

Reports

of

The Grand Master

The Grand Treasurer

The Grand Secretary

Boards, Commissions and Committees

at the

229th

Annual Communication

of

The Grand Lodge of

Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons

of North Carolina

at

Winston-Salem, North Carolina

September 23–24, 2016

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NORTH CAROLINA LODGE MANUAL MUSIC
OPENING THE LODGE

Music: "*Old Hundred*"
or "*Doxology*"

Great God, behold before thy throne,
A band of brothers lowly bend;
Thy sacred Name we humbly own,
And pray that thou wilt be our friend.

A band of brothers may we live,
A band of brothers may we die,
To each may God, our Father, give
A home of peace above the sky.

Report of the Grand Treasurer

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

I submit this interim report as of June 30, 2016. Included in this report is the total receipts and disbursements, special funds and the securities held by this Grand Lodge.

Total Funds available 01/01/2016 (General Funds & Special Funds)	\$1,044,480
Total Receipts YTD	807,277
Total Disbursements YTD	<u>(387,535)</u>
Total Cash To Be Accounted For	\$1,464,222

Deposits:	Rate	Maturity	Issue Date	Amount
Petty Cash				\$100
1st Citizens Bank (operating account)				\$681,920.63
Money Markets:				
North State Bank	VARI			\$1,472
PNC Bank	VARI			\$12,849
Wells Fargo Advisors, Investment			Beginning Balance	\$442,881
Current Market Value	\$452,016		Lot next to GL	\$325,000
Dividends	\$ 4,479			
Unrealized gain	\$ 9,135			

Total Cash Accounted For **\$1,464,222**

Total Cash & Principle Securities YTD

Special Funds Summary	12/31/15	06/30/16
Special Contingency Reserve	\$ 200,000	\$200,000
Emblems and Awards Reserve	8,265	8,265
Automobile Reserve	70,283	46,670
Operation Reserve	112,686	112,686
Building Reserve	161,003	161,003
Office Equipment Reserve	3,299	3,299
Charity Fund	<u>79,161</u>	<u>79,161</u>
Total Special Funds	\$634,696	\$611,084

Total Special Funds 6/30/16	\$611,084
Total General Funds Available	<u>\$853,138</u>

Total Of All Funds 6/30/2015 **\$1,464,222**

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, 2016, and a suggested budget for the calendar year 2017.

INCOME

	Budget 2016	Proposed Budget 2017
33,617 Estimate Master Masons @ \$20 for 2017		672,340
34,734 Estimate Master Masons @ \$20 for 2016	694,680	
263 Endowed Members (Deceased)		
1,345 Endowed Members	24,000	24,000
1,142 Initiation Fees @ \$21.00	24,000	24,000
[NC Charities @ \$10.00]	(11,428)	(11,428)
[GL Building @ \$5.00]	(5,235)	(5,235)
[GWNMA @ \$5.00]	(5,235)	(5,235)
[Initiation Fees Retained @ \$1.00]		
Membership Services	41,880	41,880
Penalty for Late Returns	250	250
Dividends and Interest	8,000	8,000
Background check billed	18,600	18,600
Davie Academy/Adept 860-09		
Miscellaneous Income	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>
Total Income	\$791,470	\$769,130

EXPENSES

Acct. No.	Account Name	Budget 2016	Proposed Budget 2017
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	VA Hospital Visitation	200	1,000
800-05	Hospital Visitation (NC)	2,000	
800-06	Masonic Youth Organizations	4,250	4,250
800-07	Wilkerson College Scholarships	<u>2,500</u>	<u>2,400</u>
	Total	37,950	36,650
810-00	Salaries and Fees		
810-01	Grand Secretary	89,543	91,782
810-03	Office Personnel	88,171	90,375
810-04	Retirement/Health and Life Insurance	44,213	44,691
810-05	Social Security Tax	17,803	18,248
810-06	Unemployment Tax	850	850
810-08	Assistant to the Grand Secretary	55,000	56,379
810-09	Summer Intern	1,500	1,500
810-10	Drewry Memorial Grand Secy. Fund	<u>(20,000)</u>	<u>(20,000)</u>
	Total	277,080	283,825
820-00	Administration Costs		
820-02	Printing	10,500	10,500
820-04	Office Expenses	12,000	12,000
820-05	Postage	10,000	10,000
820-06	Office Equipment	3,000	3,000
820-07	Office Equipment Maintenance	10,500	10,500
820-08	Telephone/Internet	8,000	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	<u>12,000</u>	<u>12,000</u>
	Total	118,500	118,500
830-00	Building Expenses		
830-01	Utilities	10,000	10,000
830-02	Building Grounds Maintenance	17,000	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	<u>10,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>
	Total	50,000	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.	<u>300</u>	<u>300</u>
	Total	3,400	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 November Orientation	<u>5,000</u>	<u>5,000</u>
	Total	41,750	41,750
860-00	Boards, Commissions, and Committees		
860-01	Board of General Purposes	4,500	4,500
860-02	Board of Custodians	4,000	2,500
860-04	Masonic Public Relations	4,000	3,500
860-05	Finance Committee	500	500
860-06	Code Commission	300	300
860-07	Lodge Service Commission	100	100
860-08	Masonic Education	4,000	6,000
860-09	Davie Academy/Adept	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	Total	17,400	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
870-03	Conference of Grand Secretaries	2,000	2,000
870-05	Regional Conference (NE)	3,000	3,000
870-06	World Masonic Conference/UGLE 300th	<u>4,000</u>	<u>4,000</u>
	Total	18,500	18,500
880-00	Annual Communication / GLO Installation		
	Total costs	<u>68,000</u>	<u>68,000</u>
	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	<u>3,000</u>	<u>4,000</u>
	Total	17,500	18,500

900-00 Communications		
900-01 Communications Director	29,110	29,110
900-02 Social Security Tax	2,227	2,227
900-03 Printing	51,600	51,600
900-04 Postage	38,000	38,000
900-05 Retirement/Life and Health Insurance	2,620	2,620
900-07 Travel	4,000	4,000
900-08 Equipment and Supplies	2,000	2,000
900-09 Internet Services/Web Page Domain	1,500	1,500
900-10 MBO (Management Bonus Objective)	<u>1,000</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	132,057	131,057

Acct. No.	Account Name	Budget 2016	Prelim Budget 2017
	EXPENSE SUMMARY		
800-00	Philanthropy	37,950	36,650
810-00	Salaries and Fees	277,080	283,825
820-00	Administration Costs	118,500	118,500
830-00	Building Expenses	50,000	50,000
840-00	Membership Fees and Dues	3,400	3,400
850-00	Travel and Officers Expense	41,750	41,750
860-00	Boards and Committees Office and Travel	17,400	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	18,500
910-00	North Carolina Mason	<u>132,057</u>	<u>131,057</u>
	Total Expenses (Series 800 - 910)	<u>\$782,137</u>	<u>\$787,582</u>
	ESTIMATED SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	9,333	(18,452)

2015 Membership Statistics

Membership 1/1/2015.....	41,333
Initiated.....	1,006
Raised.....	805
Admitted.....	487
Restored.....	<u>383</u>
Total Gains.....	1,675
Expelled.....	12
Suspended UMC.....	3
Excluded NPD.....	933
Demitted.....	348
Died.....	<u>1,228</u>
Total Losses.....	<u>2,524</u>
Total Membership 12/31/2015.....	40,482

Service Awards for 2015

Twenty-Five Year Service Awards presented.....	1,388
Fifty Year Veteran Awards presented.....	485
Sixty Year Awards.....	257

Respectfully submitted,
T. Walton Clapp, III
Grand Secretary

Report of the Committee on Charity

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

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

To JH (widow)	\$1,000
To Brother KB	1,000
To MSA (South Carolina flood disaster)	5,000
To MHCO	5,000
To WhiteStone	<u>5,000</u>
Total dispersed	\$17,000

Respectfully submitted,
Grover Lackey, Chairman

Report of the Grand Historian

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

A History of Leadership

Leadership: The quality of a leader; the capacity to lead...

Our fraternity is centuries old and time tested. One should never question the intentions of any man who makes the sincere commitment of becoming a Freemason. The tenets of brotherly love, relief, and truth are well known to all. Perhaps, however, one important facet that we tend to overlook is one of the cornerstones of Freemasonry: that of developing leaders. Though equality is a virtue of our Fraternity, a Lodge needs to be led, or it will flounder. A Lodge is a forum for the development of leaders. Throughout the state's and nation's history, Freemasons have "stepped up" when called upon to lead the way (i.e. Richard Caswell, William R. Davie, Cornelius Harnett, William Lenoir, George Washington, John Hancock, Richard Montgomery, Joseph Warren, Andrew Jackson, Zebulon Vance...).

The officers of each Lodge are that Lodge's leaders, and it is they, along with contributing members, who must fulfill their duties so that a Lodge may flourish and not wilt. As a man decides to "go through the chairs" in a Lodge, his responsibilities increase, and it is the duty of each member to be a positive, supportive, and productive follower. The organizational structure of a Lodge is set forth upon a solid foundation, and the preparation for potential leaders begins as a Junior Steward. Whilst convenience, necessity or expediency catapults a man into "the East" before he is properly prepared, it is not uncommon. The line of succession in the Grand Lodge exemplifies how progression through each station results in the proper preparation for each man to lead his Brethren. A "half baked officer" is not fair to the Brother, his Lodge, or the craft. Yes, discipline, work and support are needed for success. Yet when you reflect upon the memories of those men who came before us, was it not their dedication that enabled the flame of Freemasonry to remain aglow so it would be passed to each of us?

"Going through the chairs" is not something to be taken lightly. It is not

the role of many to assume a leadership position, yet the talents of each member can serve a purpose within a successful Lodge. The men who are elected by their fellow Brethren to serve as Lodge officers take on the mantle of leadership and responsibility to perform those duties prescribed. Each one of us in our Lodge looks to our officers to “do the right thing”. They are to faithfully perform those duties as a good leader should, making our Lodges better, and to properly prepare the men who are to follow them to be good leaders for the continuing future of Freemasonry.

In two thousand and sixteen our 163rd Grand Master, M.W.G.M. Bryant Webster, has led the way as he has crisscrossed our state. He has connected with countless Lodges and never asked any Brother to do anything he has not done or would not do in the performance of his duty – the most essential asset of a leader...

Those men whose names you recall throughout the annals of history were, like each of us, presented with challenges, yet they possessed vision – for the future, their lives, fortunes, honor and Freemasonry.

Respectfully submitted,
Steven A. Campbell
Grand Historian

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 and, like last year, to collaborate with the Library Committee to display paintings, prints, and objects found in the artifact collections.

Minor maintenance to the building, such as painting, continues to be made, but major improvements this year include the construction of a handicap-accessible bathroom on the ground floor, a long range plan to improve the appearance and cost efficiency of the grounds, and a long range plan to replace old lighting fixtures with new, cost efficient fixtures.

The new bathroom on the ground floor has proved to be a cost-effective renovation of the former photography darkroom. All plumbing, electrical accesses, venting, and egress are readily accessible and will make the renovation an easy one. The new bathroom will be a much needed addition to the building and provide restroom facilities to the public spaces on the ground floor.

Long range plans are being formulated to devise a new grounds plan that will include low maintenance flowers and shrubs as well as drought resistant grass.

The Committee is also working on long range plans to replace outdated light fixtures — both inside and outside the building — that will improve safety and security as well as being energy and cost efficient.

The office’s limestone sign—the perfect ashlar emerging from a rough ashlar—that was damaged in July of 2014 has been replaced and is more readily visible and recognizable from Glenwood Avenue.

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 into 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 Lodge Service Commission

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

The Lodge Service Commission wishes to thank Grand Master Bryant D. Webster for his vote of confidence in our commission this year. I want to thank each of our commission members for their timely and helpful input on items that have been addressed this year. The LSC is comprised of Christopher L. Burti, John D. Carmichael, William L. Mills III, and James B. Sykes. Each of these brethren has been very helpful, willing, and thoughtful as they addressed requests and issues presented to them. They have never hesitated to take the time to communicate in a timely manner and consider all aspects of the business before them.

During early 2016 the LSC met to address some areas of the uniform Temple Association bylaws that required additional attention and clarification. The meeting held in January resulted in revisions in the sections dealing with the distribution of assets should a member organization of an association withdraw membership. The revised document of uniform bylaws was presented to the Grand Lodge for review and was approved by the Board of General Purposes. The bylaws template is currently being used for new temple associations formed in the state.

The Code revisions detailed in Amendment group 4 are supported by the LSC and will aid lodges by providing more flexibility for lodges to rent their facilities while maintaining compliance with the IRS. The need for this change is very evident by the requests for information and applications submitted to the LSC in the past and current year.

The following is a report on the various applications and inquires that have been made to the Lodge Service Commission during 2016.

Information was provided to Excelsior Lodge No. 261 and Temple Lodge No. 676 located in Charlotte regarding the formation of a Temple Association. No further action by the LSC has been required.

An application was received and approved from Cary Lodge No. 198 for a loan to be used for lodge projects.

Approval was given regarding revisions to the Asheville Masonic Temple Association bylaws to comply with the current Temple Association bylaws template.

Information was provided to Derita Lodge No. 715 regarding the process of purchasing property and construction of a new lodge building. Preliminary application documents have been submitted to the LSC for review. This project is in the early stages and is expected to progress after zoning issues are addressed.

An application by Cary Lodge No. 198 was submitted and approved for the construction of an addition to the existing building.

An application for the approval of revised bylaws was submitted by the Raleigh Masonic Temple Association. The review and approval of that application is in progress at the time of this report.

Inquiries were received from St Johns Lodge No. 1 and the Fayetteville Temple Association regarding possible loans to finance building repairs/upgrades. No applications have been received requiring further action by the LSC.

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

Respectfully and Fraternaly,
James W. Howell, Chairman

Petitions for Restoration

JRF (docket no. 712), formerly a member of Revolution Lodge No. 552, Greensboro, was expelled for un-Masonic conduct on May 2, 2003. He has filed for restoration with the lodge on February 26, 2016, and with the Grand Secretary on March 9, 2016.

MCH (docket no. 518), formerly a member of Catawba Lodge No. 248, Newton, was expelled on April 28, 1988. He has filed for restoration with the lodge on June 6, 2016, and with the Grand Secretary on June 20, 2016.

DBF (docket no. 867), formerly a member of Hall Lodge No. 53, Shawboro, was expelled on January 27, 2015. He has filed for restoration with the lodge on June 22, 2016, and with the Grand Secretary on June 30, 2016.

MWR (docket no. 882) formerly a member of Widow's Son Lodge No. 519, Roanoke Rapids, was suspended for three years on October 5, 2015. He did not file an appeal in the prescribed time of 60 days. He is appealing for reinstatement and filed with the Grand Secretary on March 18, 2016.

Report of the Judge Advocate

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

This report is prepared as of 1 August 2016 and most respectfully submitted for your information and disposition.

Docket No. 876 – Brother GBD, a Master Mason and member of Youngsville Lodge No. 377, was expelled on August 19, 2015, by the Judge Advocate for committing an act that would be a felony in North Carolina to wit: obtaining property by false pretense. Brother GBD did not answer the Masonic charges against him.

Docket No. 877 – Brother RIP, a Master Mason and member of Shallotte Lodge No. 727, was suspended on November 18, 2015, for six months by the Trial Commission after he was found guilty of un-Masonic conduct. It was found that he had failed to meet moral and financial obligations to his illegitimate child.

Docket No. 878 – Brother JRH, a Master Mason and member of Farmington Lodge No. 265, was expelled on November 11, 2015, by the Judge Advocate after he was convicted in the Superior Court of Watauga County for Sexual Battery, a felony. Brother JRH did not answer the Masonic charges against him.

Docket No. 879 – Brother PKM, a Master Mason and member of Cookville Lodge No. 502, was expelled on November 11, 2015, by the Judge Advocate after he was convicted of Felonious Common Law Robbery in the Superior Court of Catawba County. Brother PKM did not answer the Masonic charges against him.

Docket No. 880 Worshipful Brother JLM, a Master Mason and member of Widow's Son Lodge No. 519, was expelled November 9, 2015, by Most Worshipful Grand Master Douglas Caudle for contempt of Grand Lodge authority involving real estate transactions.

Docket No. 881 Worshipful Brother LDM, a Master Mason and member of Widow's Son Lodge No. 519, was expelled on November 9, 2015, by Most Worshipful Grand Master Douglas Caudle for contempt of Grand Lodge authority involving real estate transactions.

Docket No. 882 Worshipful Brother MWR, a Master Mason and member of Widow's Son Lodge No. 519, was suspended on November 9, 2015, for three years by Most Worshipful Grand Master Douglas Caudle for contempt of Grand Lodge authority involving real estate transactions.

Docket No. 883 Worshipful Brother RAE, a Master Mason and member of Widow's Son Lodge No. 519, was accused of un-Masonic conduct involving contempt of Grand Lodge authority involving real estate transactions. Most Worshipful Grand Master Douglas Caudle found Brother RAE not guilty and dismissed the case.

Docket No. 884 Brother DMP, a Master Mason and member of William G. Hill Lodge No. 218, was found guilty of un-Masonic conduct on February 17, 2016, and suspended for six months by the Trial Commission. It was found that he failed to meet to pecuniary obligations made to a brother Mason.

Docket No. 885 Worshipful Brother WAB, a Master Mason and member of Morning Star Lodge No. 85, was found guilty of un-Masonic Conduct and expelled on April 6, 2016, by the Trial Commission. It was found that he appeared at a stated communication in an extremely intoxicated condition. Brother WAB did not answer the Masonic charges against him and did not attend his Masonic trial.

Docket No. 886 Brother WEH, a Master Mason and member of Jerusalem Lodge No. 95, was expelled on March 16, 2016, by the Judge Advocate after he was convicted in the Superior Court of Greene County for Second Degree Burglary, a felony. Brother WEH did not answer the Masonic charges against him.

Docket No. 887 Brother AHP, a Master Mason and member of Shallotte Lodge No. 727, was found guilty of un-Masonic conduct and expelled on May 18, 2016, by the Trial Commission. It was found that he had embezzled a substantial amount of money from Shallotte Lodge No. 727. Brother AHP did not answer the Masonic charges against him and did not appear at his Masonic Trial.

Docket No. 888 Brother DWE, a Master Mason and member of Beaver Dam Lodge No. 276, was expelled on May 25, 2016, by the Judge Advocate after he was convicted in the Superior Court of Union County for First Degree Murder.

Brother DWE did not answer the Masonic charges against him.

Docket No. 889 Brother SRS, a Master Mason and member of Bingham Lodge No. 272, was expelled on May 11, 2016, by the Judge Advocate after he pleaded guilty in US District Court to conspiracy to defraud the United States, a felony. Brother SRS answered the Masonic charges against him and admitted the allegations.

Docket No. 890 Brother RFW, a Master Mason and member of St. John's Lodge No. 4, was ordered reprimanded by the Trial Commission for un-Masonic Conduct. It was found that he was disrespectful and used poor judgement when interacting with the wife of another Master Mason.

Docket No. 891 Brother CCF, a Master Mason and member of Yadkin Lodge No. 162, was expelled on May 25, 2016, by the Judge Advocate after he pleaded guilty in the United States District Court to felony fraud. Brother CCF did not answer the Masonic charges against him.

Docket No. 892 Brother JSC, a Master Mason and member of Wallace Lodge No. 279, was expelled on June 29, 2016, by the Judge Advocate after he was found guilty in the Superior Court of Duplin County for felony embezzlement. Brother JSC did not answer the Masonic charges against him.

Docket No. 893 Brother TSN, a Master Mason and member of Newell Lodge No. 739, was expelled on July 20, 2016, by the Judge Advocate after he was convicted in the United States District Court of a felony firearms violation. Brother TSN contacted the Judge Advocate and admitted the Masonic charges against him.

Docket No. 894 Brother CTC, a Master Mason and member of South Fork Lodge No. 462, was expelled on June 15, 2016, by the Judge Advocate after he was convicted in the United States District Court of two felony firearms violations. Brother CTC 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 that amendments to the by-laws of the following lodges were approved during the year 2015-2016. They are listed in lodge order.

St. John's 1	Art 19	permitting facilities to be rented with alcohol permitted
	Art 9	initiation fee increased to \$250
	Art 10	dues increased to \$100 plus per capita
	Art 11	affiliation fee increased to \$20
Charity 5	Art 8	change meeting nights in Nov and Dec
Unanimity 7	Art 19	investment policy amended
Phoenix 8	Art 19	permitting facilities to be rented with alcohol permitted

American George 17	Art 10	dues increased to \$75
Davie 39	Art 10	dues increased to \$75 plus per capita
Concord 58	Art 10	dues increased to \$100
Kilwinning 64	Art 10	dues increased to \$100 plus per capita
Greensboro 76	Art 8	changing meeting time of lodge
Holly Springs 115	Art 9	initiation fee increased to \$200
Mt. Hermon 118	Art 9	initiation fee increased to \$200
Oxford 122	Art 10	dues increased to \$100 plus per capita
	Art 22r	banning alcoholic beverages on lodge property
Mill Creek 125		Complete revision of bylaws
Buffalo 172	Art 10	dues increased to \$100
Mt. Olive 208	Art 10	dues increased to \$100 plus per capita
William G. Hill 218	Art 19	temple corp directors
Corinthian 230	Art 8	changing meeting night of lodge
	Art 8	correcting location of lodge in bylaws
Catawba 248	Art 8	annual meeting in November
	Art 10	dues increased to \$100 plus per capita
Dunn's Rock 267	Art 13	Charity amount increased to \$500
	Art 22r	banning alcoholic beverages on lodge property
Tabasco 271	Art 8	change meeting time to 7pm
Laurinburg 305	Art 8	change meeting nights to twice monthly
	Art 19	permitting facilities to be rented with alcohol permitted
New Lebanon 314		Complete revision of bylaws
Gastonia 369	Art 10	dues increased to \$85
Siler City 403	Art 9	initiation fee increased to \$150
	Art 10	dues increased to \$70 plus per capita
	Art 19	institute special ballot procedures
Montgomery 426	Art 8	meeting time changed to 7pm
	Art 8	annual meeting in November
	Art 10	dues increased to \$50 plus per capita
	Art 22r	banning alcoholic beverages on lodge property
Vanceboro 433	Art 8	annual meeting in December
Blue Ridge 435	Art 9	initiation fee increased to \$130
Cliffside 460	Art 8	annual meeting in November
Matthews 461	Art 10	dues increased to \$100 plus per capita
Currituck 463	Art 9	initiation fee increased to \$125
	Art 10	dues increased to \$80 plus per capita
	Art 11	affiliation fee increased to \$30
	Art 13	charity amount increased to \$150

Sonoma 472	Art 9	initiation fee increased to \$185
Grimesland 475	Art 11	affiliation fee increased to \$85
	Art 22r	banning alcoholic beverages on lodge property
Raleigh 500	Art 9	initiation fee increased to \$150
Cherryville 505	Art 9	initiation fee increased to \$150
	Art 10	dues increased to \$80 plus per capita
Greenville 551	Art 9	initiation fee increased to \$130
Vesper 554	Art 9	initiation fee increased to \$165
Ararat 558	Art 8	change meeting nights of lodge for Nov and Dec
Tabor 563	Art 9	initiation fee increased to \$250
	Art 10	dues increased to \$85 plus per capita
Doric 565	Art 9	initiation fee increased to \$100 plus investigation fee
	Art 10	dues increased to \$100
Andrew Jackson 576	Art 8	annual meeting in December
Meadow Branch 578	Art 10	dues increased to \$120
	Art 13	charity amount increased to \$200
Maiden 592	Art 19	institute special ballot procedures
Ashe 594	Art 10	dues increased to \$60
Cranberry 598	Art 9	initiation fee increased to \$135
	Art 10	dues increased to \$75
Atkinson 612	Art 10	dues increased to \$100
Round Peak 616		Complete revision of bylaws
Beulaville 658	Art 9	initiation fee increased to \$100
	Art 10	dues increase to \$125 plus per capita
	Art 10	dues increase to \$125 minus per capita for 50 year
	Art 11	affiliation fee increased to \$100
	Art 13	charity amount increased to \$300
Ft. Bragg 667	Art 11	affiliation fee increased to \$20
	Art 10	dues set to \$125 plus per capita
Kernersville 669	Art 19	institute special ballot procedures
Rolesville 683	Art 8	annual meeting in November
	Art 14	Finance and Budget Committee of lodge
Angier 686	Art 10	dues increased to \$100
Fellowship 687	Art 19	institute special ballot procedures
Scotland Neck 689	Art 10	dues increased to \$75
Renfro 691	Art 8	annual meeting in November
Allen-Graham 695	Art 10	dues increased to \$100
Albemarle 703	Art 22r	banning alcoholic beverages on lodge property

King Solomon 704	Art 10	dues increased to \$40 plus per capita and per capita rent by Temple Assoc.
Forsyth 707		Complete revision of bylaws
Grantham 725	Art 9	initiation fee increased to \$175
Shallotte 727	Art 10	dues increased to \$80 plus per capita
William Pitt 734	Art 10	dues increased to \$80 plus per capita
Steele Creek 737	Art 9	initiation fee increased to \$195
Newell 739	Art 3	updating lodge seal
Vandora 745	Art 9	initiation fee increased to \$110
	Art 22q	ban tobacco use in building
	Art 22r	banning alcoholic beverages on lodge property
Truth 749	Art 9	initiation fee increased to \$125 plus background check
Oak Grove 750	Art 10	dues increased to \$60 plus per capita
James K. Polk 759	Art 10	dues increase to \$125 plus per capita tax
Knights of Solomon 766	Art 8	changing the annual meeting of lodge
Veritas 769	Art 3	adopting lodge seal

Respectfully submitted,
T. Walton Clapp, III,
Chairman

Report of the Committee on WhiteStone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Community

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

The Committee on WhiteStone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Community is pleased to report its findings and recommendations to the delegates and attendees of the 229th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina. This past year marks WhiteStone's 103rd year of service and care for our elderly brothers, sisters, and family members in need. With an overall five-star rating, WhiteStone ranks in the top 10% of all retirement communities in NC and is truly a marvelous place for the approximately 300 residents who call it "home". From its humble beginnings in 1913, when it employed a small staff to serve just a few residents, WhiteStone has grown to a point where it now employs nearly 250 full- and part-time employees and operates on a \$14.3 million annual budget. This growth would not have been possible without the ongoing support of individual brothers, their lodges, and the Grand Lodge.

Our committee is charged with visiting our Home in Greensboro and reporting on its conditions and management. Throughout the year, committee members attended board meetings, 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 and the Chairman of the Board, MW Brother Gene Jernigan's consistently excellent leadership throughout the year. We also extend our thanks to the Home's staff for their dedication and service to

the residents and their support of our committee this year.

We are pleased to report that the Home is financially strong, the condition of the property is excellent, and operations appear to be both efficient and professional. As a result of our Home's outstanding reputation, there are over 45 people on the waiting list to become residents at WhiteStone.

Operating Highlights

- \$14.3M annual operating budget
- Independent Living 99% average occupancy
- Assisted Living/Memory Care unit 98% average occupancy
- Care and Wellness Center 91% average occupancy
- Resident age range: 65 to 111

Recognizing the high demand and occupancy of the services and facilities provided by our home, the Board of Directors are working hard to direct the path for a successful future. Specifically, in 2015-2016, the Long Range Planning Committee, in collaboration with Life Care Services Development Company, management, residents, and architects, developed a Master Plan that envisioned what the community should look like over the next 5-15 years. As a result of this effort, in May 2016, the Board of Directors approved Phase 1 of the Master Plan. Phase 1 proposes to utilize the Spring Garden Street property owned by the NC Masonic Foundation to add:

- 56 Independent Living units,
- 22 Assisted Living units, and
- 16 cluster homes.

The Board expects to break ground on the new facilities in the next 2-3 years contingent upon pre-sales, completing final designs, and securing required financing.

Charity Summary

Donations to:	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
WhiteStone					
Masonic Charities	\$112,045	\$125,053	\$176,742	\$419,338	\$ 353,506
Eastern Star Charities	\$263,750	\$363,723	\$1,235	\$325,665	\$ 336,391
*NC MESH LLC	\$339,768	\$379,591	\$339,621		
Individual Contributions	\$731,440	\$249,140	\$523,233	\$221,129	\$ 420,811
TOTAL	\$1,447,003	\$1,117,357	\$1,040,831	\$966,132	\$1,110,708

Donations to:	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
*NC MESH LLC					
Masonic Charities	\$467,446	\$344,544	\$212,127		
Eastern Star Charities	\$164,886	\$155,593	\$130,050		
TOTAL	\$632,332	\$500,137	\$342,177		

*Note: The NC Masonic and Eastern Star Home Foundation LLC (NC MESH LLC) was established in 2012 to receive tax-deductible donations and help administer and fund fraternal-based charity. For example, in 2015, NC MESH LLC gave \$339,768 of the \$632,332 in donations to WhiteStone to cover the cost of entrance fees and/or monthly maintenance fees for fraternal-based residents in need.

As can be seen in the tables above, overall contributions to WhiteStone have been steadily increasing over the last several years and Masons and Eastern Stars across our state are to be commended for their support of our wonderful home. With that said, it should be noted that there are over 140 lodges (nearly 40%) that DID NOT CONTRIBUTE EVEN \$1 to WhiteStone in 2015. The committee believes this is completely unacceptable! In 2015 WhiteStone contributed over \$1M in financial assistance to 33 fraternally related residents, and every Mason in every lodge in NC is obligated to support our brethren and our widows at our home. It is inconceivable that any lodge in our state cannot, at a minimum, “pass the hat” during one meeting and use those proceeds to make a donation to Whitestone. Just imagine how many more of our brothers and their families could be assisted if EVERY LODGE contributed something every year.

Given the current level of financial support, WhiteStone has begun developing other means of providing assistance that are less costly and allows our members to stay independent and in their own homes longer. In October of 2009 WhiteStone initiated its medical equipment loan/information hotline program and began providing guidance for those fraternal members and families requiring assistance navigating various Medicaid, Medicare, and Veterans support programs. In 2014 WhiteStone, in a partnership with NC MESH LLC, made several units and rooms available on the campus for fraternal members who could not afford the entrance fee and/or monthly maintenance fees. Through this partnership, 14 fraternal applications have been approved to receive financial assistance and move into the community. 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 fraternal residents to provide gifts, cards, and other support directly to those individuals on an ongoing basis. The next phase of the outreach program is being developed now by NC MESH LLC and is intended to provide direct financial support for members under financial distress while keeping them in their own homes. In order to fully roll out this program, the WhiteStone Charity Committee recommended that the highly successful Buy-a-Brick Campaign, which began in 2013 to commemorate the Home’s 100th anniversary, continue accepting donations to further expand this project. If a lodge or individual Brother would like to order a brick, please call WhiteStone directly at 1-888-558-2999 or order online at www.liveatwhitestone.org.

Finally, our committee wishes to thank the Grand Lodge and WhiteStone’s residents and staff for giving us the opportunity to learn more about our Home and its charitable work. We hope you will take the opportunity to visit WhiteStone and see for yourself the impact of our fraternity’s involvement in the lives of the residents there. You may even consider holding a lodge meeting there to enjoy fellowship with Masonic residents who aren’t able to travel to meetings or simply visit the recently formed MESH Lodge UD, which meets at 2:00pm on the second Saturday of each month. Or think about adopting a resident—this is a small investment of time and resources that yields tremendous personal rewards for the recipients, as well as those who give. Feel free to

contact one of the committee members or Mark Kolada if you'd like to explore any of these ideas.

Respectfully submitted,
P. Shaun Bradshaw, Chairman
Charles W. Everitte
John T. Frazier
Avery R. Scronce
Bradley D. Zaha

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 February 12, 2016. We sat in on the board of directors meeting, visited Master Mason Cottage, and participated in the Board of Directors Orientation session conducted by several MHCO employees.

In concert with the Grand Master's message on building a stronger foundation, the home has been blessed to receive several planned gifts, wills and bequests. These donations have allowed the cash flow for 2016 to remain positive to date. With such a significant percentage of revenues and donations traditionally being received in the latter months, cash flow for operations is a significant issue. Without these gifts early in the year, the home must draw from the endowment earnings to pay the bills.

As of May 1, 2016, there are 55 youth in care (23 females and 32 males), a 6% increase from the same time period last year. Included are 45 children in the Direct Care program and 11 in the Independent Living Program (ILP). The average age in Direct Care for the period was 11.5, two months younger than the same period last year. The average length of stay is 2 years and 3 months, which is one month more than this 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. Many factors impact the appropriate capacity level, **most notably the availability of house parents**. While the home far exceeds the industry average for longevity of house parents, the need for qualified house parents is ongoing. Please help MHCO continually market for effective house parent couples. Shortages in staffing continues to be a significant issue. In addition, over the past several months, nine employees have taken FMLA leave or have had extended absences due to health related issues.

Programmatically, MHCO residents continue to be successful. This year's graduate class consists of one Direct Care Resident, four ILP Residents, and two former Residents which were involved through After Care supports. Currently five residents are enrolled in four year universities to continue their education. As of April 2016, 100% of ILP residents were employed in the community and 80% of all residents aged 16 and older were employed. The Summer Enrichment Program provides educational and skill building opportunities for elementary students. The goal is to continue learning in the summer by offering fun and interactive lessons. Thirty-one children, including employ-

ees' children, are enrolled. The program is supported by seven older students who help provide lessons and activities for the students. This year's theme is the Olympics. The Summer Academy continues in its second year. This innovative and interactive service helps inform high school students regarding different businesses and employment opportunities. The goal is to educate students on what is required to be a good employee in various businesses, including educational requirements. The Summer Academy connects the students with Masons as they visit their businesses and have lunch or dinner with lodges as they travel to different locations. Four young ladies have joined the Rainbow Girls, and seven will attend Camp Gray Rock (formally named Camp Rainbow). These and many other opportunities and experiences provided by lodges, individuals, and other groups allow for the children to learn in productive and safe environments many important skills for future development and success.

Partnerships within the community continue to be developed. Discussions continue with Granville County Public Schools and Vance Granville Community College to collaboratively offer vocational and educational opportunities, initially through the School of Graphic Arts. Wheels 4 Hope (www.wheels4hope.org) continues to be a strong partner, providing four vehicles for Independent Living Program Residents in 2015.

Five Eagle Scout projects were completed in 2015. These important projects brought accessibility and functionality to many areas of campus, while providing a wonderful leadership opportunity for the Scouts. Projects included: construction and installation of shelving units in Critcher Cottage by Ben Mason with Troop 395; repair and painting of the bridge by the spring and clearing out the flower bed and installing white rock OO's in honor of the Alumni by Dillon Bass with Troop 416; clearing the Dairy Farm Barn foundation by Foster Yacos with Troop 629; installation of a walkway between the Gym and Print Shop by Joshua Whitman with Troop 416; and remodeling and repair of the concession stand on the soccer field by Andrew Lyda with Troop 629.

Additional capital projects have been completed and are underway. In August and November 2015, MHCO recognized the many generous gifts and successful completion of the lighting campaign. Based on feedback from the Resident Advisory Council the home recognized the urgency to provide more effective and complete lighting across campus, especially on upper campus. Existing lights were refitted with LED light fixtures, while new lights were installed as needed. The Flags and front of the Saint James Building are now appropriately displayed and lighted. The impact of the new lighting is dramatic and safety has increased tremendously due to this important project. Thanks to all the Masons who shared their light by supporting this important capital campaign. A special thanks to State Representative Mitchell Setzer, PM for donating a new North Carolina state flag and the assistance of our home's Boy Scout Troop 629 who replaced the old flag with the new state flag.

MHCO was honored to dedicate the new fire pit between the York Rite Chapel and Cobb Center in recognition of support from Wilkerson College's Board of Regents. Dean Dill, Past Grand Master, dedicated the fire pit by bringing light and graciously sharing his thoughts on the importance of the Children's Home and Wilkerson College. The dedication was a wonderful beginning to a great Wilkerson College weekend experience at MHCO. Games

with the residents have been added as a way to connect the WC participants to our youth. Wilkerson College being held on the MHCO campus is a tremendous benefit in helping share information about the programs and generating energy through the Craft. Beginning in 2016 and going forward the first session of Wilkerson College will now be held on the campus of the MHCO.

NC State graduate student Travis Black has identified and tagged over 200 trees on upper campus for evaluation as part of his Graduate Project. Mr. Black will continue to evaluate the state of the trees in preparation of an Urban Forest Management Plan. Mr. Black's plan will include trees and suggestions for reforestation, individual tree management, identification of Heritage trees for special care, and prioritized removal. MHCO expects to harvest the wood for trees requiring removal. We are seeking a Mason with a portable saw mill to help harvest the wood as it becomes available. The Urban Forest Management Plan is another example of the importance of collaborations providing necessary services that would otherwise not be an option due to budget constraints. Summer storms in late June resulted in losing the most at risk tree, due to its age and health, as identified by Mr. Black in his evaluation. Fortunately, no injuries or structural damage occurred as a result of this storm.

The home continues to develop its marketing and outreach efforts to communicate with the public about its mission, services and needs. The new website is available at www.mhc-oxford.org. The web, social media such as Facebook, and a quarterly E-newsletter sent to all lodge secretaries who have a current email address registered with the Grand Lodge are crucial in getting the word out. Please contact the home if you want to receive the E-newsletter.

In addition, in order to more effectively market the safe and productive environment your Children's Home offers families in need, MHCO developed an Ambassador Program. In April twelve Master Masons from across the state gathered, most with their spouses, to experience life on campus and learn specific information regarding the operation, programs, and plans of MHCO. These Ambassadors have been commissioned by Grand Master Webster with the goal being to carry the message of the Children's Home to families in need. The Alumni have been extremely instrumental in helping bring this notion to reality.

The Inaugural Class of Ambassadors gathered in the Donald Sizemore Reception Lobby. The event began with a welcome from Grand Master Webster. The evening's agenda included games in the gym, dinner in the cottages, tours, and reflective activities. Saturday's agenda was packed with information intended to provide a well-rounded understanding of the many aspects of operation in order to present and respond to groups. The Ambassador Orientation continued with each person or couple developing an Action Plan to begin putting their ideas into motion.

The weekend culminated with a Graduation Ceremony. Each Ambassador received a Certificate, Pin, and a Walking Stick to help represent their journey taking the Light of the Home to those in Dark times. The Grand Master then Commissioned the Class by presenting the Ambassador Charter, which currently hangs in the York Rite Chapel. A special thank you to Grand Master Webster, PGM Chairman Rice, PGM Vice-Chairman Preslar, PDDGM Johnson and all the staff, residents, and Alumni for helping bring this program to light—one that is being shared more brightly across the state.

The Inaugural Class of 2016 consists of:

John and Heather Harrelson	District 6
Joe and Barb Fuller	District 9
Hubert and Pat Williamson	District 13
David and Gwen Nyce	District 15
Tommy and Annie Greene	District 21
Todd and Alicia Smith	District 22
C. Ray Hall	District 23
David and Julie Parde	District 27
Doug Earnhardt	District 28
Chris and Liz Wilhoit	District 34
Kenneth Sudderth	District 37
Wiley Kessler	District 38

Ambassadors are requested to provide a three-year commitment to the program. The plan is to have additional classes each year. Within three years we expect each Masonic District in North Carolina to have their own Ambassador. The Ambassador will work with Lodges, as the Lodge wishes, to provide information, make contacts, assess their relationship with the Children's Home, develop action plans related to goals the Lodge may have for being involved with MHCO, present to various groups, and help take the message of Hope to families in need. If you would like to be considered an Ambassador for MHCO's second class in 2017, please contact your DDGM and ask them to make a referral.

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 Oct. 7-9. We guarantee a weekend of fun, food and fellowship under the oaks. This year's headline entertainment is Jim Quick and Coastline.

Our committee appreciates the hospitality of Brothers Kevin Otis, Administrator, and Chris Richardson, Director of Financial Development, for their continued support of our home and their assistance with this report. To the entire staff at the MHCO, we thank each of you for the many hours of dedicated service in caring for the children at our home. Your efforts do not go unnoticed!

For more information, we encourage you to review the home's 2015 Annual Achievement Report, which summarizes the year's accomplishments and provides a complete financial report, including each lodge's annual contribution and its per-member giving. While the Annual Achievement Report indicates the financial support of our lodges was extremely favorable, it is worth noting that six lodges did not offer any financial support to the home in 2015. We are hopeful that 2016 yields 100% financial support from our subordinate lodges. The report is published on the home's website and a hard copy is available by mail upon request by contacting the home.

Respectfully submitted,
 Dwight M. Sigmon, Senior Grand Deacon,
 chairman
 Christopher R. Lane
 Reece T. McRorie
 William J. Sidoran, III
 S. Neil Wilson

Resolution for Orr Lodge 104 to Receive a Duplicate Charter

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

WHEREAS, Orr Lodge No. 104, AF & AM is a regular lodge chartered Dec. 30, 1838 by the Grand Lodge of North Carolina, and

WHEREAS, the charter of Orr Lodge No. 104, AF & AM has continued to deteriorate and is now illegible, and

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

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: Orr Lodge No. 104, AF & AM hereby petitions the Grand Lodge of North Carolina for a duplicate charter.

Respectfully submitted,
Norman E. Hiatt, Master
Orr Lodge No. 104

Resolution for Blackmer Lodge 127 to Receive a Duplicate Charter

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

WHEREAS, Blackmer Lodge No. 127, AF & AM is a regular lodge chartered Dec. 3, 1850 by the Grand Lodge of North Carolina, and

WHEREAS, in 1945 the charter of Blackmer Lodge No. 127, AF & AM was damaged by a fire, and

WHEREAS, the charter has continued to deteriorate and is now illegible, and

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

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: Blackmer Lodge No. 127, AF & AM hereby petitions the Grand Lodge of North Carolina for a duplicate charter.

Respectfully submitted,
Wayne G. Haywood, Master
Blackmer Lodge No. 127

Petition for a Charter from State College Lodge UD, Raleigh, NC

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina:

The subscribers hereto respectfully represent that, on the fifteenth day of June, CE 2015, AL 6015, 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 Raleigh in the County of Wake by the name of State College Lodge, and that said lodge has worked regularly since that time as appears from the transcript of its records, bylaws, and re-

turns herewith presented.

They, therefore, now pray that a charter be granted to the said lodge, with the following officers, to-wit: Brother Michael Wiley Brantley, Master; Brother Jonathan Allen Underwood, Senior Warden; and Brother Matthew Craig Robbins, Junior Warden. And they do promise, as heretofore, to act 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 29th day of May, CE 2016, AL 6016.

Respectfully submitted,
The Members of State College Lodge UD

Petition for a Charter from MESH Lodge UD, Greensboro

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina:

The subscribers hereto respectfully represent that, on the twelfth day of December, CE 2015, AL 6015, 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 Greensboro in the County of Guilford by the name of MESH 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 Adge Albert Phillips, Master; Brother Eddie Hamilton Moody, Jr., Senior Warden; and Brother Millie Gene Lewellyn, Junior Warden. And they do promise, as heretofore, to act 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 9th day of July, CE 2016, AL 6016.

Respectfully submitted,
The Members of MESH Lodge UD

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 24, 2016, 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 23, 2016, and,

Resolved further, That all such matters offered after 4:00 p.m. on Friday, September 23, 2016, be carried over to the next business communication of this

Grand Lodge when the 2018 budget will be considered.

Respectfully submitted,
Grover Dees,
Chairman

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 Douglas L. Caudle and Grand Master Bryant D. Webster are to be considered during this Annual Communication.

Caudle Order No. 3

It has come to my attention that the Lodge room for Widows Son Lodge No. 519 is located in the basement portion of a building located at 265 Roanoke Avenue, Roanoke Rapids, NC.

On August 26, 2008, Widow's Son No. 519 made application to the Lodge Services Commission (LSC) to borrow money to purchase and up-fit this building. On October 23, 2008, the LSC Chairman denied the application until satisfactory approval from the local fire code official was received. This was due to the singular means of egress from the basement portion of the building. To date, LSC has not received such approval from the fire or building inspector. However, Widow's Son Lodge No. 519 has chosen to ignore the caution of the LSC and proceeded to hold meetings in the basement area of the building.

Therefore, it is my order that all meetings or any assembly of people in the basement of 265 Roanoke Avenue Roanoke Rapids, NC shall cease immediately.

Lodge meetings and other assembly of people may resume in the basement portion of 265 Roanoke Avenue only after written approval by the building or fire inspector having jurisdiction of the property and approval by LSC. When approval from the local inspector is received, please forward a copy to the Grand Secretary's office for consideration by LSC.

Widow's Son No. 519 may hold meetings upstairs in this building if it can be properly secured against cowans and eavesdroppers.

Given under my hand and seal at Statesville, NC on September 18, 2015.

Caudle Order No. 4

It has been brought to my attention by the Grand Secretary's office that Skewarkee Lodge No. 90 read and elected Brother TMB to membership on October 13, 2015, without 28 days having elapsed before said application for affiliation was received by the lodge nor was the application certified by the Grand Secretary's office prior to balloting as required by The Code.

The applications for affiliation of Brother TMB received on October 13, 2015, and the ballot taken on October 13, 2015, to elect Brother TMB is clearly illegal under the positive language of Regulation 76-01 of The Code and is, therefore, NULL and VOID.

Since the Grand Master is empowered to order another ballot in cases of this kind and since the Grand Secretary has informed me that the application

is now in order, I hereby ORDER a re-ballot at Skewarkee Lodge No. 90 at the stated communication to be held on November 11, 2015.

This Order shall be read to the lodge at the stated communication to be held on November 11, 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 illegal ballots were taken (October 13, 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 22nd day of October, 2015.

Webster Order No. 1

It has been brought to my attention that Grimesland Lodge No. 475, AF & AM at Grimesland, North Carolina, held a stated communication on December 1, 2015, and balloted on the petition for the degrees for Mr. DCH, who was subsequently rejected.

During that communication, there appears to have been some confusion within the membership of Grimesland Lodge over this ballot, including the following:

(1) The Worshipful Master did not appoint a Committee of Investigation to examine the qualifications of the petitioner, which is a violation of Regulation 67-2 of The Code.

(2) Following the rejection of the petitioner via secret ballot, those who cast black cubes denying the petitioner membership became known to the members of the Lodge, which is violation of Regulations 68-5 and 68-6 of 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.

Since the Grand Master is empowered to order another ballot, I hereby declare the ballot of December 1, 2015, to be Null and Void.

I hereby Order that the Master of Grimesland Lodge No. 475 appoint a Committee of Investigation at the stated communication of the Lodge on January 5, 2016, to examine the qualifications of Mr. DCH for membership.

And, further, I hereby Order that following the report of the Committee of Investigation, at the next stated communication of the Lodge on February 2, 2016, that the Lodge re-ballot on the petition for the degrees for Mr. DCH.

And, further, in compliance with Regulation 68-8.2, I hereby Order you to notify all members of your lodge of the re-ballot on the petition for the degrees by first class mail under sealed cover and date of said re-ballot, being certain to give the members at least ten days notice.

This Order shall be read to the lodge at the stated communication to be held on January 5, 2016, entered on the minutes of that communication, and a proper notation made in the margin of the minutes of December 1, 2015, referring to this Order and the date it was recorded in the minutes.

Given under my hand and seal this 17th day of December 2015.

Webster Order No. 2

It has been brought to my attention that Wilmington Lodge No. 319, AF

& AM rejected Mr. CFR for the degrees without first complying with Regulation 68-3.13 of The Code. The master declared the results without having conducted a second ballot.

In such cases the Grand Master may authorize a re-ballot at a stated communication. Under Regulation 68-8.3 the Master made an improper announcement. Therefor, as Grand Master, by positive and unquestionable evidence, I have determined the ballot was clearly and grossly illegal and am empowered to order another ballot in cases of this kind.

I hereby ORDER Wilmington Lodge No. 319 to re-ballot on the above mentioned petition for the degrees at the stated communication to be held on March 1, 2016.

The dispensation authorizing the re-ballot shall contain a proviso that all members of the lodge shall be given not less than ten days notice by first-class mail under sealed cover of the re-ballot and include the time and place thereof.

This Order shall be read to the lodge at the stated communication to be held on February 2, 2016, entered on the minutes of that communication, and a proper notation made in the margin of the minutes for the stated communication held on January 5, 2016, referring to this Order and the date it was recorded in the minutes.

Given under my hand and seal at Black Mountain, North Carolina this 27th day of January 2016 AD; 6016 AL

Webster Order No. 3

It has been brought to my attention that on June 8, 2016, Fort Bragg Lodge No. 667 AF & AM rejected Mr. JM for the degrees without first complying with Regulation 68-3.13 of The Code. The Master declared the results of the first ballot without having conducted a second ballot.

In such cases the Grand Master may authorize a re-ballot at a stated communication. Therefor, as Grand Master, by positive and unquestionable evidence, I have determined the ballot was clearly and grossly illegal and am empowered to order another ballot in cases of this kind.

I hereby ORDER Fort Bragg Lodge No. 667 to re-ballot on the above mentioned petition for the degrees at the stated communication to be held on August 10, 2016.

The dispensation authorizing the re-ballot shall contain a proviso that all members of the lodge shall be given not less than ten days notice by first-class mail under sealed cover of the re-ballot and include the time and place thereof.

This Order shall be read to the lodge at the stated communication to be held on August 10, 2016, entered on the minutes of that communication, and a proper notation made in the margin of the minutes for the stated communication held on June 8, 2016, referring to this Order and the date it was recorded in the minutes.

Given under my hand and seal at Black Mountain, North Carolina this 19th day of July 2016 AD; 6016 AL

Webster Order No. 4

It has been brought to my attention that on June 8, 2016, Fort Bragg Lodge No. 667 AF & AM rejected Mr. SLM, III for the degrees without first complying with Regulation 68-3.6 of The Code. The Master accepted an old

form submitted by the petitioner.

In such cases the Grand Master may authorize a re-ballot at a stated communication. Therefor, as Grand Master, by positive and unquestionable evidence, I have determined the ballot was clearly and grossly illegal and am empowered to order another ballot in cases of this kind.

I hereby ORDER Fort Bragg Lodge No. 667 to re-ballot on the above mentioned petition for the degrees at the stated communication to be held on August 10, 2016.

The dispensation authorizing the re-ballot shall contain a proviso that all members of the lodge shall be given not less than ten days notice by first-class mail under sealed cover of the re-ballot and include the time and place thereof.

This Order shall be read to the lodge at the stated communication to be held on August 10, 2016, entered on the minutes of that communication, and a proper notation made in the margin of the minutes for the stated communication held on June 8, 2016, referring to this Order and the date it was recorded in the minutes.

Given under my hand and seal at Black Mountain, North Carolina this 19th day of July 2016 AD; 6016 AL

Proposed Amendments to The Code

To: All officers 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 the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, to be held this September 23 and 24, 2016.

Amendment Group 1

The following amendment has been proposed by the Grand Secretary.

This proposed amendment would clarify residency requirements for District Deputy Grand Masters by only requiring him to be a member of a lodge in the district.

REG. 26-2.2 QUALIFICATIONS.

Each District Deputy Grand Master shall be a member of a subordinate lodge within the district he represents.

Amendment Group 2

The following amendment has been proposed by the Grand Secretary.

This proposed amendment would permit a member of a Grand Lodge Board, Commission, or Committee to live outside the state of North Carolina.

REG. 27-3 ELIGIBILITY TO SERVE.

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

Amendment Group 3

The following amendment has been proposed by Mystic Tie Lodge No. 237.

This proposed amendment would set the minimum initiation fee at three times the annual dues of the lodge, minus the amount paid toward the Grand Lodge's per capita.

Fees for the Degrees

REG. 64-1 MINIMUM INITIATION FEE.

No lodge in this state shall confer any of the Symbolic degrees in Masonry for less than ~~fifty dollars~~ three times their annual dues minus the annual per capita tax. [5-2.1; 49-10.1].

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

REG. 64-3 FEE MUST ACCOMPANY PETITION.

No lodge shall receive any petition for the degrees unless the prescribed fee shall have been actually paid in full, ~~in money~~, to the proper officer. No written or verbal promise to pay the same may be received in lieu thereof.

...

Substitute Amendment Group 3

REG. 64-1 MINIMUM INITIATION FEE.

No lodge in this state shall confer any of the Symbolic degrees in Masonry for less than three hundred dollars. Beginning July 1, 2020, and continuing thereafter, the fees set out herein shall be reviewed every five (5) years and adjusted up or down for the effects of inflation. Any adjustments for the effects of inflation shall be based on the most recent cumulative Consumer Price Index (CPI) as published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. If any adjustment in the fees herein become necessary, said fees shall be rounded to the nearest dollar. [5-2.1; 49-10.1].

REG. 64-3 FEE MUST ACCOMPANY PETITION.

No lodge shall receive any petition for the degrees unless the prescribed fee shall have been actually paid in full, ~~in money~~, to the proper officer. No written or verbal promise to pay the same may be received in lieu thereof.

...

Amendment Group 4

The following amendment has been proposed by the Lodge Service Commission.

This proposed amendment will change some of the regulations pertaining to the Lodge Service Commission, allowing more flexibility for lodges to rent their facilities while maintaining compliance with the IRS.

REG. 43-7 COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISE.

No lodge shall engage in any commercial enterprise or business of like nature.

1. If a lodge owns a building in which its lodge room or hall is located or other real property, it may rent any space available for office or commercial purposes, reserving the right to terminate any lease in the event the leased premises should be used for any illegal or un-Masonic purposes. [13-3.8.D; 43-2.6; 43-3.3; 43-3.12; 38-1; 87-14; 86-2.46].

2. A lodge may not rent, for office or commercial purposes, any real property it owns and with respect to which it owes or has secured any indebtedness, except in compliance with Reg. 43-8.

REG. 43-2 POWERS AND DUTIES.

15. ~~A lodge may sell and convey its property at will. [52-7; 60-10].~~

...

REG. 43-8 SERVICE COMMISSION APPROVAL.

No subordinate lodge shall have the power or authority to do any of the things or acts described in this regulation until its application therefor has been approved by the Lodge Service Commission, or by the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge upon appeal therefrom. [86-2.51.E].

1. Prior to receiving Lodge Service Commission approval a lodge shall not:

A. Pledge its credit, or issue bonds, notes, or other evidence of debt, or subscribe to or guarantee the stock, bonds, or debts of any building association or company, either in the name of the lodge or under the name of a building association or company formed by Masons within or without the lodge for any building project, [25-2; 31-4.3]

B. Lease real estate for more than five years either as lessee or lessor,

C. Purchase real estate for any purpose,

D. Become a party in creating, organizing, amending, or dissolving a civil corporation for any purpose whatever,

E. Become a party in amending or dissolving any existing civil charter of a subordinate lodge [4-6; 49-5; 60-10; 86-2.46], or

F. Enter into a joint enterprise with any other group, body, organization, or other entity, including another Masonic lodge or recognized Masonic body composed wholly of Masons, in the construction, ownership, and management of a building, or for any other purpose [25-2; 43-2.13],

G. Sell real estate, or

H. Rent, for office or commercial purposes, any real property it owns and with respect to which it owes or has secured any indebtedness.

Amendment Group 5

The following amendments have been proposed by the Grand Secretary.

This proposed amendment would include the Chaplain on the list of lodge officers not required to be proficient in the third degree catechism.

REG. 55-2 OFFICER MUST PASS PROFICIENCY.

No member of a lodge shall be installed as an officer who has not made suitable proficiency in the catechism of the Third Degree and passed a satisfactory examination thereon in open lodge, and such fact entered upon the minutes of the lodge except the Treasurer, the Secretary, the Chaplain, and the Tyler.

[53-2.2; 53-2.4; 55-3; 55-4; 59-12.31].

Amendment Group 6

The following amendment has been proposed by Vandora Lodge No. 745.

This proposed amendment would allow a member who was excluded for NPJ to repurchase the total amount of dues equivalent to his years excluded, and in return have his NPJ record expunged from his Masonic record.

REG. 78-5 EXPUNGEMENT OF EXCLUSION FOR NONPAYMENT OF DUES

A brother in good standing, who was formerly excluded for nonpayment of dues, may have such exclusion expunged from his record by proceeding as follows:

1. He must be a member in good standing of a subordinate lodge in this Masonic jurisdiction and current with all dues.
2. He shall submit a written request to the secretary of his current lodge expressing his desire to have the record of his exclusion expunged. If he is a member in good standing of more than one Lodge, he should submit his request to the secretary of the Lodge of which he has been a member longest.
3. The secretary shall forward the request to the Grand Secretary, who determines the total number of years the brother was excluded, and if he is eligible for his record to be expunged. The Grand Secretary shall report that information to the Lodge secretary. All parts of a year are considered a whole year.
4. The Grand Secretary shall then calculate the cost of expungement by multiplying the current annual dues (including Grand Lodge Per Capita Tax) of all lodges of which the brother was a member by the number of years the member was excluded. (For example: if the member had been excluded for 10 years and the Lodge's current dues are \$100 with an additional \$15 per capita, the cost would be \$1150).
5. If the member opts to pay the cost of the expungement he shall remit the payment to the Grand Secretary who shall disperse the Lodge's portion, along with appropriate documentation.
6. The Grand Secretary shall verify the process was completed appropriately, and if so, he shall oversee the expungement of all documentation, notes, or any other record indicating the member had ever been excluded for nonpayment of dues.

A member who properly completes this procedure will be shown to have maintained continuous membership from the date he was raised unless he has been suspended, expelled, or otherwise excluded for any reason other than nonpayment of dues. Awards presented to recognize numbers of years of service will also be recalculated, and the Grand Secretary shall assure that the corrected date(s) becomes a part of the member's permanent record.

This procedure may not be used for any type of suspension, expulsion, or exclusion other than nonpayment of dues.

Amendment Group 7

The following amendment has been proposed by the Grand Secretary.

This proposed amendment will permit special ceremonies (cornerstone

dedications) to be conducted on Sundays at a church.

REG. 84-4 HOW AND BY WHOM CONDUCTED.

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

...

2. The ceremonies provided for in this chapter shall not be conducted on Sunday except for a church. [45-11].

Amendment Group 8

The following amendment has been proposed by Lexington Memorial Lodge No. 473.

This amendment would suspend any future purchases of endowed memberships and grandfather-in current endowed membership participants. The rules of transferring of memberships and other regulations regarding current endowed memberships would continue. Lodges would continue to receive endowed payments in perpetuity.

REG. 77-25 ENDOWED MEMBERSHIPS.

Endowed Memberships may be purchased from the Grand Lodge on or before December 31, 2016.

Amendment Group 9

CHAPTER 34

Grand Lodge Committees

REG. 34-17 WHITESTONE.

The Committee on Whitestone (a Masonic and Eastern Star Home of North Carolina Community), Incorporated, shall consist of **five *not less than five (5) nor more than nine (9)*** members appointed annually. ***The Junior Grand Deacon shall be a member of this Committee and serve as its chairman during his respective term of office.*** It shall be the duty of this committee personally to visit the ~~Masonic and Eastern Star Home, Whitestone~~ and to examine the condition of its property, the management of its business, and the reports of its officers and directors. The committee shall observe and keep advised as to its management and such other matters, facts and information as may be proper to consider in a report to the Grand Lodge. It shall report its findings with its recommendations to the Grand Lodge at its annual communication. [***17-1.4; 27-1.3.K; 27-6; 27-7; 27-7.7; 27-7.8***]. (*this regulation amended, effective 1/1/2013*)

REG. 34-18 MASONIC HOME FOR CHILDREN.

The Committee on The Masonic Home for Children at Oxford, Inc. shall consist of **five not *less than five (5) nor more than nine (9)*** members appointed annually. ***The Senior Grand Deacon shall be a member of this Committee and serve as its chairman during his respective term of office.*** It shall be the duty of this committee personally to visit the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford, Inc. and to examine the condition of its property, the management of its business, and the reports of its officers and directors. The committee shall

observe and keep advised as to its management and such other matters, facts, and information as may be proper to consider in a report to the Grand Lodge. It shall report its finding with its recommendations to the Grand Lodge at its annual communication. [*17-1.3; 27-1.3.L; 27-6; 27-7; 27-7.1; 27-7.8*]

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

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

The George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association has enjoyed another banner year.

The Memorial was recently added to the United States Government's official list of National Historic Landmarks and National Register of Historic Places. To celebrate this historic event, a special ceremony was held on February 27, 2016, at the Memorial. Officials from the National Park Service and the President of the Memorial Association were on hand as the historical plaque bearing the designation was unveiled.

Renovations and improvements continue in earnest. Since 2005, more than five million dollars have been spent on renovations, most significantly including the restoration of the pyramid and observation deck, and most recently including lighting and handicap access ramps.

However, much work is left to be done. It is estimated that another five million dollars will be needed in the near future for additional repairs and improvements. To that end, Masons around the country have continued their generous support. Currently, 29 Grand Lodges participate in the \$1.00 per member per year program. North Carolina Masons contributed a combined total of \$5,190.00 last year. And, as with all Masonic endeavors, all monies raised are from private entities and Masons – no public funds have ever been utilized by the Memorial.

Finally, it is with great pleasure that I report to the Craft that Past Grand Master Douglas Caudle has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the Memorial, for a 3-year term that began in August 2016. Most Worshipful Caudle will serve the Memorial with those same skills and talents that were so evident during his year of leadership of our Grand Lodge.

Respectfully submitted,
Jimmie B. Hicks, Jr., SGW, Representative

Report on the Masonic Service Association of North America

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

The Grand Lodge of North Carolina A.F.&A.M. is a member of the Masonic Service Association of North America (MSANA), an organization created by U.S. grand lodges in 1918 as the Masonic Service Association of the United States. Its original mission was to provide aid to World War I servicemen and

veterans on a scale unattainable by individual grand lodges. The association's name changed to Masonic Service Association of North America in 1995 to reflect its work across the continent.

Hospital visitation

The MSANA's most prominent activity is a hospital visitation program in VA Medical Centers, military hospitals, state veterans homes, and extended care facilities. Every year Masonic volunteers at more than 150 VA sites provide in excess of 100,000 hours of volunteer service. Volunteers are more than visitors to the Masonic and non-Masonic patients they meet. They bring encouragement and comfort, serve as escorts to religious services, organize entertainment and recreational activities for vets and their families, and simply sit with and listen to those who are lonely, depressed, or in pain.

This service is made possible by volunteers and financial contributions from grand lodges, appendant bodies and individual Masons. Contributions allow MSANA to cover the costs of social and entertainment activities and reimburse volunteers for travel expenses. Donations also provide comfort items such as toiletries and reading material.

A video about the program entitled "Are Ye Able?" is on the MSANA website and available on DVD free of charge for lodge and community education programs.

Each facility has a local Mason serving as the MSANA's representative to recruit Masonic volunteers and coordinate visits. **Brethren, these representatives are short of volunteers and they are asking for your help.** If you can volunteer or if your lodge wants to assist, call the brother nearest you:

Asheville	Geoff Cooper	(828) 646-8486
Durham	Jim Barbot	(919) 876-5323
Salisbury	Rick Starnes	(704) 798-0115

This year Grand Master Webster visited patients in the Asheville and Salisbury hospitals. At the Asheville VA hospital he rededicated a memorial to Masons who died in combat. He encourages you to visit these facilities and offer comfort to the veterans who have given so much to us.

Disaster relief

The MSANA issues appeals for disaster relief and distributes funds contributed for that purpose. The first Disaster Relief Appeal was issued in 1923 for the Grand Lodge of Japan in the aftermath of an earthquake. Since then, more than \$10 million in relief donations have been received and distributed. The two most recent appeals benefited our neighbors in South Carolina and Tennessee. A total of \$110,000 was sent to the Grand Lodge of South Carolina to assist in recovery from flooding last October that destroyed one Masonic lodge and damaged others. Brethren from North Carolina answered the distress call and helped clean out a lodge in Columbia. This year \$30,000 was sent to the Grand Lodge of Tennessee following a series of tornados that caused severe damage. A complete list of appeals is available on the MSANA's website.

When a disaster relief appeal is made, all donated funds are sent to the grand jurisdiction for which the appeal was made. None of the funds are retained by the MSANA, and all costs connected with the appeal are absorbed through the regular operating budget.

Information and education

From its earliest days the MSANA has published informational and educational items for the fraternity. The monthly Short Talk Bulletins, published since 1923, are a source of Masonic education and inspiration and provide topical material for Lodge meetings. A new brochure, "Masonic Mentoring: Providing a Helping Hand to New Members," offers advice for working with candidates and new members. Other popular publications include "What Has Masonry Done for the World" and "An Open Letter Concerning Masonic Funeral Services." The MSANA's catalog of books, brochures, digests, and other materials is available on the website.

Leadership change

George O. Braatz, the executive secretary of MSANA, announced his retirement this year. A past grand master and past grand secretary of Ohio, Braatz served as executive secretary for five years. At this writing the MSANA is accepting applications for the position.

The MSANA's website is www.msana.com.

Respectfully submitted,
Speed Hallman, Junior Grand Warden
Representative to the Masonic Service
Association of North America

Report of The Code Commission

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

The Code Commission for 2016 met by telephone conference call on April 21, 2016, and again on May 19, 2016, to review proposed amendments to The Code pursuant to Reg. 33-2 and to ascertain that each proposed amendment was in order for submission to the Grand Lodge.

The Code Commission spent considerable time reviewing a proposed amendment to The Code from the 10th Masonic District that proposed allowing the carrying of concealed weapons within the Lodge room. The Chair of The Code Commission sought information and insight from the Risk Management Committee, and he participated in the Risk Management Committee's telephone conference call on April 21, 2016. The Code Commission also weighed the potential impact upon the Masonic ritual and traditions. The Code Commission thoroughly reviewed the proposal and found it, as presented, incongruent with Masonic tradition and ritual, and thus, in the opinion of The Code Commission, out of order. Nonetheless, The Code Commission referred the proposed amendment to the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence for their consideration, as well as to the Risk Management Committee and the Grand Master for any special consideration he may have, along with the Code Commission's opinion concerning the validity of the proposed amendment.

Additionally, a proposed amendment to The Code as submitted by Skewarkee Lodge No. 90, would have required all future Master Masons to be proficient in the Third Degree Catechism. The Code Commission found that this proposed amendment concerned many aspects of Masonic membership that are deeply and intricately imbedded within the Code that were not properly accounted for and thus conflicted greatly with the Constitution and Regulations.

Therefore, the Code Commission returned the proposed amendment for clarification and respectfully requested that Skewarkee Lodge No. 90 reconsider its proposed amendment, address the amendment's potential effect on the entirety of the Code, and consider its submission for the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge in 2017. In response, Skewarkee Lodge No. 90 voluntarily withdrew this proposed amendment.

The following is a summary of the proposed amendments which have now been submitted for consideration at the 2016 Annual Communication:

Amendment Group 1 was proposed by the Grand Secretary and would clarify residency requirements for District Deputy Grand Masters by requiring him to be a member of a lodge in the district.

Amendment Group 2 was proposed by the Grand Secretary and would permit a member of a Grand Lodge Board, Commission, or Committee to live outside the state of North Carolina.

Amendment Group 3 was proposed by Mystic Tie Lodge No. 237 and would set the minimum initiation fee at three times the annual dues of the lodge, minus the amount paid toward the Grand Lodge's per capita.

Amendment Group 4 was proposed by the Lodge Service Commission and would change some of the regulations pertaining to the Lodge Service Commission, allowing more flexibility for lodges to rent their facilities while maintaining compliance with the IRS.

Amendment Group 5 was proposed by the Grand Secretary and would include the Chaplain on the list of lodge officers not required to be proficient in the third degree catechism.

Amendment Group 6 was proposed by Vandora Lodge No. 745 and would allow a member who was excluded for NPD to repurchase the total amount of dues equivalent to his years excluded, and in return have his NPD record expunged from his Masonic record.

Amendment Group 7 was proposed by the Grand Secretary and would permit special ceremonies (cornerstone dedications) to be conducted on Sundays at churches.

Amendment Group 8 was proposed by Lexington Memorial Lodge No. 473 and would suspend any future purchases of endowed memberships and grandfather-in current endowed membership participants. The rules of transferring of memberships and other regulations regarding current endowed memberships would continue. Lodges would continue to receive endowed payments in perpetuity.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brian M. Bullard, P.M., Chairman

North Carolina Mason Board of Publication 2016

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

A big change is in the works for *The North Carolina Mason*. After many years of steering the ship of our Craft's bi-monthly publication, editor Ric Carter announced plans to retire at the end of 2016. Ric has been the stalwart of this publication and a tireless advocate for making sure individual members of

our fraternity stay connected to the work of their Grand Lodge.

Ric partially retired from the office staff at the Grand Lodge back in 2014, moving into a part-time status while continuing to serve as editor. The Board of Publication thanks Ric for his long and faithful service to the Grand Lodge and all Masons in North Carolina.

Ric's complete retirement will bring new leadership in the role of editor. The Board of Publication is in a process to find a qualified successor who will guide *The Mason* to even higher service and standards.

One thing that each lodge can do to prepare us for the future is to ensure that the Grand Lodge has the email addresses of those members who have them. This year we have begun sending out eNCMason to members with known addresses. These are being sent on the opposite months that the printed NC Mason comes to your postal mailbox. We'd like to add as many members to our eNCMason distribution list as possible.

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.

Respectfully submitted,
John Pea, Chairman

Report of the Adhoc Risk Management Committee

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

The safety and well-being of our Masonic brethren is paramount to the mission of this committee and individually to each and every Mason in North Carolina. The amendment proposed by the 10th District concerning concealed weapons within lodge rooms, and referred to by the Grand Master in his district talks, embodies the desire to protect our brethren, and we commend them for their concern. The amendment was reviewed by the Code Commission, by the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, then referred to this committee for further review.

Following review, and in consultation and concert with the Code Commission and Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, the amendment affects too many pieces of our Code, ritual, and traditions to be implemented. However, this committee agrees with what we feel is the spirit of the amendment and propose several recommendations to ensure your members are safe and that your lodge is secure.

The Committee proposes the creation of a lodge safety assessment tool for lodges to use to evaluate the security of lodge buildings, of which this committee would be pleased to devise.

The Committee further proposes that once certain safety measures are in place and to be enumerated in the proceeding proposal (such as locking the lodge doors and posting able-bodied tylers at the west door of the lodge), that there may be by the issuance of a policy, amendment, or order:

- 1) the allowance of only a sworn, currently serving, and duly qualified local, state, or Federal law enforcement officer, or
 - 2) the allowance of only a sworn, duly qualified retired local, state, or
-

Federal law enforcement officer to possess a firearm, concealed or carried openly, in accordance with State Law, and to serve alongside tylers so long as they remain outside the door of a tyled lodge room, and only if a lodge would like to do so.

The recommendation of this committee is to be in accordance with Grand Master Nelson Banks' standing opinion, which was reviewed and approved at the Annual Communication following issuance by Grand Master Banks, making it the law of this Grand Lodge, forbidding the carrying of concealed or openly carried firearms into the tiled recesses of a lodge.

Respectfully Submitted,
A.B. Swindell, Chairman

Report of The North Carolina Masonic Foundation Inc.

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

This year has been a year of significant change and, most importantly, growth for the NCMF. In 2016 Most Worshipful Brother Leonard Safrit bowed out as the President of the Board, and Brother Mike Faulkenbury was elected to serve as President. Brother Safrit was a truly outstanding president, stewarding outstanding returns on the investments entrusted to the Foundation. His dedication, leadership, and acumen are the hallmarks of a great Mason. We are pleased that he will remain on the Board.

The most significant change is the retirement of Brother David Wilson from the board at the end of the year. Brother Wilson has served Masonry in North Carolina and this board for 35 years. He is directly responsible for shepherding the Foundation from very humble beginnings after reorganization in 1981 to an organization that has financially supported Masonic Charities at an astounding rate. He has devoted thousands of hours to meetings, conference calls, and the like. His dedication and very wise counsel have been invaluable to the Craft. He leaves us with an enduring legacy and a debt that can never be repaid. We are honoring Brother David by announcing the David Wilson Youth Scholarships as a tribute to his service.

This year our Most Worshipful Grand Master invited the Foundation to present our history, accomplishments, and future plans at his District meetings. Our board members were able to attend 17 of the 28 meetings. A very special thanks goes out to Right Worshipful Brother William Mills, our volunteer legal counsel. Brother William stepped up and represented us at four meetings. Thank you Most Worshipful for this opportunity to engage with the Craft and tell our story for the first time.

In 2015 it was determined that The Foundation could serve the craft better with a Professional Development Program. This program, funded by the Foundation, is designed to benefit all our charities but most especially Oxford and WhiteStone. In January we kicked off a nationwide search for a Chief Development Officer, and a diverse committee was formed. Members included MW Gene Jernigan, MW Robert Gresham, MW Leonard Safrit, MW Doug Caudle, Right Worshipful Brother Speed Hallman, Brother Mike Faulkenbury and Kim Lyda (past board member of The NCMHC). It should be acknowledged that Grand Secretary T. Walton Clapp was an integral contribu-

tor to the search and played a significant role in its success. Once again the sacrifice and hard work of this committee should be commended. The process included many meetings and conference calls over a 6 month period to find the right person to fill the key role of CDO.

As a result we are pleased and proud to announce Jeff Hensley of Cary, NC, as our CDO beginning August 1st. Jeff's tremendous character, integrity, and vast experience made him the ideal person to lead our program. His devotion to many charities over his professional career offers us great hope going forward. MW Brother Bob Gresham will be assisting Jeff directly as he transitions into the position. Please take a moment and introduce yourself to Jeff during our annual communication. He will need and appreciate your help.

2015 was a very challenging year in the stock and bond markets. Low interest rates and choppy stock markets were the hallmark of the year. Our Equity (stock) Fund finished up 1% in line with the markets. Our smaller Income (bond) fund finished negative 0.7%, very slightly below the market. In 2016 our Funds are performing better. The Equity Fund is positive 4.6% and the Income Fund is positive 7.3%. The Board maintains a policy of seeking solid returns while minimizing risk.

Since our last report seven additional Lodges or other Masonic entities have chosen to invest their money with your Foundation under our Subscription Agreement. This agreement spells out the policy and terms for placing investments with the Foundation. If you would like more information on the Subscription Agreement please email the Grand Secretary.

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

Balance Sheet

	Accrual Basis Jun 30, '16
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
100-00 — Checking - FSB (NCMF)	6,989.29
100-08 — Checking - FSB- (Spring Garden)	<u>44,412.25</u>
Total Checking/Savings	51,401.54
Accounts Receivable	
111-01 — Accounts Receivable	
111-03 — Jones Masonic	4,019,343.41
111-01 — Accounts Receivable - Other	<u>3,000.00</u>
Total 111-01 — Accounts Receivable	<u>4,022,343.41</u>
Total Accounts Receivable	<u>4,022,343.41</u>
Other Current Assets	
125-00 — Masonic Foundation-Equity Fund	16,578,303.82
Total Other Current Assets	<u>16,578,303.82</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>20,652,048.77</u>
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
130-09 — 602 Gay Terrace	<u>136,710.23</u>
Total 130-00 — Spring Garden-Coapman Land	1,438,060.73
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
140-04 — Accumulated Depreciation	<u>-139,480.13</u>
Total Fixed Assets	<u>1,819,280.17</u>
	<u>22,471,328.94</u>
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
220-00 — Deferred Revenue	<u>2,050.00</u>
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>2,050.00</u>
Total Current Liabilities	2,050.00
Long Term Liabilities	
230-00 — Wells Fargo Bank	
(Loan for Jones)	<u>3,140,000.00</u>
Total Long Term Liabilities	<u>3,140,000.00</u>
Total Liabilities	3,142,050.00
Equity	
300-00 — Unrestricted Fund (Net Assets-General)	12,820,002.01
420-00 — Fund Balance	6,930,395.57
Net Income	<u>-417,645.94</u>
Total Equity	<u>19,332,751.64</u>
	<u>22,474,801.64</u>
	<u>22,474,801.64</u>

Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Education

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

Grand Master Webster appointed the following members to the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Education (GLCME).

Ben Wallace - Blackmer Lodge No. 127 (Chairman)
 Dr. Steven Cates - Leaksville Lodge No. 136 (Secretary)
 Roger Meacham - Ocracoke Lodge No. 747

Mike Cashion - William G. Hill Lodge No. 218
 David Cashion - Blue Ridge Lodge No. 435
 Don Barrier - Derita Lodge No. 715
 Tony Rathbone-Nichols - West Asheville Lodge No. 650
 Michael Fizer - Mt. Hermon No. 118
 Jay Frechette - Derita Lodge No. 715

This committee met monthly throughout the year via virtual meetings in order to drive objectives and plan direction.

The GLCME is deeply indebted to the Assistant Grand Secretary, Jonathan Underwood, for his assistance in maintaining the Educational Resources page on the Grand Lodge website.

The GLCME successfully launched the Speakers Bureau. This program began its development in 2015. It was launched in 2016 and has proven to be a fabulous resource. It allows lodges to identify and schedule Masonic speakers to provide educational lectures in their home lodges. A link to the program is available on the Grand Lodge website. This program is managed under the direction of WB Tony Rathbone.

The GLCME revived its Facebook page. This provides a forum for members to exchange ideas about Masonic Education in this Grand Jurisdiction.

The Allegory and Symbolism lecture series continued this year with these lectures being delivered in

1. Greensboro	Masonic Temple	2-20-16
2. Wilmington	St. John No. 1	3-5-16
3. Cary	Cary Lodge No. 198	3-12-16
4. Catawba	Catawba Lodge No. 248	4-9-16

A new Lecture was introduced called the Restorations Lecture Series. It explores the philosophical side of the craft. These were delivered

1. May 14 - Statesville No. 27
2. July 16 - Eagle No. 19
3. July 30 - St. Johns No. 3

The committee chairman delivered a program to the Grand Masters' summit for DDGM's/DDGL's at MHCO.

The Committee re-evaluated and bolstered the lecture on Masonic Education given at Wilkerson College.

The GLCME is proud to present two new programs for the ensuing year. Both have required countless hours of development time:

The Adept Program has been developed and will be managed by WB Currie Pendleton. It is a self-study course in the symbolism and allegorical meaning of the degrees. It will be a mentored program and will utilize books, tests, and essays to further the development of members interested in this side of Freemasonry. The program and its website are scheduled to launch in August of 2016.

The William R. Davie Leadership Academy (WDLA) will be replacing the old system of Wardens boot camps. This new Leadership and Management is designed to:

- Provide one class per month somewhere in the State
- Provide these classes in both large and small venues, bringing the

classes closer to ALL lodges

- Provide one class focused on the new Freemason and introduce him to the structures and traditions of our institution.
- Provide a class focused on junior lodge officers
- Provide a class focused on mid-level lodge officers
- Provide a class focused on lodge Masters
- ANY lodge officer or member may attend and would benefit from any of these courses.
- A fee will be charged for attending the classes.
- This Academy will be run in a professional manner and will uphold the highest standards of the Fraternity.

In addition to the regular committee members, several brothers have played critical roles in the development and management of the new programs. The GLCME would like to thank WB Currie Pendleton of Andrew Jackson Lodge No. 576, Randy Browning of Blackmer Lodge No. 127, and Ken Wical of Phoenix Lodge No. 8.

Other brothers assisting the GLCME this year are brothers Chris Wilhoit, Tim Clifford, and Chris Ford.

In 2015 Dr. Steven Cates was the Chairman of this committee. He set many plans in motion that were not implemented until this year. Additionally he remained on the committee as an advisor and mentor. I personally appreciate his integrity and his guidance.

Respectfully submitted,
Ben Wallace, 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 2015 Annual Communications September 24 at 2pm in Winston-Salem, NC.

Discussions were had regarding:

The completion and distribution of videos about Masonry featuring Bro. David Regan. It was suggested that these videos be posted on The Grand Lodge's website and made available to all subordinate lodges in NC for posting on their website and on social media platforms (Facebook).

Request has been made to video activities during Oxford's homecoming event—Committee will request budget approval from Grand Lodge to video and produce two videos.

Continued discussions regarding feature story coverage in Our State magazine. The objective of the coverage would be to recap the history of Masonry in North Carolina.

The Committee continues to explore the possibilities of producing a documentary of Masons in North Carolina. The Committee will contact UNC Tele-

vision to identify possibilities.

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

Report of the North Carolina Youth Committee

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

Our youth organizations have seen an increase in both membership and the formation of new Rainbow Assemblies and DeMolay Courts. While DeMolay has shown some increase, the Rainbow Assembly's has been substantial. Their increase of over 36% was number one in the nation! No small feat to be sure. We all still struggle for leadership for these two bodies and are always looking for help and assistance in any way. As Masons we should remember that the youth are our future, and the best grooming process begins here.

At the annual Rainbow Assembly this June they had a 68% membership turn out!

Our goals moving forward are to increase membership and participation. We plan to visit more lodges and districts utilizing the DDGMs to help spread the word. We plan to increase scholarships for our youth and recruit leaders for our youth across the state, hopefully establishing new Assemblies and Courts.

Our nation may very well be at a crossroads, and our youth need real heroes to emulate. We as Masons should be the ones to step up and assume that role. While this may seem a daunting challenge, we can accomplish it with team work and perseverance.

Respectfully submitted,
Russell E. Bridges, 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 2016 were: John M. Burchfield, PM, Grand Lecturer; Thomas P. Dolinger, PM, Chairman; L. David Potts, PM, Secretary; J. Luigi Ammons, PM; Steve M. Norris, PM; David K. Potter, PM; and Clay E. Sorrels, PM. WB John David Cashion served as liaison to the Board of General Purposes.

The Board of Custodians met regularly during the year, with meetings held on January 15, April 8, July 8 and September 22, 2016. The annual meeting with the District Deputy Grand Lecturers was held on September 23, 2016. The fall meetings were scheduled to coincide with the Grand Lodge Annual Communication in Winston-Salem.

Certified brethren qualifying for the Laudamus Certificate in 2016 are: John William Couch, Kedron Lodge No. 387; Claude Ray Harril, Kedron Lodge No. 387; Steve Marion Norris, Shallotte Lodge No. 727; Terry Lee Rose, Elkin Lodge No. 454; Robert Earl Russ, Sr., Pythagoras Lodge No. 249; and Richard Lee Smith, Berne Lodge No. 724. The Laudamus Certificate is presented to

Class A Certified Lecturers when they have attained 15 years of service.

District Deputy Grand Lecturers qualifying for the Past District Deputy Grand Lecturer Certificate in 2016 are: Christopher Scott East, Sr., District 2; Justin Michael Robinson, District 6; Lesley Thomas Robinson, District 7; John Robert Franks, District 10; James Timothy Hairr, District 11; Marcus Johnson Hurt, District 13; Herbert Currie Lyon, District 19; Paul Francis Kelly, District 20; Jeffrey Lynn Bullington, District 23; Alfred Joseph Arnder, Jr., District 25; and Thomas Miller Cohen, District 28.

The 2016 Certified Lecturer examinations were held according to the following schedule: August 13: Greenville and Greensboro; August 20: Wilmington and Charlotte; August 27: Fayetteville and Asheville. The examinations continue to be offered on Saturdays in an effort to be more accommodating to our certified brethren who have work conflicts. The Board expresses its sincere appreciation to the brethren at the six locations who donated the use of their facilities for the examinations.

At the end of the 2015 examinations the number of certified brethren was 381. This consisted of 345 Class “A” Certified Lecturers and 36 Class “B” Certified Instructors. Unfortunately the total number had declined by July 2016, with seven members passing, for a total roster of certified brethren as of July 31, 2016, standing at 374. Sixty-two brethren are required for re-examination in 2016. Also, eighteen brethren received a one-year extension in 2015. Their certification will expire if they do not re-certify in 2016. Of the sixty-two due for recertification in 2016, nineteen qualify for the “Waiver” option as being certified for twenty-five years or more, if requested by the brother. The final 2016 results will be available after the last exams are held on August 27, 2016, and will be printed in the 2016 Proceedings of the Grand Lodge publication.

In 2016 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 2016 the Five-Hour Mandatory Lecture Service was continued for the one hundred seventy-eight even numbered lodges throughout the state. As a reminder, the Lecture Service rules were updated in 2011 to formally indicate the continuation of this mandatory five-hour service until otherwise notified. Odd numbered lodges will have their next five-hour requirement in 2017. 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 Annual Communication in 2014 Regulation 29-11 was amended to add 29-11.4: The Board of Custodians from time to time may present a Certificate of Proficiency to a member who has satisfactorily passed a thorough examination in the ritualistic work pertaining to any group of the ritual work the Board may deem suitable and in the in best interest of the craft.

As a result the Board started working on the details to offer a Coach's Certification with the intent to offer said certification beginning in 2017.

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.

As a result of the change in format for Wilkerson College's Wardens Boot Camps, the Coach's Clinics were not held in 2016. The Board is working on a plan to co-ordinate these clinics with the Schools of Instruction.

At the January 15, 2016, meeting, the Board approved support for a Ritual Competition to be held at the Scottish Rite Temple in Greensboro on June 11, 2016.

At the April 8, 2016, meeting, the Board gave its support to the Grand Lodge Committee on Music with respect to their efforts to reintroduce the music to the ritual as prescribed in the Bahnson Manual.

The Board of Custodians expresses its appreciation to Grand Master Bryant D. Webster 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 John M. Burchfield for his efforts as the Grand Lecturer for 2016. 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

Report of the Commission on Subordinate Lodges Special Activities

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

The Commission on Subordinate Lodges Special Activities has been active in supporting lodges in their fundraising efforts. The following reports from January 1 through July 31, 2016, reflect lodge fundraising activities:

Applications Processed:	205		
Final Reports Received/Processed	99		
Total Funds Received/Processed by lodges:		\$456,803.45	
Cost of Fund-raising:		\$173,695.89	
Net Proceeds:		\$283,107.56	
For Charity:		\$217,400.34	
For Lodge Building Funds:		\$ 65,707.22	
Type of Fundraisers:	#	Average \$ Per Event	
Raffles:	30	\$ 72,688.28	\$ 2,422.94
Golf Tournaments:	9	\$ 64,261.69	\$ 7,140.19
Breakfast:	12	\$ 22,638.41	\$ 1,886.53

BBQs:	10	\$ 25,596.18	\$ 2,559.62
Dinners/Fish/Chicken:	11	\$ 28,326.32	\$ 2,575.12
Other:	31	\$ 69,596.68	\$ 2,245.05
By Fund-Development Category:	#		
MHC:	63	\$ 94,944.66	\$ 1,507.06
MESH, LLC:	44	\$ 57,695.67	\$ 1,311.27
NC Masonic Foundation	17	\$ 25,429.57	\$ 1,495.86
Other Charities	19	\$ 39,330.44	\$ 2,070.02
Lodge Building Funds:	22	\$ 65,707.22	\$ 2,986.69

All lodges are reminded to submit final reports of fundraising activities to the Commission on or before 45 days after the fundraising event; all 2016 final reports must be in to the Commission by December 31, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,
James L. Medlin, Chairman

Report of the of the Library Committee

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

2016 saw a continuation of preservation efforts on the part of the Committee and Grand Lodge staff, including new curatorial assistant Hayley Moll, and further worked toward the cataloging of the Grand Lodge Library's collection, the preservation of its archival collection, and the digitization of Grand Lodge and subordinate lodge records via the North Carolina Digital Heritage Center, as well as coordinating its mission to foster Masonic history by collaborating with Grand Historian Steven Campbell.

The Committee met periodically throughout the past year to prioritize the preservation and conservation of several artifacts; of particular note is the restoration of five original oil portraits of Past Grand Masters Joseph Montfort, William Richardson Davie, John Adam Cameron, Simmons Jones Baker, and Beverly Sampson Royster. The portraits are noted for being the work of famed North Carolina artist Jaques Busbee, founder of Jugtown Pottery and nephew of Grand Master Fabuis Busbee (1885-1886).

Painting conservationist Barry Bauman of Chicago, IL, was recommended to the Committee for his expertise and philanthropic considerations. Mr. Bauman is a professional art conservator who restores historic paintings and portraiture for cultural heritage institutions for the base cost of materials. This generosity permitted the Grand Lodge to expedite the preservation of its five most unstable portraits, three of which were financially sponsored for restoration by generous donors or lodges. The Committee would welcome those interested in helping the Grand Lodge preserve more of its historic artwork and portraiture.

The Committee continues to work with the North Carolina Digital Heritage Center to preserve through digitization the early papers and records of the Grand Lodge and its lodges across the State. As of August 1, the early and most at-risk records of the following lodges were preserved online: Royal White Hart No. 2 (1765-1860), St. John's No. 3 (1772-1849), Unanimity No. 7 (1774-1778); Phoenix No. 8 (1789-1864), Old Cone No. 9 (1795-1800), Washington No. 15 (1788-1789), Hiram No. 24 (1793-1805), Mt. Moriah No. 27 (1803-1806),

Hiram No. 40 (1793-1845), and Orange No. 47 (1797-1800).

In addition, the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina have been digitally preserved and made available online through (with some gaps) 1920. The Committee continues to research and obtain, where possible, copies of the missing printed proceedings from 1787-1796, 1798-1799, 1801, 1802, 1805, 1807, 1810, 1841, 1843, and 1846-1849. Those original printed proceedings that cannot be located are being transcribed from the original handwritten minute books of the Grand Lodge.

The Committee is also working to digitize the proceedings of the several appendant bodies of North Carolina, including the State's Grand Royal Arch Chapter, the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters, and the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar.

The Committee was also pleased to work alongside the curator of the George Washington National Masonic Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia, to create a display illustrating the history of the Grand Lodge's Executive Office Building in Raleigh.

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

The Report of the North Carolina 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. is pleased to provide the 2016 Annual Communication with the following report of its work for the previous year.

All staff members of the Grand Lodge were provided annual reviews by the Grand Secretary. Further, the Chairman of the Committee conducted the Grand Secretary's annual review. All such reviews were then presented to the Committee.

The Committee met with the Grand Secretary to discuss all annual reviews. Further, based on the same, the Committee considered salary and benefit recommendations, which recommendations were referred to the Committee on Finance, pursuant to the Grand Lodge Personnel Committee Policy.

The Committee recommended technical, but non-substantive, changes to the Grand Lodge Personnel Policy.

No other matters were considered by the Committee this year.

The Committee wishes to extend its gratitude to the Grand Secretary in assisting the Committee in faithfully performing and discharging its duties.

Respectfully submitted,
Jimmie B. Hicks, Jr., SGW
Chairman, Personnel Committee

Final Report
of
Grand Master
Douglas L. Caudle
to
the
Grand Lodge
of
Ancient, Free and Accepted
Masons
of North Carolina

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

Welcome to the 229th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of AF&AM 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 Final Report. Listed below are brief summaries of the various events and activities that have occurred from December 6, 2014, through December 5, 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 fundraising events for our charities and serving other needs in their communities. Giving their members a reason to attend expands the possibilities of service to all of our members. For lodges who want to improve their lodge experience, we have many tools with which to work. Your Grand Lodge website has many education programs and speakers bureau information. We also have training opportunities available with Wilkerson College, William R. Davie Leadership Academy, Adept Program, and dedicated Brothers around the state that 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 bi-monthly paper, *The North Carolina Mason* has undergone a large improvement. Brother Ric Carter, editor, and the Publications Committee re-worked the format to include full 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 GL Education Committee, has created an excellent site. Improvements include easier navigation, expanded education programs, speakers bureau, and improved graphics.

Masonry in North Carolina is certainly alive and well. As of June 17, 2015, State College Lodge began working under dispensation in Raleigh, and two new lodges, Knights of Solomon No. 768 and Veritas No. 769 received their charters after a positive vote at Annual Communication. There is much interest in organizing new lodges of like-minded brothers as well as breathing life into lodges that have fallen to 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

With regret I report that 1,228 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. We did not know each departed Brother, but we can remember them and contemplate their many valuable contributions to our great fraternity. They have lived respected and died regretted by all who those who knew them as 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, Brothers Mack Sigmon (JGD) and Larry Thompson (JGS) took on the task of creating a guideline to be used by lodge investigation committees. They used not only THE CODE but similar guidelines from other jurisdictions to create ours. With editorial assistance from Brothers Speed Hallman (SGD) and Shaun Bradshaw (GMar), an excellent guide is available now 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 have a consistent message, learn best practices, and get Brothers to our campuses we chose to have a centralized DDGM/DDGL meeting as opposed to multiple locations around 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.

I also held bi-monthly conference calls with each DDGM in four groups of ten. These sessions discussed new items that arose and gave updates on existing projects.

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

Name	Lodge	District
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 DDGLs who have been given the honorary title of Past District Deputy Grand Lecturer:

Name	Lodge	District
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 WB Keith B. Rash (PM, PDDGM, PDDGL, PGL) of Harmony No. 299. Brother Rash is a stalwart of the 30th District and has served in many capacities. For many years he has been ready, willing, and able to coach and mentor new members and prepare Lodge Officers for their duties. His devotion to the Craft and to assisting others is something that we can all aspire to.

At Annual Communication I presented the second medal to MW Lewis Ledford. His contribution to Masonry has extended well past his service as Grand Master and Grand Treasurer. MW Ledford's passion and competence serves us well as a trusted counselor and advisor. On a personal note, in 1993 after questioning my jewelry selection, Brother Lew gave me the strong grip of a Master Mason and has never "removed the hand that might support a falling brother," and for this I am forever grateful.

The third medal was presented to WB Steve Lynch of Eagle No. 19. Brother Steve's life has been devoted to serving others. After serving our country in combat during the Vietnam War he returned home to a stellar career in law

enforcement. As a Mason Brother Steve has been a wise counselor, coach, and faithful member of the Craft. With a positive spirit, he demonstrates vividly “Brotherly Love and Affection.”

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 fourteen 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 are there 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 57 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
Elect Senior and Junior Warden.....	Fort Bragg	667
Move location of emergent communication	Gate City	694
Outdoor Degree	Southern Pines	484
Meeting in another location	State College UD	
Meeting in another location	Wake Forest	282
Elect Junior Warden.....	Eureka	317
Election Master	PP Turner	746
Dispense with stated.....	Bakersville	357
Elect Junior Warden.....	Hibriten	262
Elect Junior Warden.....	Cabarrus	720
Elect Master	Fulton	99

Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America

The Grand Lodge of North Carolina is a member of The North American Conference of Grand Masters. This conference is made up of recognized Grand Lodges in all 50 U.S. states, Provinces of Canada, 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, RW Bryant Webster, DGM, and I attended the 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 year's conference was held in Manchester, New Hampshire and featured several breakout sessions including: Lodge Insurance issues, 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 issues.

Summons and Summary Trial

Two summonses and a summary trial were held concerning actions in Widow's Son Lodge No. 519. This resulted in the expulsion of two members, the suspension of one, and limitations placed on another. These items will be reviewed in detail and a recommendation made to the delegates by the Committee on Appeals.

60 Year Certified Lecturer

I had the honor of presenting two 60 year Certified Lecturer certificates. Worshipful Brothers Eugene Jernigan (Mingo No. 206) and Leroy Whitfield (Jerusalem No. 95) have reached this milestone that only 2 other Brothers have accomplished since the CL Program was instituted in the 1940s. Both Lodges held special meetings to recognize this event, and each were also attended by several Grand Lodge Officers and members of the Board of Custodians. Brothers Jernigan and Whitfield continue to serve as officers in their respective Lodges.

Emergent Communications of the Grand Lodge

Five emergent communications of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina were conducted during my term.

- December 2, 2014, in Statesville for the purpose of installing the 2015 Grand Lodge Officers
- June 6, 2015, in Asheville for the purpose of re-dedicating the Vance Monument
- June 13, 2015, in Raleigh for the purpose of re-dedicating the Old State Capitol
- October 7, 2015, in Asheville for the purpose of Constituting and Consecrating Veritas Lodge No. 769
- November 5, 2015, in Holly Springs for the purpose of Constituting and Consecrating Knights of Solomon Lodge No. 768

Appendant and Concordant Bodies

Shrine – North Carolina has and continues to enjoy amity with all three Shrine Centers. The dedicated Masons who are members of Amran, Oasis, and Sudan Shriners are doing great work in supporting their 22 Shriners Hospitals for Children. These centers were led by Ill. Sir Charles Britt (Amran), Ill. Sir Todd Ham (Oasis), and Ill. Sir Jerry Tillett, PGM (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 me 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.

Scottish Rite – Peace and Harmony prevail across the Valleys in the Orient of North Carolina. MW William Brunk, PGM, SGIG continues to provide excellent leadership for this group. Supporting their language disorders clinics is the main charity of this group. However, many local needs are met by the Scottish Rite Masons in North Carolina. The 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 were led by M.E. Thomas Jackson, M.I. James Howell, and S.K. Terry Pritt. These dedi-

cated 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. MW Berry Rigdon, PGM and WB Mack Sigmon, JGD presented an excellent program at the marker.

Order of the Eastern Star – Sister Peggy Pilson WGM hosted a Masonic and Eastern Star gathering at the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford. The event strengthened the bond between Masons and Eastern Stars, and I was most grateful that 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 addressed our 2015 Annual Communication and presented a check from the OES Ruck fund to Brother Mark Kollada, administrator of WhiteStone a Masonic and Eastern Star Community.

WhiteStone – A Masonic and Eastern Star Community

To the Lodges and members who gave over \$257,087 to WhiteStone, I appreciate your support and assure you that this money was put to good use caring for those fraternally related brothers and sisters in need at WhiteStone. By your support, we are able to continue admitting new fraternally related brothers and sisters in need to our wonderful home in Greensboro. The current expenditures for charity at WhiteStone exceed 1 million dollars annually.

I do want to speak to the lack of monetary support by well over 100 Lodges in North Carolina. We have made a special effort to determine the cause of this sad condition. Initial results illustrate that misinformation and apathy are the largest contributors. There have been renewed efforts in several lodges to increase the support for the 30+ fraternally related residents in need of assistance. Many lodges have asked for programs concerning WhiteStone to be presented in their Lodge, and each have been well received.

WhiteStone is governed by a Board of Directors led by MW Gene Jernigan, PGM, and made up from members 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

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.

MHCO is governed by a Board of Directors led by Dan Rice, PGM, 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 knowledge, and many other vital aspects of operating a modern children's home. Brother Kevin Otis and his staff work daily to make a difference in the lives of the children that we have in our care.

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.

Thomas W. Gregory Day

August 5, 2015, was declared as MW Thomas W. Gregory Day for North

Carolina Masons. A surprise visit by past and present Grand Lodge Officers was made to MW Gregory's home Lodge (Statesville No. 27). Brother Tom was presented with a certificate of the occasion and many spoke as to the impact he has made on their lives. MW Gregory spoke on the impact Masonry has meant to him and shared stories of his life.

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. It is becoming more difficult to identify Masons who are in VA hospitals due to privacy regulations. However, WB Richard Starnes (Andrew Jackson No. 576) has doggedly worked with and through the bureaucracy to help contact our brothers at the Salisbury VA Hospital. Brother Richard voluntarily spends around 30 hours per week ensuring that the needs of our Brothers are met.

Charles Cathey Masonic Scholarship Program

The PGM 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 in college. This year nearly 200 applications were received for the 8 available scholarships.

To raise funds for these scholarships, we began the "NC Masons Support Education" decal program beginning early in 2015. Through your generosity, a **net of over \$77,000.00** was raised that will go directly to support these scholarships. Your willingness to support this program was overwhelming, and I appreciate each of you who participated.

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.

Out of State Visitations

I was invited to and attended the annual communications of South Carolina, Tennessee, and Alabama. At each event I was heartily welcomed and had an excellent time of fellowship and sharing of challenges and successes concerning the Craft. Along with 16 other NC brothers, I attended the sixth annual Masonic Restoration Foundation Symposium in Philadelphia, PA. This event highlighted the aspects of the Traditional Observance Masonic Lodge experience.

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 and good fellowship 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, noth-

ing 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 No. 27 who took a rough ashlar in me and polished my rude and imperfect shape. To MW Tom Gregory who leads by example and lends wise counsel when asked, I am forever grateful for all that you have done and continue to do for me. To MW Lewis Ledford whose passion and competence has inspired not only me but all Masons in North Carolina. Thanks to WB Rick Matthews and WB Phil Keller who not only coached me through my degrees but who taught me how to act as a just and upright Mason. To WB 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, Steve Horinka, 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 MW 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 DDGMs, DDGLs, 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, 2015

Interim Report
of
Grand Master
Bryant D. Webster
to
the
Grand Lodge
of
Ancient, Free and Accepted
Masons
of North Carolina
at
Winston-Salem, North Carolina
September 23, 2016

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

As prescribed in The Code, I am pleased to make this report of my activities and our accomplishments so far this year as you have allowed me to serve as your Grand Master. It has truly been my honor and privilege, and a most humbling opportunity, to serve as the 163rd Grand Master in this grand jurisdiction.

Everywhere I have traveled this year, from Rodanthe to Ranger, from Roanoke Rapids to Rockingham, from Reidsville to Franklinville, from Sparta to Cliffside, and everywhere in between, our evenings have been filled with wonderful food, great smiles, great fellowship, and sound learning. While the titles and the awards and the kind gestures are most appreciated, it is the genuine relationships with the brethren throughout this state that I will cherish the most.

We began this year with a wonderful Grand Lodge Installation weekend in Asheville, my hometown. Our Grand Lodge Officers were installed in a meaningful ceremony at the historic Asheville Masonic Temple, in downtown Asheville. Many brothers stayed for an emergent communication of Veritas Lodge 769, our second Traditional Observance Lodge, and a lodge of which I am a charter member. Many of our out-of-town guests stayed, and we went together to the Biltmore Estate to enjoy a candlelight Christmas tour of the Biltmore House. The entire weekend was a lovely experience and a strong foundation for our year together. It has gotten even better from there.

It is my pleasure to welcome you to Winston-Salem for this 2016 Annual Communication. My ties here in Winston-Salem are strong. I grew up camping as a child at nearby Tanglewood Park. I spent an important summer of my life here thirty years ago studying at Governor's School. And, I ice-skated in the very room where we now hold our Annual Communication – it used to be an ice rink. With the exception of one in Raleigh and one in Research Triangle Park, every Annual Communication I have ever attended has been here. I hope you will enjoy the facilities and the city as much as I have. We have a number of special events and surprises planned for you that I hope will leave you energized and ready to return to your homes and shed the light of Freemasonry.

State of the Craft

My theme for the year is “Building a Stronger Foundation.” Together, we are doing just that. Our lodges are very active. It seems there are Masonic activities nearly every evening of every week throughout the year. Many weekends, there are multiple activities competing for our time and attention, all of them directed to good Masonic purpose. We have formed five new lodges in the last two years, including our third motorcycle lodge, two traditional observance lodges, two university lodges, and a daylight lodge at our Masonic and Eastern Star Community. Our lodges are vibrant and energized, with young officer lines and diligent ritual work. Our lodges are taking seriously the challenge issued by Past Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Doug Caudle, to improve the lodge experience. Buildings are being conserved and improved, food is excellent, and lodges are experimenting with music, incense, and lighting. There are lots of stories of brothers going the extra mile for brothers and for the community.

Necrology

During the past year, we lost 623 brothers to that celestial lodge above. They lived respected and died regretted, and we remember them still. On several occasions, including Grand Lodge Installation, our final District Meeting in my home lodge, and here at Annual Communication, I have displayed a single lighted column candle in a hurricane lamp to celebrate the memories of all those brothers and loved ones whom I wish could have lived long enough to be with us on this journey. All of us have those persons in our lives whom we wish were with us now. Cherish their memories. This year we have provided an opportunity for brothers present to place a pebble in a basin to remember a brother. Our Committee on Necrology, our Grand Chaplain, and many of our musicians have been hard at work to present what we hope will be an emotional highlight and moment to pay tribute to those who have bequeathed us a strong foundation.

District Officers Conference

Following a practice initiated by Past Grand Master Caudle, in October 2015, we convened a statewide meeting of our District Deputy Grand Masters and District Deputy Grand Lecturers for a two-day session of team-building, instruction, communication, and core messaging, this occasion on the campus of the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford. A Grand Master, particularly one who lives near an edge of the state as I do, cannot function without the assistance, encouragement, and support of the District Officers. Educating and empowering those men to serve and to lead, so that our Craft moves forward with a unified message and purpose, is important. We thank all of those men who give of their time, talent, and treasure to serve as District Officers.

Honorary Title of Past District Deputy Grand Master

I recommend that this Grand Lodge grant the honorary title of Past District Deputy Grand Master to the following Brethren who are now eligible in accordance with The Code:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Lodge</u>	<u>District</u>
Michael Allen Burnham	314	1
James Earl McDougal	706	4
James Allen Wiley	3	7
G. Anderson Greene	319	12
Wade Randolph Kearney, II	624	13
Larry Dean Hudson	500	14
Kenneth Werner Wical	8	17
Edward Earl Davis	207	18
Murray Marrell Skeen	344	23
Phil Dennis McCraw	322	25
Marion Kirby Matthews	404	27
Michael Neil Starnes	593	30
Bobby Woodrow Nichols	407	33
Christopher Blair Houser	263	36
Larry Dean Sudderth	489	37

Honorary Title of Past District Deputy Grand Lecturer

I recommend that this Grand Lodge grant the honorary title of Past Dis-

trict Deputy Grand Lecturer to the following Brethren who are now eligible in accordance with the Code:

Christopher Scott East	407	2
Justin Michael Robinson	708	6
Lesley Thomas Robinson	359	7
John Robert Franks	112	10
James Timothy Hairr	125	11
Marcus Johnson Hurt	377	13
Herbert Currie Lyon	210	19
Paul Francis Kelly	151	20
Jeffrey Lynn Bullington	542	23
Alfred Joseph Arnder, Jr.	322	25
Thomas Miller Cohen	576	28

District Meetings

We held twenty-six district meetings, beginning March 2, and ending on May 26. The meetings were well-attended; I counted a total of 2,311 Brothers present over the twenty-six meetings. The brotherly love and courtesy I was extended was remarkable. The food was outstanding and of wide variety. I don't think we had the same thing two nights in a row or two nights in a week throughout the process. When I could hear the Brethren laughing in lodge before I entered, I knew it was going to be good; that happened almost all the time. It was my goal to provide some quality information about estate planning to our Brothers; that happened in all district meetings but two, where we had a different topic or got cut short for some reason. It was my goal to provoke thought among our Brothers, to encourage the building of stronger foundations in our personal lives, in our families, in our lodges, and in our communities.

I was blessed to be joined by trusty brothers for much of the travel to those meetings: D.L. Webster, our Grand Tyler (my Dad); John Burchfield, Grand Lecturer; Hank Hilliard, Grand Chaplain; Al Terrell; Russell Bridges; Mark Kolada, Executive Director of WhiteStone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Community; Kevin Otis, Administrator of the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford; Chris Richardson, Development Director for the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford; Mike Faulkenbury, Chair of the North Carolina Masonic Foundation, and David Wilson, William Mills, Leonard Safrit, and Bob Gresham for the Foundation; Walt Clapp, Grand Secretary; and Jonathan Underwood, Assistant to the Grand Secretary. There were numerous Past Grand Masters and other Brothers who had frequent flyer miles, attending multiple meetings all over the state.

The District Meetings were held as follows:

Date	District	Lodge Names and No.	Location
Mar 2	14	William G. Hill 218	1520 Caswell St, Raleigh
	3	St. John's 4	1810 N. Heritage St, Kinston
	7	Knap of Reeds 158	158 Bahama Road, Bahama
	8	Widow's Son 519	298 Roanoke Ave, Roanoke Rapids
	9	Wilson 712	2501 W. Nash St, Wilson
	22	Jefferson Penn 384	110 S. Main St, Reidsville

	23	20	Siler City 403	114 S. 3rd Ave, Siler City
	28	1	Eureka 317	218 S. Hughes Blvd, Elizabeth City
	29	2	Cape Hatteras 698	48338 Hwy 12, Buxton
	30	4	Franklin 109	104 Professional Park Dr, Beaufort
	31	3	Orr 104	116 E. 3rd St, Washington
Apr	11	30	Lee 253 (s)	108 Second Ave., SW, Taylorsville
	12	38	Forest City 381 (s)	17 Wilkie St, Forest City
	13	36	Mt. Holly 544	332 W. Charlotte Ave, Mt. Holly
	25	32	Mint Hill 742	10224 Lawyers Rd, Charlotte
	26	28	Spencer 543 (s)	114 4th St, Spencer
May	2	12	St. John's 1	4712 Oriole Dr, Wilmington
	3	18	Lebanon 207 (s)	114 Pecan St, Whiteville
	4	21	Rockingham 495	1107 Fayetteville Rd, Rockingham
	5	17	Fort Bragg 667	221 Mason St, Fayetteville
	16	26	Salem 289	4537 Country Club Rd, Winston Salem
	17	33	Sparta 423	125 E. Doughton St, Sparta
	23	41	Blue Ridge 435	305 Main St, Highlands
	24	40	Waynesville 259	435 E. Marshall St, Waynesville
	25	34	Mystic Tie 237	163 S. Main St, Marion
	26	39	Nichols - W. Asheville 650	22 Brevard Rd, Asheville

Joseph Montfort Medals

On February 2, 2016, at a communication of Mocksville Lodge, in Mocksville, NC, I presented my first Montfort Medal to Past Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Lester Poindexter Martin, Jr. Judge Martin is a World War II hero, former state Legislator, former District Court Judge, and former Superior Court Judge. Judge Martin, now 92 years young, has been a Mason for more than 70 years and represents all that is good and right about Masonry, public service, and building a stronger foundation for us all.

On May 26, 2016, at our final district meeting, at my home lodge, Nichols-West Asheville 650, I presented my second Montfort Medal to our Grand Lecturer, Worshipful Brother John Marvin Burchfield. Worshipful Brother John has been District Deputy Grand Lecturer for multiple districts, District Deputy Grand Master, and is a Mason's Mason who is always there for lectures, funerals, or any task of leadership necessary. His gentle but firm leadership in our Craft make him a natural fit for this honor.

My third Montfort Medal will be presented at Annual Communication.

Physical Disabilities

Per The Code, it is the responsibility of the Grand Master to approve all petitions for the degrees on which the petitioner indicates a physical disability. It is the duty of the DDGM to investigate those and make a recommendation. We have had an extraordinary number of such disability waivers this year, in excess of twenty-five at this writing. I have approved all but one. I believe this large number of waivers is in part related to a large number of injured military veterans who are petitioning our lodges. There were quite a few that while the

physical disability did not prevent pursuing the petition further, there were other items shown on the petition which gave me great pause. I would charge Lodges and their investigating committees to be ever vigilant. If you have a petition with a disability and the Grand Master approves it, do not take that as a signal to rubber-stamp the petition and approve the man. Be diligent in your investigation and make sure we only take the right men. We don't want everyone who can fog a mirror.

Dispensations

It is the province of the Grand Master to issue dispensations to lodges for certain activities outside the normal practice or outside their approved bylaws. Again, there seem to have been a much larger number than is usual. I take this as a sign of strong activity and creativity among our lodges. As of this writing, I have approved the following 51 Dispensations:

Elect Master	Marble Springs	439
Elect Officers	Rockingham	495
Elect Officers	Farmville	517
Stated Communications	Knights of Solomon	766
Master of two lodges	Fulton	99
Elect Senior Warden	Queen City	602
Meeting Other Place	Sophia	767
Railroad Degree	Spencer	543
Stated Communications	Knights of Solomon	764
Elect Junior Warden	Pigeon River	386
Stated Communications	Wilkerson College	760
Elect Senior Warden	Knights of Solomon	764
Elect Senior Warden	Hanks	128
Elect Junior Warden	Clay	301
Elect Senior Warden	Fuquay	258
Meeting Other Place	Knights of Solomon	768
Elect Junior Deacon	Eureka	317
Meeting Other Place	Andrew Jackson	576
Elect Master	Monroe	244
Elect Master	Cape Hatteras	698
Meeting Other Place - Special Forces Team House	Fort Bragg	667
Outdoor Degree	King Solomon	138
Outdoor Degree	Harmon	420
Outdoor in Tennessee	French Broad	292
Meeting Other Place	Knights of Solomon	764
Outdoor Degree	Crown Point	708
Meeting Other Place	Salem	289
Outdoor Degree	Sanford	151
Dispense with stated	Wilkerson College	760
Dispense with stated	University	408
Stated Communications	Knights of Solomon	768
Meeting Other Place	Ashlar	765
Move location	Derita	715
Third Degree - Battleship	St. John's 1	
Outdoor Degree	Dunn's Rock	267
Meeting Other Place	Statesville	27

Dispense with stated.....	Berne 724
Move location.....	Winston 167
Move location.....	Salem 289
Move location.....	Piedmont-Pioneer 685
Move location.....	Forsyth 707
Meeting Other Place.....	Lux Libertas UD
Meeting Other Place.....	Ashlar 765
Meeting Other Place.....	Charity 5
Stated location.....	Lux Libertas UD
Meeting Other Place.....	Ashlar 765
Meeting Other Place.....	Charity 5
Meeting Other Place.....	Lux Libertas UD
Dispense with stated.....	Zion 81
Outdoor Degree.....	Cranberry 598
Meeting Other Place.....	Charity 5
Outdoor Degree.....	Montgomery 426
Outdoor Degree.....	Round Peak 616

Emergent Communications

An Emergent Communication of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina was held in the Asheville Masonic Temple, Asheville, North Carolina, on Saturday, December 5, 2015, for the purpose of installing the Grand Lodge Officers.

An Emergent Communication of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina was held at the Hibriten Lodge No. 262, Lenoir, North Carolina, on Thursday, August 25, 2016, for the purpose of dedicating the new home of Hibriten Lodge No. 262.

2016 Initiatives:

It has been my desire to finish this year with much more than just a list of activities or a catalogue of travels. It has been my hope that together we can move the ball on a number of issues:

1. Strengthening the North Carolina Masonic Foundation – we have promoted the NCMF in the North Carolina Mason and by having a representative of the Foundation speak at each district meeting. We have this year hired a Chief Development Officer, and we will be featuring this new leader at Annual Communication and introducing him to the Craft.
2. Strengthening Personal Foundations – we have shared a message of the importance and the vocabulary and the basics of estate planning with over 3000 Masons in district meetings and other speaking engagements across the state. We have urged each of us to look at the man in the mirror and make a change and to truly live out the lessons of Freemasonry in our lives.
3. Strengthening Lodge Foundations – we have provided a Lodge Self-Assessment Tool to assist lodges in looking within and identifying what we are doing well and where we can improve, and then working on those issues.
4. Strengthening Community Foundations – we have undertaken the “Masons Can” food drive project, to deliver life-sustaining food to our communities in conjunction with Annual Communication.
5. Ad Hoc Music Committee – we formed an ad hoc Music Committee,

- to aid in educating members and Lodges about the music of the Bahnson Manual, and to assist Lodges in incorporating music into the Lodge experience, to make the music in the Bahnson Manual more accessible, and to create guidelines for the use of music, working closely with the Board of Custodians.
6. Education Committee – the Grand Lodge Committee on Education has implemented the Speakers' Bureau, to assist Lodges in accessing high quality speakers for Masonic Education programs. The Committee has provided a reading list of quality books and publications. We have re-tooled the Wardens' Boot Camps into the new Davie Leadership Academy, to supplement the great work being done by Wilkerson College and to extend leadership training into the corners of our state.
 7. Prestonian Lecture – through several strokes of good fortune, we were able to bring the Grand Lodge of England's Prestonian Lecturer to North Carolina—to present the Prestonian Lecture at an emergent communication of Sophia Lodge 767 at the Greensboro Masonic Temple in January 2016. We were able to bring the Prestonian Lecturer back to North Carolina to attend and speak at Annual Communication.
 8. Lodge Service Commission – after several years of diligent work and Code revisions by the Grand Lodge Annual Communication, we were able to get an approved set of model bylaws for Temple Corporations, to allow Temple Corporations to function more smoothly, and to ensure that the interests of Masonry, and of Masons and Lodges in the Grand Lodge of North Carolina, are preserved and enhanced.
 9. Eagle Scout Degree – on Saturday, August 13, 2016, at Camp Bud Schiele, in Rutherfordton, NC, Dunn's Rock Lodge 267 opened an Emergent Communication and, with assistance of Forest City Lodge 381, examined a candidate and conferred the Master Mason Degree. The Second Section was conferred by a degree team consisting entirely of Eagle Scouts, ranging in age from mid-20's to 90. Our candidate was an Eagle Scout and grandson of Past Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Pete Thomas. We had more than 100 Masons in attendance, representing 36 North Carolina Lodges and 4 South Carolina Lodges. More than 36 Eagle Scouts were present.

I hope and trust that my final report will have even more reports of substantial effects we have accomplished together.

WhiteStone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Community

I urge you to read the report of the Grand Lodge Committee on WhiteStone, contained elsewhere in this report book. The Board of WhiteStone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Community was my first statewide involvement in Freemasonry, and its mission holds a special place in my heart. We are so blessed to be served by a wonderful Board of Directors of twenty Masons and Eastern Stars who have the passion and competence to run that home and serve our seniors. They are ably led by Past Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Gene Jernigan, Chair of the Board, and Brother Mark Kolada, Executive Director. Those two men spend countless hours in pursuit of our mission, above and beyond any thanks we can adequately provide. In 2016, we completed our Master Planning process, we reached an agreement with the NC Masonic Foundation to acquire property it holds adjacent to our Greensboro

campus, and we negotiated our third five-year contract with Life Care Services to assist in the Management of our Home. Great things are happening in Greensboro – stop by and see this jewel in person.

Masonic Home for Children at Oxford

I urge you to read the report of the Grand Lodge Committee on the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford, contained elsewhere in this report book. For over 143 years, the Masons of North Carolina have performed God's work of caring for children in need in Oxford. I could not be more pleased to have Past Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Dan Rice as Chair of the Board of that Home. Our Administrator, Brother Kevin Otis, continues to deliver a new vision for expanding our services to children on that sacred site. We have a diverse and extraordinary Board of Directors whose expertise and passion in serving children is tangible in everything they do. In April, we commissioned our first class of MHCO Ambassadors, husband and wife teams who are educated and then charged with spreading the good news of MHCO in their communities, both Masonic and beyond. We held our District Officers Conference there in October 2015, to ensure that our District Leaders could see our mission there at work first-hand. Please plan to join us in Oxford on October 7-9 for our 6th annual Homecoming Festival in its expanded format. This is a great opportunity to see the life-changing work you are doing up close.

Veterans' Hospital Visits

To date, I have visited two VA hospitals: one in Salisbury and one in Asheville. Our Masonic Service Association Representatives who act on our behalf at those facilities are doing yeoman's work to reach out to our Masons and other Veterans. At the Asheville campus, I was privileged to participate in the rededication of a Masonic monument on the site, dating to 1924, which is the oldest memorial on that campus. Our Masons in Western North Carolina cleaned up the plaque and arranged for its preservation and re-dedication. We can be very proud of the services and the recognition we provide to our Veterans.

World Conference of Grand Lodges

In November 2015, Past Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Doug Caudle, allowed me the opportunity, while still Deputy Grand Master, to represent the Grand Lodge of North Carolina at the World Conference of Grand Lodges, hosted by the Grand Lodge of California, the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of California, and the Grand Lodge of Iran in Exile – operating in California. This conference was held in San Francisco, in the building of the Grand Lodge of California. I was joined there by our Grand Secretary, Right Worshipful Brother Walt Clapp, our Grand Treasurer, Most Worshipful Brother Lew Ledford, and Most Worshipful Brother Lew's wife, Susan. We were struck by the great embrace of Masonry, with Brothers from every corner of the world, who looked differently, spoke different languages, and worshipped in different faith traditions. There were eight (8) different books of faith displayed upon the altar. The fellowship and the learning that took place was extraordinary. Many formal presentations, in many languages, were shared, focusing on the universal issues faced by Masons around the world. We observed that our Brothers from other continents practice tolerance and acceptance on a daily basis, in tangible ways that we never have to experience. Men in some countries (China, Bulgaria, etc.) have to practice their Masonry in secret, to protect their lives and their livelihoods. They pay dearly for the privilege of being

Masons, and they venerate their Masonry in extraordinary ways. The Brotherly love and friendship celebrated during that week were of an expansive nature and a joyous pageant that are different from what we see in a typical NC Lodge or event, but it was Masonry pure and simple, on a grand scale to which we could aspire. We also experienced first-hand the damage that the acts of a single Grand Lodge (not even present at the Conference), exercising its sovereign rights, can wreak on all Masons everywhere, despite the fact that Masons from other jurisdictions have no control over those actions. It was a reminder that we are all in this together, and we must be prudent, temperate and discrete.

Conference of Grand Masters of North America

February 20-23, 2016, together with our Deputy Grand Master, Right Worshipful Brother Gene Cobb, our Senior Grand Warden, Right Worshipful Brother Jimmie Hicks, our Junior Grand Warden, Right Worshipful Brother Speed Hallman, our Grand Treasurer, Most Worshipful Brother Lew Ledford, our Grand Secretary, Right Worshipful Brother Walt Clapp, and our Assistant to the Grand Secretary, Brother Jonathan Underwood, we represented the Grand Lodge of North Carolina at the North American Conference of Grand Masters, held this year in Madison, Wisconsin. I was privileged to chair the Planning Committee for the Conference, and together the Grand Masters who formed that committee made incremental changes to streamline the program, increase the amount of idea exchange and interaction between Grand Lodges, and craft a conference more useful and beneficial to the participants. There is more work to be done on those counts, but most who attended agreed that we moved the ball toward creating an event which serves the needs of those attending and allows useful information and ideas to be returned to Grand Lodges which participate, rather than being a hide-bound traditional pageant. One of the greatest benefits of these conferences is the opportunity for our elected Grand Lodge leadership to be together, to plan strategically, and to deepen the bonds of trust to allow greater service to our Grand Lodge. Additionally, we were able to showcase to Grand Lodges around the world (for there are visitors from outside North America) some of the things we are doing right in North Carolina, including unified 990 tax reporting and audit performance, and improving the lodge experience.

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

We attended the Northeast Conference of Grand Masters, held at Killington, Vermont, the weekend of July 15-17, 2016. Attending were our Deputy Grand Master, Right Worshipful Brother Gene Cobb, our Senior Grand Warden, Right Worshipful Brother Jimmie Hicks, our Junior Grand Warden, Right Worshipful Brother Speed Hallman, our Grand Treasurer, Most Worshipful Brother Lew Ledford, our Grand Secretary, Right Worshipful Brother Walt Clapp, and myself. We participated in a number of presentations regarding emerging issues in our Craft and were able to share with our Brothers from some 17 Grand Lodges how we in North Carolina have approached some of those issues. I am always struck, when attending conferences like this, with how far we are ahead of some of our sister jurisdictions when it comes to matters like tax treatment, background checks, affinity lodges, appendant body relations, etc. We have a professional Grand Lodge office and a strong, coordinated officer line which provide us with guidance and leadership which

is often lacking in other places. We are not perfect in North Carolina, and we have much improvement ahead of us, but we are on the right track in so many areas.

Visitation and Special Activities

I have kept a running log of my many activities as Grand Master since being elected on September 26, 2015. That Activity Log has been provided, on a cumulative basis, to the Board of General Purposes, at each of our quarterly meetings. I will continue that practice through the end of my term and will provide a final cumulative list of activities to the Board at my final meeting as its chair in December. I have additionally tried to keep the Craft abreast of my activities by posting pictures and brief descriptions of notable events on the Facebook page of The Grand Master of Masons of North Carolina. This seems to have been well-received. Many Brothers have tagged me in posts and put up pictures and other information from our travels around the state.

I have made a point of trying to attend lodges throughout North Carolina, in large places and small. I have often been officially received at lodge communications, have participated in degree work, and have participated in several fundraisers, notably Ham Day at Riverside Lodge in Catawba, NC, and the Brunswick Stew Fundraiser at Andrew Jackson Lodge in Salisbury, NC. I was an invited guest at the Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas in Spartanburg, South Carolina in December 2015. I attended the Installation of the Amran Shrine Officers and the Spring Ceremonial of Oasis Temple in Blowing Rock, NC. I was the special guest of the Imperial Potentate, NC Mason and Imperial Sir Jerry Gantt, at the 142nd Imperial Session of Shriners International in Tampa, Florida, in July 2016. Our three NC Shrine Temples, Amran, Oasis, and Sudan, hosted me and had me as their special guest for the week also. I learned much and enjoyed strengthening the relationship between our Shrine and Blue Lodge leadership. I attended and spoke at the Annual Grand Communication of the North Carolina York Rite Bodies in March in Greensboro, and I attended, participated in, and spoke at the York Rite Summer Assembly in Maggie Valley in July. I attended the Scottish Rite Regional Leadership Seminar hosted in Charlotte, North Carolina, in April, and I attended an Orient of North Carolina Leadership Meeting in Greensboro in February. The Scottish Rite Valley of Charlotte hosted a Table Lodge in my honor in June. I attended the North Carolina Annual Communication of the North Carolina International Order of Rainbow, participated in, and spoke at that ceremony in June. I was honored to speak at the Grand Chapter of North Carolina, Order of the Eastern Star in June.

I have instituted MESH Lodge under dispensation in Greensboro, and I have instituted Lux Libertas Lodge under dispensation in Chapel Hill. I attended the Grand Lodge of South Carolina Annual Communication in April. I have celebrated several 100th Anniversaries and 150th Anniversaries of lodges in our state. Two highlights for me were participating in the recognition of five Eagle Scout projects and the Eagle Scouts who performed them at the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford, and organizing and executing the first ever Eagle Scout Degree in North Carolina, where a degree team comprised of Eagle Scouts raised an Eagle Scout to the sublime degree of Master Mason at a Camp Bud Schiele, near Rutherfordton, NC, in August.

Recommended Legislation

My recommendations on Legislation that I believe appropriate will be in-

cluded in my final report.

Acknowledgments and Special Appreciation

Growing up in a then-rural part of Durham County, there were two institutions outside my family and my school that greatly influenced my life: Rose of Sharon Baptist Church, where my family attended, participated, and were members, and the Boy Scouts of America, where I had great opportunities to travel, to learn leadership, life and citizenship skills, and to be mentored by authentic men of the highest moral fiber. In both the church and the Boy Scouts, the men who were most influential in my experiences were Masons. They poured energy, character lessons, and hard truths into me as a young man, and I have tried to honor that by paying forward those expenditures into the lives of others. This year has been a seminal moment in that process, as I have had great opportunity to use the skills I learned, to feature Masonry and Boy Scouting, and to deliver on the lifelong promise “to do my best to do my duty to God and my Country. . . and to help other people at all times.”

When Most Worshipful Brother Dan Rice asked me to be his appointment to the Grand Line, I objected that I was too young, too inexperienced in Masonry, and isolated to the Blue Lodge experience only, having no memberships in any appendant body at that time. He overruled those objections, and assured me that I could be properly suited to fill this role. While I then and now appreciated his confidence, I still feel unworthy. I resolved when I accepted that I would do everything in my power to be prepared to lead if the opportunity ultimately presented itself. I read The Code several times. I made lists of appointments and duties, I joined appendant bodies in a structured and organized way. I began working to meet Masons and identify potential leaders for our Craft. I hope I have been somewhat successful in meeting the challenge and providing leadership to this incredible organization. My view of the role of Grand Master is that the leader of all must be the servant of all. I am most happy when I am doing the job that nobody else will do, whether it is taking out the trash, cleaning the toilet, parking the cars, or cleaning up some leftover mess. You, my Brothers, have thrust me more into the limelight than I would otherwise choose to be. I look forward to returning to quieter service to help in any way I can behind the scenes.

A special thanks goes to our Past Grand Masters who have been so supportive this year. They have filled critical leadership appointments. They have supported me at district meetings. They have hosted me in their homes during long stretches of travel. Unlike some grand jurisdictions, they do not interfere with the leadership of the Grand Lodge, but rather guide and support and defer to the elected leadership you choose. We are well-blessed with this cadre of experienced wise counselors who are always ready and willing to give a word if, and only if, requested.

Our Grand Line Officers are the finest men around. The time, talent, and treasure they expend to serve us all in the Grand Lodge of North Carolina is extraordinary. Nine years of continuous service is a lot to ask of any man and his family, but these Brothers cheerfully travel and participate whenever and wherever needed. My hat is off to each and all of them. Our Grand Lodge will be well served over the next decade and beyond by these Brothers and the men whom they select to follow in our footsteps.

Our Grand Lodge staff in Raleigh provide invaluable and consistent service to us all. I am afraid that the support they provide to us is treated much

like electricity in our homes: we pay little attention to the comforts it provides, and we only notice how important it is when it is not present. We should all take special note and say thanks anytime the opportunity presents itself. Cornelia, Vicki, Hayley, and Brother Jonathan do countless things behind the scenes that could not be accomplished if we were a volunteer-only organization. Right Worshipful Brother Walt Clapp is a wise counselor, and strength and support to us all. My deepest thanks to each of them.

My family: Dad (Worshipful Brother D.L. Webster), Mom (Mary) and Brother (Walter) have been a great support system, traveling with me, allowing me to stay in their homes, and keeping me grounded at all times. I thank them for their patience and love shown to me throughout. To Jan and Amy, my girls who have sacrificed much for me to perform this service, I thank them for their patience, for the many extra tasks they had to perform in my absence to keep house and home together, and for the love that kept me going on the long nights and the far distances traveled.

At many opportunities when I spoke in Lodges, I commented that the Most Important Man in Masonry was there that night, and it was not the Grand Master. The Most Important Man in Masonry is each and every Blue Lodge Mason who turns on the lights, cooks the meals, coaches the candidates, performs the ritual, raises the charity funds, and buries the dead. Masonry in NC could continue without any particular Grand Master, but it cannot continue without the Most Important Man in Masonry. It is critical that each and every one of us continues daily to apply the lessons of Masonry in our lives, to seek self-improvement, to start with the man in the mirror, ask him to change his ways, and understand that no message could have been any clearer, if you want to make the world a better place, you've got to look at yourself, and then make a change.

Thank you for all that each of you do for Freemasonry in North Carolina. Thank you for the opportunity to serve with you. Our foundation is stronger. We are on the cusp of something great! Keep up the good work!

Fraternally and respectfully submitted,
Bryant D. Webster
Grand Master, 2016

Necrology Service

Opening the Grand Lodge of Sorrow

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

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

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

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

Grand Master: Worshipful Brother Walker will lead our Necrology Service, *The Grand Master calls up the Grand Lodge for prayer by the Grand Chaplain. The Grand Master seats the Grand Lodge and the Acting Master proceeds to open the Grand Lodge of Sorrow: He begins:*

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

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

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

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

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

A poem is now offered by the Grand Lecturer.

The Homily Hank Hilliard, Grand Chaplain

Master: We now remember all Master Masons, all Fellow Craft, and all Entered Apprentices. Each one was loved. Each one was special. We bow our heads to remember them and, as we are called, remember each one silently in our hearts with thanksgiving for their life among us.

The Grand Chaplain lays a rose on the altar for each degree, as the candles are lit by the Senior Grand Deacon. After the service, during the course of the Annual Communication, all are invited to place a stone (representing their friend and loved one) in the water bowl (representing the well of life) located on the Table of Remembrance.

Master: The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord. "Let us live and die like the righteous, that our last end may be like His!"

Response: God is our God forever and ever He will guide even unto death!

Master: Almighty God, into your hands we leave with humble submission

the souls of our deceased brethren.

Funeral Grand Honors are offered if appropriate.

A closing song is now sung.

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

Grand Chaplain: Most Glorious God, you have made all things and called them good. With you, a new day comes and with it, eternal hope, peace, and joy. Be present with us this day and cause us with confidence to pray: *The Grand Chaplain prays as led in spirit.*

Grand Master: I now declare the Grand Lodge of Sorrow for the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina opened and closed for this year 2016. Let us not forget those we have remembered today.

The Funeral Grand Honors

Master: Brethren join me in giving the Funeral Grand Honors.

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

The first and second times:

(All saying): The will of God is accomplished! So mote it be. Amen

The third time:

(All saying): We cherish his memory here. We commend his spirit to God who gave it, and commit his body to the tomb.

NORTH CAROLINA LODGE MANUAL MUSIC
CLOSING THE LODGE

Music: "*Nearer My God, To Thee*"

Brothers, we meet again,
Too soon to part;
May Friendship bless this hour,
And warm each heart;
Tones that we love to hear,
Shall dwell upon the ear,
As we in accents' clear,
Repeat Good-night.

Brothers, once more farewell!
Time bids us part;
Fond mem'ry long shall dwell
Around each heart;
May Heav'n its blessings send;
And peace our paths attend;
Until we meet again,
Farewell, Good-night.
