastern Star Home, LLC's Directors received **tax deductible** funds given by lodges, individual masons, the Foundation and others to directly help support **Masons or Eastern Star members or their immediate families** at Whitestone. These Directors are doing an excellent job and your money is making a bigger impact every day.

Eleven (additional) lodges with funds or masonic related funds have chosen to invest their money with your Foundation under the brand new "Subscription Agreement" this year. The agreement which spells out the policy and rules for such investing was announced in this report last year. If you would like to know more about this "Subscription Agreement" just e-mail or call the Grand Secretary.

Respectfully submitted,
Board of the North Carolina
Masonic Foundation, Inc.

NC Masonic Foundation, Inc. Balance Sheet Standard

As of June 30, 2015

Accrual Basis
Jun 30, '15

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

100-00 — Checking - First Citizens Bank (Checking Account)	52,909.91
100-08 — Checking - First Citizens- (Spring Garden)	31,229.97

Total Checking/Savings

84,139.88

Accounts Receivable

111-01 — Accounts Receivable	
111-03 — Jones Masonic-Monthly Expense	3,869,516.82
111-04 — Eatmon Trust Donation-Balance (Remaining balance)	81,555.00
111-01 — Accounts Receivable - Other	500.00

Total 111-01 — Accounts Receivable	<u>3,951,571.82</u>	
Total Accounts Receivable		3,951,571.82
Other Current Assets		
120-00 — NCMF Scholarship Foundation, LLC		
120-08 — Unity Scholarship-Equity Fund	167,663.04	
120-09 — Unity Scholarship-Income Fund	55,354.20	
120-10 — Pugh Scholarship	123,844.69	
120-11 — 10th District Scholarship-Incom	39,410.16	
120-12 — 10th Masonic District-Equity	16,912.45	
120-13 — St. John's Lodge No 1-Income	1,743.34	
120-14 — St. John's Lodge No. 1-Equity (Equity Fund)	515.11	
120-15 — The John L. Watson-Equity Fund	44,718.95	
120-16 — The John L. Watson-Income Fund	139,914.50	
120-17 — Mingo Scholarship-Income	26,577.43	
120-18 — Mingo Scholarship-Equity	7,761.17	
120-19 — Woodrow Russ Sch-Income	13,406.55	
120-20 — Woodrow Russ Scho-Equity	3,781.87	
120-21 — T. Bruce Boyette-Income	47,586.32	
120-22 — T. Bruce Boyette-Equity	18,363.85	
120-27 — Will Jones-Phoenix #8-Income	14,919.61	
120-28 — Will Jones-Phoenix #8-Equity	<u>36,982.54</u>	
Total 120-00 — NCMF Scholarship Foundation, LLC	759,455.78	
125-00 — Masonic Foundation-Equity Fund	17,598,768.63	
126-00 — NCMF-MESH LOAN	<u>57,153.94</u>	
Total Other Current Assets	<u>18,415,378.35</u>	<u>18,415,378.35</u>
Total Current Assets		22,451,090.05
Fixed Assets		
130-00 — Spring Garden-Coapman Land		
130-01 — Church-3304 Spring Garden	225,074.79	
130-02 — Mechanical Air-3310-3312 Spring	546,168.70	
130-03 — Shine Tire-3418 Spring Garden	504,907.01	
130-04 — 3303-3305 Brevard Street	25,200.00	
130-08 — Hinton Land (Hinton Land)	375,686.42	
130-09 — 602 Gay Terrace	<u>136,710.23</u>	
Total 130-00 — Spring Garden-Coapman Land	1,813,747.15	1,813,747.15
140-00 — Spring Garden-Coapman Bldg		
140-01 — Church-3304 Spring Garden	207,404.00	
140-02 — Mechanical Air-3310-3312 Spring	143,510.80	
140-03 — Shine Tire-3418 Spring Garden	110,833.00	
140-05 — 602 Gay Terrace Bldg	<u>58,951.77</u>	
Total 140-00 — Spring Garden-Coapman Bldg	520,699.57	520,699.57
140-04 — Accumulated Depreciation (Accumulated Depreciation)		<u>--126,129.13</u>
Total Fixed Assets		<u>2,208,317.59</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>24,659,407.64</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		

Other Current Liabilities		
220-00 — Deferred Revenue (Deferred Revenue)	2,050.00	
Total Other Current Liabilities	2,050.00	
Total Current Liabilities		2,050.00
Long Term Liabilities		
230-00 — Wells Fargo Bank (Loan for Jones Masonic Campus)	3,140,000.00	
Total Long Term Liabilities	3,140,000.00	3,140,000.00
Total Liabilities		3,142,050.00
Equity		
300-00 — Unrestricted Fund (Net Assets-General)		12,957,721.62
420-00 — Fund Balance		7,253,633.72
430-00 — Temporarily Restricted (Scholarship Funds)		
430-01 — St. Johns #1 Scholarship Fund	1,979.56	
430-02 — T. Bruce Boyette Scholarship	54,297.72	
430-03 — Woodrow Russ Mem. Scholarship	15,836.21	
430-04 — 10th District Scholarship Fund	51,684.28	
430-05 — GM Unity Scholarship Prgm	213,148.56	
430-06 — Mingo Lodge Scholarship Fund	30,576.97	
430-07 — John L. Watson Scholarship Fund	178,963.88	
430-08 — WJSF	50,125.00	
430-09 — EJ Pugh Scholarship Fund	115,795.81	
Total 430-00 — Temporarily Restricted (Scholarship Funds)	712,407.99	712,407.99
Net Income		593,594.31
Total Equity		21,517,357.64
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY		24,659,407.64

Report of the Board of Publication of the *North Carolina Mason*

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

Did you notice something different in your mailbox recently? The *North Carolina Mason*, the official newsletter of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina, got a new look this year. It's a different size and it's in full color! Early in 2015 your Grand Lodge officers made a push for changes in our newspaper and provided the funding necessary to make it happen.

Editor Ric Carter worked in conjunction with the staff at the Graphic Arts and Design Center of the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford to redesign The N.C. Mason. While it is no longer printed at the Home due to limitations of its press (the primary reason we had not switched to color pages in the past) the printing contract is coordinated and handled by the Design Center.

While changed, your newsletter continues to be a vital link between our state organization and the rank and file members of our fraternity. We take our responsibility to be that link seriously.

Our editor's status has changed employment-wise, but he continues to be committed to serve our fraternity with vitality and a rich knowledge of the

craft in North Carolina.

We remind members to please send us information about your lodge's activities and make sure we are on your newsletter's mailing list. Our publication works best when everyone keeps us informed of local work.

We wish to thank our Grand Lodge officers for their help and support.

Respectfully submitted,
John Pea, Chairman

Report of the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Education

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

The Grand Lodge appointed the following Brothers for this Committee for 2015:

Don Barrier, Derita No. 715; David Cashion, Blue Ridge No. 435; Michael Cashion, William G. Hill No. 218; Stann Dodd, Guilford No. 656; Justin LaCount, Statesville No. 27; Roger Meacham III, Ocracoke No. 747; Ben Wallace, Blackmer No. 127; Ludwik Wodka, Cary No. 198; Steven Cates, Leaksville, No. 136.

A Strategy Session was held with the Grand Master on October 16, 2014 to set the Mission for the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Education (described as the GLCME).

The goals for this Committee for 2015 were established as follows:

1. Create an established location on the Grand Lodge website for education materials.
2. Market the educational resources created and available through the GLCME
3. Create a Speakers Bureau consisting of qualified and experienced speakers that Lodges of NC could call upon for their masonic education needs.
4. Complete the formatting and distribution of the revised Officers Handbook to all Lodges.
5. Create and utilize social media to be placed on the GL educational site.
6. Market and conduct the new Allegory and Symbolism lecture series throughout NC.
7. Review the Wardens Boot Camp educational program to boost accessibility and attendance throughout NC.

A presentation on Masonic Education and the Committee's agenda for 2015 was made at the Grand Master's Summit at Whitestone in November, 2014.

Committee meetings were held in Raleigh, Salisbury, and via conference calls throughout the year to address each of these goals and to formulate action plans to accomplish each of these.

The following was accomplished by the GLCME in 2015:
The existing GL website could not accommodate changes that would allow for a change for a separate portal to identify Masonic Education. A new website

has been developed and Masonic Education now has a site to house all of the educational materials collected and created by the GLCME.

The NC Mason, GL MORI System, along with social media, have been utilized to market the educational offerings of the GLME.

Don Barrier coordinated the collection of speakers and the creation of a spreadsheet system for the formation of a GLCME Speakers Bureau. This has been turned over to the GL for implementation.

The Officers Handbook has been formatted and is available for download to all NC Lodges via the GL website under Masonic Education.

The new GL website has a Masonic Education location that houses web-based media including videos, blogs, and podcasts.

The Allegory and Symbolism lecture series was presented by Ben Wallace in Jacksonville (Semper Fidelis No. 680), Burlington (Bula No. 409), Charlotte (Excelsior No. 261), and Asheville (Mt. Hermon No. 118) during the first quarter, 2015. This lecture series was very well received and it is anticipated it will expand in 2016.

Several meetings on the Wardens Boot Camps occurred with the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, and the Program Coordinator of this educational program during the year. The Committee provided recommendations on re-branding this Program to correctly identify its intended audience and to increase participation throughout the state.

The GLCME had a full and active agenda for 2015. Through the diligence of its members it was able to accomplish all of the goals established for this committee in 2015.

Respectfully Submitted,
Steven V. Cates, Chairman
Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Education

Report of the Committee on Public Relations

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

The Committee on Masonic Public Relations convened during the 2014 Annual Communications on September 25 at 2 p.m. in Winston Salem, NC.

Discussions were had regarding:

- A meeting with Bro. David Regan (NASCAR driver) was held to coordinate the production of a series of videos about Masonry. These videos will be made available to each lodge and used on the Grand Lodge's website to educate about the fraternity. Brother Thomas Pope will assist in coordinating an interview Brother Jeff Shipp will engage a production company to produce the videos.
- Discussions were held regarding the production of a power point presentation about Masonry in conjunction with presentations to civic organizations.
- Discussions were held regarding how to better leverage social media to increase the awareness of Masonry and how the committee could coordinate a statewide effort with the Grand Lodge.

On November 18, Bro Speed Hallman moderated a video shoot at Brother

David Regan's race shop. Footage from this effort will be edited into one 5-6 minute educational video and two 2-3 minute website videos.

After considerable work the videos were produced and forwarded to the Grand Lodge for distribution on June 9, 2015.

Respectfully submitted
Gary D. Walker, Chairman
Committee on Masonic Public Relations

Report of the Committee on Youth Organizations

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

The Youth Committee's mission is to educate and assist Lodges and Districts in the promotion of the interests of Masonic youth programs in North Carolina.

The Committee's focuses primarily on DeMolay International and the International Order of Rainbow for Girls—two youth organizations within the Masonic family founded by Masons to give young men and women a foundation that is based on faith, patriotism, and service. The committee hopes to encourage Masons to support existing DeMolay Chapters and Rainbow Assemblies as well as establish new ones.

North Carolina's Masonic Youth have been very active this past year. Besides their regular stated meetings, the DeMolay attended 16 official statewide events. Likewise, the Rainbow attended 12 official statewide visits. Both youth groups joined ranks at 12 different joint statewide events. Below is a listing of the youths' programs this year.

Rainbow Statewide Events:

1. Spoke at the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge in Winston-Salem, September 26
2. Spoke at the Grand Court of the Order of the Amaranth in Winston-Salem, October 30
3. Hosted reception for residents of WhiteStone in Greensboro, November 23
4. Attended the Grand Worthy Advisor's Homecoming in Jacksonville, March 7
5. Attended the Grand York Rite Dinner in Wilmington, March 16
6. Hosted an Open House and Initiation in Asheville, March 21
7. Spoke at the Grand Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star in Durham, June 8
8. Hosted and attended the Rainbow Grand Assembly in Raleigh, June 21-23
9. Statewide Initiation in Winston-Salem, July 18
10. Official Visit and in Winston-Salem, July 18
11. Hosted and attended Grand Representatives Retreat in Albemarle, August 1
12. Pullen Park Outing in Raleigh, September 12

DeMolay Statewide Events:

1. Attended Legion of Honor Banquet in Charlotte, September 6
 2. Attended Open House at Fort Mill Lodge in Gastonia, September 9
-

3. Spoke at the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge in Winston-Salem, September 26
4. MCHQWA Ball and DeMolay Initiation in Fairfax, VA, September 28
5. Spoke at Grand Court of the Order of the Amaranth in Winston-Salem, October 30
6. Attended the State Quarterly Meeting and Sports Weekend with the residents of the MHCO in Oxford, Nov 8-9
7. Re-institution of Asheville Chapter, November 15
8. Open House and DeMolay Training in Wilmington, November 22
9. Hosted devotion for residents of WhiteStone in Greensboro, November 23
10. Attended Installation of Grand Master Caudle in Statesville, December 6
11. Official Visit in Fayetteville, January 10
12. Attended Brotherhood Weekend in Richmond, VA, January 17-18
13. Attended Tennessee DeMolay Dance in Nashville, TN February 14
14. Attended VA/NC Leadership Weekend in Williamsburg, VA, February 28
15. Statewide Initiation and DeMolay Degree in Winston-Salem, March 14
16. Institution of Wilmington Chapter, March 23
17. MCHQWA Ball hosted by the Kena Shriners in Fairfax, VA, April 25
18. Open House in Statesville, May 16
19. Official Visit in Asheville, June 2
20. Spoke at the Grand Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star in Durham, June 8
21. Attended International Congress in Orlando, FL, June 17-20
22. Spoke at the Grand Assembly of the North Carolina Rainbow in Raleigh, June 22
23. Official Visit in Raleigh, June 22
24. Conclave 2015 in Charlotte, July 23-26
25. Wilmington DeMolay Installation and Dance, in Wilmington, August 15

Combined DeMolay/Rainbow Events:

1. Masonic Home for Children at Oxford Homecoming, October 11
 2. Halloween Party at the Jones Masonic Campus in Swansboro, October 25-26
 3. Seasonal Celebration at WhiteStone in Greensboro, November 23
 4. Peppermint Ball in Greensboro, Dec 13
 5. Worked at the Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas in Spartanburg, SC, December 20
 6. Attended Masonic Youth Leadership Conference in Winston-Salem, March 14-15
 7. Rockin' for Research Amaranth Diabetes Event in Burlington, April 11
 8. Attended Camp Rainbow Weekend in Foscoe, April 17-19
 9. Attended Grand Assembly Cookout and Dance in Raleigh, June 21
 10. Stop Hunger Now Packing Project in Raleigh, June 22
 11. Christmas in July Party in Winston-Salem, July 18
 12. SMC Ball at Conclave in Charlotte, July 25
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We would like to thank the Masons of North Carolina for their generous and outgoing support for North Carolina Masonic Youth.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kevin Kubacki, Chairman

Report of the Board of Custodians

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

The members who served on the Board of Custodians during the year 2015 were: Keith B. Rash, Grand Lecturer; Thomas P. Dolinger, Chairman; L. David Potts, Secretary; J. Luigi Ammons; Gilbert D. Bailey; Steve M. Norris; and David K. Potter. M... W... William L. Dill, Past Grand Master, served as liaison with the Board of General Purposes.

The Board of Custodians met regularly during the year, with meetings held on January 16, April 10, July 10 and September 24, 2015. The fall meeting was scheduled to coincide with the Grand Lodge's Annual Communication in Winston-Salem.

Certified brethren qualifying for the Laudamus Certificate in 2015 are: John Marvin Burchfield, Black Mountain Lodge No. 663; David Cletus Carriker, Excelsior Lodge No. 261; Thomas Miller Cohen, Spencer Lodge No. 543; James Daughtry Davis, Rodgers Lodge No. 525; Billy Joe Joyce, Walnut Cove Lodge No. 629; Donald David Joyner, St. John's Lodge No. 4; Donald Edward Kehler, Bula Lodge No. 409; Michael Lee McGinnis, Gaston Lodge No. 263; David Jeffrey Milidonis, Cary Lodge No. 198; Edwin Dennis Powell, Lovelady Lodge No. 670; Wendell Morris Powell, Lovelady Lodge No. 670; and Christopher Lee Wright, Stokesdale Lodge No. 428.

District Deputy Grand Lecturers qualifying for the Past District Deputy Grand Lecturer Certificate in 2015 are: John William Reifert, District 3; Phillip Ray Mercer, District 4; Michael Wayne Reaves, District 8; James Daughtry Davis, District 9; Perry Harlee Sellers, District 12; Donald Wayne Butto, Jr., District 14; Dwight Wayne Crews, District 22; Billy Joe Joyce, District 26; David Keith Potter, District 30; Herman Eugene Hall, District 31; Kyle Seth Watts, District 34; Jesse Edward Hampton, Jr., District 37; Aaron Christopher Whitmire, District 38; and David Shawn Cole, District 39.

The 2015 Certified Lecturer examinations were held according to the following schedule: August 8: Greenville and Greensboro; August 15: Wilmington and Charlotte; August 22: Fayetteville and Asheville. The examinations continue to be offered on Saturday in an effort to be more accommodating to our certified brethren who have scheduling conflicts. The Board expresses its sincere appreciation to the brethren at the six locations who donated the use of their facilities for the examinations.

At the end of the 2014 examinations the number of certified brethren was 384. This consisted of 344 Class "A" Certified Lecturers and 40 Class "B" Certified Instructors. Unfortunately the total number had declined by July 2015, with four members passing, for a total roster of certified brethren as of July 31, 2015 standing at 380. Sixty-seven brethren are required for re-examination in 2015. Also nine brethren received a one-year extensions in 2014. Their certification will expire if they do not re-certify in 2015. Of the Sixty-seven required,

seventeen qualify for the “Waiver” option for being certified for twenty-five years or more if requested by the brother. The final 2015 results will be available after the last exams are held on August 22 and will be printed in the 2016 Proceedings of the Grand Lodge publication.

In 2015 the Board continued to support the program “Raising the Instructive Tongue” which was instituted by Mack Sigmon, then Secretary of the Board in 2013.

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 their history, latest corrections to the OSW and Bahnson Manual, rules governing the Lecture Service and OSW/Vocabulary, various application forms and a current roster of those certified.

In 2015 the (5) five-hour mandatory Lecture Service was continued for the one hundred ninety-three odd numbered lodges throughout the state. As a reminder, the Lecture Service rules were updated in 2011 to formally indicate the continuation of this mandatory five-hour service until otherwise notified. Even numbered lodges will have their next five-hour requirement in 2016. Also as a reminder, all lodges must participate in one five-hour district School of Instruction each year as long as the mandatory Lecture Service is required or until determined otherwise by the Board.

At the September 26, 2014 meeting, the Board approved the following: 1) King Lodge No. 722 to use slides previously approved for Corinthian Lodge No. 542; 2) University Lodge No. 408 to use slides previously approved for Raleigh Lodge No. 500; 3) University Lodge No 408 to use of robes as shown in a photograph submitted to the Board for the Second Section of the Master Mason’s Degree. It was stipulated that robes be procured for the ruffians.

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

Coach’s workshops were held in conjunction with the biannual Wardens Boot camps at the following locations: Salisbury on October 18, Tarboro on November 1, Asheville on November 15, and Jacksonville on November 22. A total of fifty-two brethren attended these workshops.

At the January 16, 2015 meeting, the Board approved support for a Ritual Competition to be held at the Scottish Rite Temple in Greensboro on June 13, 2015.

At the April 10, 2015 meeting, the Board gave its support to the Board of General Purposes for the vocabulary phone application as presented by Right Worshipful Walt Clapp.

The Board of Custodians expresses its appreciation to Grand Master Douglas L. Caudle for his enthusiastic support of the Board of Custodians and the Certified Lecturer program; and to Grand Secretary T. Walton Clapp III and Jonathan Underwood, Assistant to the Grand Secretary, for their valuable assistance during the year. The Board also expresses its appreciation to Grand Lecturer Keith B. Rash for his efforts as the Grand Lecturer for 2015. To all

our certified brethren throughout the state, especially for your support of the “Raising the Instructive Tongue” program and your vigorous support of the Certified Lecture program, we extend a sincere “thank you” for your continued faithful service to our beloved Fraternity.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Thomas P. Dolinger, Chairman
 L. David Potts, Secretary

The Report of the Grand Lodge Personnel Committee

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

The Personnel Committee of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina A. F. & A. M. met throughout the year and is pleased to share with the 2015 Annual Communication the following results of our work together.

1. All employees of the Grand Lodge were evaluated by the Grand Secretary and their evaluations shared with the Committee.
2. Salary and benefit recommendations were referred to the Committee on Finance, pursuant to *The Code* and the Personnel Policies of the Personnel Committee.
3. With appreciation, we commend the Grand Secretary for his support and assistance in the process this year as well as Grover Dees and John Pea who served as the chair of Finance and Publications, respectively throughout this process.

While there is continuing work to be done by the Personnel Committee, a solid foundation is being laid for the future, which we trust will continue to give strength and support to all of our labor in North Carolina.

Respectfully submitted,
 A Gene Cobb, Jr.
 Senior Grand Warden 2015

Report of the Scholarship Committee

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

The Grand Lodge Scholarship Committee met on two occasions this year to review this year’s scholarship applications. We received over two hundred applications from across the state. The committee was able to present ten \$1,000 scholarships to high school graduates. The recipients were truly from the mountains to the coast.

The North Carolina Masonic Foundation recently created a limited liability corporation called the North Carolina Masonic Scholarship Foundation, LLC. The purpose of this corporation is to hold all scholarship monies that have been invested by Lodges or other Masonic bodies through the North Carolina Masonic Foundation. The Grand Lodge’s Scholarship Committee will be the managers of the funds within this foundation.

The Committee will make requests of each scholarship account in order to ascertain the criteria used by each Lodge or Masonic body for selecting candidates for a scholarship. This ensures each scholarship invested through the

foundation will adhere to the requirements set forth by the IRS and protect the Foundation's charitable status. One of the most difficult decisions of the Committee is deciding who will get scholarships, particularly when so many are deserving. Providing the criteria for each scholarship will make the job a little easier and for this we thank you.

In closing, the committee would like to thank all who have contributed to the scholarship campaign this summer.

Respectfully submitted,
L. C. Jones, Chairman

Report of the Committee on Permanent Building

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

The Committee on the 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, now through collaboration with the Library Committee to display paintings, prints, and objects found in the artifact collections.

Minor updates to the building continue to be made, such as the replacement of antiquated light fixtures, interior and exterior cleaning, and more attention to the aesthetics of the grounds.

The office's limestone sign that was damaged in July of 2014 has been ordered and is at the stone engravers workshop and should be installed this fall.

Keeping the value and integrity of any building is not inexpensive or without effort. The cost of preserving our home 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 the showplace it once was and of which we should be proud. We invite you to come see its splendor.

Respectfully submitted,
Douglas R. Dorney, Jr.

Report of the Commission on Subordinate Lodges Special Activities

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

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

The Commission on Subordinate Lodge's Special Activities has been active in supporting lodges in their fundraising efforts. The following reports from January 1 through July 31 reflects lodge fundraising activities:

Applications Processed:	145
Final Reports Received/Processed:	56
Total Funds Received/Processed by lodges:	\$249,093.55
Net Proceeds:	\$182,412.31

For Charity:			\$150,366.06	
For Lodge Building Funds:			\$ 32,046.25	
Type of Fundraisers:				<u>Average \$ Per Event</u>
Raffles:	12	\$	36,245.00	\$ 3,020.42
Golf Tournaments:	6	\$	57,187.43	\$ 9,531.24
Breakfast:	5	\$	16,146.62	\$ 3,229.32
BBQs:	3	\$	13,572.00	\$ 4,524.00
Dinners/Fish/Chicken:	9	\$	42,652.81	\$ 4,739.20
Other:	21	\$	83,289.69	\$ 3,966.18

All lodges are reminded to submit final reports of fundraising activities to the Commission on or before 60 days after the fundraising event; all 2015 final reports must be in to the Commission by December 31, 2015.

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) audited all the financial records of the subordinate lodges this year. The overall audit was very complimentary; however, the IRS recommends that raffle revenue/winnings must be reported, where applicable by instructions, by File Form W2-G supplied to the winners by the lodges. The requirements for reporting and withholding depend on the type of gambling, the amount of the gambling winnings, and generally the ratio of the winnings to the wager. Please review the Specific Instructions for File Form W-2G on the IRS website or contact the Commission to assist with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,
James L. Medlin, Chairman

Report of the of the Library Committee

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

2015 has been a productive year for the Library Committee. The committee met on 15 January at the Grand Lodge office and discussed the the cataloging and organization of the Grand Lodge's collections, volunteer assistance, as well as ways to publicize the collections to the membership and to the public.

The committee and office staff began cataloging and arranging the many rare books, manuscripts, photographs, and artifacts in the possession of the Grand Lodge. The new catalog system is a free web browser-based application that enables the Grand Lodge's library and historical collections to be shared online with the membership and the general public. The new site is already active, but requires formatting before it can be launched for general consumption.

95% of the Library's holdings are housed in their new arrangement, an arrangement based on the Boyden-Bish Masonic Classification System.

Several volunteers are assisting the committee in its work by cataloging books, sorting documents, and digitizing photographs.

The first materials digitized by the North Carolina Digital Heritage Center (DigitalNC) debuted online in January. The materials now available online include the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge from 1797 through 1890, examples of Masonic aprons, photographs, pamphlets, and an extensive ephemera collection. More materials, including the digitized proceedings through 1920, will be

available online by early fall.

Conservation efforts are ongoing, but recent accomplishments include the restoration of Army Lodge A's World War I-era Tracing Board and formal report by Durham-based Hessling Conservation Services concerning the disposition of the Grand Lodge's some 200 plus paintings.

Though still in a state of transition, the committee invites and welcomes visitors to the Grand Lodge's Library and looks forward to aiding those interested in North Carolina's Masonic heritage.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jonathan A. Underwood
Chairman

Final Report
of
Grand Master
Dalton W. Mayo
to
the
Grand Lodge
of
Ancient, Free and Accepted
Masons
of North Carolina
at
Winston-Salem, North Carolina
September 25, 2015

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

Thank you for the trust you reposed in me during my year as grand master. It was a most rewarding experience and one that I will never forget. It was my pleasure to meet many of you as I traveled across the state. I hope your year in Masonry was as good as mine and that, like me, you have many fond memories of your labors in the quarries.

Pursuant to the requirements of *The Code*, I present this Final Report for 2014. It will give you an idea of some of the events it was my pleasure to participate in as well as the status of our Masonic institutions.

The State of the Craft

There is much degree work going on. It would lead one to believe that there is a resurgence of interest in our craft and this does seem to be the case. While we do have many lodges that are very busy, we have others that rarely have any degree work at all and this makes a bold statement about their future prospects. There are some lodges that are consolidating and others that are thinking about consolidating. However, in the case where two weak lodges come together, their work is cut out for them. Consolidation does not automatically solve the problems that led to decline in the first place. It takes strong leadership and determination to make the new consolidated lodge work.

One of our goals needs to be reaching the breakeven point and putting a stop to our membership decline. A problem that we have nationally and in North Carolina is that the number added to the rolls each year is about equal to the number who die. This leaves us with two other statistics to consider, the npds and the demits. It would appear that this is the area over which we have the most control. In many cases we are simply not aggressive enough in our collection of dues and drop brothers without any type of personal contact except an impersonal letter. This is something we need to work on.

On a more positive note, Sophia Lodge 767 in Salisbury was constituted and consecrated on October 22 after having received its charter at the 2014 annual communication. This lodge is based on the traditional observance concept. The traditional observance lodge is true to our ritual but it has added elements designed to add dignity and decorum to the proceedings.

Veritas Lodge in Asheville was instituted under dispensation on October 29. They will be receiving their charter at the 2015 annual communication. Veritas is also a traditional observance lodge and follows a pattern similar to that of Sophia 767. It is a good sign to see new lodges and I hope this pattern continues.

In July we said a fond farewell to Brother Ric Carter, Assistant to the Grand Secretary since 1991. He will stay on as editor of *The North Carolina Mason* and work primarily out of his home in Washington, NC. We thank him for all of his contributions and wish for him the very best as he enjoys semi-retirement. Ric has been replaced as Assistant to the Grand Secretary by Brother Jonathan Underwood of Albemarle. We welcomed Brother Jonathan to the Grand Lodge office in early June. We have a strong office staff and Brother Underwood has made it even stronger. He is doing an excellent job and has very quickly learned his way around.

Our fraternity is a wonderful brotherhood and for me a source of pride

everywhere I go. No matter where I have been, I have felt like I was at home. I think this is probably the highest compliment one can pay to the greatest fraternity on earth.

Necrology

REG. 82-1 DUTY OF THE MASTER. It shall be the duty of the Master of each lodge on the death of a member or a sojourning Master Mason, Fellow Craft or Entered Apprentice, qualified therefore to ascertain if Masonic rites would be agreeable, and to take measures accordingly. A lodge should bury a deceased member with Masonic rites if requested by him during his life or by his near relatives after his death. In all other cases Masonic rites may be granted or withheld by the Master of the Lodge.

The Grim Reaper continues to claim our members and this is a fact of life we all have to accept. We had our annual necrology service on Friday of our 2014 Annual Communication and were pleased that PGM and Reverend David Cash (Preacher Dave) agreed to offer the eulogy. We did not know each brother who went on to his reward 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.

DDGM and DDGL Area Meetings

Five area meetings were held during the period October 28 - November 6, 2013. The locations were: Waynesville Lodge No. 259, Waynesville; Statesville Lodge No. 27, Statesville; Siler City Lodge No. 403, Siler City; Concord Lodge No. 58, Tarboro; and Warsaw Lodge

No. 677 in Warsaw. At these meetings we went over my plans for the year and what I would be emphasizing at the district meetings. These area meetings were attended by the Grand Master, Grand Secretary and Grand Lecturer as well as Brothers Mark Kolada and Kevin Otis or Chris Richardson of our two Masonic homes. This will likely be the last year we'll be using the five area meetings format but instead we will alternate yearly with meetings at WhiteStone in Greensboro and the Masonic Home for Children in Oxford.

District Meetings

Our 26 district meetings were scattered throughout our great state from Franklin in the mountains to Cape Hatteras on the coast. Our first meeting was held on January 27 in Hamlet and the final one on May 21 in my home lodge, Hiram 98 in Clinton. It was risky starting in January but we believed the chances of interference by wintry weather were slim by beginning in the sand hills and the eastern part of the state. However, this did not work out as planned. We attended the first district meeting and had to reschedule the next two. We attended the next meeting and again had to reschedule the next two. We were told by a very observant brother that we could have prevented this calamity simply by referring to the Farmer's Almanac when we laid out our schedule. According to this good brother, the Farmer's Almanac was right on the money with its weather forecast. Perhaps this is something we need to remember in our future planning.

It was a real pleasure traveling throughout the state, meeting brothers, and renewing acquaintances with those I had not seen for a while. The attendance was very good and everyone was most attentive and hospitable. I attempted to impart some "words of wisdom" to the brethren and, as usual, I

learned from them. All in all, the district meetings were a great experience and I was happy to see all the good work that is going on in many of our lodges across the state.

My thanks go to Brother Walt Clapp who attended most of the meetings and to Brother Ric Carter who was his occasional backup. I also want to thank Grand Lecturer Earl Wells who attended most meetings and promoted the Certified Lecturer/Instructor program. I'm sure we will get new certified brethren because of his encouragement. I also want to thank him for being my chauffer for a good part of my time on the road.

I want to express my appreciation to Brother Mark Kolada for attending the meetings and giving us an inspirational talk about WhiteStone, our home in Greensboro. If you did not leave the meeting feeling proud of what we have accomplished at what was formerly known as MESH, then you simply weren't listening to Mark. He did a masterful job representing our home.

The same can be said of Brothers Kevin Otis and Chris Richardson. They alternated their attendance at the meetings and inspired us with stories about the children at our home in Oxford. If you have not been to Greensboro or to Oxford, then you need to go and find out what you have been missing. You will leave knowing that both of our homes are in very good hands indeed.

Following is a list of the 2014 district meetings:

<u>Date</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Host</u>	<u>Location</u>
Jan 27	21	Hamlet 532	Hamlet
Feb 10	8	Royal Hart 497	Littleton
Feb 24	26	Walnut Cove 629	Walnut Cove
Feb 25	27	Lexington Memorial 473	Lexington
Feb 26	24	Marietta 444	Ramseur
Mar 4	6	Radiance 132	Greenville
Mar 5	14	Wake Forest 282	Wake Forest
Mar 10	20	Lillington 302	Lillington
Mar 12	18	St. Pauls 474	St. Pauls
Mar 18	41	Junaluskee 145	Franklin
Mar 19	34	Catawba Valley 217	Morganton
Mar 20	22	Bula 409	Burlington
Apr 8	10	Home 613	Fremont
Apr 9	4	Semper Fidelis 680	Jacksonville
Apr 10	12	Orient Lodge 395	Wilmington
Apr 22	30	Mooreville 496	Mooreville
Apr 23	36	King Solomon 704	Gastonia
Apr 24	32	Temple 676	Charlotte
Apr 28	40	Oconee 427	Bryson City
Apr 29	39	Mt. Hermon 118	Asheville
Apr 30	38	Polk County Unity 482	Saluda
May 1	33	Liberty 45	Wilkesboro
May 5	3	Washington 675	Washington
May 6	2	Cape Hatteras 698	Buxton
May 7	1	Unanimity 7	Edenton
May 21	11	Hiram 98	Clinton

Emergent Communications

The Grand Lodge called six Emergent Communications as follows:

An Emergent Communication of the Grand Lodge of AF & AM was held at the Sunset Avenue School in Clinton on December 7, 2013, for the purpose of installing the officers of the Grand Lodge for the ensuing year.

An Emergent Communication of the Grand Lodge of AF & AM was held at the Chatham County Courthouse in Pittsboro on May 2, 2014, for the purpose of dedicating an additional stone to commemorate the rebuilding of the courthouse which had earlier been heavily damaged by fire.

An Emergent Communication of the Grand Lodge of AF & AM was held in Mount Olive on August 16, 2014, for the purpose of rededicating the cornerstone of the Steele Memorial Library. This was the third location for the library and the same cornerstone was dedicated by masons at each of its previous locations.

An Emergent Communication of the Grand Lodge of AF & AM was held at Fairview Lodge 339 in Kings Mountain on October 13, 2014, for the purpose of dedicating a beautiful Masonic garden with an appropriate stone. My sincere thanks go to Brother James Medlin and his team for all they did to prepare for this most memorable event.

An Emergent Communication of the Grand Lodge of AF & AM was held in Salisbury on October 22, 2014, for the purpose constituting and consecrating Sophia Lodge No. 767.

An Emergent Communication of the Grand Lodge of AF & AM was held in Dallas on November 22, 2014, for the purpose of dedicating a plaque that was placed on the beautifully renovated Old Gaston County Courthouse.

Joseph Montfort Medals

Each Grand Master has the privilege of presenting three Joseph Montfort medals. I presented the first one to Worshipful Brother Edwin Craig Howard, Past Master of Coharie Lodge No. 379 in Salemburg on the occasion of the final district meeting held in Clinton on May 21st. Brother Howard, a Past District Deputy Grand Master, has for years been a strong supporter of Masonry in his lodge and throughout Sampson County. He is a fine example of the kind of Mason all of us should aspire to be.

The second medal was presented at the Grand Lodge Annual Communication to Worshipful Brother James Luigi Ammons. Brother Luigi has been very active in various aspects of Masonry for thirty years. He was a tremendous help to the Grand Lodge certified lecturer program when he served as secretary of the Board of Custodians. It fell his lot to automate the certified lecturer records from typewritten files to what they are today. Brother Luigi, I can't thank you enough for all the help you have given me and to masonry over these many years.

The third medal was presented at the Grand Lodge Annual Communication to Most Worshipful Brother Gene Tart Jernigan, Past Grand Master. Most Worshipful Brother Gene became a mason about three months after I did and hit the ground running. I did not give him this medal primarily because he appointed me to the grand line in 2005, but rather for all that he has done to support masonry throughout the state. He continues to do a wonderful job as Chairman of the Board of Directors at WhiteStone. He has been the right per-

son, in the right place, at the right time. I can speak for the masons of North Carolina in expressing our sincere thanks for all that he has done to support our home at Greensboro and Masonry in general.

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 channels. There were twenty-one investigations and in each case, based on the information provided by the DDGM, the petitions were approved for processing. In some cases, accommodations were required but in most of them they were not. *The Code* provisions are there for the purpose of determining whether an applicant is physically able to go through the initiatory process and whether he would become an immediate financial burden on the lodge. My thanks go to the District Deputy Grand Masters who took the time to conduct the investigations and make their reports.

Dispensations Granted

Occasionally, lodges request dispensations to elect officers, hold stated communications in various locations or dispense with a stated communication. Listed below are the thirty-four dispensations that were granted:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1. Lincoln 137 | Elect Junior Warden |
| 2. Farmville 517 | Elect officers |
| 3. Creasy Proctor 679 | Elect Senior Warden |
| 4. Knights of Solomon 766 | Stated communications various locations |
| 5. Mosaic 762 | Move location |
| 6. Ocracoke 747 | Elect officers |
| 7. Fulton 99 | Elect Master and Senior Warden |
| 8. LaFayette 83 | Elect Junior Warden |
| 9. East LaPorte 358 | Elect officers |
| 10. Wilkerson College 760 | Stated communications various locations |
| 11. Cliffside 460 | Meet at another location |
| 12. Thomas M. Holt 492 | Dispense with stated |
| 13. King Solomon 138 | Outdoor degree |
| 14. Queen City 602 | Dispense with stated |
| 15. Phalanx 31 | Elect Senior Warden |
| 16. Dillsboro 459 | Dispense with stated |
| 17. Mosaic 762 | Meet at another location |
| 18. Ashlar 765 | Move location |
| 19. Mooresville 496 | Elect Junior Warden |
| 20. French Broad 292 | Outdoor degree in Tennessee |
| 21. East LaPorte 358 | Go dark June, July, and August |
| 22. Zion 81 | Dispense with stated |
| 23. Roman Eagle 550 | Elect Senior Warden |
| 24. Cranberry 598 | Outdoor degree |
| 25. Cannon Memorial 626 | Outdoor degree |
| 26. Knights of Solomon | Other place |
| 27. Andrew Jackson 576 | Other place |
| 28. Asheboro 699 | Other place |

29. Berne 724	Dispense with stated
30. Wake Forest 282	Other place - WhiteStone
31. Ayden 498	Move location
32. Knights of Solomon 766	Stated communications
33. James B. Green 735	Other place - WhiteStone
34. Friendship 763	Other place

Honorary Title of Past District Deputy Grand Master

<u>Name</u>	<u>Lodge</u>	<u>District</u>
Christopher J. Tenpenny	Cape Hatteras 698	2
James R. Burch II	American George 17	5
Richard C. Best	Central Cross 187	9
Richard C. Stroud, Jr.	Pleasant Hill 304	10
Raymond L. Turner, Jr.	St. John's 13	11
David R. Ellis	Mt. Lebanon 117	16
Wesley C. McIntyre	Hamlet 532	21
William B. Safrit	Eureka 283	28
Rodney B. Hinson	Long Creek 205	31
John C. Trail	Mint Hill 742	32
Mark T. Fortner	Oconee 427	40

Honorary Title of Past District Deputy Grand Lecturer

<u>Name</u>	<u>Lodge</u>	<u>District</u>
Mitchell L. Spruill	Unanimity 7	1
James L. Sanderlin	Skewarkee 90	5
David L. Browning	Selma 320	16
Thomas A. Pope, Jr.	Stedman 730	17
Raymond F. Fulgaro	St. Alban's 114	18
Samuel E. Myrick	Elise 555	21
Bradley W. Morton	Asheboro 699	24
Royal S. Jarvis	Thomasville 214	27
Warren E. Dover	James K. Polk 759	32
Thomas G. Brooks, Jr.	Cleveland 202	35
William D. Thomas	Clyde 453	40
Charles E. McCowan	Andrews 529	41

WhiteStone, a Masonic and Eastern Star Community

WhiteStone, our Masonic and Eastern Star Home in Greensboro turned 100 years old last year. It has been substantially renovated and now is a true showplace. The next time you are in the area, please stop by and take a look around. It will give you a wonderful feeling to see what your donations are supporting.

Historically, it was our intention to admit only those residents who had Masonic connections. We were able to make this model work until about eight years ago when we ran into severe funding problems and almost lost our home. When you admit someone into our home and promise them a lifetime of care

regardless of their ability to pay, you have done a wonderful thing, but it has to be paid for. We reached the point that our income was not sufficient to do this and we either had to change our way of doing business or we had to shut our doors. By admitting those who were able to pay, regardless of whether they had Masonic affiliations or not, we were able to cover our bills and keep our home in operation. This was a drastic move, but I hope you understand that it was absolutely necessary.

We have about 35 residents with Masonic connections who were admitted to WhiteStone over the years whose expenses are being supplemented or completely paid for by your donations. When you plan your charitable fundraisers or personal donations, please keep these residents in mind. They are still depending on us to maintain the level of support we promised when they entered our home.

I am happy to tell you that, thanks to the hard work of Brother Mark Kolada and his staff, and Most Worshipful Brother Gene Jernigan, Chairman of the Board at WhiteStone and his dedicated board members, we have reached the point where we are accepting a limited number of residents with Masonic connections who cannot afford to pay the full costs of living there. We are hoping that this is just the beginning of our return to those days when charity was our byword. To make this dream a reality, a foundation has been established called the Masonic and Eastern Star Home LLC. Donations to this foundation made out to *MESH Foundation LLC* will guarantee that these funds will go to support only Masonically connected residents.

Thank you for your support of our home in Greensboro. Keep in mind that the day may come when you will want to call it your new home. I personally think it would be a wonderful place to live. If you are approaching the age where this might be a possibility for you, go to WhiteStone and take a look around.

Masonic Home for Children at Oxford

The Masonic Home for Children at Oxford is there for the specific purpose of helping children who need a stable, caring and loving home. It is not meant to replace a family but it does provide a family environment. It teaches, guides, nurtures, shares and focuses on life both at the home and after the child leaves Oxford. MHCO strives to help a child determine his or her own path for the future. MHCO is state licensed and nationally accredited and uses a family-living model that provides the children with individual living spaces, essentials needed for daily living, support if they have special needs, and a promise for full development and learning from infancy to young adulthood.

If you know of a child in need, notify the home right away. It is not required that the child have any type of Masonic connection since all are welcome as long as they are within the scope of the type of children that the home is qualified to serve. Current enrollment averages from 50 to 60 at any given time. The number fluctuates as parents or guardians can remove them from the home at will. The number is also limited by the availability of house parents for each of the cottages. If you and your wife are interested in being house parents, or know someone who is, it is very important that you let the home know.

Our home at Oxford is supported through both Masonic and private dona-

tions and legacies. Please keep this in mind as you and your lodge plan your giving for the year. The children are counting on us and we are of too good a disposition to let them down.

Please don't forget the annual homecoming festival which is scheduled for the second weekend in October. Late Friday afternoon and Friday evening we will have food and entertainment available on the grounds. Delicious barbecue will be cooked during the night and will be available on Saturday. Saturday is also the day for the big Shrine parade which is graciously provided for us by the three Shrine Temples in North Carolina: Sudan, Amran, and Oasis. This is certainly a highlight of the entire weekend and we are truly indebted to our Shrine-Mason brothers for donating their time and parade equipment for the enjoyment of all the children, both young and old.

VA Hospital Visitation Program

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 special funds or assessments. Our Grand Lodge contributes \$5.00 per initiation yearly to the Masonic Service Association for use in 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 visits to the hospitals in Asheville, Salisbury and Fayetteville. The hospital in Durham does not have a Masonic Service Association volunteer to assist with visitations.

Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America

This conference is an annual meeting of the Grand Masters of Masons in North America. Currently the membership is the Grand Lodges of the Provinces of Canada, the States of the United States of America, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, the States of Mexico, and the American-Canadian Grand Lodge of Germany. These Grand Masters represent some two million Freemasons in North America. Grand Masters from countries throughout the world also attend to join in fellowship. The Conference is the largest gathering of Grand Masters in the world. In 2014 the conference was held in Baltimore, Maryland, and in 2015 it will be held in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Northeast Conference of Grand Masters and Grand Secretaries

The Northeast Conference consists of the states of: Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Indiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia and West Virginia. The conference in 2014 was held in the nation's capital. As with the Conference of Grand Masters of North America, a variety of breakout sessions are held dealing with topics of current interest. North Carolina, as a member state, is well received at both conferences and I highly recommended that we continue the participation of our Grand Lodge.

World Conference of Grand Lodges

The XIII World Conference of Grand Lodges, the largest Masonic meeting ever organized in Central, Eastern and South Eastern Europe took place in

Romania in May. The event was hosted by the National Grand Lodge of Romania. On May 17, 2014, Most Worshipful Grand Master Radu Balanescu passed the office of Executive President of the World Conference to the Grand Master of California. The event was attended by delegations from Europe, North and South America, Asia and Africa.

The World Conference of Grand Lodges is held once every eighteen months. The last meeting took place in India; however our grand lodge did not attend since it was during our Thanksgiving holiday. Romania received the right to host this event when it won against Russia in 2011 at the meeting in Columbia.

Masonry is truly a worldwide fraternity. I could not have been treated any better by my home lodge than I was by the Masons in Romania. Some of the differences noted were that Masons in Romania and in Europe in general believe in dressing formally for lodge meetings. They believe in charging higher fees than we do. They do not believe in rushing candidates through the degrees. Candidates are expected to learn the lessons of each degree in detail before they proceed further.

It is truly an educational experience to learn how Masonry in other parts of the world compare to what we are accustomed to in the United States. The next conference will be held in San Francisco, California, in November 2015. Presumably, there will be a large attendance from grand jurisdictions in the United States and Masons from other parts of the world will have a great opportunity to see how we do things.

Special Visitations

It was my pleasure to attend the Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas in Spartanburg, South Carolina, in December 2013. This annual event raises funds to support the Shriner's Hospitals. I also attended the Imperial Shrine Annual meeting as a guest of the three Shrine temples in North Carolina. The meeting was held in Minneapolis, Minnesota in 2014, and in 2015 it will be in Houston, Texas.

Also in December, RW Deputy Grand Master Douglas Caudle and I were the guests of the Grand Lodge of Tennessee on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of their Grand Lodge. Originally, North Carolina had jurisdiction over the area of Tennessee but we relinquished that control in December 1813. This was a very well planned event and gave RW Brother Doug and me an opportunity to visit with our Masonic friends across the state line.

In January, I attended the Sudan Shriners winter ceremonial and installation of officers. In May I was invited to visit the Amran Shrine Temple in Raleigh for a dinner meeting. In June, I was the guest of the Grand Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star at their annual communication. In October, I was invited to attend the Charlotte Scottish Rite Bodies fall reunion. Also in October, I attended the Amranth annual meeting held in Clemmons. In November, I attended the fall reunions of the Wilmington and Greensboro Scottish Rite bodies. Also in November, I was a guest of the Mid-Atlantic Heroes of '76 conferral and banquet in Fayetteville.

Because of a schedule conflict, I was unable to attend the meeting of the International Order of the Rainbow for girls but Worshipful Brother Speed Hallman, Junior Grand Deacon, kindly went in my place and for this I am most appreciative.

Honorary Memberships

It was my distinct pleasure to receive honorary memberships from nine lodges during my tenure as Grand Master. Certainly none were expected and all are appreciated more than I can express.

- Blue Ridge 435, Highlands
- Cliffside 460, Cliffside
- Glenville 551, Glenville
- Numa F. Reid 344, High Point
- Monroe 244, Monroe
- Montgomery 426, Ranger
- Mount Hermon 118, Asheville
- Phoenix 8, Fayetteville
- Pleasant Hill 304, Deep Run

Wilkerson College

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 General H. Lloyd Wilkerson who was formerly Sovereign Grand Inspector General of the Scottish Rite in North Carolina.

Each class is limited to 36 students. Admission preference is given to lodge deacons with the idea that our best investment in the future lies within those officers who have several years to work and plan for their year as Master of the lodge. Though part of a deacon's time at Wilkerson College is devoted to the origins and traditions of Freemasonry, students receive the majority of their training in how to become effective leaders within their lodges. Subjects such as budgeting, lodge operations and membership services will be new to some whose notions of a Masonic education stop at ritual and memorization. It is the goal of Wilkerson College to provide each student with a well-rounded exposure to the tools that are needed to be a confident and effective leader in his lodge, the fraternity, and in his community.

The three sessions are held at our homes in Greensboro and Oxford and conclude at the Grand Lodge office building in Raleigh. This gives participants an opportunity to have a tour of all three facilities. If your lodge has never sent a deacon to Wilkerson College, it is something you should strongly consider. Talk to some of those who have been and you will find that they consider it time well spent.

Recommendations

I do not offer any specific recommendations for new legislation. If you look at our CODE you might well think we have enough legislation already. However, as I emphasized at my district meetings, I recommend that you keep in mind the following:

- Help each member find his place in the lodge.
- Remember that nothing gets accomplished until someone takes responsibility.
- If you really want to do something, you will find the time.
- Great things can be accomplished if we don't care who gets the credit.

I recommend that each lodge have at least one charity fund raiser each year in support of our two homes and the Masonic Foundation. Try it and you will find that it's work but it's also fun. The satisfaction that you will get from

working together and seeing how much good you can do in the process will be pay enough for your efforts.

I recommend that you continue encouraging your brothers to work toward becoming certified lecturers and certified instructors. I also want you to encourage a least one member of your lodge to learn the Masonic burial rites. Every lodge needs someone who can perform this valuable service and thus keep a promise that we made to our brothers when they first came into the lodge, sometimes many years ago.

Acknowledgements and Special Appreciations

Serving as Grand Master is not a solitary endeavor. There are many that were called on to help carry the load and make the Grand Master's burden lighter and for this I will be forever grateful.

My thanks go to PGM Gene Jernigan and his most gracious wife Charlla for all their help during the year, beginning with the installation of grand officers in December 2013. Without their assistance the installation weekend could not have gone off as the success that it was. The same is true of the Grand Lodge Annual Communication and I will be eternally grateful for Charlla's help with the banquet and the ladies' luncheon. Planning for such things is not something I find intuitive but she made it look easy. Charlla, I don't know how I can ever repay you for all that you have done for me and our Grand Lodge.

My thanks also go to Mrs. Sarah Jo Safrit, wife of Past Grand Master Leonard Safrit, for the several dozen jars of homemade blueberry jam she donated for the goody bags. This was a volunteer effort and I am most appreciative of her contribution. By the way, the jam was delicious!

A big thank-you goes to Johnny Surles and Bobby Meadows for being so helpful with the logistics of the grand lodge installation ceremony. All I had to do was be there and they took care of everything else. Thank you for all you did to make such an important day go so smoothly and seem so effortless. Shortly after I was installed and took my seat, Brother Johnny sent me a note expressing his concern that my apron might fall off. My apron did not fall off but I did appreciate his attention to detail. By the way, it should be noted that this was my first official communication as Grand Master.

The installation of grand officers fell on December 7th, 2013, which was Pearl Harbor day. Two Masonic brothers did something to make this day very special. Brother Thomas Harriett, a veteran of the Pearl Harbor attack, made a special effort to be at the installation and lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Brother Harriett, a 56 year Masonic veteran, is a member of Zion Lodge 81. He is now 95 years old and attends his lodge as often as he can. The Honorable Brother Robert Rideout, an administrative law judge and Past Master of White Stone Lodge 155, was in Afghanistan serving his country at the time of the installation. He sent a United States flag which had flown over Kandahar during the heat of battle. This special flag with appropriate documentation was presented to the Grand Lodge during the installation ceremony and is now on display at the Grand Lodge office building in Raleigh. My sincere thanks go to both of these brothers for their love of country and freemasonry.

A tip of my homburg goes to those lodges that gave me honorary memberships. These lodges 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. I thank all of you for your thoughtfulness and generosity.

I want to give a word of appreciation to Grand Lecturer Earl Wells for being so helpful to me during my travels. Brother Earl was my chauffeur for most of the year. The ride on your new helicopter to American George Lodge in Murfreesboro will be something I will remember very fondly as I reflect back on my year as Grand Master.

My thanks also go to Most Worshipful Brother Mansour Hatefi, Past Grand Master of the District of Columbia, for serving as Grand Orator; to Worshipful Brother Andy Wood for serving as Grand Chaplain; and to Worshipful Brother Mike Bass for serving as Grand Tyler. To each of these brothers I express my deep appreciation for the great jobs you did in your respective offices.

A word of appreciation goes to all the members of the boards and committees who worked so hard to see that everything was carried out as planned. I especially want to thank the District Deputy Grand Masters and District Deputy Grand Lecturers who faithfully fulfilled the duties of their offices. Although you may not realize it, your efforts were noticed and your contributions were appreciated.

I offer a special thank-you to Walt, Ric, Jonathan, Cornelia, Vicki, and April at our Grand Lodge headquarters for your invaluable assistance. Without the support of the Grand Secretary and all the Grand Lodge office staff, especially Cornelia, I could not have carried out my responsibilities effectively. I commend each of you for all you do support our Grand Master and our Grand Lodge.

My thanks go to the Grand Lodge line officers and Past Grand Masters who were so supportive during my time as Grand Master and the years leading up to it. We are truly a family and by our actions we show that we are. It has been a rewarding experience to get to know each of you better. I cherish your friendship.

My thanks also go to the members of my mother lodge Hiram 98 who expressed such pride in having one of their own as Grand Master. I particularly want to thank Brothers Mike Bass, Jerry Bradshaw, Mike Thornton, Ken Sutton, Earl Wells and anyone else who worked behind the scenes to see that the lodge was in good order. Everything looked great when it came time for our district meeting and I was proud to have brothers from all over the state come in and have a look around. The lodge never looked better thanks to their efforts.

Brethren, I thank all of you for your support and friendship. It was a great year because of you and I wish all of you the very best as you continue your labors on behalf of our beloved fraternity.

Interim Report
of
Grand Master
Duglas L. Caudle
to
the
Grand Lodge
of
Ancient, Free and Accepted
Masons
of North Carolina
at
Winston-Salem, North Carolina
September 25, 2015

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

Welcome to the 228th annual communication of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons of North Carolina. It has been an honor and privilege to serve as the 162nd Grand Master. You have honored me in more ways than I could ever possibly be able to convey to you.

Pursuant to the requirements of *The Code*, I present my Interim Report. Listed below are brief summaries of the various events and activities that have occurred through August 15, 2015.

The State of the Craft

During the district meetings and other events we discussed the need to “Improve the Lodge Experience.” My challenge to each lodge was to “give our brothers a reason to attend lodge”. We have many lodges who are doing just that and each are thriving. Many are providing quality Masonic education by utilizing the many speakers available around the state. These lodges also provide a quality lodge experience by working diligently on their ritual and degree work. Well organized meetings are also a hallmark of these lodges.

Thriving lodges are also engaging their members in well organized fund-raising events for our charities and serving other needs in their communities. Giving their members a reason to attend lodge expands the possibilities of service to all our members. For lodges who want to improve their lodge experience, we have many tools to work with. Your Grand Lodge website has many education programs and speakers bureau information. We also have training opportunities available through Wilkerson College, the Wardens Boot Camps, and dedicated brothers around the state who will help when asked.

We also discussed the need to “guard our West Gate” by properly investigating men who petition our lodges for membership. I will discuss this in more detail in a separate section.

We have also made improvements on how we communicate with our members. Our bimonthly paper, *The North Carolina Mason* has undergone a great improvement beginning with the current issue. Brother Ric Carter, Editor, and the Publications Committee have reworked the format of the paper to include color photos, better quality paper, and improved the paper fold. Another communication device is the Grand Lodge website which has been completely revised. Brother Jonathan Underwood, working with an outside vendor and members of the Education Committee, have created an excellent site. Improvements include easier navigation, expanded education programs, speakers bureau information, and improved graphics.

Masonry in North Carolina is certainly alive and well. With a new lodge working under dispensation in Raleigh and two new lodges about to receive charters at this Annual Communication. There is much interest in organizing new lodges of like minded Brothers as well as breathing life into lodges that have fallen into neglect. I encourage each Mason in North Carolina to find a quarry to work in their Lodge. Your lodge needs your talents; don't wait to be asked, present yourself and volunteer to help with the needs of your lodge.

Necrology

Many of our brethren have gone to that place “not made with hands eternal in the heavens.” Our degrees teach us how to live our lives so that we can reap the rewards of a well spent life. Most Worshipful Brother Dave Cash, PGM will conduct our annual necrology service to give proper respect to our departed brethren and comfort to the living. We did not know each departed brother but we can remember them and contemplate their many valuable contributions to our great fraternity. The lived respected and died regretted by those who knew them as friends and brothers. May they all rest in peace.

Investigation Committee Guidelines

Previously, the only guidelines given to investigation committees were items listed in *The Code* and local lodge customs. Early in the year Right Worshipful Brothers Mack Sigmon, Junior Grand Deacon and Larry Thompson, Junior Grand Steward took on the task of creating a guide to be used by lodge investigation committees. In addition to *The Code* they used similar guidelines from other jurisdictions to create our new guidelines. With editorial assistance from Right Worshipful Brothers Speed Hallman, Senior Grand Deacon and Shaun Bradshaw, Grand Marshal an excellent guide is now available on the Grand Lodge website. The “Guidelines for Lodge Investigating Committees” is a two part document that includes a handbook to review prior to the investigation and a one page checklist that can be used during the investigation. By utilizing this guide we will greatly improve the success of our new brothers and identify those who may not be a fit for Freemasonry.

District Deputy Grand Master (DDGM) and District Deputy Grand Lecturer (DDGL)

In an effort to establish a consistent message, learn best practices, and get brothers to our campuses we chose to have one centralized District Deputy Grand Master and District Deputy Grand Lecturer meeting instead of meeting multiple times across the state. We held a combined DDGM / DDGL meeting on the campus of WhiteStone on November 7 & 8, 2014. A thorough tour of the WhiteStone campus was held on Friday evening followed by dinner. After dinner, the hotel lobby was filled with brothers discussing Masonry, best practices, and good fellowship. On Saturday we spent over 4 hours discussing many topics of concern with our district officers. According to the survey results the sessions were right on target and much needed information was received. Our plan is for this format to continue with this years’ session to be held on the campus of the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford.

I also hold a bimonthly conference call with each DDGM in four groups of ten. These sessions discuss any new items that may arise and give updates on existing projects.

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Lodge</u>	<u>District</u>
Ernest Wesley Spencer	678	3
Charles McKinsey Smithwick	243	6
Charles Vernon Rouse, Jr	40	15
Brian John Curran	762	19
David Ervin Quick	102	20

Donald Edard Kehler	409	22
Roy Lee Bunting	718	24
Gary Dean Handy	629	26
Harold Dean Dunlap	64	29
Russell Eugene Bridges	262	34
Joe Donald Peeler	486	35
James Alexander Bass, III	381	38
Carl Richard Patton	663	39
Brian Gregory Rau	426	41

Listed below are DDGL's who have been given the honorary title of Past District Deputy Grand Lecturer:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Lodge</u>	<u>District</u>
John William Reifert	675	3
Phillip Ray Mercer	564	4
Michael Wayne Reaves	519	8
James Daughtry Davis	525	9
Perry Harlee Sellers	727	12
Donald Wayne Butto, Jr.	500	14
Dwight Wayne Crews	409	22
Billy Joe Joyce	629	26
David Keith Potter	27	30
Herman Eugene Hall	738	31
Kyle Seth Watts	606	34
Jesse Edward Hampton	717	37
Aaron Christopher Whitmire	267	38
David Shawn Cole	170	39

I congratulate each of these fine Brothers who have given of their time, energy, and talents for the good of Masonry.

Joseph Montfort Medals

Each Grand Master is given the privilege to present three Joseph Montfort Medals. I presented the first to Right Worshipful Brother Keith B. Rash (PM, PDDGM, PDDGL) of Harmony Lodge No. 299. Brother Rash is a stalwart of the 30th District and has served in many capacities. His devotion to the craft and to assisting others is something to which we can all aspire. He is currently serving as our Grand Lecturer. I will make a second presentation during the annual communication and a third later in the fall.

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 channels. To date, there have been nine investigations and in each case, based on the information provided by the DDGM, the petitions were approved for processing. In some cases, accommodations were required but in most cases they were not. *The Code* provisions exist for the purpose of 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 each instance

and made proper reports.

Dispensations Granted

To date, I have granted 43 dispensations for various Lodge needs and situations. Listed below are the Dispensations granted:

Meeting other place	Mosaic	762
Stated communication locations	Knights of Solomon	764
Move location of emergent communication	Ashlar	765
Elect officers	Royal Hart	497
Elect senior warden	Maiden	592
Stated communication locations	Knights of Solomon	UD
Dispense with stated communication	Clifford	460
Change venue of Stated	Knights of Solomon	UD
Outdoor degree	King Solomon	138
Elect junior warden	Kedron	387
Stated communication locations	Wilkerson College	760
Funeral	Stokes	32
Third Degree - battleship	St. John's	1
Dispense with stated communication	Spencer	543
Stated communication locations	Knights of Solomon	764
Move location of emergent communication	Ashlar	765
Elect master	Horse Creek	719
Meeting in another location	Greensboro	76
Meeting in another location	Goldsboro	634
Meeting in another location	Andrew Jackson	576
Dispense with stated communication	Marietta	444
Dispense with stated communication	Perquimans	106
Elect junior warden	Cherry Point	688
Outdoor degree	Hibriten	262
Move location of emergent communication	Ashlar	765
Elect master	Proctorville	643
Stated communication locations	Knights of Solomon	UD
Elect junior warden	Fuquay	258
Outdoor degree	Crown Point	708 and 6th Masonic District
Move location of lodge	Fort Bragg	667
Elect senior warden	St. John's	1
Meeting in another location	Belmont	627
Move location of emergent communication	Ashlar	765
Dispense with stated communication	Wilkerson College	760
Host out of state lodge	Zion	81
Degree held in another jurisdiction	Cliffside	460
Stated communication locations	Knights of Solomon	UD
Outdoor degree	Cannon Memorial	626
Move location of emergent communication	Ashlar	765
Outdoor degree	Cherry Point	688
Meeting in another location	Columbus	102
Dispense with stated communication	Perquimans	106
Dispense with stated communication	Berne	724
Outdoor degree	Marble Springs	439

Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America

The Grand Lodge of North Carolina is a member of The North Ameri-

can Conference of Grand Masters. This conference is made up of recognized Grand Lodges in all 50 states, providences of Canada, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the states of Mexico, and the American-Canadian Grand Lodge of Germany. The annual meeting was held on February 15 & 16 in Vancouver, British Columbia. This meeting gathers Grand Masters to learn items affecting the craft, discuss best practices, and learn new programs. As a special treat this year, Right Worshipful Brother Bryant Webster, Deputy Grand Master and I attended Duke of Connaught Lodge in Vancouver and observed a Canadian Master Mason degree.

Northeast Conference of 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 West Virginia. This years conference was held in Manchester, New Hampshire and featured several breakout sessions that included lodge insurance, marketing, college fraternities, and other issues affecting the Craft. Ample time was also given for informal communication with counterparts from other states to discuss various Masonic topics.

Emergent Communications of the Grand Lodge

To date I have held four emergent communications of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina. The first was on December 2, 2014 in Statesville for the purpose of installing the 2015 Grand Lodge Officers. The second was held on June 6, 2015 in Asheville for the purpose of re-dedicating the Zebulon Baird Vance Monument in Pack Square. The third was held on June 13, 2015 in Raleigh for the purpose of re-dedicating the Old State Capitol on the occasion of the 175th anniversary of its opening. The fourth communication was held at Durham to dedicate the new building for Durham Lodge No. 352.

Appendant and Concordant Bodies

Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine – North Carolina has and continues to enjoy amity with all three of its Shrine Centers. The dedicated Masons who are members of the Amran, Oasis, and Sudan Shrines are doing great work supporting their 22 Shriners' Hospitals for Children. These centers are led by Illustrious Brother Sir Charles Britt (Amran) Illustrious Brother Sir Todd Ham (Oasis) and Illustrious Brother Sir Jerry Tillett, Past Grand Master (Sudan). Whether I was attending the Shrine Bowl, Officer installation, ceremonials, or any other event, I was made to feel most welcome and saw firsthand the dedication of these fine Masons. All three centers invited Angela and I to attend the 141st Imperial Session in Houston, Texas. We had an excellent time of fellowship and gained a much better understanding of the operations of this group. Blue Lodges Masons can and should take note of how Shriners effectively market their programs.

Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite – Peace and Harmony prevail across the Valleys in the Orient of North Carolina. Most Worshipful Brother William Brunk, Past Grand Master and Sovereign Grand Inspector General continues to provide excellent leadership for the Scottish Rite in North Carolina. The support of their language disorders clinics are the primary charity of the Scottish Rite. However, many local needs are met by the Scottish Rite Masons in North Carolina. They Valley of Charlotte honored me with a Table Lodge

meeting which included Masons from 3 states. We enjoyed an evening of good food, fellowship, toasts, and even singing! My home Valley of Winston–Salem honored me with a special evening that was attended by many of my mentors and Masonic heroes. I also attended the Biennial Session of the Supreme Council in Washington, D.C. This event was well planned and I was able to enjoy fellowship and learn from a large group of brothers from around the country.

York Rite Bodies - The York Rite Bodies of North Carolina are led by Most Excellent Grand High Priest Thomas Jackson, Most Illustrious Grand Master James Howell, and Most Eminent Grand Commander Terry Pritt. 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 Wilmington this year as well as the Summer Assembly in Maggie Valley. As a special treat, the group traveled to the Masonic Marker located just off the Blue Ridge Parkway. Most Worshipful Berry Rigdon, Past Grand Mastger and Worshipful Brother Mack Sigmon, Junior Grand Deacon presented an excellent program at the marker.

Order of the Eastern Star – Sister Peggy Pilson, Worthy Grand Matron hosted a Masonic and Eastern Star gathering at the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford. The event strengthened the bond between Masons and Eastern Star members and I am most grateful that the MHCO was chosen to host this event. I was honored to speak at the OES Annual Session where Sister Fran Southern was elected Worth Grand Matron. Sister Southern will be addressing our Annual Communication during the Friday afternoon session.

WhiteStone – A Masonic and Eastern Star Community

Please refer to the reports from WhiteStone Administrator Mark Kolada and the Grand Lodge Committee on Whitestone for specific details of the operations of your home.

To the Lodges and members who gave over \$257,087.00 to Whitestone, I appreciate your support and assure you that this money was put to good use caring for those in need at Whitestone. With your support we are able to continue admitting new fraternally related brothers and sisters in need to our wonderful home in Greensboro.

I do want to speak to the lack of monetary support for the home by well over 100 Lodges in North Carolina. We have made a special effort to determine the cause of this sad condition. Misinformation and apathy appear to be the largest contributors. Your DDGM will be working with Lodge Masters to get the proper information into our Lodges as well as encouraging fund raisers.

Whitestone is governed by a Board of Directors led by Most Worshipful Brother Gene Jernigan, Past Grand Master and made up from members of the Order of the Eastern Star and Masons from across the state. This group has a diverse background of skills that are used unselfishly to better our Home.

Masonic Home for Children at Oxford

Please refer to the report from the MHCO Administrator Kevin Otis and the Grand Lodge Committee on the MHCO for specific details of the operations of your home.

The rules governing how we deliver care to the children in our home have changed greatly over the last several years. However, what has not changed is

that each child in our care is given the opportunity to thrive in a safe and loving environment provided by the Masons of North Carolina.

The MHCO is governed by a Board of Directors led by Most Worshipful Brother Dan Rice, Past Grand Master and alumnus of the Home. The Board is made up of both Masons and non-Masons. The non-Masons on the Board bring a wide variety of needed skills in child care, legal services, and many other vital aspects of operating a modern children's home.

Nearly 100% of all North Carolina Lodges provided support for MHCO last year. I appreciate each and every one who contributed to the operation of this safe and beautiful home in Oxford.

VA Hospital Visitation

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. Our budget this year is changing how these funds are distributed by keeping them in North Carolina as apposed to sending them to a national association. If passed, local brothers will decide how best to spend these funds to benefit North Carolina Masons who are veterans. It is becoming more difficult to identify Masons who are in VA hospitals due to privacy regulations. To date I have visited the VA Hospital in Salisbury and enjoyed meeting our brothers in residence.

Charles Cathey Masonic Scholarship Program

The Charles Cathey Scholarship Program was established in 2000 and began awarding scholarships in 2006. These scholarships support deserving high school seniors who are continuing their education by attending college. This year nearly 200 applications were received for the 10 available scholarships.

To raise funds for these scholarships, we began the "NC Masons Support Education" decal program earlier in the year. Many of you have supported this effort in a big way and I appreciate every gift. Our goal was to raise enough money to double the scholarships to 16. We have made great strides to accomplish this but we are not quite there. If you have not given and would like to, please send in the return card that you received at your earliest convenience.

The scholarship applications are reviewed by a 5 Mason group from across the state who are given the difficult task of deciding who will be awarded the scholarships. All money given to the scholarship fund is invested in an endowment where only the interest earned is used to fund the scholarships. Therefore, all gifts to the program will be used in perpetuity. This fund is managed by our Masonic Foundation who have grown this fund by safely and wisely investing for high returns.

Recommendations

I have made a CODE amendment change recommendation concerning the minimum initiation fee for all Lodges in North Carolina. I will address the need for this during discussion at the Annual Communication.

Acknowledgements and Special Appreciations

I have had the privilege to be exposed to so many good men that I would never have had the opportunity to meet if it were not for Masonry. The pages of this book would overflow with names and instances of wise counsel given to

me if I were able to list them all. I know that I will overlook many who have assisted me in my journey through life so my apologies to those not listed.

Without the Love and Support that I receive from my wife Angela nothing would be possible. If it were not for her strength and devotion, I would not be able to devote the time and energy to properly serve as a Grand Lodge Officer or Grand Master. She has been the one to bear the load not only at home but in our business. So, instead of thanking me for the things that I do please thank her for allowing me the opportunity to serve you.

My Brothers of Statesville Lodge No. 27 who took a rough ashlar in me and polished my rude and imperfect shape. Most Worshipful Brother Tom Gregory who leads by example and lends wise counsel when asked I am forever grateful for all that you have and continue to do for me. Most Worshipful Brother Lewis Ledford who's passion and competence has inspired not only me but all Masons in North Carolina. Thanks to Worshipful Brother Rick Matthews and Worshipful Brother Phil Keller who not only coached me through my degrees but who taught me how act as a just and upright Mason. To Worshipful Brother Kevin Combs who challenges me to learn new things and shares alternative viewpoints, you make me a better person. Our breakfast book discussion group Brothers Wayne Craddock, Wyatt Joyner, Al Gaylord, Eddie Rimmer, Kevin Combs, David Potter, and Duane Smyth. You Brothers keep me well grounded and within due bounds. This group must be special to get me up in the middle of the night to have breakfast and discuss Masonry and life in general!

To Most Worshipful Brother David Cash who appointed me to this once in a lifetime opportunity. I know of no other way to repay you but to be as good of a man and Mason as you are. Your passion for life is inspiring and I appreciate all that you do.

My life is blessed by having the ability to serve with the former and current Grand Lodge Officers. This is a special group of men from a wide variety of backgrounds who meet on the level and work for the good of Masonry. Your strength, support, and wise counsel is something that I will cherish the rest of my life.

I want to thank the professional staff at the Grand Lodge Office. Walt Clapp, Jonathan Underwood, Cornelia Doherty, Vicki Lam, and April Charlton work daily to meet the needs of our Craft.

To all of the DDGM's, DDGL's, Boards, Commissions, and Committees; thank you for your dedication to our beautiful fraternity.

A special thank you to all of the Masters, Wardens, Secretaries, Officers, and members of the Lodges across North Carolina. You are the men who coach, confer degrees, raise funds, care for buildings, support your brothers, have fun, live uprightly, and bury our dead. You my Brothers, are the Grand Lodge of North Carolina and without your support none of what we do would be possible.

Brethren, thank you for all of your support and friendship throughout this and previous years.

All my best,
Douglas Caudle
Grand Master

Grand Lodge Officers

Douglas L. Caudle	Grand Master
Bryant D. Webster	Deputy Grand Master
A. Gene Cobb, Jr.	Senior Grand Warden
Jimmie B. Hicks, Jr.	Junior Grand Warden
Lewis R. Ledford	Grand Treasurer
T. Walton Clapp, III	Grand Secretary
C. Speed Hallman	Senior Grand Deacon
Dwight M. Sigmon	Junior Grand Deacon
P. Shaun Bradshaw	Grand Marshal
R. David Wicker, Jr.	Grand Steward
Larry B. Thompson, Jr.	Grand Steward
R. David Cash	Grand Chaplain
R. Kevin Combs	Grand Tyler
Keith B. Rash	Grand Lecturer
Richard J. Smith	Grand Historian
Andrew J. Hammer	Grand Orator
James R. Stevens	Judge Advocate

Past Grand Masters

Norburn Creighton Hyatt	1985
Lee Roy Thomas, Jr.	1988
Bunn Tate Phillips, Jr.	1990
Lester Poindexter Martin, Jr.	1991
Richard Groves Moore	1993
William Bailey Brunk	1994
Gerry Theodore Smith	1997
Thomas Warren Gregory	1998
Charles Marshall Ingram	1999
Charles Edward Cathey	2000
William Graham Mathis	2001
Jerry Reginald Tillett	2002
Charles Albert Lewis, Jr.	2003
Leonard Yearby Safrit, Jr.	2004
Graham Wiles Pervier	2005
Gene Tart Jernigan	2006
Wallace Berry Rigdon	2007
David Ronald Cash	2008
Dan Charles Rice	2009
William Lynn Dill	2010
Lewis Ray Ledford	2011
Robert E. Grehsam, Jr.	2012
Dewey Ralph Preslar, Jr.	2013
Dalton Wayne Mayo	2014

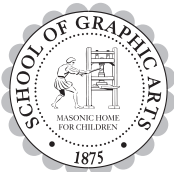
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