

# **Reports**

of

The Grand Master

The Grand Treasurer

The Grand Secretary

Boards, Commissions and Committees

at the

**234<sup>th</sup>**

**Annual Communication**

of

The Grand Lodge of

Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons

of North Carolina

Winston-Salem, North Carolina

September 24-25, 2021



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## Report of the Grand Treasurer

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

I submit this interim report as of June 30, 2021. Included in this report is the total receipts and disbursement, special funds, and the securities held by this Grand Lodge.

<b>Total Funds available 01/01/2021</b>	
<b>(General Funds &amp; Special Funds)</b>	<b>\$941,431</b>
Total Receipts YTD	756,944
Total Disbursements YTD	<u>(373,917)</u>
<b>Total Cash To Be Accounted For</b>	<b>\$1,324,458</b>

<b><u>Deposits:</u></b>			<b><u>Amount</u></b>
Petty Cash			100
1st Citizens Bank (operating account)			10,088
Money Markets:			
Alex Brown			350,000
North State Bank	VARI		212,040
PNC Bank	VARI		113,061
First Citizens Bank	VARI		160,000
Investment:	<b>12/31/2020</b>	<b>6/30/2021</b>	<b>Principle</b>
Alex Brown investment	\$707,660	\$748,459	\$479,169

<b>Total Cash Accounted For</b>	<b>\$1,324,458</b>
Total Cash & Principle Securities YTD	

<b><u>Special Funds Summary</u></b>	<b>12/31/2020</b>	<b>6/30/2021</b>
Special Contingency Reserve	200,000	200,000
Emblems and Awards Reserve	21,592	21,592
Automobile Reserve	43,345	15,825
Operation Reserve	168,253	168,253
Building Reserve	144,253	144,253
Office Equipment Reserve	3,299	3,299
Legal Fees Reserve	6,000	6,000
Retirement/Health & Life Ins.	1,000	1,000
Charity Fund	78,033	78,033
World Conference Reserve	<u>          </u>	<u>4,000</u>
Total Special Funds	\$ 665,775	642,255

Total Special Funds 06/30/2021	642,255
Total General Funds Available	682,203

<b>Total Of All Funds 06/30/2021</b>	<b>\$1,324,458</b>
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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, 2021, including projected expenditures for the year and suggested budget for calendar year 2022.

### Grand Lodge of North Carolina 2021 Proposed Budget

	Account Name	Budget 2020	Actual 2020	Budget 2021	Actual 2021 through June 30	Proposed Budget 2022
<b>INCOME</b>						
27,000 Actual	Master Masons @ \$26 Per Capita Tax (2022)	\$612,000	778,752	734,500	736,632	702,000
27,000 Actual	GWNMA @ \$1.00		(29,650)	(28,250)	(28,250)	(27,000)
800	Initiation Fees @ \$21.00 (2022)	16,000	17,959	16,000	17,959	16,800
	NC Charities @ \$10.00	(7,500)	(8,550)	(7,500)	(8,550)	(8,000)
	GL Building @ \$5.00	(3,750)	(4,275)	(3,750)	(4,275)	(4,000)
	GWNMA @ \$5.00	(3,750)	(4,275)	(3,750)	(4,275)	(4,000)
	Initiation Fees Retained @ \$1.00					
1,489	Endowed Members (2022)	29,000	29,650	30,000	32,069	31,000
	Penalty for Late Returns	500	300	500	100	500
	Dividends and Interest	12,000	0	12,000	0	12,000
	Miscellaneous Income	1,000	1,552	1,000	2,848	1,000
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>655,500</b>	<b>781,463</b>	<b>750,750</b>	<b>744,258</b>	<b>720,300</b>
	<b>Philanthropy</b>					
800-00	Charity and Relief	29,000	29,000	29,000	7,281	29,000
800-03	VA Hospital Visitation	250		250	0	250
800-04	Masonic Youth Organizations	4,250	2,125	4,250	0	4,250
800-06	Wilkerson College/Scholarships	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
800-07	<b>Total</b>	<b>34,700</b>	<b>32,325</b>	<b>34,700</b>	<b>8,481</b>	<b>34,700</b>

## Grand Lodge of North Carolina 2021 Proposed Budget

Account Name	Budget 2020	Actual 2020	Budget 2021	Actual 2021 through June 30	Proposed Budget 2022
810-00					
810-01					
810-03					
Salaries and Fees					
Grand Secretary	95,959	95,959	95,959	31,986	75,729
Office Personnel	224,388	215,100	216,307	73,280	237,248
Assistant to the Grand Secretary (vacant)					
Finance Administrator					
Office Manager					
Outreach Coordinator					
Retirement/Health and Life Insurance HSA	45,601	43,379	47,000	19,467	48,864
Social Security Tax	19,387	19,016	18,754	11,000	18,596
Unemployment Tax	850	800	850	0	950
Part-Time Assistant	1,500	507	1,500	270	1,500
NCMF Reimbursement for Services	(66,916)	(66,916)	(67,115)		(69,632)
Drewry Memorial Grand Secy. Fund	(18,000)	(17,538)	(18,000)	(18,230)	(18,000)
<b>Total</b>	<b>302,769</b>	<b>290,307</b>	<b>295,255</b>	<b>117,773</b>	<b>295,255</b>
<b>Administration Costs</b>					
820-00					
820-02					
820-04					
820-05					
820-06					
820-07					
820-08					
Printing	8,000	797	11,500	5,997	11,500
Office Expenses	12,000	9,246	12,000	8,561	12,000
Postage	7,000	6,470	7,000	6,142	7,000
Office Equipment	1,500	1,236	1,500	2,464	2,250
Office Equipment Maintenance	9,500	10,878	9,500	8,150	9,500
Telephone/Internet	7,500	6,394	7,500	3,765	7,500
Membership Services Fees	(45,000)	(46,220)	(45,000)	(43,524)	(45,000)
Membership Services Expense	42,000	39,305	42,000	44,037	42,000
Auditing/Tax Services	10,000	9,934	10,000	6,000	10,000
Legal Fees	3,000	3,000	3,000	0	3,000
Background check Services	(20,000)	10,340	(20,000)	(8,795)	(20,000)
Background check expenses	16,000	7,623	16,000	6,000	16,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>51,500</b>	<b>59,003</b>	<b>55,000</b>	<b>38,797</b>	<b>55,750</b>

## Grand Lodge of North Carolina 2021 Proposed Budget

Account Name	Budget 2020	Actual 2020	Budget 2021	Actual 2021 through June 30	Proposed Budget 2022
<b>Building Expenses</b>					
830-00 Utilities	10,000	8,867	10,000	6,938	10,000
830-01 Building Grounds Maintenance	20,000	16,245	20,000	11,186	20,000
830-02 Building Equipment Maintenance	5,000	4,112	5,000	3,053	5,000
830-03 Hazard Insurance	7,000	8,733	7,000	6,651	8,000
830-04 Bldg. Reserve (Transfer to Building Reserve)	20,000	20,976	20,000	17,106	25,000
830-05 <b>Total</b>	<b>62,000</b>	<b>58,933</b>	<b>62,000</b>	<b>44,934</b>	<b>68,000</b>
<b>Membership Fees and Dues</b>					
840-00 Masonic Service Association	2,250	1,928	2,250	0	2,250
840-01 Conference of Grand Masters	750	500	750	750	750
840-02 GMC Committee on Recognition	100		100	0	100
840-03 Northeastern Regional Masonic Conf.	300		300	300	300
840-05 <b>Total</b>	<b>3,400</b>	<b>2,428</b>	<b>3,400</b>	<b>1,050</b>	<b>3,400</b>
<b>Travel and Officers Expense</b>					
850-00 Grand Master's Travel	8,000	6,660	8,000	3,248	8,000
850-01 Grand Master's Automobile Reserve	6,500	6,500	6,500	0	6,500
850-02 Grand Master's Office	250		250	0	250
850-03 Grand Secretary's Travel	7,000	4,589	7,000	2,970	7,000
850-04 Grand Secretary's Automobile Reserve	4,500	4,500	4,500	0	4,500
850-05 DDGM/DDGL Orientation, Travel-Other	11,000	3,863	11,000	2,265	11,000
850-07 <b>Total</b>	<b>37,250</b>	<b>26,122</b>	<b>37,250</b>	<b>8,483</b>	<b>37,250</b>



## Grand Lodge of North Carolina 2021 Proposed Budget

Account Name	Budget 2020	Actual 2020	Budget 2021	Actual 2021 through June 30	Proposed Budget 2022
<b>Boards, Commissions, and Committees</b>					
860-00 Board of General Purposes					
860-01 Board of Custodians	5,000	207	5,000	0	5,000
860-02 Masonic Public Relations	2,500	1,419	2,500	620	2,500
860-04 Finance Committee	3,500		3,500	0	3,500
860-05 Code Commission	500		500	0	500
860-06 Lodge Service Commission	300		300	0	300
860-07 Masonic Education	100		100	0	100
860-08 Middle Chamber Books expense	3,500	3,062	3,500	0	
Middle Chamber Books sale/Eventbrite		5,015			
860-09 Membership Services		(11,888)			
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,400</b>	<b>(2,185)</b>	<b>15,400</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>20,000</b> <b>31,900</b>
<b>Out-of-State Visitation</b>					
870-00 Visiting other Grand Lodges	3,000		3,000	0	3,000
870-01 Conference of Grand Masters	7,500	6,661	7,500	0	7,500
870-02 Conference of Grand Secretaries	2,000	2,229	2,000	0	2,000
870-03 Regional Conference (NE)	4,000		4,000	0	4,000
870-04 World Masonic Conference	4,000	4,000	4,000	0	4,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,500</b>	<b>12,890</b>	<b>20,500</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20,500</b>

## Grand Lodge of North Carolina 2021 Proposed Budget

Account Name	Budget 2020	Actual 2020	Budget 2021	Actual 2021 through June 30	Proposed Budget 2022
880-00					
Annual Communication / GLO Installation					
Grand Lodge Officers		103			
Past Grand Masters					
DDGM Travel					
DDGL Travel		191			
Boards, Committees, & Comm.					
Guests		441			
Auditorium, Banquets, Etc.		14,653			
Printing		6,185		668	
Installation Expenses		4,847		2,475	
Lump sum totals	68,000	26,420	68,000	3,143	68,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>68,000</b>	<b>26,420</b>	<b>68,000</b>	<b>3,143</b>	<b>68,000</b>
<b>Miscellaneous Expenses</b>					
Awards, Aprons, and Emblems	13,000	3,407	13,000	6,049	13,000
Grand Master's Portrait	500	926	500	0	500
Miscellaneous	1,000	600	1,000	0	1,000
Grand Lodge Library & Archives	3,500	4,741	3,500	2,266	6,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,000</b>	<b>9,674</b>	<b>18,000</b>	<b>8,315</b>	<b>20,500</b>
900-00					
<b>Communications</b>	120,000	120,000	120,000	60,000	120,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>120,000</b>	<b>120,000</b>	<b>120,000</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>120,000</b>

## Grand Lodge of North Carolina 2021 Proposed Budget

Acct. No.	Account Name	Budget 2020	Actual 2020	Budget 2021	Actual 2021 through June 30	Proposed Budget 2022
	<b>EXPENSE SUMMARY</b>					
800-00	Philanthropy	34,700	32,325	34,700	8,481	34,700
810-00	Salaries and Fees	302,769	290,307	295,255	117,773	295,255
820-00	Administration Costs	51,500	59,003	55,000	38,797	55,750
830-00	Building Expenses	62,000	58,933	62,000	44,934	68,000
840-00	Membership Fees and Dues	3,400	2,428	3,400	1,050	3,400
850-00	Travel and Officers Expense	37,250	26,122	37,250	8,483	37,250
860-00	Boards and Committees Office and Travel	15,400	(2,185)	15,400	620	31,900
870-00	Out-of-State Visitation	20,500	12,890	20,500	0	20,500
880-00	Annual Communication	68,000	26,420	68,000	3,143	68,000
890-00	Miscellaneous Expenses	18,000	9,674	18,000	8,315	20,500
900-00	North Carolina Mason	<u>120,000</u>	<u>120,000</u>	<u>120,000</u>	<u>60,000</u>	<u>120,000</u>
	<b>Total Expenses (Series 800 - 910)</b>	<b>733,519</b>	<b>635,917</b>	<b>729,505</b>	<b>291,596</b>	<b>755,255</b>
	<b>Estimate Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b>(78,019)</b>	<b>145,546</b>	<b>21,245</b>	<b>452,662</b>	<b>(34,955)</b>

Your Office staff—Vicki Lam, Hayley Moll, Matthew Robbins, and I would like to thank the Grand Lodge Officers, lodge Secretaries, and members of this fraternity for their warm support and encouragement during our recent transition. I want to also thank Vicki, Hayley, and Matthew for their help, patience, and sincerity in administering the Office and all the tasks associated with the Grand Secretary's duties. My greatest thanks, however, is to Past Grand Secretary Walt Clapp who took the greatest care in teaching and encouraging the Office staff to strive for excellence, experiment with new ideas, and to work together as a family. It is my intention to continue to his work ethic and focus on serving our membership, aiding and coaching our lodge secretaries, and further strengthening the foundation upon which our Grand Masters are building a message of fraternalism, public service, and responsible business practices.

With this in mind, we have rebooted an old tradition and published a Secretary's Circular—a two page publication on important administrative news, as well as dos and don'ts of lodge business. Though primarily for Secretaries, we will also provide information for lodge officers pertaining to the business and responsibilities of their stations and places. We also plan to resume our Secretaries' Seminars as soon time and environment permit. In a continuation of enhanced services, our database service provider Groupable/M2 (formerly MORI (Masonic Online Registry Interface)) has much of the Secretaries' training for database navigation online via regularly scheduled live webinars and recorded tutorial videos.

With the assistance of our District Deputy Grand Masters and Grand Lecturers, we continue to monitor and report to the Grand Master and his Officers the health and well-being of our lodges. Many thanks are due to our diligent District Deputies, who have collectively taken on more responsibilities since the pandemic began. We continue to stress financial health and the implementation of a responsive initiation fee, budget and savings projections, and capital improvement planning.

To reiterate several previous articles and discussions from past months, initiation fees should be a reflection of a man's initial interest and investment in Freemasonry. We recommend the initiation fee be at least a week's wages, which, depending on local demographics across North Carolina should equate between \$500.00 and \$1000.00. In reviewing our lodges' annual financial reports, we have noticed most lodges' annual lodge dues remain low and incapable of providing a sound fiscal foundation for the lodge. We regret to report that the pandemic further exacerbated these fissures and led to the demise and/or merger of several lodges between 2020 and this annual communication.

A simple equation to determine the appropriate amount of dues is as follows:

$$\frac{(\text{Total Obligations (bills)} + 20\% \text{ for Savings} + \text{Capital Outlay Percentage})}{\div \text{ number of members}} = \text{Annual Dues}$$

We encourage lodges to continue to evaluate their finances and begin planning for their health, sustainability, and the next generation of Masons coming through their doors.

We also continue to study the relationship between lodge size, fraternalism, and community outreach. We have noted urban centers are ideal locations for lodges to meet, and we would encourage lodges to consider meeting together in centralized locations where the burdens of facility maintenance

can be spread among more men as well as potential rental income. Too many lodges have succumbed to a culture of individualism instead of unity. This is a particularly devastating trend in small towns and rural areas where multiple lodges occupy multiple locations which are sometimes less than 10 miles apart.

Inasmuch, lodges should be composed of 50 to 75 men at most. This keeps lodges intimate and personable. Lodges are intended to be groups of friends, an unwritten landmark we should heed more often. With that in mind, we would encourage the creation of more lodges on a smaller scale to use centralized urban lodge facilities to best utilize our finances and further strengthen the bonds of our Masonic friendship.

### Membership Statistics

Membership 12/31/2019.....	35,707
Initiated.....	322
Passed.....	262
Raised .....	222
Admitted.....	228
Restored.....	<u>285</u>
Total Gains.....	735
Expelled.....	8
Suspended UMC .....	2
Excluded NPD.....	655
Demitted.....	246
Died.....	<u>1,331</u>
Total Losses.....	2,242
Total membership 12/31/2020 .....	34,088
Number of lodges as of 1/1/2021.....	369

### Service Awards for 2021

Twenty-Five year Service Awards presented.....	545
Fifty Year Veteran Awards presented.....	475
Sixty Year Awards .....	184
Seventy Year Awards .....	47
Seventy-Five Year Awards .....	12

Respectfully submitted,  
Jonathan A. Underwood, Grand Secretary

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## 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 LNM..... \$1000

Respectfully submitted,  
Johnny Surles, Chairman

## Report of the Grand Historian

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

I, the undersigned, respectfully beg leave to report as follows: Whereas the Holy Bible has influenced the Craft since time immemorial I am pleased to share with you the following.

*“The Bible in Masonry”* by the late Brother Joseph Fort Newton (b. July 21, 1880, Decatur, TX; d. January 24, 1950, Merion, PA) and served as Grand Chaplain of The Grand Lodge of Iowa AF & AM 1911-1913. Published in the foreword of The Holy Bible, Masonic Edition, Philadelphia, A.J. Holman Company, 20th Century Edition, (circa 1925).

*“The Bible in Masonry”*

The Holy Bible is given us as the rule and guide for our faith and practice.\*\*\*\*\*

I particularly direct your attention to the Great Light in Masonry, the Holy Bible. Howsoever men differ in creed or theology, all good men are agreed that within the covers of the Holy Bible are found those principles of morality which lay the foundation upon which to build a righteous life. Freemasonry, therefore, opens this Book upon its altars, with the command to each of its votaries that he diligently study therein to learn the way to everlasting life. Adopting no particular creed, forbidding sectarian discussion within its lodge rooms, encouraging each to be steadfast in the faith of his acceptance, Freemasonry takes all good men by the hand and, leading them to its altars, points to the open Bible thereon and urges upon each that he faithfully direct his steps through life by the Light he there shall find and as he there shall find it. If, from our sacred altars, the atheist, the infidel, the irreligious man, or the libertine, should ever be able to wrest this book of Sacred Laws, and thus remove, or even obscure, the greatest Light in Masonry, that light which for centuries has been the rule and guide of Freemasons, then could we no longer claim for ourselves the great title of Free and Accepted Masons; but, so long as that sacred light shines upon our altars, so long as it illuminates the pathway of the Craftsman by the golden rays of truth, so long, and no longer, can Freemasonry live and shed its beneficent influence upon mankind. Guard then that Book of sacred and immutable law as you would guard your very life. Defend it as you would the flag of your country. Live according to its divine teachings, with its everlasting assurance of a blessed immortality. (Entered Apprentice degree)

Every regular and well-governed lodge is furnished with the Holy

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Bible.\*\*\*\*\*The Holy Bible is dedicated to the service of God because it is the inestimable gift of God to man. (Fellowcraft degree)

The Holy Writings, that great light in Masonry, will guide you to all truth, will direct your path to the Temple of happiness and point out to you the whole duty of man.\*\*\*\*\*

Upon all suitable occasions remind the brethren that Masonry is founded upon the great moral principles set forth in the sacred volume, which we receive as the rule and guide for our faith and practice. Exhort them to govern themselves by these principles, as well with the world at large as with each other. Teach them to reverence the three great lights, comprehending the Holy Bible, the perfect square, and the extended compasses, the beautiful symbolism of which is familiar to you and the explanations of which include some of the most important duties inculcated in our fraternity. (Installation Charge to the Master of a Lodge.)

While you were kneeling at the altar, you were shown the Great Light in Masonry and were taught in a simple and beautiful explanation the Mason's attitude toward the Book of Books. You were told that Freemasonry commands each of its votaries diligently to seek therein the way to everlasting life, and urges upon each faithfully to direct his steps through life and urges upon each faithfully to direct his steps through life by the light he there shall find and as he there shall find it.

If we, as Masons, are to obey this injunction which each of us has received, we must have a proper conception of just what the Great Light is and how it has come down to us. And our understanding may well begin with recognition of the significant fact that the church and religion did not grow out of the Bible. The Bible grew out of religion and the church. A number of men, living close to the heart and thought of God and therefore inspired by Him, picked up, used in this great task, and laid down in their turn the working tools of life during a span of hundreds of years. The Bible is a collection of their writings, the result of a long, slow process of growth.

Different writers wrote with different purposes. One was a historian, another a poet, another a theologian or a preacher, a teller of stories, or a user of parables. So the Great Light which has illumined men's steps through the centuries is not merely a book but a whole library of sixty-six books of widely different content, but all filled with the revelation of God's love for man, His purpose for man, and man's effort to reach up to Him.

The Holy Bible is the world's supreme record of man's experience with faith. It is the Mason's trestleboard in character-building, that important work to which you have dedicated yourselves and for which you have emblematically received the apprentice's tools, the gavel and the gauge.

In this Book are laid down the principles of successful living. Its great men loom large upon the background of the world's history. They lived, they fought, they loved, they sinned, they repented. And they have left behind them — here — the testimony that the keeping of God's laws and the doing of God's will are the things worth living for. We need to know the Bible, to learn its precepts, to reverence it as our great book-friend.

And, that your feet may not stumble, that your path may be well lighted, this edition of the Great Light has been prepared with the prayer that it may indeed be a "lamp unto your feet and a light unto your path"; and with the hope

that you may be able to exult with the Psalmist when he cries, "O, how I love Thy law!...Thou, through Thy Commandments, has made me wiser than my enemies... I have refrained my feet from every evil way that I might keep Thy Word.... I have not departed from Thy judgments; for Thou has taught me."

Time is a river, and books are boats. Many volumes start down that stream, only to be wrecked and lost beyond recall in its sands. Only a few, a very few, endure the testings of time and live to bless the ages following. We pay homage to the greatest of all books — the one enduring Book which has traveled down to us from the far past, freighted with the richest treasure that ever any book has brought to humanity. What a sight it is to see men gathered about an open Bible — how typical of the spirit and genius of Masonry, its great and simple faith and its benign ministry to mankind.

No Mason needs to be told what a place of honor the Bible has in Masonry. One of the great Lights in the Order, it lies open upon the altar at the center of the lodge. Upon it every Mason takes solemn vows of love, of loyalty, of chastity, of charity, pledging himself to our tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. Think what it means for a young man to make such a covenant of consecration in the morning of life, taking that wise old Book as his guide, teacher and friend! Then as he moves forward from one degree to another, the imagery of the Bible becomes familiar and eloquent, and its mellow, haunting music sings its way into his heart.

And yet, like everything else in Masonry, the Bible, so rich in symbolism, is itself a symbol — that is, a part taken for the whole. It is a sovereign symbol of the Book of Faith, the Will of God as man has learned it in the midst of the year — that perpetual revelation of himself which God is making mankind in every land and every age. Thus, by the very honor which Masonry pays to the Bible, it teaches us to revere every book of faith in which men find help for to-day and hope for the morrow, joining hands with the man of Islam as he takes oath on the Koran, and with the Hindu as he makes covenant with God upon the book that he loves best.

For Masonry knows, what so many forget, that religions are many, but Religion is one — perhaps we may say one thing, but that one thing includes everything — the life of God in the soul of man, and the duty and hope of man which proceed from His essential character. Therefore, it invites to its altar men of all faiths, knowing that, if they use different names for "the Nameless One of a hundred names," they are yet praying to the one God and Father of all; knowing, also, that while they read different volumes, they are in fact reading the same vast Book of the Faith of Man as revealed in the struggle and sorrow of the race in its quest of God. So that, great and noble as the Bible is. Masonry sees it as a symbol of that eternal Book of the Will of God which Lowell described when he wrote his memorable lines:

"Slowly the Bible of the race is writ,

And not on paper leaves nor leaves of stone;

Each age, each kindred, adds a verse to it,

Texts of despair of hope, of joy or moan.

While swings the sea, while mists the mountain shroud,

While thunder's surges burst on cliffs of cloud

Still at the prophets' feet the nations sit."



None the less, much as we honor every book of faith in which any man has found courage to lift his hand above the night that covers him and lay hold of the mighty Hand of God, with us the Bible is supreme. What Homer was to the Greeks, what the Koran is to the Arabs, that, and much more, the grand old Bible is to us. It is the mother in our literary family, and if some of its children have grown up and become wise in their own conceit, they yet rejoice to gather about its knee and pay tribute. Not only was the Bible the loom on which our language was woven, but it is a pervasive, refining, redeeming force bequeathed to us, with whatsoever else that is good and true, in the very fiber of our being. Not for a day do we regard the Bible simply as a literary classic, apart from what it means to the faiths and hopes and prayers of men, and its unweaving into the intellectual and spiritual life of our race.

There was a time when the Bible formed almost the only literature of England; and today, if it were taken away, that literature would be torn to tatters and shreds. Truly did Macaulay say that, if everything else in our language should perish, the Bible would along suffice to show the whole range and power and beauty of our speech. From it Milton learned his majesty of song, and Ruskin his magic of prose. Carlyle had in his very blood, almost without knowing it, the rhapsody and passion of the prophets — their sense of the Infinite, of the littleness of man of the sarcasm of Providence; as Burns, before him, had learned from the same fireside Book the indestructibility of honor and the humane pity of God which throbbed in his lyrics of love and liberty. Thus, from Shakespeare to Tennyson, the Bible sings in our poetry, chants in music, echoes in our eloquence, and in our tragedy flashes forever its truth of the terrible-ness of sin, the tenderness of God, and the inextinguishable hope of man.

My brethren, here is a Book whose scene is the sky and the dirt and all that lies between — a Book that has in it the arch of the heavens, the curve of the earth, the ebb and flow of the sea, sunrise and sunset, the peaks of mountains and the glint of sunlight on flowing waters, the shadow of forests on the hills, the song of birds and the color of flowers. But its two great characters are God and the Soul, and the story of their eternal life together is its one everlasting romance. It is the most human of books, telling the old forgotten secrets of the heart, its bitter pessimism and its death-defying hope, its pain, its passion, its sin, its sob of grief and its shout of joy — telling all, without malice, in its Grand Style which can do no wrong, while echoing the sweet-toned pathos of the pity and mercy of God. No other book is so honest with us so mercilessly merciful, so austere yet so tender, piercing the heart, yet healing the deep wounds of sin and sorrow.

Take this great and simple Book, white with age yet new with the dew of each new morning, tested by the sorrowful and victorious experience of centuries, rich in memories and wet with the tears of multitudes who walked this way before us — lay it to heart, love it, read it, and learn what life is, what it means to be a man; aye, learn that God hath made us for himself, and unquiet are our hearts till they rest in Him. Make it your friend and teacher and you will know what Sir Walter Scott meant when, as he lay, dying, he asked Lockhart to read to him. "From what book?" asked Lockhart, and Scott replied, "There is but one Book!"

Respectfully submitted,  
Daniel F. Finch, Grand Historian

## Report of the Committee on Permanent Building

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

Our Grand Lodge Office Building proceeded through several upgrades and repairs over the course of the past year. Last autumn, the lawn was re-seeded and further landscaped presenting a beautiful and professional appearance. This past spring, the front lawn's sprinkler system, installed in the 1980s, was found to be deteriorated and several pipes broken, along with one sprinkler head, all of which has been replaced and/or repaired. Two new crepe myrtle trees were planted on the either side of the front of the building to replace ones that were removed several years ago as they had outgrown the available space. Other plantings will follow around the front of the building and the area near the sign at Glenwood Avenue. Inside, the hallway lighting was updated to be energy efficient, cost effective, and brighter so artifacts, art, and historical items can be exhibited. Cameras were also placed in the upstairs and downstairs hallways in order to provide some further measures of security for the staff and our visitors. As happened last year, an aging HVAC unit failed and its parts were replaced earlier in the year by Dail Mechanical. Further parts were ordered in anticipation for future replacements. The original 1958 Monarch elevator was repaired in the spring to correct a misalignment of its doors and floor setting, all of which was corrected and passed all inspections.

The Grand Master's Office was reconfigured to provide a more private workspace for the Grand Master, as well as sitting/conference area for his guests. Similarly, the Grand Secretary's Office was relocated to the room designated for that purpose in the 1955 plan opposite the grand office suite. The corner office will be used as a conference room, which was its original purpose.

In conference with the Grand Secretary, the Committee is aware and reports funds should be set aside in the near future for a new security system. While the current system is functional, it is nearly 25 years old and parts for many of its sensors and reporting mechanisms are becoming difficult to find. The building's caulking is also in need for replacement, particularly on the front steps, front porch, chimney, and seal around the rear deck. While resurfacing the parking lot helped stave off a full repaving for about two years, it is now time to repave the parking lot, especially the semi-circle drive where roots and deterioration have rendered "patching" irrelevant.

We have been busy preparing the building for more visits and tours by the membership as more lodges return to a regular meeting cadence. A jeweler's case donated by the former Farmville Lodge No. 517 was cleaned, repurposed, and given a second life to securely house the Grand Lodge's original 1828 set of jewels made by E.T. Weaver. Exhibits in the building include: Masonic Temples across the state, PGM AB Andrews's Jewels, Past Master Jewels, Historic NC Lodge Jewels, and "North Carolina Masonry and Higher Education: Lodges Connected to Learning Institutions in North Carolina." Many more exhibits are planned for rotation every few quarters. There are a few lodge secretaries and officers that bring their newest Master Masons by to get their signed dues cards in person and get a tour of Freemasonry in North Carolina in the building as they begin their Masonic journeys. Please feel free to walk in or call the

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Grand Lodge office to book tours, walkthroughs, and events - we are happy to help you set up a visit for your lodge or conduct a tour for you.

Respectfully submitted,  
Matthew C. Robbins, PM  
Outreach Coordinator

## Report of Lodge Service Commission

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

The Lodge Service Commission respectfully submits the following report for the period beginning November 1, 2020, and ending July 31, 2021.

Henderson Lodge No. 229 submitted an application to enter into a joint enterprise with the Tri-County Shrine Club. The application did not proceed, and Henderson Lodge is exploring other options.

Newell Lodge No. 739 received approval of its application to sell the Hunter-Sloan American Legion Post No. 739 property on April 30, 2021. The Commission is waiting for confirmation of the status of the sale and certain details of the transaction.

South Fork Lodge No. 462 entered into a private contract to sell its property with approval of the Lodge Service Commission, which caused the Town of Cramerton to discontinue consideration of taking the property by eminent domain. The buyers in the contract have since given notice of termination of the contract. The Lodge will continue its efforts to sell its property.

A contract entered into by Balfour Lodge No. 188 came to the attention of both the Commission and the Grand Master. The Grand Master has taken appropriate action. The Lodge Service Commission communicated with an attorney for the would be buyer of the property. We are hopeful that the potential buyer and the Lodge will enter into a new contract on acceptable terms that will be appropriately submitted to the Commission for approval.

The Mecklenburg County Tax Assessor, on behalf of the County and the City of Charlotte, levied ad valorem tax against the property of Excelsior Lodge No. 261 for 2019 and 2020. The tax was levied because the Lodge failed to respond to a statutory inquiry the Assessor mailed to a closed Post Office Box the Assessor erroneously listed as the mailing address of the Lodge. The Lodge Service Commission will continue to assist Excelsior Lodge.

The Kannapolis Masonic Center, Inc. has contacted the Lodge Service Commission concerning tax issues. The Lodge Service Commission will continue to assist the Kannapolis Masonic Center, Inc.

The Charlotte Masonic Temple Association applied for and received approval to proceed to closing on the contract it entered into in March of 2020. The Lodge Service Commission continues to work with the Charlotte Masonic Temple Association to plan for its future.

Forest City Lodge No. 381 applied for and received approval of a contract to sell surplus real property.

Goldsboro Lodge No. 634 requested an application for approval to sell the Lodge's real property.

Mocksville Lodge No. 134 made inquiry concerning the procedure to sell surplus property.

Wendell Lodge No. 565 applied for and received approval of a contract to sell surplus real property.

LSC Form 2 General Guidelines was revised and LSC Form 3 was adopted by the Commission, approved by the Grand Master, and posted to the Craft on the Grand Lodge's web site. The Lodge Service Commission asks that these forms be adopted and approved by the Grand Lodge.

The Lodge Service Commission looks forward to assisting all of the Lodges and Temple Corporations for the good of Masonry in North Carolina. The Lodge Service Commission wishes to thank Most Worshipful Wicker, Right Worshipful Underwood, and the Grand Lodge staff for their support throughout the year.

Respectfully Submitted,  
 William L. Mills, III, PDGM, Chairman  
 Christopher L. Burti, PM  
 John T. Hudson, PM  
 Douglas E. Calhoun, PM  
 John H. Chaulklin, III, PM

## Report of the Committee on Fraternal Correspondence

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

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

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

### Grande Loja Maçônica do Estado do Rio Grande do Norte

The Grande Loja Maçônica do Estado do Rio Grande do Norte requested recognition on 20 November 2020. They are recognized by the Confederación Masónica Interamericana (CMI). The Commission on Information for Recognition determined these Brazilian grand orients are practicing regular Masonry. The Committee on Fraternal Correspondence recommends approving recognition to the Grande Loja Maçônica do Estado do Rio Grande do Norte.

### Grand Lodge of F & AM of Nuevo Leon

The Grand Lodge of F & AM of Nuevo Leon requested recognition on 26 November 2020. They are recognized by the Confederación Masónica Interamericana (CMI) and the Confederación de Grandes Logias Regulares de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos (CGLREU). The Commission on Information for Recognition determined this Grand Lodge was practicing regular Masonry in

2004. The Committee on Fraternal Correspondence recommends approving recognition to the Grand Lodge of F & AM of Nuevo Leon.

### **Grande Oriente de Mato Grosso do Sul**

The Grande Oriente de Mato Grosso do Sul requested recognition on 6 May 2021. They are recognized by the Confederación Masónica Interamericana (CMI). The Commission on Information for Recognition determined these Brazilian grand orients are practicing regular Masonry in 2019. The Committee on Fraternal Correspondence recommends approving recognition to the Grande Oriente de Mato Grosso do Sul.

### **Grand Lodge of Croatia**

The Grand Lodge of Croatia requested recognition on 28 May 2021. The Grand Lodge of Croatia was chartered by the Grand Lodge of Austria in 1997. They are regular in all appearances and were deemed to be practicing regular masonry by the Commission on Information for Recognition in 2000. The Committee on Fraternal Correspondence recommends approving recognition to the Grand Lodge of Croatia.

Respectfully submitted,  
Douglas L. Caudle, PGM  
Fraternal Correspondent

## **Petitions for Restoration**

Dockets 867 and 903 were held over from the 233rd Annual Communication due to the virtual nature of the communication.

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

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

J.E.B. (Docket 937), formerly a member of Proctorville Lodge 643, Proctorville, was expelled on 16 October 2019. He filed for restoration with the lodge on 29 March 2021, and with the Grand Secretary on 29 March 2021.

T.S.N. (Docket 893), formerly a member of Newell Lodge 739, Newell, was expelled on 20 July 2016. He filed for restoration with the lodge on 14 May 2021, and with the Grand Secretary on 28 July 2021.

G.B.D. (Docket 876), formerly a member of Youngsville Lodge 377, Youngsville, was expelled on 19 August 2015. He filed for restoration with the lodge on 13 June 2021, and with the Grand Secretary on 14 June 2021.

S.R.S. (Docket 889), formerly a member of Bingham Lodge 272, Mebane, was expelled on 11 May 2016. He filed for restoration with the lodge on 23 June 2021, and with the Grand Secretary on 24 June 2021.

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## Report of the Judge Advocate

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

This report is prepared as of the 20th day of August, 2021 and most respectfully submitted for your information and disposition.

4. Docket No. 956 - Brother BRG, a Master Mason and member of Dunn's Rock Lodge No. 267, was expelled by the Judge Advocate on the 13th day of January, 2021, after he refused to appear after being summoned by the Grand Master of Masons on the 22nd of December, 2020. As such, he was brought up on charges of un-Masonic conduct. Brother BRG failed to answer the charges against him, and the charges were deemed admitted.
5. Docket No. 957 - Brother CHD, a Master Mason and member of Atkinson Lodge No. 612 was expelled by the Judge Advocate on the 19th day of August, 2021, after being charged by the Judge Advocate with obtaining property by false pretense and embezzling funds from an Appendant Masonic organization. Brother CHD failed to answer the charges against him, and the charges were deemed admitted.
6. Docket No. 958 - Brother DLM, a Master Mason and member in Clay Lodge No. 301 was expelled by the Judge Advocate on the 4th day of August, 2021, after pleading guilty to multiple felony counts of obtaining property by false pretense from an Non-Profit organization in Cherokee County Superior Court. Brother DLM failed to answer the charges, and the charges were deemed admitted.
7. Docket No. 959 - Brother PDV, a Master Mason and member of Cherry Point Lodge No. 688 was expelled by the Judge Advocate on the 4th day of August, 2021, after pleading guilty to multiple felony counts of Second Degree Sexual Exploitation of a Minor Child in Craven County Superior Court. Brother PDV failed to answer the charges, and the charges were deemed admitted.
8. Docket No. 961 - Brother PEW, a Master Mason and member of Balfour Lodge No. 188 was expelled by the Judge Advocate on the 17th day of August, 2021, after he failed to appear after being summoned by the Grand Master of Masons on the 24th of July, 2021. As such, he was brought up on charges of un-Masonic conduct. Brother PEW failed to answer the charges against him, and the charges were deemed admitted.

Respectfully submitted,  
T. Marcus Browne, III  
Judge Advocate

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## Report of the Committee on Bylaws

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

Your committee on Bylaws of Subordinate Lodges reports that amendments to the bylaws of the following lodges were approved during the year 2020-2021. They are as approved.

<b>Lodge Name</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Article</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
St. John's	4	Art 8	Meeting time moved to 7p
Unanimity	7	Art 8	Meeting time moved to 7p
Eagle	19	Art 10	Dues increased to \$95
Phalanx	31	Art 8	Updated Address
Concord	58		Total Revision
Zion	81	Art 8	Meeting time moved to 7p
Fellowship	84	Art 9	Initiation fee increased to \$200
	84	Art 10	Dues increased to \$125 plus per capita
	84	Art 13	Raised charity amount to \$500
Wayne	112	Art 11	Affiliation fee increased to \$35
Oxford	122	Art 8	Stated communication moved to 1st Monday at 7p
Balfour	188	Art 8	Meeting time moved to 3rd Tuesday at 7p
Chadbourn	190	Art 8	Meeting time moved to 4th Thursday at 7:30p
Cleveland	202	Art 8	Annual Meeting scheduled for November
	202	Art 10	Dues increased to \$90 plus per capita
Eno	210	Art 10	Dues increased to \$100 plus per capita
Wake Forest	282	Art 8	May dispense with meetings in June, July, August
	282	Art 8	Annual Meeting scheduled for November
	282	Art 9	Initiation fee increased to \$259
	282	Art 10	Dues increased to \$100 plus per capita
	282	Art 11	Affiliation fee increased to \$25
	282	Art 19	Obsolete
	282	Art 21	New order of business adopted
	282	Art 22	Tobacco prohibited in lodge
Stanly	348	Art 10	Dues increased to \$85
	348	Art 11	Affiliation fee increased to \$30
Forest City	381	Art 10	Dues increased to \$100 plus per capita
Denton	404	Art 10	Dues increased to \$100 plus per capita
Marble Springs	439	Art 10	Dues increased to \$125 plus per capita
Elkin	454	Art 10	Dues increased to \$100 plus per capita
Cliffside	460	Art 10	Dues increased to \$100 plus per capita

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Lawndale	486	Art 10	Dues increased to \$100
	486	Art 16	Election of Trustees
	486	Art 19	Special election procedures
Mooresville	496	Art 10	Dues increased to \$99 plus per capita
Cookville	502	Art 10	Dues increased to \$60 plus per capita
Rogers	525		Total Revision
Lucama	527	Art 8	Meeting time moved to 7:30p
	527	Art 10	Dues increased to \$100
Vesper	554	Art 9	Initiation fee increased to \$170
	554	Art 10	Dues increased to \$100
	554	Art 11	Affiliation fee increased to \$25
	554	Art 21	Order of business adopted
	554	Art 22	Alcohol prohibited from premises
Andrew Jackson	576	Art 8	Annual Meeting scheduled for December
	576	Art 9	Initiation fee increased to \$280
	576	Art 10	Dues increased to \$80 plus per capita
	576	Art 20	Dues card provision made obsolete
Ionic	583	Art 10	Dues increased to \$100
Ashe	594	Art 19	Instituted special voting procedures
Queen City	602	Art 1	Address stated as 1700 S. Winstead Ave., Rocky Mount, NC
	602	Art 8	Meeting time moved to 7p
	602	Art 8	Meet the 3rd Thursday in May, June, July, August, & September
	602	Art 10	Dues increased to \$100 plus per capita
Acacia	674	Art 10	Dues increased to \$163 and to increase by \$33 for next 4 years
	674	Art 19	Social Media Policy
Angier	686	Art 9	Initiation fee increased to \$250.00
	686	Art 10	Dues increased to \$150 plus per capita
East Gate	692	Art 8	Updated Address
Richard Caswell	705	Art 8	Meeting time moved to 1st Tuesday at 7p
Crown Point	708		Total Revision
Crissie Wright	741	Art 8	Meeting time moved to 7p
Mint Hill	742	Art 7	Duties of the Tyler
	742	Art 8	Meeting time moved to 7p
	742	Art 8	Option to dispense with meetings in June, July, & August
	742	Art 8	All communication held at Mint Hill, NC
	742	Art 9	Initiation fee increased to \$185
	742	Art 10	Dues increased to \$100 plus per capita

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	742	Art 11	Affiliation fee increased to \$25 plus per capita
	742	Art 12	Conform committee duties as specified in The Code
Denver	757	Art 10	Dues increased to \$100
Oak Island	758	Art 8	Meeting time moved to 3rd Thursday at 7p, 2nd Thursday of December at 7p
Friendship	763	Art 10	Dues increased to \$100 plus per capita
Lux Libertas	772	Art 10	Dues modification
Knights of Solomon	774	Art 1	Changed name
	774	Art 3	Adopted new seal
	774	Art 13	Raised charity amount to \$500

Respectfully submitted,  
Jonathan Underwood, Chairman

## Report on the Committee on WhiteStone

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

The restrictions on visitation, created by the COVID-19 pandemic, prevented the committee from visiting the campus of WhiteStone until July of 2021. Scheduling and personal conflicts prevented several of the members from attending at that time. Those of us who attended were welcomed by Mark Lewis, Executive Director. We were given a presentation outlining the history and operations of WhiteStone. After an excellent lunch in the dining hall, we were treated to a tour of the facility, the various existing housing options, as well as the expansion currently underway.

### COVID-19

The events we have experienced during a time of national emergency have certainly been unprecedented. At WhiteStone, the health and safety of both residents and staff have remained top priority throughout the pandemic, while taking all precautions to reduce the community's exposure to COVID-19.

The COVID-19 situation continues to evolve, and as such, the staff at WhiteStone remains in constant communication with local health officials and following the guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Department of Health and Human Services. WhiteStone has implemented a number of measures to improve infection control and preventative practices, and as new information comes available, safety measures are evaluated and updated as necessary — all while remaining focused on supporting residents with compassion and serving with professionalism.

This remains a rapidly changing event that unfortunately seems to be growing rather than subsiding. Please know that the health and safety of the WhiteStone community remains our main focus and top priority.

### Charity Summary

WhiteStone is proud to carry on the tradition of providing aid to fraternally affiliated seniors both residing on the campus of WhiteStone and living independently throughout North Carolina. In 2020, charitable care and services worth approximately \$1.6 million was delivered to more than 70 fraternally affiliated seniors through the partnership of the MESH Foundation LLC and WhiteStone.

The Fraternal Friendship Program (formerly the Outreach Program) continues to see growth across the state, assisting members in their home during their time of need. Since its inception in 2016, the program has grown to the level of providing \$156k in charitable care in 2020. This program has developed into an extremely effective tool to help our fraternally related members to remain at home, independently, as long as they can do so with a good quality of life.

Assistance through the NC Masonic and Eastern Star Outreach Program is available by calling (336) 601-5593.

### Campus Development Project

In 1912, twenty-six acres of land were purchased in Greensboro, and construction began on the site of a former tree nursery to create the beautiful WhiteStone community. Over the next 109 years, our Home would continue to grow and fulfill its mission by serving thousands of seniors. We are extremely proud of our history, but in the fall of 2020 WhiteStone broke ground on a project that will transform the campus and support industry best care and housing for current and future residents.

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

#### Project Highlights:

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

This project will also ensure the long-term sustainability for the WhiteStone community, so that future generations of Masons and Stars can look to our home in Greensboro in their time of need.

WhiteStone continues to be an undiscovered gem to the majority of our members. One committee member who had never visited the campus was amazed at the size of the facility and the charitable work that is done at the home and across the state for our brothers and sisters in need.

I challenge each of you who have never visited “your” home, to schedule a visit, either individually or as a lodge.

This report was compiled with the assistance of Mark Lewis, Executive Director of WhiteStone; the Campaign for WhiteStone; the North Carolina Masonic Foundation; and the Board of Directors of WhiteStone, a Masonic and Eastern Star Community.

Fraternally submitted,  
Steve Norris, Chairman  
Howard Moore  
David White  
Tim Lumpkins  
Jerry Wordsworth  
Steve Wordsworth  
Bob McIntosh  
Phil Kuhn  
Michael Saviak

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

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

Brethren, for 148 years, our great fraternity has assisted children-in-need, beginning our efforts at a time when there was no social network available for orphaned and at-risk children. Through our efforts, over 10,000 children have thrived in a safe and caring environment. Currently, our Children’s Home provides care and educational support, in addition to personal and emotional development, to children every day.

You have probably heard the statement that we are a fraternity and not a charity. That is accurate. However, it is through our charitable efforts that we demonstrate to not only the children we assist at our Home, but to the world at large, what Freemasonry is all about. As written in 1 Corinthians 13:13, and as all Freemasons practice, “And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.” The charity that we show to the children we serve, and the safety that we provide, represents to the brethren, and the world, the caring and inclusive home that Freemasonry represents. In furtherance of these great efforts, your Committee would ask that you take note of two items.

First, please take the opportunity to review the Administrator's Report. Please consider the strategic vision laid out within that report and consider how you can support that vision at the blue lodge level. COVID has created a number of unique constraints for the Home's operations. This is particularly true regarding the applications and placement of new children at the Home. Promote the Home's operations within your lodges and within your community at large. We do remarkable work at the Home. The results detailed by our administrator speak to this reality. Please continue to cultivate strong relationships with our referral partners and our communities, so that we may continue to support our Home's operations.

Second, consider becoming involved in the MHCO's Ambassador Program. Some of our greatest successes in this calendar year have come from the remarkable efforts of our ambassadors. Your continued involvement and promotion of this wonderful initiative will not only increase the awareness of the Home, but will provide an opportunity for our brethren to serve in a rewarding capacity.

The committee would like to thank every brother within the fraternity for their efforts in supporting the MHCO. Please continue to seek out as many opportunities as possible to support this amazing and historic charity.

Cordially and fraternally,  
Robert W. Rideout, Jr, SGD, Chairman  
Frederick H. Beaujeu-Dufour  
Timothy M. Carroll  
Paul T. Keith  
Julian C. Setzer  
Daniel L. Short  
Ronald E. Stephens

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## **Resolution for Oxford Lodge 122 to Receive a Duplicate Charter**

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

WHEREAS, Oxford Lodge 122, located at Oxford, North Carolina was chartered 5 December 1849, and

WHEREAS, except for a brief period in the year 1882, this service of Oxford Lodge 122 is continuous and unbroken, and

WHEREAS, the charter issued by the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina to Oxford Lodge 122 is now faded, illegible, and in poor condition, and

WHEREAS, the required fee of \$150.00 has been submitted to the Office of the Grand Secretary for payment thereof.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Oxford Lodge 122, AF & AM, Oxford, North Carolina, hereby petitions the Grand Lodge of North Carolina for a duplicate charter. It also requests consideration for the original charter to be “loaned” as part of the “furniture” of the lodge in lieu of surrendering to the Grand Secretary’s Office as required in Regulation 41-4.2.

Respectfully submitted,  
Stephen T. Owen, Master

## **Resolution for Green Level Lodge 277 to Receive a Duplicate Charter**

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

WHEREAS, Green Level Lodge 277, located at Green Level, North Carolina was chartered 8 December 1868, and

WHEREAS, the chartered history and service of Green Level Lodge 277 is continuous and remains unbroken, and

WHEREAS, the charter issued by the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina to Green Level Lodge 277 is now faded, illegible, and in poor condition, and

WHEREAS, the required fee of \$150.00 has been submitted to the Office of the Grand Secretary for payment thereof.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Green Level Lodge 277, AF & AM,

Green Level, North Carolina, hereby petitions the Grand Lodge of North Carolina for a duplicate charter. It also requests consideration for the original charter to be “loaned” as part of the “furniture” of the lodge in lieu of surrendering to the Grand Secretary’s Office as required in Regulation 41-4.2.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christopher M. Ryan, Master

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## **Resolution for Harmony Lodge 340 to Receive a Duplicate Charter**

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

WHEREAS, Harmony Lodge 340, located at Pikeville, North Carolina was chartered 8 December 1874, and

WHEREAS, the chartered history and service of Harmony Lodge 340 is continuous and remains unbroken, and

WHEREAS, the charter issued by the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina to Harmony Lodge 340 is now faded, illegible, and in poor condition, and

WHEREAS, the required fee of \$150.00 has been submitted to the Office of the Grand Secretary for payment thereof.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Harmony Lodge 340, AF & AM, Pikeville, North Carolina, hereby petitions the Grand Lodge of North Carolina for a duplicate charter. It also requests consideration for the original charter to be “loaned” as part of the “furniture” of the lodge in lieu of surrendering to the Grand Secretary’s Office as required in Regulation 41-4.2.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ronnie LaVerne Jones, Master

## **Resolution for Youngsville Lodge 377 to Receive a Duplicate Charter**

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

WHEREAS, Youngsville Lodge 377, located at Youngsville, North Carolina was chartered 7 December 1881, and

WHEREAS, the chartered history and service of Youngsville Lodge 377 is continuous and remains unbroken, and

WHEREAS, the charter issued by the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina to Youngsville Lodge 377 is now faded, illegible, and in poor condition, and

WHEREAS, the required fee of \$150.00 has been submitted to the Office of the Grand Secretary for payment thereof.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Youngsville Lodge 377, AF & AM,

Youngsville, North Carolina, hereby petitions the Grand Lodge of North Carolina for a duplicate charter. It also requests consideration for the original charter to be “loaned” as part of the “furniture” of the lodge in lieu of surrendering to the Grand Secretary’s Office as required in Regulation 41-4.2.

Respectfully submitted,  
J. Matthew McGaughey, Master

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## **Resolution for Southern Pines Lodge 484 to Receive a Duplicate Charter**

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

WHEREAS, Southern Pines Lodge 484, located at Southern Pines, North Carolina was chartered 13 January 1897, and

WHEREAS, the chartered history and service of Southern Pines Lodge 484 is continuous and remains unbroken, and

WHEREAS, the charter issued by the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina to Southern Pines Lodge 484 is now faded, illegible, and in poor condition, and

WHEREAS, the required fee of \$150.00 has been submitted to the Office of the Grand Secretary for payment thereof.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Southern Pines Lodge 484, AF & AM, Southern Pines, North Carolina, hereby petitions the Grand Lodge of North Carolina for a duplicate charter. It also requests consideration for the original charter to be “loaned” as part of the “furniture” of the lodge in lieu of surrendering to the Grand Secretary’s Office as required in Regulation 41-4.2.

Respectfully submitted,  
Guy M. Woodard, III, Master

## **Petition for a Charter from Prometheus Lodge (Under Dispensation), Newton, NC**

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

The subscriber hereto respectfully represent that, on the fifteenth day of November, CE 2019, AL 6019, 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 Newton in the County of Catawba, by the name of Prometheus 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 Julian Cody Setzer, Master; Brother Christopher VanDorn Wilhoit, Senior Warden; and Brother Clinton Scott Greene, Junior Warden. And they do promise, as heretofore, a strict conformity to the edicts of the Grand Master, and to the Constitution and laws of the Grand Lodge.

Given under our hands on this the 16th day of July, CE 2021, AL 6021.

Respectfully submitted,  
Members of Prometheus Lodge (Under Dispensation)

## Report of the Committee on Unfinished Business

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

The following various orders and opinions issued during the terms of Grand Master P. Shaun Bradshaw, PGM, and Grand Master R. David Wicker, Jr., are to be considered during this Annual Communication.

### Bradshaw Order No. 10

I hope this correspondence finds you and your loved ones safe and well. Earlier today, the Governor announced Executive Order No. 169 (commonly referred to as Phase 3), which further eases restrictions on the number of people permitted in a “meeting hall.” Specifically, section 3.8-d states that “Facilities covered by this Subsection must limit Guests in the total facility (whether indoor or outdoor) to the lesser of: 100 people; or Thirty percent (30%) of stated fire capacity (or, for facilities without a stated fire capacity, no more than seven (7) Guests for every one thousand (1000) square feet of the Guest area’s square footage.”

As such, I am amending my previous order dated September 4, 2020, (Order No. 9) to align with this new guidance, with some additional requirements.

Effective Monday, October 5, 2020, at 5:00pm, at the Master’s discretion and with due consideration for the health and well-being of his members:

1. Up to one hundred (100) members of a lodge (or 30% of the maximum capacity of the lodge, if less than 100) may utilize the lodge facility for stated and/or emergent communications.
2. Members must be seated 6ft apart, side to side, and front to back. Additional chairs may be added as long as the total number remains under the maximum of 100 persons or 30 percent of stated fire capacity, whichever is less.
3. Prior to the meeting, the Master shall post signage in the lodge facility clearly designating the maximum capacity of the lodge based on the above restrictions.

Further, please note that the following restrictions, requirements, and guidelines for meetings will remain in effect as provided in my previous Order and that this amended Order shall pertain to all Masonic-related activities in subordinate lodges, appendant, concordant, or adjunct Masonic organizations.

1. No member may be required to attend any Lodge or Masonic-related function if that person believes it is unsafe to do so; not withstanding an official Summons from the Grand Master, Master, or presiding officer, in which case due precautions shall be taken to protect the health and safety of the member when such summons is executed.
2. If the Master of the lodge determines it is in the best interest of his Lodge to remain closed during the COVID-19 pandemic it will be allowed to remain closed until such time as the Grand Master has determined that restrictions have eased sufficiently for the lodge to reopen.
3. The Grand Presiding Officer(s) of Masonic affiliated organizations shall require their particular organizations to adhere to this order, as well as their own appendant body’s rules and regulations.



4. The Master shall ensure his lodge has adequate disinfectant, cleaning supplies, and hand sanitizer available in the lodge prior to reopening.
  5. Prior to entry into the lodge building, all members must submit to and sign a health questionnaire (*see Attachment A*). Entry shall be denied if any questionnaires are answered in the affirmative. Temperature checks with a “no touch” thermometer are encouraged.
  6. Proper signage (*see Attachment B*) must be in place outside the lodge building to inform members not to enter if they are sick, do not feel well, are under quarantine restrictions, or have tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 14 days.
  7. **Wearing a face covering (cloth face masks, surgical masks, and N95 respirators are acceptable) in the proper manner (i.e. over the nose and mouth at all times) is required at all Masonic functions.** While the following exceptions are permitted, it is highly recommended that any person with a health condition which does not allow them to wear a face mask should consider refraining from all large gatherings at this time.
    - Any member with a documented respiratory medical condition whereby wearing a face covering would prevent the member from properly breathing, may be exempted from wearing a face mask.
    - However, the Master retains the right to refuse a brother entry into the lodge per Regulation 59-2.7 and Regulation 59-2.9, if the Master, in his discretion, deems a brother’s entry averse to the function and well-being of the lodge.
    - Any member, during the performance of a ritualistic speaking part may remove his face mask while he is speaking as long as he maintains proper social distancing from his brethren.
  8. During meetings, all members present shall ensure adequate social distancing is maintained. Per CDC guidelines, proper social distancing requires at least six (6) feet between individuals.
  9. To prevent cross-contamination of the lodge registry, the Secretary shall record all members present for the meeting in the registry book.
  10. Members are encouraged to bring their own aprons to the meetings. Should a member require the use of a lodge apron, the Master will ensure all used aprons are properly cleaned prior to the next meeting.
  11. Shaking hands is discouraged.
  12. Hand sanitizer shall be provided by the lodge and shall be readily available both inside and outside the lodge room. Running water, soap, and disposable paper towels are required in all rest rooms.
  13. Prior to the meeting the Tyler will attend the door to the lodge room and take up the pass as each brother enters. The pass may be given in a regular voice and from a moderate distance from the Tyler. All members shall maintain proper social distancing while they await entry into the lodge room. Upon opening the lodge, the Deacons will receive the pass from the Tyler who received it from the brethren as they entered the lodge.
  14. Visitation of members from other lodges is permitted; however, all
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- members of the lodge shall be seated before visitors are granted entry.
15. Degree work is permitted in the lodge; however, it is preferred that lodges request dispensations for outdoor degrees as long as weather permits.
  16. Those brethren who come into contact with the candidate(s) must wear gloves in addition to masks.
  17. Each candidate shall have his own Volume of Sacred Law to use during the obligation.
  18. The lodge may wish to provide individual, temporary squares and compasses for each candidate, meaning each lodge may consider purchasing extra sets of squares and compasses to have for each candidate, which he can keep with his Volume of Sacred Law and continue to use throughout his degrees.
  19. Candidates may be examined in lodge.
  20. No meals shall be prepared or served in the lodge building. Members are encouraged to eat prior to attending the meeting.
  21. Voting by a show of hands and written ballots are permitted. Prior to a written ballot, each member shall use hand sanitizer prior to handing out and turning in the paper ballot. In addition, the Master or Secretary shall have sufficient pens or pencils available for each member present during the vote.
  22. Petitions for candidates may be received by the lodge and **secret ballots are permitted unless a member of the lodge is denied entry into the meeting** due to the lodge reaching its maximum capacity (the lesser of 100 members or 30% of the maximum capacity of the lodge room). Prior to taking a secret ballot, the Master shall ensure that the ballot box, all white balls, and black cubes have been properly sanitized. When voting begins, each member shall use hand sanitizer prior to voting.
  23. Masters are encouraged to keep meetings to 1 hour or less.
  24. The Master shall ensure all high-touch surfaces in the lodge building are properly disinfected before and after each meeting.
  25. Any lodge or other Masonic affiliated organization that has a confirmed COVID-19 exposure or infection at a Masonic function shall:
    - Immediately contact the District Deputy Grand Master and Grand Lodge office with the date of the exposure and names of all members in attendance.
    - The Master shall contact all exposed members so they may take proper precautions by quarantining and/or getting tested for the virus.
    - Shut down the building until it has been properly sanitized by a commercial cleaner.

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

### Bradshaw Order No. 11

I hope this correspondence finds you and your loved ones safe and well. Since our lodges began re-opening for stated and emergent communications on September 4, 2020, we have had a handful of reports of potential exposures to COVID-19 at the meetings, but to-date, we have seen no confirmed infections resulting from our Masonic activities. As a result, I am prepared to amend my last order (Order No. 10) with the following changes:

Effective Friday, November 6, 2020, at 5:00pm, at the Master's discretion and with due consideration for the health and well-being of his members:

**Lodges may serve pre-packaged foods inside lodge facilities or offer fully catered meals to the brethren in attendance. At no time shall any lodge member prepare or serve meals, unless the member is a part of the catering service hired by the lodge.**

Please note Item No. 20 of Order No. 10 (above) is renumbered as Item No. 23 of the new listing outlined below. Further, please note that all other restrictions, requirements, and guidelines for meetings will remain in effect as provided in my previous Orders and that this amended Order shall pertain to all subordinate lodges, appendant, concordant, or adjunct masonic organizations. These have been consolidated into a single list for convenience and are enumerated here:

1. Up to one hundred (100) members of a lodge (or 30% of the maximum capacity of the lodge, if less than 100) may utilize the lodge facility for stated and/or emergent communications.
2. Members must be seated 6ft apart, side to side, and front to back. Additional chairs may be added as long as the total number remains under the maximum of 100 persons or 30 percent of stated fire capacity, whichever is less.
3. Prior to the meeting, the Master shall post signage in the lodge facility clearly designating the maximum capacity of the lodge based on the above restrictions.
4. No member may be required to attend any Lodge or Masonic-related function if that person believes it is unsafe to do so; notwithstanding an official Summons from the Grand Master, Master, or presiding officer, in which case due precautions shall be taken to protect the health and safety of the member when such summons is executed.
5. If the Master of the lodge determines it is in the best interest of his Lodge to remain closed during the COVID-19 pandemic it will be allowed to remain closed until such time as the Grand Master has determined that restrictions have eased sufficiently for the lodge to reopen.
6. The Grand Presiding Officer(s) of Masonic affiliated organizations shall require their particular organizations to adhere to this order, as well as their own appendant body's rules and regulations.
7. The Master shall ensure his lodge has adequate disinfectant, cleaning supplies, and hand sanitizer available in the lodge prior to reopening.
8. Prior to entry into the lodge building, all members must submit to and sign a health questionnaire (*see Attachment A*). Entry shall be denied if any questionnaires are answered in the affirmative. Temperature checks with a "no touch" thermometer are encouraged.

9. Proper signage (*see Attachment B*) must be in place outside the lodge building to inform members not to enter if they are sick, do not feel well, are under quarantine restrictions, or have tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 14 days.
  10. **Wearing a face covering (cloth face masks, surgical masks, and N95 respirators are acceptable) in the proper manner (i.e. over the nose and mouth at all times) is required at all Masonic functions.** While the following exceptions are permitted, it is highly recommended that any person with a health condition which does not allow them to wear a face mask should consider refraining from all large gatherings at this time.
    - Any member with a documented respiratory medical condition whereby wearing a face covering would prevent the member from properly breathing, may be exempted from wearing a face mask.
    - However, the Master retains the right to refuse a brother entry into the lodge per Regulation 59-2.7 and Regulation 59-2.9, if the Master, in his discretion, deems a brother's entry averse to the function and well-being of the lodge.
    - Any member, during the performance of a ritualistic speaking part may remove his face mask while he is speaking as long as he maintains proper social distancing from his brethren.
  11. During meetings, all members present shall ensure adequate social distancing is maintained. Per CDC guidelines, proper social distancing requires at least six (6) feet between individuals.
  12. To prevent cross-contamination of the lodge registry, the Secretary shall record all members present for the meeting in the registry book.
  13. Members are encouraged to bring their own aprons to the meetings. Should a member require the use of a lodge apron, the Master will ensure all used aprons are properly cleaned prior to the next meeting.
  14. Shaking hands is discouraged.
  15. Hand sanitizer shall be provided by the lodge and shall be readily available both inside and outside the lodge room. Running water, soap, and disposable paper towels are required in all rest rooms.
  16. Prior to the meeting the Tyler will attend the door to the lodge room and take up the pass as each brother enters. The pass may be given in a regular voice and from a moderate distance from the Tyler. All members shall maintain proper social distancing while they await entry into the lodge room. Upon opening the lodge, the Deacons will receive the pass from the Tyler who received it from the brethren as they entered the lodge.
  17. Visitation of members from other lodges is permitted; however, all members of the lodge shall be seated before visitors are granted entry.
  18. Degree work is permitted in the lodge; however, it is preferred that lodges request dispensations for outdoor degrees as long as weather permits.
  19. Those brethren who come into contact with the candidate(s) must wear gloves in addition to masks.
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20. Each candidate shall have his own Volume of Sacred Law to use during the obligation.
21. The lodge may wish to provide individual, temporary squares and compasses for each candidate, meaning each lodge may consider purchasing extra sets of squares and compasses to have for each candidate, which he can keep with his Volume of Sacred Law and continue to use throughout his degrees.
22. Candidates may be examined in lodge.
23. **Lodges may serve pre-packaged foods inside lodge facilities or offer fully catered meals to the brethren in attendance. At no time shall any lodge member prepare or serve meals, unless the member is a part of the catering service hired by the lodge. (amended as of 11/6/2020)**
24. Voting by a show of hands and written ballots are permitted. Prior to a written ballot, each member shall use hand sanitizer prior to handing out and turning in the paper ballot. In addition, the Master or Secretary shall have sufficient pens or pencils available for each member present during the vote.
25. Petitions for candidates may be received by the lodge and **secret ballots are permitted unless a member of the lodge is denied entry into the meeting** due to the lodge reaching its maximum capacity (the lesser of 100 members or 30% of the maximum capacity of the lodge room). Prior to taking a secret ballot, the Master shall ensure that the ballot box, all white balls, and black cubes have been properly sanitized. When voting begins, each member shall use hand sanitizer prior to voting.
26. Masters are encouraged to keep meetings to 1 hour or less.
27. The Master shall ensure all high-touch surfaces in the lodge building are properly disinfected before and after each meeting.
28. Any lodge or other Masonic affiliated organization that has a confirmed COVID-19 exposure or infection at a Masonic function shall:
  - Immediately contact the District Deputy Grand Master and Grand Lodge office with the date of the exposure and names of all members in attendance.
  - The Master shall contact all exposed members so they may take proper precautions by quarantining and/or getting tested for the virus.
  - Shut down the building until it has been properly sanitized by a commercial cleaner.

Given under my hand and seal in Greensboro, North Carolina, this the 6th day of November, 2020.

### **Bradshaw Order No. 12**

The Grand Secretary has informed me that the Secretary of your lodge, JSC, has been charged with felonious indecent liberties with a child. Since Brother JSC has only been charged with the crime, it is my intent to suspend

him as Secretary of Fulton Lodge No. 99 as provided in Regulation 58-1 of *The Code*.

*The Code* restricts the authority of the Grand Master on suspending a membership under Regulation 13-4.11. Therefore, it is my ORDER that Brother JSC be removed as Secretary of Fulton Lodge No. 99 immediately and his membership record so noted. Additionally, it is also ORDERED that this case be referred to the Judge Advocate for his disposition immediately following disposal by the courts of the state.

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

Given under my hand and seal in Greensboro, North Carolina, this the 18th day of November, 2020.

### **Bradshaw Opinion No. 2**

On March 16, 2020, I issued an order calling for the cessation of all Masonic meetings to go into effect on March 18, 2020, at high noon. This order was a result of the serious health risks posed by the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic. At the time, I believed the lodges would only be closed for a few weeks or perhaps a couple of months. However, it is now six months later and the Governor of the State of North Carolina has only recently issued an Executive Order permitting the lesser of 100 people or Thirty percent (30%) of stated fire capacity in a “meeting hall.” As a result, I issued an Order permitting lodges to reopen with certain restrictions on how many members could be physically present beginning on September 7, 2020.

I understand some lodges are choosing not to meet, some lodges’ schedules are still erratic, and some lodges cannot seat the entirety of their participating members due to restrictions on indoor meetings. As a result, many lodges have expressed a desire for their current officers, who have not truly served an entire year, to remain at their stations so they may have the opportunity to learn the lessons, ritual, and experience of their particular chair.

Given that it is likely that lodge meetings will continue to operate under certain restrictions for several more months, and there exists a greater possibility of lodge meetings being disrupted in the future, I have received a number of inquiries as to how subordinate lodges should handle the Annual Stated Communication and Election of Officers as specified in Regulation 54-1 of the CODE.

Upon review of the CODE, it is clear that no regulations contemplate the circumstances we are currently faced with. Accordingly, pursuant to Sections 8-2 and 8-6.3 of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge and Regulation 13-2.2 and 13-2.15 of the CODE, I am issuing an Official Opinion on this matter.

With regards to how a subordinate lodge should handle the Annual Stated Communication while they are under restrictions on who and/or how many members can be physically present, it is my Official Opinion that there are three options available to the lodge:

1. The Master of the lodge may transact the regular business of the Annual Stated Communication, including election of officers, on the date specified in Article 8, Section 4 of the lodge’s by-laws, if:
  - a. The number of members who wish to attend the meeting is less than

- or equal to the number permitted due to the imposed restrictions, and
- b. The lodge meets the requirements for a quorum to open lodge, as defined by Regulation 45-8 of the CODE.
2. The Master may request a dispensation from the Grand Master to hold a virtual meeting for the purpose of conducting the regular business of the Annual Stated Communication, including election of officers. The virtual meeting must be held in compliance with the requirements specified in my Official Opinion No. 1 on virtual lodges issued on April 29, 2020, and may be held in one of two ways:
    - a. A completely virtual setting whereby all members in attendance are connected via the virtual platform or
    - b. A hybrid virtual setting, whereby a number of members, which is less than or equal to the number permitted due to the imposed restrictions, are physically present in the lodge and the remainder are connected via virtual platform. If this option is utilized, it is recommended that the officers who are physically present in the lodge building open the lodge on the Master Mason's degree prior to admitting the brethren who are connecting virtually.
  3. Inasmuch, some lodges have asked whether they may keep their officers in their chairs for another year due to the pandemic. Other lodges have not. The decision to hold over officers must be the will of the lodge. The simplest way to ensure a lodge is governed by the most capable men is to follow points 1 and 2 above.

Chapter 54 of the CODE is clear in the process by which lodges shall hold elections. Regulation 54-1.2 specifically states, "If a lodge fails to elect its officers at the time required, the Grand Master shall, upon application grant a dispensation to the hold an election at a designated stated communication. In the case of inclement weather, the Grand Master may select a date other than a stated communication, excepting Sunday." It is my official opinion that this exception is intended for the health and safety of the brethren of the lodge. Therefore, the Grand Master, at his sole discretion, may issue a dispensation to postpone the Annual Stated Communication for reasons other than inclement weather. As such, it is my opinion, given the circumstances of this year, and this year only, there is some flexibility to the procedures enumerated in Chapter 54.

The failure to hold an election at the time appointed by the bylaws of the lodge is typically irregular. As noted in my recommendations related to the COVID-19 pandemic issued on March 12, 2020, "while our CODE does not permit a lodge to 'cancel' a stated communication (Reg. 45-2) it is permissible for a lodge to not meet due to a lack of quorum (Reg. 45-8) without requiring a dispensation from the Grand Master. Further, while Reg. 45-14 states that the Grand Master 'should arrest the charter of a lodge which has had no meeting for six consecutive months' I will not penalize any lodge that chooses not to meet or could not meet due to lack of a quorum during this time."

However, when the lodge reconvenes at a stated communication for its annual meeting, given the present circumstances, I, as Grand Master, will not reprimand a Master who chooses to not hold an election of officers, so long as he first proposes the following motion:

*“I move to inquire by written ballot of the brethren herein assembled if it is their wish to hold the sitting officers of this lodge at their stations and*

*places. Brethren, if you want an election, vote “Yes.” If you do not want an election, vote “No.””*

This vote shall be by written ballot as the CODE forbids election by acclamation (54-1). The lodge shall proceed to vote “Yes” to hold an election, or “No” to not hold an election.

If the lodge votes “Yes” and chooses to hold an election, it shall do so as described in either points 1 or 2.

If the lodge votes “No” and chooses to not hold an election, the Master shall order the Secretary to immediately make application to the Grand Master for dispensation to hold an election at a future designated stated communication as stated in Chapter 54-1.2, which shall be next annual communication of the lodge in 2021. He shall then inform the Grand Secretary of the lodge’s standing officers.

I reiterate, this provision is only effective for the election cycle of 2020, and that no Master, nor lodge shall be penalized for failing to hold their annual election as provided in their bylaws, if they employ this opinion and immediately apply to me for dispensation.

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

### **Bradshaw Opinion No. 3**

It has come to my attention that there are questions regarding what, if any, formal guidelines should be followed by lodges that wish to utilize a Chamber of Reflection to assist a candidate in preparing himself for the degrees of Masonry. Over the last several years many lodges have requested clarification and advice from the Board of Custodians regarding how to establish a Chamber of Reflection, what symbols are permitted, where it can be setup in the lodge, and when a lodge may employ a Chamber of Reflection for its candidates. With each of these requests, the Board of Custodians has affirmed that using a Chamber of Reflection is an appropriate method to help in preparing a candidate mentally and spiritually for the degree he is about to undertake. In each of these cases they have provided guidance to those lodges making the requests as to what is and what is not permissible.

Upon review of many of the requests that were made by the lodges and the guidance provided by the Board of Custodians, and in consultation with the Chairman of the Board of Custodians, I requested that the Committee on Miscellaneous Ceremonies prepare a set of specific guidelines for use by all subordinate lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of AF & AM of NC that wish to implement a Chamber of Reflection. In preparing these guidelines it is noted that:

1. The use of a Chamber of Reflection is not a part of any official ritual or ceremony of the Grand Lodge of AF & AM of NC and should, in no way, interfere or hinder the execution of any degree or ceremony as described in the Official Standard of the Work.
2. While a Chamber of Reflection is not part of the Official Standard of the



Work, it is nevertheless permissible for a lodge to utilize one prior to the ritualistic preparation of a candidate.

3. No candidate shall be forced or compelled to enter a Chamber of Reflection. The use of a Chamber of Reflection is completely voluntary on the part of the candidate.
4. The Master of the lodge is responsible for deciding if a lodge shall establish a Chamber of Reflection.
5. The Master may appoint a committee to establish and maintain the Chamber of Reflection.

Accordingly, it is my Official Opinion that, should a lodge choose to implement a Chamber of Reflection for its candidates, the attached guidelines must be strictly adhered to, and if any lodge is found to have gone outside the bounds of these established guidelines then it shall be cited by the Grand Master to show just cause as to why its charter should not be arrested.

Given under my hand and seal this 1st day of December, 2020, in Greensboro, North Carolina.

#### **Wicker Order No. 1**

I hope this letter finds you well. As you are aware COVID-19 cases are spiking across our state. We have seen, and are beginning to see, infection rates increase among our members, and some exposures in our lodges. I urge each and every Mason across the state to continue to use extreme caution when attending a Masonic event, and to remember that Past Grand Master Bradshaw's Orders concerning the health, safety, and meeting rules and regulations remain in full force and effect.

In further conformity with those orders, and in conformity with the orders of our Governor, effective Friday, December 11, 2020, at 5:00pm, it is my Order that all lodges throughout this jurisdiction will finish conducting their business and close no later than 9:30pm in order to conform to the Governor's state-wide curfew, and to ensure our brethren have ample time to return home to remain within the bounds of that order.

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

Again, I cannot stress enough the importance of being watchful and observant during this time. Wearing a mask and taking precautions to social distance are as much a means to keep you and others safe and healthy as they are an illustration of Masonic charity, and our care for our families, our neighbors, our brethren, and our communities.

Given under my hand and seal in the city of Oxford, this 11th day of December, 2020.

#### **Wicker Order No. 2**

THAT WHEREAS, on the 11th day of December, 2020, Br. BRG, Master of Dunn's Rock Lodge No. 267 sent an email communication to the office of the Grand Secretary wherein he made statements which were contrary to and in violation of the obligations taken by him as a Master Mason and the Master of

a Masonic Lodge, as well as being derogatory and disrespectful as it related to orders issued by the Grand Master and the immediate Past Grand Master of Masons in North Carolina;

AND WHEREAS, Br. BRG, was Summoned by the Grand Master to appear on Tuesday, December 22, 2020, and to have a conversation with the Grand Master regarding the statements made by him in his email communication;

AND WHEREAS, on December 15, 2020, after the receipt of the Summons issued to him, Br. BRG sent another email communication to the Office of the Grand Secretary stating that he was a grown man and that no one, including the Grand Master, would issue him a Summons or tell him what to do and that he would not comply with the Summons;

AND WHEREAS, Br. BRG failed to comply with the Summons issued by the Grand Master in that he failed and refused to meet with the Grand Master and discuss the matters raised in his email communication;

AND WHEREAS, the Masonic CODE sets out the duties, responsibilities and obligations of a Freemason in the State of North Carolina, as well as providing for the conduct of the officers of a subordinate Lodge within this State;

AND WHEREAS, Br. BRG, being a Master Mason and an officer of a subordinate Masonic Lodge located within the State of North Carolina, is obligated and required to comply with the Constitution and Regulations set out in the Masonic CODE of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina;

AND WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of the Grand Master of Masons in North Carolina that Br. BRG, Master of Dunn's Rock Lodge No. 267, has conducted himself in a way and manner that could bring reproach upon the said brother, his Lodge and upon Masonry in general, by (1) willfully failing to obey a Masonic Summons lawfully issued to and served upon him; (2) violating Masonic oaths which were lawfully taken by him; (3) failing to discharge the duties of a Master Mason; (4) failing to obey the laws and edicts of the Grand Lodge and; (5) failing to pay due respect and obedience to the various officers of the Grand Lodge;

AND WHEREAS, Regulation 58-1 of the CODE provides that, if in the opinion of the Grand Master, an officer of a subordinate lodge has conducted himself in such a manner as to bring reproach upon himself or the Craft, the Grand Master, in his discretion, may suspend the offending brother from his office, board, commission or committee;

AND WHEREAS, it is the opinion of the Grand Master of Masons that the conduct of Br. BRG has brought reproach upon himself, his Lodge and the Craft and that for the good of Masonry, said Br. BRG should be suspended from the office of Master of Dunn's Rock Lodge No. 267, as well as from each and every Masonic board, commission, committee upon which he may be serving;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Br. BRG should be and is hereby immediately suspended and removed from the office of Master Dunn's Rock Lodge No. 267, as well as from any other Masonic board, commission or committee upon which he may be serving;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the office of Master of Dunn's Rock Lodge No. 267 is hereby declared vacant until the next annual election of of-

fficers as provided in the by-laws of said Lodge or a dispensation is issued to hold a special election and, pursuant to Regulation 56-3, Br. BRG shall not be afforded the title of Past Master;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, pending further orders of the Grand Master, Br. BRG shall not sit as an officer in any Masonic Lodge within the State of North Carolina, in any capacity, including on a pro temp basis, nor shall he serve on any Masonic board, commission or committee of any type or kind;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Secretary of Dunn's Rock Lodge No. 267 shall read this Order in its entirety in open lodge at the first stated communication following the receipt hereof and this Order, in its entirety, shall be made a part of the minutes of that meeting and shall be permanently maintained in the records of the Lodge;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that any brother sitting as Acting Master of Dunn's Rock Lodge No. 267, as well as the other various officers of said Lodge, shall fully enforce this Order and that the failure to do so shall be a serious Masonic offense.

Ordered and given under my hand and seal in the City of Oxford, North Carolina, on this the 22nd day of December, 2020.

### **Wicker Order No. 3**

I hope this message finds you and your families happy and healthy.

Sadly, across North Carolina and the nation COVID-19 exposures and infections continue to rise at an alarming rate. On Sunday, December 16 at a lodge meeting in New Bern, a brother in attendance at that meeting tested positive for COVID-19. Unfortunately, one of those around him, who later traveled to attend a meeting at Greenville on Monday, December 21 subsequently tested positive. Both the New Bern York Rite Building and the Greenville Masonic Temple have been ordered closed. We are now contact tracing those events and participants to see if any of them attended any other events in the region. Inasmuch, following a joint third degree sponsored by five lodges and held in Bakersville on Saturday, December 19, 2020, a candidate subsequently tested positive for COVID-19. That lodge has closed, and contact tracing protocols were followed to notify all participants. Further, as of today, two of our District Deputy Grand Masters have been exposed and/or contracted the virus. Each are now quarantining and recuperating.

First, I want to thank the brethren involved who voluntarily notified their lodges of their condition, and alerted those they contacted of possible exposure. It is obvious that our love for our brothers remains foremost in our minds as we endure this pandemic together. I also want to commend each location affected and the officers present for acting on the information they received as quickly as possible. What remains so frustrating is that, as far as it has come to my knowledge, each location took every precaution required of them—taking the temperature of the brethren as they entered the lodge, provided a health screening form for each, wore masks and gloves, and social distanced—yet still succumbed to the spread of this virus. It is apparent that vigilance is not enough.

Thus, in light of recent events, the spread of COVID-19, and upon the rec-

ommendations of our local, state, and federal governments, it is my Order that all lodge meetings, and appendant body meetings, and any other such Masonic meeting in this Grand Jurisdiction cease at high twelve on Friday, December 25, 2020 until low twelve, Friday, January 15, 2021.

It is my intent, in consideration of so many of our brethren traveling and visiting family during this holiday season, that by closing lodges we may prevent the further spread of this virus. I encourage all brothers who have or will travel and visit family and friends this Christmas and New Years to be observant of all State and Federal health guidelines and precautions, and to consider a COVID-19 test in due and timely fashion before January 15.

I encourage you to take this opportunity to remain in contact with your brothers and widows.

I also encourage all lodges and appendant bodies to use virtual meetings—either formally or informally, per the guidelines of Grand Master Bradshaw’s Opinion No. 1 issued on April 29, 2020 and upheld by the delegates at the Annual Communication this past September.

The Grand Lodge Office will continue to be closed to non-fraternally related visitors and tourists. We will be in touch with updates, plans, and notifications as the situation further develops.

Stay safe, brethren, keep healthy, remember each other.

Given under my hand and seal in the city of Oxford, this 24th day of December, 2020.

#### **Wicker Order No. 4**

THAT WHEREAS due to the Covid 19 Pandemic, on October 2, 2020, Past Grand Master P. Shaun Bradshaw issued Order No. 10 amending his prior Order No. 9 with regard to the opening of lodges and other Masonic affiliated organizations to in-person meetings subject to certain conditions and safety protocols, in part, said Order No. 10 providing that “20. No meals shall be prepared or served in the lodge building.”;

AND WHEREAS, on November 6, 2020, Past Grand Master P. Shaun Bradshaw issued Order No. 11 which provided additional conditions and safety protocols for lodges and other Masonic affiliated organizations to adhere to during in-person meetings, and further providing that “23. Lodges may serve pre-packaged foods inside lodge facilities or offer fully catered meals to the brethren in attendance. At no time shall any lodge member prepare or serve meals, unless the member is a part of the catering service hired by the lodge. (amended as of 11/6/2020)”;

AND WHEREAS, it has come to my attention that there may be some confusion in the Craft with regard to the application of Paragraph 23 of Past Grand Master Bradshaw’s Order No. 11 as it pertains “meals inside lodge facilities” as it relates to fundraising events;

AND WHEREAS, I have reviewed Past Grand Master Bradshaw’s Orders No. 10 and 11, each in their entirety, as well as considering the full context of each said Order, and find each to be sound and reasonable for the purpose of maintaining and protecting the health and safety of the members of the Craft, as well as others with whom members of the Craft may come into contact;

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NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Past Grand Master Bradshaw's Order No. 11 should be and the same is hereby amended to permit lodges and other Masonic affiliated organizations to conduct fundraising activities that include the preparation and sale of food items including, but not limited to, Barbeque Pork, Barbeque Chicken, Ham, Turkey, Brunswick Stew, etc.;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that such fundraising activities that include the preparation and sale of food items shall be permitted only under the following terms and conditions:

1. All persons involved in the fundraising event shall complete the Covid screening sheet that is currently in use, as well as having their temperature taken prior to engaging in the event. Any person exhibiting any Covid type symptoms shall not participate in the fundraising event.
2. The facilities used during the fundraising event shall be cleaned and sanitized prior to and after each such event.
3. During the entire fundraising event, there shall be an adequate supply of disinfectant, cleaning supplies and hand sanitizer present and available for use at all times.
4. There shall be no dine-in component to any such fundraising event. All food items sold shall be boxed for takeout for off premises consumption.
5. To avoid any possibility of cross contamination with and/or by the public, all persons preparing and boxing food items shall not interact with the public. All persons delivering the boxed food items to the public and taking payment for same shall not be involved in the preparation, cooking, or boxing of any food items.
6. Everyone participating in the fundraising event shall properly wear a face covering over their nose and mouth at all times. Cloth face masks, surgical masks, and N95 respirators are acceptable. Plastic face shields are not permitted unless they are used in combination with a cloth face covering.
7. Everyone participating in the fundraising event shall wear food grade gloves at all times, including persons interacting with the public.
8. All persons participating in the fundraising event must maintain social distancing, including separating the food preparation stations six (6) feet apart.
9. All sales shall be outside sales. The public shall not be permitted to enter into the lodge building or other facility where activities associated with the fundraising event are taking place, including, but not limited to where any food item is being prepared, cooked, boxed or packaged for sale.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, other than as set out herein, Orders No. 10 and 11 entered by Past Grand Master P. Shaun Bradshaw shall remain in full force and effect, pending further orders of the Grand Master.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this order shall become effective at high twelve on January 29, 2021, and shall remain in effect unless and until modified by subsequent order of the Grand Master.

Given under my hand and seal in the City of Oxford, North Carolina on this the 28th day of January, 2021.

**Wicker Order No. 5**

THAT WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of the Grand Master of Masons that on or about the 11th day of February, 2021, Br. JRC, Secretary of Rockingham Lodge No. 495, was charged with First Degree Murder by the State of North Carolina;

AND WHEREAS, the charge of First Degree Murder against Br. JRC is currently pending before the Richmond County Court in File No.: 21 CR 50212;

AND WHEREAS, at the time of the issuance of this Order, Br. JRC is in custody and being held in the Richmond County Jail without the benefit of bond;

AND WHEREAS, the Masonic CODE sets out duties, responsibilities and obligations of a Freemason in the State of North Carolina, as well as providing for the conduct of the officers of a subordinate Masonic Lodge within this State;

AND WHEREAS, Br. JRC, being a Master Mason and an officer of a subordinate Masonic Lodge located within the State of North Carolina, is obligated and required to comply with the Constitution and Regulations set out in the Masonic CODE of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina;

AND WHEREAS, by this Order, the Grand Master does not offer any comment or opinion as to the merits of the criminal charges brought by the State of North Carolina against Br. JRC nor does the Grand Master offer any comment or opinion as to the merits of any defense that said Br. JRC may offer to the said criminal charges, nevertheless the nature of the allegations set out in the said criminal charges brought against Br. JRC are such that it would bring reproach upon the said brother, his Lodge and upon Masonry in general;

AND WHEREAS, Regulation 58-1 of the CODE provides that, if in the opinion of the Grand Master, an officer of a subordinate lodge has conducted himself in such a manner as to bring reproach upon himself of the Craft, the Grand Master, in his discretion, may suspend the offending brother from his office, board, commission, or committee;

AND WHEREAS, it is the opinion of the Grand Master of Masons that the conduct alleged by the State of North Carolina against said Br. JRC is the type of conduct that brings reproach upon one's self, one's Lodge and the Craft and that for the good of Masonry, said Br. JRC should be suspended from the office of Secretary of Rockingham Lodge No. 495, as well as from each and every Masonic board, commission, committee upon which he may be serving;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Br. JRC should be and is hereby immediately suspended and removed from the office of Secretary of Rockingham Lodge No. 495, as well as from any other Masonic board, commission or committee upon which he may be serving;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the office of Secretary of Rockingham Lodge No. 495 is hereby declared vacant until the next annual election of officers as provided in the by-laws of said Lodge or a dispensation is issued to hold a special election for said office;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that in the event that Br. JRC is released on pretrial bond, pending further orders of the Grand Master, said Br. JRC shall not sit in any Masonic Lodge within the State of North Carolina pending a final disposition of the criminal charges brought against him;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that in the event that Br. JRC is released

on pretrial bond, pending further orders of the Grand Master, Br JRC shall not attend or participate in any meetings, gatherings, or other functions of any kind or description related to Freemasonry or related to any appendant body associated with Freemasonry within the State of North Carolina pending a final disposition of the criminal charges brought against him;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the acting Secretary of Rockingham Lodge No. 495 shall read this Order in its entirety in open lodge at the first stated communication following the receipt hereof and that this Order, in its entirety, shall be made a part of the minutes of said meeting and shall be permanently maintained in the records of the Lodge.

Ordered and given under my hand and seal in the City of Oxford, North Carolina, on this the 12th day of February, 2021.

### **Wicker Order No. 6**

THAT WHEREAS, due to the Covid 19 Pandemic and the curfew imposed by the Governor of the State of North Carolina, on December 11, 2020, I entered Order No. 1 requiring all Masonic Lodges within this Grand Jurisdiction to conclude all business by 9:30 p.m. such that the brethren could return home in compliance with the state-wide curfew then in effect;

AND WHEREAS, with the implementation of the previous safety protocols and the recent availability of Covid 19 vaccinations, the new cases of Covid 19 have continued to trend downward, and the previous curfew is no longer necessary;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that, effective immediately, Grand Master Wicker's Order No. 1 should be and the same is hereby terminated.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that each and every safety protocol currently in place pursuant to the prior Orders of Grand Masters Bradshaw and Wicker, including, but not limited to the mandatory use of cloth face coverings, social distancing, use of hand sanitizer, and the cleaning of lodge rooms should be and the same are hereby ordered to remain in effect until further orders of the Grand Master.

Given under my hand and seal in the City of Oxford, North Carolina on this the 25th day of February, 2021.

### **Wicker Order No. 7**

THAT WHEREAS, on October 2, 2020, Past Grand Master P. Shaun Bradshaw issued Order No. 10 amending his prior Order No. 9 with regard to the opening of Masonic Lodges and other affiliated Masonic organizations to in-person meetings subject to certain conditions and safety protocols, in part, said Order No. 10 providing that "No meals shall be prepared or served in the lodge building.";

AND WHEREAS, on November 6, 2020, Past Grand Master P. Shaun Bradshaw issued Order No. 11 which provided additional conditions and safety protocols for Masonic Lodges and other affiliated Masonic organizations to adhere to during in-person meetings, and further providing that "Lodges may serve pre-packaged foods inside lodge facilities or offer fully catered meals to the brethren in attendance. At no time shall any lodge member prepare or

serve meals, unless the member is a part of the catering service hired by the lodge.”;

AND WHEREAS, with the implementation of safety protocols and the recent availability of Covid-19 vaccinations, the new cases of Covid-19 have continued to trend downward and further consideration should be given to the issue of the preparation and service of meals at the meetings of Masonic Lodges and affiliated Masonic organizations within this Grand Jurisdiction;

AND WHEREAS, it appears that so long as the Masonic Lodges and affiliated Masonic organizations fully comply with the appropriate safety protocols, the service of meals should be able to safely resume within this Grand Jurisdiction;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Order No. 11 issued by Past Grand Master P. Shaun Bradshaw should be and the same is hereby amended and modified, and the preparation and service of meals at Masonic Lodges and other affiliated Masonic organizations shall be and the same are hereby permitted under the following terms and conditions:

1. The Master of any Masonic Lodge or the presiding officer of any affiliated Masonic organization meeting within this Grand Jurisdiction shall have the sole discretion to allow the preparation and service of meals at their stated and emergent communications, gatherings and/or meetings, subject to and in full compliance with the protocols hereinafter set out;
  2. In the sole discretion of the Master of the Masonic Lodge or the presiding officer of any affiliated Masonic organization, the said Masonic Lodge or affiliated Masonic organization shall have the option to continue the service of pre-packaged foods or offer fully catered meals to those in attendance as set out in Past Grand Master P. Shaun Bradshaw's Order No. 11;
  3. If, in the sole discretion of the Master of the Masonic Lodge or the presiding officer of any affiliated Masonic organization, meals are to be prepared and served within the Lodge, said meals shall be prepared and served pursuant to the following safety guidelines and protocols:
    - a. All persons involved with the preparation or service of the meal shall first complete, date, and sign the Covid-19 screening sheet that is currently in use;
    - b. All persons involved with the preparation or the service of the meal shall have their temperature taken prior to engaging in said activity, and anyone with a temperature in excess of 99.5 degrees shall not participate in the preparation or the service of said meal, said temperature reading shall be recorded on the executed Covid-19 screening sheet;
    - c. Any person exhibiting any Covid-19 type symptoms shall not participate in the preparation or service of the meal;
    - d. The facilities used during the preparation of the meal shall be cleaned and sanitized prior to and after each such use;
    - e. At all times during the preparation, service, and consumption of the meal, there shall be an adequate supply of disinfectant, cleaning supplies, and hand sanitizer present throughout the kitchen,
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dining facilities, and Lodge building, and available for use by each and every person present;

- f. During the preparation and service of the meal, each and every person involved with said preparation and service shall first wash and sanitize their hands and at all times thereafter, wear food grade gloves;
- g. At all times during the preparation and service of the meal, each and every person involved with said preparation and service shall properly wear a face covering over their nose and mouth. Cloth face masks, surgical masks, and N-95 respirators are acceptable. Plastic face shields are NOT permitted unless used in combination with a cloth face covering over the nose and mouth;
- h. Members and guests who are not involved in the preparation and service of the meal shall NOT be permitted to enter into the kitchen area or into any area where food or beverages are being prepared;
- i. All food served shall either be (1) boxed in takeout containers and set out in a manner as to prevent cross-contamination by the members and guests present or (2) served by a designated individual wearing the hereinabove described personal protective equipment, such that the members and guests in attendance do not come into contact with any utensils used for the service of food. Self-service in a buffet style line shall NOT be permitted at any time or under any circumstances;
- j. All beverages served shall be either (1) in prepackaged containers (cans or bottles) and set out in a manner as to prevent cross-contamination by the members and guests present or (2) served by a designated individual in the way and manner as hereinabove described in subparagraph 3(i)(2). The self-service or refills of beverages from a common container shall NOT be permitted at any time or under any circumstances;
- k. All eating utensils (forks, knives, and spoons) shall be pre-wrapped and available to those in attendance in such manner as to prevent anyone from coming into contact with the eating utensils of another;
- l. All condiments, including salt, pepper, mustard, ketchup, hot sauce, sugar, sweetener, etc..., are not permitted unless provided in individual packaging such that they are not shared by the members and guests in attendance;
- m. During the consumption of meals, social distancing requirements shall remain in effect, and the seating at tables shall be six (6) feet apart;
- n. At the conclusion of any meal or at any other time while the members or guests are not actively eating or drinking, said members and guests shall be required to properly wear an appropriate face covering at all times.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, other than as modified and amended herein, Orders No. 10 and 11 previously entered by Past Grand Master P.

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Shaun Bradshaw shall remain in full force and effect, pending further orders of the Grand Master;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order shall become effective at high twelve on Monday, March 1, 2021, and shall remain in effect unless and until amended or modified by subsequent order of the Grand Master;

Given under my hand and seal in the City of Oxford, North Carolina on this the 26th day of February, 2021.

### **Wicker Order No. 8**

To the Master, Wardens, and Secretary of University Lodge No. 408:

It has been brought to my attention by the Grand Secretary's office that University Lodge No. 408 received the application for affiliation of JAB, III on November 16, 2020, and elected him to membership on the same day, without the application having been first certified by the Grand Secretary's office and returned to the lodge.

The ballot taken on November 16, 2020, to elect Brother JAB, III is clearly illegal under the positive language of Regulation 68-1.2 of The Code, and is, therefore, NULL and VOID.

Since the Grand Master is empowered to order another ballot in cases of this kind, I hereby order a rebalot to University Lodge No. 408 at the stated communication to be held on March 15, 2021. If this cannot be accomplished by March 15, 2021, the lodge shall then ballot on this application at the stated communication to be held on April 19, 2021.

This Order shall be read to the lodge at the next stated communication, entered on the minutes of that communication and a proper notation made on the margin of the minutes for November 16, 2020, referring to this Order and the date it was recorded in the minutes.

Given under my hand and seal at Oxford, North Carolina, this 11th day of March, 2021.

### **Wicker Order No. 9**

THAT WHEREAS, on November 6, 2020, Past Grand Master P. Shaun Bradshaw issued Order No. 11 (amending Order No. 10) which provided certain conditions and safety protocols for Masonic Lodges and other affiliated Masonic organizations to adhere to during in-person meetings, providing in part:

"1. Up to one hundred (100) members of a lodge (or 30% of the maximum capacity of the lodge, if less than 100) may utilize the lodge facility for stated and/or emergent communications.";

"25. Petitions for candidates may be received by the lodge and secret ballots are permitted unless a member is denied entry into the meeting due to the lodge reaching its maximum capacity (the lesser of 100 members or 30% of the maximum capacity of the lodge room)....";

"26. Masters are encouraged to keep meetings to 1 hour or less.";

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AND WHEREAS, with the implementation of safety protocols and the recent availability of Covid 19 vaccinations, the new cases of Covid 19 continue to trend downward and further consideration should be given to the issue of the maximum capacity of the use of the lodge room during the meetings of Masonic Lodges and affiliated Masonic organizations within this Grand Jurisdiction;

AND WHEREAS, it appears that so long as the Masonic Lodges and affiliated Masonic organizations continue to fully comply with the appropriate safety protocols, the maximum capacity of the use of the lodge room during the meetings of Masonic Lodges and affiliated Masonic organizations within this Grand Jurisdiction can safely be expanded to 50% of the maximum capacity of the lodge room and that the 1 hour limitation on meeting times is no longer necessary;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Order No. 11 issued by Past Grand Master P. Shaun Bradshaw, as it relates to the maximum capacity of the use of the lodge room, should be and the same is hereby amended, and the maximum capacity of the use of the lodge room during the meetings of Masonic Lodges and affiliated Masonic organizations within this Grand Jurisdiction should be and the same is hereby increased to 50% of the maximum capacity of the lodge room or meeting hall;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Order No. 11 issued by Past Grand Master P. Shaun Bradshaw, as it relates to the 1 hour time limitation of lodge meetings of Masonic Lodges and affiliated Masonic organizations within this Grand Jurisdiction should be and the same is hereby rescinded.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, other than as previously amended and/or modified by prior Orders and as amended herein, Orders No. 10 and 11 entered by Past Grand Master P. Shaun Bradshaw shall remain in full force and effect, pending further orders of the Grand Master;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order shall become effective at high twelve on Friday, April 30, 2021, and shall remain in effect unless and until amended or modified by subsequent order of the Grand Master;

Given under my hand and seal in the City of Oxford, North Carolina, on this the 26th day of April, 2021.

#### **Wicker Order No. 10**

THAT WHEREAS, due to the Covid 19 Pandemic, Past Grand Master P. Shaun Bradshaw and Grand Master R. David Wicker, Jr., entered certain Orders designed to establish the conditions and safety protocols for Masonic Lodges and other affiliated Masonic organizations to adhere to during in-person meetings and food service during fundraising events;

AND WHEREAS, with the implementation and adherence to said safety protocols and the continued availability of Covid 19 vaccinations, the new cases of Covid 19, as well as the hospitalizations and deaths associated therewith, continues to trend downward;

AND WHEREAS, it appears that the implementation of the Covid 19 vaccinations have been successful in greatly reducing risk of contracting Covid 19, but said risk has not been entirely eliminated;

AND WHEREAS, it appears that further consideration should be given to the issue of the current safety protocols for Masonic Lodges and other affiliated

Masonic organizations during in-person meetings;

AND WHEREAS, it appears that Masonic Lodges and affiliated Masonic organizations should be able to resume in-person meetings without the need of all the safety protocols currently in place;

NOW, THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Covid Orders 9, 10, and 11 issued by Past Grand Master P. Shaun Bradshaw should be and the same are hereby rescinded;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Covid Orders 4 and 9 issued by Grand Master R. David Wicker, Jr. should be and the same is hereby rescinded;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, in lieu of the prior safety protocols, the following guidelines shall be followed unless or until amended, modified, or rescinded by further order of the Grand Master:

1. The Master of the Lodge, or presiding officer of any appendant Masonic body, shall ensure that his lodge or body has an adequate amount of disinfectant, cleaning supplies, and hand sanitizer available in the lodge prior to each meeting;
2. Prior to entry into a lodge building or meeting hall, ALL members and other attendees shall submit to and sign a health questionnaire. Each questionnaire shall be maintained by the Secretary for not less than 45 days. This is to ensure that notice can be given to everyone in attendance should someone attending the meeting later test positive for Covid 19. The taking of temperatures of all attendees is no longer required;
3. The Master of the Lodge, or presiding officer of any appendant Masonic body, shall have the discretion to require all in attendance to properly wear a cloth face covering during any Masonic function. Those who are in attendance shall comply with the order of the Master or presiding officer with this regard;
4. Any member or other attendee shall have the right to wear a cloth face covering during a Masonic Function, even if not required to do so by the Master of the Lodge or presiding officer of any appendant Masonic body;
5. Anyone exhibiting the physical symptoms of or having tested positive for Covid 19 within the last ten (10) days shall not attend any Masonic event;
6. Any Masonic Lodge or appendant Masonic body that has a confirmed Covid 19 exposure shall (1) immediately notify all members present at the time of the exposure per information contained on the health questionnaire, (2) immediately contact the District Deputy Grand Master or the proper District Officer for any appendant Masonic body who shall in turn contact the Grand Lodge Office or their respective governing body, and (3) see that the Lodge or meeting hall is properly cleaned and sanitized prior to any future use;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Grand Presiding Officer of each and every appendant body or other Masonic organization in this Grand Jurisdiction shall require their respective bodies and organizations to adhere to the

conditions and protocols set out in this Order;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order shall become effective at high twelve on Wednesday, May 19, 2021, and shall remain in effect unless and until amended or modified by subsequent order of the Grand Master.

Given under my hand and seal in the City of Oxford, North Carolina, on this the 19th day of May, 2021.

#### **Wicker Order No. 11**

To the Master, Wardens, and Secretary of Forsyth Lodge No. 707:

It has been brought to my attention by the Grand Secretary's office that Forsyth Lodge No. 707 balloted on an application for affiliation from Brother RAL, II, and elected him to membership on March 3, 2021, before his application had been certified by the Grand Secretary's office. Brother RAL was transferring from Piedmont-Pioneer Lodge No. 685.

The ballot taken on March 3, 2021, to elect Brother RAL, II, is clearly illegal under the positive language of Regulation 68-1.2 of The Code, and is, therefore, NULL and VOID.

Since the Grand Master is empowered to order another ballot in cases of this kind, I hereby order a rebalot to Forsyth Lodge No. 707 at the stated communication to be held on May 5, 2021. If this cannot be accomplished by May 5, 2021, the lodge shall then ballot on this application at the stated communication to be held on June 2, 2021.

This Order shall be read to the lodge at the next stated communication, entered on the minutes of that communication and a proper notation made on the margin of the minutes for March 3, 2021, referring to this Order and the date it was recorded in the minutes.

Given under my hand and seal at Oxford, North Carolina, this 23rd day of April, 2021.

#### **Wicker Order No. 12**

To the Master, Wardens, and Secretary of Palmyra Lodge No. 147:

It has been brought to my attention upon admission of the Secretary of the Lodge that at a Stated Communication of Palmyra Lodge No. 147 on May 4, 2021, the petition for the degree of candidate Mr. BAB was inadvertently attached to another candidate's report of the Committee of Investigation and a false report delivered to the lodge, a violation of Reg. 68-3.2 of The Code.

Being that the report of the Committee of Investigation was false, I hereby declare the ballot of the aforementioned candidate on May 4, 2021 to be NULL AND VOID.

In order to correct this error, it is my ORDER, in conformity with my authority under Reg. 68-8 of The Code that Palmyra Lodge No. 147 re-ballot on candidate BAB and that all members shall be given not less than ten (10) days notice by first class mail under sealed cover of the re-ballot and the time

and place thereof, which shall be the Stated Communication of July 6, 2021.

This Order shall be read in lodge at the next stated communication, entered on the minutes of that communication, and a proper notation made on the margin of the minutes for May 4, 2021, referring to this Order and the date it was recorded in the minutes.

Given under my hand and seal at Oxford, North Carolina, this 24th day of May, 2021.

### **Wicker Order No. 13**

THAT WHEREAS, it was reported to the Grand Master of Masons that, in violation of Regulation 43-8.1(G), Balfour Lodge No. 188 entered into a contract for the sale of their lodge building without the prior review and approval of Lodge Service Commission;

AND WHEREAS, for the purpose of discussing the actions related to the sale of the lodge building and subsequent plans for the Lodge, the Grand Master of Masons, along with the Junior Grand Warden, Senior Grand Steward, Grand Secretary, Grand Tyler, and the District Deputy Grand Master and District Deputy Grand Lecturer for the 24th Masonic District attended the regular stated communication of Balfour Lodge No. 188 held on Tuesday, May 18, 2021;

AND WHEREAS, on multiple occasions during the course of the meeting, Br. Phillip E. Williamson, secretary of Balfour Lodge No. 188, raised his voice in an angry and disrespectful manner with regard to his objections to the discussions that were ongoing, including the use of profanity relating to the discussions in general, directing profanity toward the Grand Master in particular, and walking out of the stated communication of Balfour Lodge with the Lodge minutes and records, in an apparent attempt to arrest the work of Balfour Lodge;

AND WHEREAS, on May 19, 2021, the Grand Master of Masons issued a Summons for Br. Phillip E. Williamson to appear at the Office of the Grand Lodge on May 24, 2021, to afford him the opportunity to explain the disrespectful and un-Masonic conduct exhibited by him at the stated communication of Balfour Lodge No. 188 held on May 18, 2021;

AND WHEREAS, Br. Phillip E. Williamson was served with Summons issued to him and acknowledged the service of same to the Grand Secretary;

AND WHEREAS, Br. Phillip E. Williamson failed and refused to comply with the Summons of the Grand Master directing him to appear and discuss his un-Masonic conduct and Br. Phillip E. Williamson did not contact the Office of the Grand Lodge to explain his absence;

AND WHEREAS, Regulation 13-3.5 grants the Grand Master the authority to suspend the Master or any other officer of a subordinate lodge from the exercise of the powers and duties of his office for official misconduct, neglect, malfeasance, or un-Masonic conduct;

AND WHEREAS, raising one's voice in an angry and disrespectful manner, reacting with profanity with regard to discussion of the brethren during the course of a stated communication, directing profanity toward the Grand Master of Masons during the course of a stated communication, and walking out of a stated communication with the Lodge minutes and records constitutes

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acts of official misconduct, neglect, malfeasance, and un-Masonic conduct;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Br. Phillip E. Williamson should be and is hereby removed from the office of Secretary of Balfour Lodge No. 188;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Br. Phillip E. Williamson shall surrender all the books, records, and other documents relating to or associated with the office of Secretary of Balfour Lodge No. 188 to the Master, Senior Warden, or Junior Warden of Balfour Lodge within 72 hours of the entry of this Order;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a complete audit of the secretary's records, including records related to financial matters, be completed by the Master, Senior Warden, and Junior Warden, with such assistance as they may deem necessary, immediately upon receipt of the documents from Br. Phillip E. Williamson relating to or associated with the office of Secretary, and provide a report of the same to the Office of the Grand Secretary;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Br. Phillip E. Williamson should be and is hereby removed as a Trustee of Balfour Lodge No. 188;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Br. Phillip E. Williamson shall surrender all the books, records, and other documents relating to or associated with being a Trustee of Balfour Lodge No. 188 to the Master, Senior Warden, or Junior Warden of Balfour Lodge within 72 hours of the entry of this Order;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this matter should be and the same is hereby referred to the Judge Advocate for such other and further action as the Judge Advocate may deem appropriate;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order shall be read out in its entirety at the next stated communication of Balfour Lodge No. 188 and, thereafter, be maintained as a permanent record of the Lodge;

Given under my hand and seal in the City of Oxford, North Carolina on this the 25th day of May, 2021.

#### **Wicker Order No. 14**

THAT WHEREAS, on Thursday, June 17, 2021, the Grand Master of Masons held a District Meeting at Hiram Lodge No. 98 in Clinton, NC, wherein approximately 50 brethren were present and the ladies of the Order of the Eastern were kind enough to prepare and serve dinner to those in attendance;

AND WHEREAS, on Friday, June 18, 2021, a brother began to experience symptoms of COVID-19, said brother having been at dinner with the Craft and ladies of the Order of the Eastern Star and thereafter attended the above referenced District Meeting, at all times without having been vaccinated and without wearing a cloth face covering in compliance with the Order of the Governor;

AND WHEREAS, on Sunday, June 20, 2021, said brother tested positive for COVID-19;

AND WHEREAS, the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccinations have been successful in greatly reducing risk of contracting COVID-19, but said risk has not been entirely eliminated as many members of society have failed or refused to receive the vaccine;

AND WHEREAS, the exposure of COVID-19 to the Craft and to the ladies of the Order of the Eastern Star makes it apparent that, for the safety of the

Craft, additional measures and protocols are required to be put in place;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the following safety protocols shall be put in place and are to be strictly adhered to by all Masonic Lodges within this Grand Jurisdiction, as well as each and every appendant body or other Masonic organizations in this Grand Jurisdiction, unless or until amended, modified or rescinded by further order of the Grand Master:

1. The Master of the Lodge, or presiding officer of any appendant Masonic body, shall ensure that his lodge or body has an adequate amount of disinfectant, cleaning supplies, and hand sanitizer available in the lodge prior to each meeting;
2. Prior to entry into a lodge building, meeting hall, or lodge room, ALL members shall use hand sanitizer.
3. To ensure that notice can be given to everyone in attendance should someone later test positive for COVID-19, prior to entry into a lodge building or meeting hall, ALL members and other attendees shall submit to and sign a health questionnaire. Each questionnaire shall be maintained by the Secretary for not less than 45 days;
4. The Master of the Lodge, or presiding officer of any appendant Masonic body, shall have the discretion to require all in attendance to properly wear a cloth face covering during any Masonic function, regardless of whether or not the individual has been fully vaccinated. Those who are in attendance shall comply with the order of the Master or presiding officer with this regard;
5. Any member or other attendee shall have the right to wear a cloth face covering during a Masonic Function, even if not required to do so by the Master of the Lodge or presiding officer of any appendant Masonic body;
6. Any member or attendee who HAS NOT been fully vaccinated SHALL properly wear a cloth face covering at all times during a Masonic function or any function of any appendant Masonic body;
7. Unless ordered to do so by the Master of the Lodge, or presiding officer of any appendant Masonic body, any member or attendee who HAS been fully vaccinated shall have the right to forego the wearing of a cloth face covering during a Masonic function or any function of any appendant Masonic body;
8. In the event that a meal is being served, any member or attendee who has not been fully vaccinated may remove their cloth face covering while eating or drinking. However, they may do so ONLY if they are otherwise observing proper social distancing from others in attendance.
9. In the event that a meal is being served, no buffet lines shall be permitted wherein each member or attendee present is required to touch the same serving utensils. Buffet lines are permitted ONLY if food and drink are served by someone wearing gloves and a cloth face covering. Otherwise, meals must be prepackaged for service to those in attendance.
10. Anyone exhibiting the physical symptoms of, or having tested positive for, COVID-19 within the last ten (10) days shall not attend any Masonic event or any event of any appendant Masonic body;



11. Any Masonic Lodge or any appendant Masonic body that has a confirmed COVID-19 exposure shall (1) immediately notify all members present at the time of the exposure per the information contained on the health questionnaire, (2) immediately contact the District Deputy Grand Master or the proper District Officer for any appendant Masonic body, who shall in turn contact the Grand Lodge Office or their respective governing body and (3) see that the Lodge or meeting hall is properly cleaned and sanitized prior to any future use;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Grand Presiding Officer of each and every appendant body or other Masonic organization in this Grand Jurisdiction shall require their respective bodies and organizations to adhere to the conditions and protocols set out in this Order;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all prior Covid Orders currently in place and not inconsistent with this Order shall remain in full force and effect;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order shall become effective immediately upon execution by the Grand Master and shall remain in effect unless and until amended or modified by subsequent order of the Grand Master;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that any violation of this Order of the Grand Master shall be a serious Masonic Offense.

Given under my hand and seal in the City of Oxford, North Carolina, on this the 21st day of June, 2021.

#### **Wicker Order No. 15**

To the Master, Wardens, and Secretary of University Lodge No. 408:

It has been brought to my attention by the Grand Secretary's office that University Lodge No. 408 received the application for affiliation of BID on April 19, 2021, and elected him to membership on May 17, 2021, without the application having been first certified by the Grand Secretary's office and returned to the lodge.

The ballot taken on May 17, 2021, to elect Brother BID is clearly illegal under the positive language of Regulation 68-1.2 of The Code, and is, therefore, NULL and VOID.

Since the Grand Master is empowered to order another ballot in cases of this kind, I hereby order a rebalot to University Lodge No. 408 at the stated communication to be held on August 16, 2021. If this cannot be accomplished by August 16, 2021, the lodge shall then ballot on this application at the stated communication to be held on September 20, 2021.

This Order shall be read to the lodge at the next stated communication, entered on the minutes of that communication and a proper notation made on the margin of the minutes for May 17, 2021, referring to this Order and the date it was recorded in the minutes.

Given under my hand and seal at Oxford, North Carolina, this 21st day of July, 2021.

**Wicker Order No. 16**

THAT WHEREAS, it has come attention to the Grand Master of Masons that on Tuesday, July 27, 2021, Eagle Lodge No. 19 in Hillsborough, North Carolina, improperly balloted on two (2) applications for affiliation;

AND WHEREAS, with regard to an application for affiliation, Regulation 75-8.1 provides that the Master shall refer the application to a Committee of Investigation for its investigation and report;

AND WHEREAS, Regulation 75-11 provides that a lodge may spread the ballot on an application for affiliation by secret ballot only after: 1) the report of the Committee of Investigation, either favorable or unfavorable, has been received by the lodge, 2) the report of the Grand Secretary has been received by the Secretary of the lodge and, 3) the application has laid over a minimum of twenty-eight (28) days from the date it is received by the lodge.

AND WHEREAS, the above referenced ballot was spread on the applications for affiliation by Eagle Lodge No. 19 on July 27, 2021, without the Master referring the applications to a Committee of Investigation and without the reception of a report by a Committee of Investigation, either favorable or unfavorable, as required by the CODE;

AND WHEREAS, a ballot on an application for affiliation that is in violation of the requirements set out in Regulation 75 is illegal and void;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the ballot on each application for affiliation spread by Eagle Lodge No. 19 on July 27, 2021, should be and the same are hereby declared illegal and are void ab initio;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, at the next stated meeting of Eagle Lodge No. 19, the Master shall properly appoint a Committee of Investigation as required by Regulation 75-8 and thereafter, refer the applications for affiliation referenced herein to said Committee of Investigation;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Committee of Investigation shall properly investigate the applications for affiliation referenced herein as required by Regulation 75-9;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Committee of Investigation shall return its report, favorable or unfavorable, at the September 28, 2021, stated communication at which time Eagle Lodge No. 19 shall spread the ballot on the applications for affiliation;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that prior to the close of business on Friday, August 28, 2021, the Secretary of Eagle Lodge shall notify each and every member of said Lodge by first class mail, that a ballot on the applications for affiliation referenced herein will be spread at the stated communication of Eagle Lodge No. 19 on Tuesday, September 28, 2021;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order shall be read out in its entirety at the next stated communication of Eagle Lodge No. 19 and, thereafter, be maintained as a permanent record of the Lodge.

Given under my hand and seal in the City of Oxford, North Carolina on this the 18th day of August, 2021.

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### Amendment Group 1

#### *(Held over from the 2020 Annual Communication)*

The following amendment has been submitted by the Board of General Purposes.

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

#### Chapter 43 Subordinate Lodge Powers and Duties

...

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

### Amendment Group 2

#### *(Held over from the 2020 Annual Communication)*

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

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

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

### Amendment Group 3

#### *(Held over from the 2020 Annual Communication)*

The following amendments have been submitted by Grand Secretary.

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

REG. 45-2 STATED COMMUNICATION.

4. A lodge, regularly opened on the first or third degree for an emergent communication on the day of a stated communication at an earlier hour than that named in its by-laws for that stated communication, may be changed to a stated communication without going through the ceremonies of closing and again opening in the following manner.

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

#### REG. 45-8 QUORUM.

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

#### REG. 45-9 DEGREE ON WHICH LODGE OPENED.

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

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

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

#### REG. 51-1 MODES OF AVOUCHMENT.

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

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

- A. By sitting together in a regular lodge of Master Masons recognized by the Grand Lodge.
- B. By an examination authorized by the proper officer of a lodge.
- C. By one Mason definitely stating to another whom he knows to be a Master Mason that he vouches for a third brother then and there present with them as a Master Mason in good standing.

The Mason who is vouching for the visitor shall state the manner in which he acquired the knowledge on which he makes the avouchment. [51-2].

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

REG. 59-2 MASTER.

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

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

REG. 84-4 HOW AND BY WHOM CONDUCTED.

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

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

**Amendment Group 4**

***(Held over from the 2020 Annual Communication)***

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

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

Chapter 36 Parliamentary Usage in the Grand Lodge

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

### Amendment Group 5

#### *(Held over from the 2020 Annual Communication)*

The following amendments have been submitted by the Grand Secretary.

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

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

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

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

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

### Amendment Group 6

#### *(Held over from the 2020 Annual Communication)*

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

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

REG. 77-25 ENDOWED MEMBERSHIPS.

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

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

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

Grand Lodge. (*This regulation amended, effective 1/1/2008*)

#### REG. 77-27 MEMORIAL ENDOWED MEMBERSHIPS.

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

#### Amendment Group 7

The following amendment has been submitted by Past Grand Master P. Shaun Bradshaw.

*This amendment would raise the minimum initiation fee in order to provide more charity as the current fee structure was set over a century ago. This proposal does not affect the Grand Lodge per capita assessment, but rather the “petitioner’s fee” due at the time of initiation.*

##### Chapter 20 - ... Initiation Fee

REG. 20-1 ESTABLISHED. Each lodge, including lodges under dispensation, shall pay annually to the Grand Secretary, for the use of the Grand Lodge, the sums hereinafter specified.

2. The sum of ~~twenty-one~~ seventy-five dollars for each Entered Apprentice initiated by or for the lodge, whether initiated therein or by another lodge for it as a courtesy, ~~ten sixty~~ dollars of which is for charity, five dollars of which shall represent a contribution to The George Washington Masonic National Memorial, five dollars to the Grand Lodge Building Endowment and ~~one dollar~~ five dollars is an initiation fee to be applied to the general fund. [5-1.4; 5-1.7; 5-5; 20-1].

#### Amendment Group 8

The following amendment has been submitted by Past Grand Master P. Shaun Bradshaw.

*This amendment would raise the minimum initiation fee to \$125.00.*

##### Chapter 64 - 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 one hundred twenty-five dollars. [5-2.1; 49-10.1].

#### Amendment Group 9

The following amendment has been submitted by Past Grand Master P. Shaun Bradshaw.

*This amendment would remove certain outdated and poorly phrased Masonic offenses from the Code.*

##### Chapter 43 – Subordinate Lodge Powers and Duties

REG. 43-3 LIMITATIONS. Some, but not all, of the limitations of powers

and authority of a subordinate lodge are as follows. (4-2; 4-6).

4. ~~No lodge shall authorize, sponsor, sanction, hold, conduct, or permit to be held in the name of Masonry any meeting or gathering, for business, social, or any other purpose where alcoholic beverages are permitted, served, or consumed as a part of such meetings or gatherings. OBSOLETE.~~

### Amendment Group 10

The following amendment has been submitted by Past Grand Master P. Shaun Bradshaw.

*This amendment would make obsolete sections of The Code deeming professional gambling, legal gambling, or operating a business where legal gambling takes place a Masonic offense. It would also make it a Masonic offense to cast a negative ballot against a petitioner due to his race, color, creed, or nation of origin.*

#### Chapter 86 – Masonic Offenses

REG. 86-2 SPECIFIC MASONIC OFFENSES. The following are specific Masonic offenses and, in certain instances, the penalty is specified. These shall not be construed as excluding any other Masonic offenses or un-Masonic conduct or penalties not specifically described or enumerated in this chapter or in other chapters of The Code.

33. ~~To be a professional gambler, or to keep a gambling establishment, or permit gambling in any form in any place under his control. Penalty expulsion. OBSOLETE.~~

...

34. To illegally play cards or dice, or otherwise, in any manner, illegally gamble for money or for things of intrinsic value.

...

60. A brother may not cast a negative ballot on a petition, either for the degrees or affiliation, if it is based on the petitioner's race, color, creed, or national origin. A brother doing so is guilty of un-Masonic conduct.

### Amendment Group 11

The following amendment has been submitted by Semper Fidelis Lodge 680.

*The amendment states that all service awards shall be presented by the Grand Master or his representative.*

REG. 80-4 TWENTY-FIVE YEAR SERVICE AWARD. The Grand Lodge shall provide at its expense a suitable certificate together with a medal or emblem to be known as the Grand Lodge of North Carolina Service Award to be presented to Master Masons, members of lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge, who have been Master Masons in good standing for twenty-five years or more.

1. In the event he has been deprived of all the rights and privileges of a Master Mason because of demission, provided the period of non-affiliation is nine months or less, the time he was non-affiliated shall be eliminated in counting the years to arrive at the membership for twenty-five years.



2. The certificate shall be presented by the Grand Master or his personal representative. All Service Award Certificates shall be presented by the Grand Master or his personal representative.

3. The cost shall be borne by the Grand Lodge, and no duplicate shall be provided at the expense of the Grand Lodge. The emblem shall be silver, or white metal may be used. (89-12).

### **Amendment Group 11 Substitute**

The following substitute amendment has been submitted by the Grand Secretary.

*This amendment aligns the process of creating, delivering, and presenting service awards to lodges and members into current practice.*

REG. 80-2 SIXTY YEAR SERVICE AWARD. The Grand Lodge has established a Medal or Emblem to be known as the Grand Lodge of North Carolina Diamond Jubilee Veteran's Emblem to be presented to Master Masons, members of lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge, who have been Master Masons in good standing for a total of at least sixty years or more preceding the date of the award. This medal together with a suitable certificate shall be presented in the name of the Grand Lodge and the cost thereof to be borne by the Grand Lodge:

REG. 80-2 TWENTY-FIVE, FIFTY, SIXTY, and SEVENTY YEAR SERVICE AWARD. The Grand Lodge has established a Medal or Emblem to be known as the Grand Lodge of North Carolina Service Emblem to be presented to Master Masons, members of lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge, who have been Master Masons in good standing for a continuous total of at least twenty-five, fifty, sixty, seventy years or more preceding the date of the award. This medal together with a suitable certificate shall be presented in the name of the Grand Lodge and the cost thereof to be borne by the Grand Lodge. Regulations 89-11, 89-12, Appendix B

REG. 80-3 FIFTY YEAR SERVICE AWARD. The Grand Lodge has established a medal or emblem to be known as the Grand Lodge of North Carolina Veterans' Emblem to be presented to Master Masons, members of lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge who have been Master Masons in good standing for a total of at least fifty years or more preceding the date of the award. The cost of this medal, together with a suitable certificate, to be presented in the name of the Grand Lodge shall be borne by the Grand Lodge.

REG. 80-3 GENERATION OF SERVICE AWARDS. The following procedure shall be observed in the production and delivery of the Grand Lodge's Service Awards.

1. Within the first quarter of the year and following the receipt of the annual lodge returns, the Grand Secretary shall prepare the Service Award Certificates and mail them together with the appropriate emblems to the Secretary of the lodge, unless directed otherwise by the Grand Master.

2. The lodge will make its own arrangements for the presentation of the awards provided in Regulations 80-2.

REG. 80-4 Obsolete

REG. 80-5 Obsolete

REG. 80-6 ERRORS IN RECORDS. In unusual cases, where the records are inconclusive as to continuous membership of a brother for the period of time required in Regulations 80-2, ~~80-3, or 80-4~~, or where a lodge or any Masonic officer is at fault in any matter or as to any record pertaining to the affiliation of a brother, the Grand Master, after investigation and if he is fully satisfied that such brother is not at fault, may issue an order declaring such brother entitled to receive the Emblem or the Award as authorized in Regulations 80-2, ~~80-3, or 80-4~~ as the case may be.

REG. 80-7 DEATH AFTER APPLICATION. Should the brother become eligible ~~die after the award~~, as provided for in Regulations 80-2, and die ~~80-3, or 80-4~~, has been requested of the Grand Secretary and prior to the scheduled date of presentation, the said award may be delivered without ceremony to his widow or other relative who may have a Masonic claim on the Masonic Fraternity as the Grand Master may direct. (Chapter 74).

### Amendment Group 12

The following amendments were submitted by Grand Secretary.

*This amendment creates a Grand Lodge Committee on Philanthropy to review and report all aspects of the Grand Lodge's charitable and philanthropic endeavors to the Grand Lodge.*

#### REG. 34-26 PHILANTHROPY.

The Committee on Philanthropy shall consist of not less than five (5), nor more than nine (9) members appointed annually. The Senior and Junior Grand Deacons shall be members and co-chairmen of this Committee during their respective terms of office. It shall be the duty of this committee to personally investigate and report on all philanthropic endeavors undertaken by this Grand Lodge, including the North Carolina Masonic Foundation and all its beneficiaries. The Committee shall examine the condition of all physical and financial properties associated with this Grand Lodge's philanthropic and charitable endeavors, the management of any such business, and the reports of such officers and/or directors associated thereto. The committee shall report all matters proper to be considered in its report to the Grand Lodge. It shall report its findings with its recommendations to the Grand Lodge at its annual communication.

### Amendment Group 13

The following amendments were submitted by Grand Secretary.

*The amendment consolidates subordinate lodge committees on the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford and the Committee on WhiteStone into one committee, and further makes the subordinate lodge committee on DeMolay optional.*

REG. 61-5 COMMITTEE ON PHILANTHROPY. The Committee on Philanthropy shall consist of not less than three members who shall be appointed annually by the Master. It shall identify, coordinate, and promote philanthropic and charitable purposes amongst the members of the lodge for the public good, either locally or more broadly situated.

**REG. 61-6 OBSOLETE****REG. 61-8 OBSOLETE****Amendment Group 14**

The following amendment has been submitted by Allen Graham Lodge 695.

*This amendment permits any Mason to object to the passing or raising of a candidate in any lodge.*

REG 73-4 OBJECTION TO ADVANCEMENT. After a candidate has been initiated as an Entered Apprentice, an objection to his advancement to the degrees of Fellow Craft or Master Mason shall be only on charges of unmasonic conduct. (see also reg 71-7)

1. If charges are preferred against an Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft, his advancement shall thereby be stayed pending trial of such charges.

2. ~~If a member of the lodge~~ If any Master Mason in good standing objects to the passing or raising of a candidate, he shall state in open lodge or in writing at any time before the degree is given that he objects to the passing or raising of the candidate and that he intends to prefer charges.

3. The charges must be filed with the Secretary of the lodge within ten days after the date of the objection.

4. If the charges are not filed within ten days, the the candidate may be advanced as if no objection had been made.

5. If the charges are filed within ten days, they shall be forwarded to the Grand Secretary as provided for in The Trial Code.

**Amendment Group 15**

The following Amendment has been submitted by Lux Libertas Lodge 772.

*The following amendments would facilitate lodges conducting some meetings virtually and permitting some brothers to attend stated communications virtually.*

Chapter 38 Subordinate Lodge Defined

Reg. 38-3 Dispensation, Charter or Warrant.

2. At each communication the charter shall be in the lodge room or in an adjoining anteroom thereof, except at divine services, Masonic funerals, or the celebration of St. John's Day, or by dispensation of the Grand Master pursuant to Regulation 41-2 in the case of loss. If the communication is virtual, the Master or the Secretary shall be in possession of the Charter or a photographic copy as provided in Regulation 38-3.3, which need not be displayed unless any brother shall request to see the same.

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Chapter 43 Subordinate Lodge Powers and Duties

Reg. 43-2 Powers and Duties.

...

18. A lodge may conduct 34% of its stated communications virtually annually. During any period of pandemic, state or national emergency a lodge may meet virtually until the pandemic, state or national emergency has ended, and these meetings will not be counted in determining the number of lodge meetings conducted virtually. In addition to state and national elected officials acting within the course and scope of their authority, the Grand Master may declare the existence of pandemics and state or national emergencies.

19. The Master of a lodge, or the lodge may allow a brother under a disability to attend lodge meetings virtually until such time as the disability passes. For the purposes of this section disabilities may include, among others: age, health, sickness, injury, travel, and anything else which might make it unduly difficult or impractical for a brother to attend a lodge meeting. A brother attending virtually under a disability shall participate in votes and shall be considered as in attendance when determining if all brothers have voted, provided that at least two Masons must participate virtually for either to participate in a secret ballot or be counted as present for a secret ballot. Neither the Master nor the Lodge shall use the provisions of this paragraph to increase the number of permitted virtual stated communications by declaring all brothers disabled to attend lodge meetings, and violation of this provision is a Masonic offense.

20. A lodge may provide for virtual meetings in its By-laws, by order of its Master or by majority vote of its brothers present and voting, and such a virtual meeting shall be deemed to take place at the lodge hall.

21. A lodge may select the virtual meeting platform so long as the platform permits polling and secret ballots as discussed in Reg. 68-3, and complies with US National Institute of Standards and Technology's (NIST's) or its successor's standards for preventing eavesdropping by unauthorized parties.

22. During a virtual meeting, at appropriate times, images of columns, the letter "G", the Holy Bible, an altar, the Three Great Lights, and the Flag of our Country shall be displayed.

Reg. 43-3 Limitations.

21. A lodge shall not put on degrees virtually.

22. Members of the lodge shall be given reasonable and timely notice of virtual lodge meetings as provided in Reg. 45-4 Notices. Notice shall also be sent to the lodge's DDGM and DDGL.

23. Brothers attending a lodge meeting virtually must at all times tile their space, have a video camera on without a virtual background so that all attendees may observe their space, and be aproned.

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Chapter 44 Uniform Code of By-Laws for a Lodge

Reg. 44.7 Uniform By-laws

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## Article 8

Third Alternative form for Section 3

All communications shall be held at the lodge hall in (or near) \_\_\_\_\_ in the County of \_\_\_\_\_ North Carolina, at such other place as the Master of the lodge may order or the lodge by majority vote may agree including virtually, and if virtually then the meeting shall be deemed to take place at the lodge hall.

## Chapter 45 Communication of a Lodge

## Reg. 45-7 Place of Communications.

The communications of a lodge shall be held in the meeting place or hall within the city, or town, or place of its location as the lodge shall name in its by-laws, or virtually. [13-3.8.G; 38-4; 38-4.1; 38-4.2; 38-5; 42-3; 71-12; 71-14; 82-9].

## Reg. 45-22 Flag and Pledge.

The flag of the United States shall be displayed on a suitable standard in the East at the right hand of the Master, at every communication of each lodge; unless the meeting is virtual in which event an image of the flag shall be displayed prior to and during the pledge of allegiance. A pledge of allegiance to the flag shall be given at the opening of every communication of a lodge.

## Chapter 59 Duties of Officers of a Lodge

## Reg. 59-2 Master.

30. He shall make the work and ritual practiced in his lodge conform to the authorized work adopted by the Grand Lodge and to no other system, and to preserve carefully the Official Standard of the Work received for by him; except that when meeting virtually the pass shall be taken up and communicated as if at Grand Lodge. [24-5; 24-5.3; Chapter 24].

## Chapter 63 Voting in a Lodge

## Reg. 63-2 Written Ballot.

When a vote by written paper ballot is ordered, the Master shall appoint not more than five tellers, and they shall be provided with ballot slips by the Secretary and shall immediately commence distributing them to the members present who are entitled to vote. The Master shall announce that each member voting shall prepare his ballot by writing clearly thereon the nature of his vote and shall order the tellers to collect the votes. When all have voted, he shall declare the ballot closed and order the tellers to count the ballots and announce the result. Other business may be transacted while the tellers are counting the ballots if the lodge consents. [54-3; 54-3.1; 100-1.4; 100-1.7]. Except that when meeting virtually, the written ballot shall be by Poll launched by the Master as a Host or Co-Host; the Master shall approve the Poll before launch, and shall both share the results with the brethren and declare the results. The Master may delegate these duties as a Host or a Co-host. Polls shall be anonymous at the request of any brother.

**REG. 63-5 SECRET BALLOT.**

Secret ballot shall be taken as follows. [87-17].

1. Wherever the term secret ballot is used in THE CODE, it shall mean the use of white balls and black cubes but not black balls, and with a ballot box so arranged that the character of an individual ballot shall not become known; and, may be conducted virtually using virtual white balls and black cubes so long as anonymous. [Chapter 68].

**Chapter 68 The Secret Ballot****Reg. 68-3 Procedure**

21. Except that when conducting a secret ballot virtually; the Master, Senior Warden and Junior Warden shall be Co-Host and as such shall determine that the Poll is anonymous and the question to the brethren is correct and that the only answers are “White Ball” and “Black Cube” and shall observe that no votes have been cast before launching the Poll; the Master shall launch the Poll and when all have voted shall order the ballot closed; the Junior Warden shall then report how he finds the ballot, then the Senior Warden shall report how he finds the ballot and then the Master shall announce how he finds the ballot. If there is any disagreement between the three principal officers as to how they find the ballot then they shall proceed under Reg. 68-3.14 as if the Poll results were the ballot box. When the voting process is complete the Master shall destroy the Poll. All procedural steps of Reg. 68-3 not inconsistent with this paragraph apply to virtual secret ballots.

**Chapter 72 Proficiency****Reg. 72-2 Candidate Must Pass Proficiency.**

9. A candidate may be examined within a virtual stated communication so long as he and his coach are at the same physical location within sight and reach of each other.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jerimy Daniel Mathis, Chairman

**Report of the Representative to the  
Masonic Service Association**

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

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

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

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

### Education and Information

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

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

### Disaster Relief

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

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

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

### Hospital Visitation

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

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

If you find yourself interested in volunteering or working as an MSA Rep-

representative, we would love to hear from you. If you are unable to contribute your time, then please consider contributing financially to the MSA's Green Envelope Appeal (<http://www.msana.com/hvpgreenenv.asp>).

Respectfully Submitted,  
Donald E. Kehler, JGW, MSANA Representative

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

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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At its 232nd Annual Communication the Grand Lodge of North Carolina voted to join the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association's \$1 per member program to support the upkeep and preservation of this important monument to Brother Washington and to Freemasonry. For 2020, the brethren of the GLNC contributed \$28,250 to the memorial and received grateful thanks from the Association for North Carolina's generous support.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Kevan D. Frazier, SGW, Representative

## Report of the Board of Publication of the NC Mason

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

The Board of Publications has been excited to be back in the swing of things as life gets back to something closer to what we might call normal.

We are back to meeting again and have some great plans in place to increase communication and story submission to the *NC Mason*. Our newest board member, Brother Thomas Pope is a great addition to the board, and we look forward to many exciting issues with him as a contributing member. All board members as well as *NC Mason* editor Beth Grace continue to read and comment on each edition before it is sent out, in a group effort to continually improve our communication to the Craft.

As a reminder: all brothers or anyone wishing to submit news can do so by emailing [ncmason@glnc.us](mailto:ncmason@glnc.us).

We continue to work with the Committee on Masonic Public Relations and as always, our editor Beth Grace is on call to help any lodge that wishes to create a social media presence. With several lodges reporting great results from their social media program, we strongly encourage any lodge who hasn't to take advantage of this wonderful tool.

We still plan to publish only the *NC Mason* until a future time might afford us enough newsworthy content to support both a print and email communication.

An annual report would not be complete without expressing our continued gratitude for our partnership with the North Carolina Masonic Foundation and their contributions to the cost of producing, printing, and distributing the *NC Mason*.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kenneth Lambert, Chairman

## Report of the North Carolina Masonic Foundation, Inc

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

While 2020 was anything but a normal year, the North Carolina Masonic Foundation continued its work, ensuring continued operations for funding our charities — the Masonic Home for Children and WhiteStone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Community — and assisting our lodges and brothers in their charitable efforts. The past year provided new proof of how planning, investing, and giving can provide comfort and a sure shelter for those that depend on us during the hardest of times.

2020 was a roller coaster ride in the financial markets. After a good start, COVID-19 and the government shut down caused a sharp sell off in the financial markets. We are pleased to report the funds entrusted to the NCMF held up well and recovered nicely. With so many Lodges, Appendant Bodies and Masonic organizations investing thru the NCMF we take our stewardship duty very seriously.

The Equity Fund finished 2020 up 14.23% and the Income Fund was up 7.16%. The 5 year average annual return on the funds are: Equity Fund +11.52% and Income Fund +4.69%. As of June 30, 2021, the Equity Fund is up 12.75% and the Income Fund is flat.

In 2020 we distributed \$589,870 to MHCO and the MESH Foundation LLC, or \$294,935 each. In 2021 we will distribute \$620,136, or 310,068 per home, a 5.10% increase. It is significant to report that this is a 20.5% increase from 5 years ago, even as we have changed our distribution policy to smooth them out over a longer time frame.

### Other Significant News

The NCMF parted ways with our Chief Development Officer (CDO), Jeff Hensley. MWB Dan Rice formed and is leading a team of highly dedicated Masons to search for his successor. MWB Speed Hallman stepped in as our Interim Director, and we owe him a debt of gratitude.

The NCMF contracted with JGA and Associates out of Indianapolis, IN, to do a thorough assessment of our Development Program. Representatives from MHCO, Whitestone, and the Grand Lodge were interviewed and contributed to this report. The overall assessment was very positive but numerous suggestions were made to improve what we're doing to assist our Masonic Charities. We hope this assessment will serve as a road map for our future CDO and our team of Development Officers for many years to come.

The NCMF partnered with MHCO to fund the position of Annual Fund Officer at the home. WB Alvin Billings was chosen to fill the role. His work is already bearing valuable fruit.

While in-person visits were halted for much of 2020, our development team continued to maintain contact with our donors and friends by phone and letter. Our team provided new avenues of communication via e-blasts (mass emails) and electronic communications that shared information, updates, and

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words of encouragement regularly.

Our staff developed and participated in virtual visits and presentations to lodges, districts, and individuals, keeping the Craft and friends updated on the status of our charities and our work, safely and conveniently.

Our first-ever virtual Planned Giving Workshops were open to members and their spouses. Hosted by MWB Bryant Webster and WB Bob McIntosh, both attorneys, these free informational sessions provided information on wills, estates, planned giving, beneficiaries, and estate planning. More than 120 people attended. And more workshops are planned through 2021 and into 2022.

Our Planned Giving website, launched via our foundation web page in 2020, has been the perfect partner to those presentations. A direct link to this new site: <https://mfnc.giftlegacy.com/>, allowing personal consideration for everyone seeking opportunities and information in their estate planning and charitable planned giving.

As Lodges reviewed their current financial stability and future planning eleven new building funds and five new Historic Masonic Property Funds were established with Lodges and appendant bodies in 2020-2021. These investment opportunities are a part of the Foundation's ongoing commitment to our Lodges allowing them to consider their future needs for operations and charity.

An additional number of new charitable funds were established with the NCMF during this period, noting the need for endowed charitable giving in the future. 2020 and its impacts demonstrated how valuable endowed charitable funds can be, when challenges are great and resources are limited for all people. Six new charitable funds, with a starting balance of over \$610,000 were created in 2020-2021 for the long-term support of our Masonic Charities.

NCMF appropriately paused active fundraising in 2020 and focused solely on the impact on our charitable homes. A wildly successful letter from our home administrators appealing for help covering the cost of COVID-related protective equipment and testing raising over \$150,000 from more than 1,250 donors! Over 230 of these donors were first-time givers to our charities. The money was evenly divided between our two homes.

Two Direct Mail Letter Campaigns were developed and produced for WhiteStone fundraising in 2020 and 2021 – A Veteran's Day Appeal and a Mother's Day Appeal.

The award-winning North Carolina Mason continues publishing without a break during the pandemic, cutting a few pages and saving almost \$7,000 in publishing and postage charges. One brother told us that the Mason provided a much-appreciated line of communication to brethren.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Board of Directors  
North Carolina Masonic Foundation

## **Report of the Committee on Masonic Education**

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

The Speakers Bureau has seen a slow down in requests, presumably related to concerns of COVID coming back. There have been a couple additions and one Speaker who has dropped off.

The William R. Davie Academy has decided to continue with the Zoom presentation format for the remainder of 2021. We are going to host “Preparing for the East” in October followed by “The Art of Chairing a Lodge Meeting” in November. Several of the Staff who are not on the committee have readjusted priorities during the hiatus and will need to be replaced in order to move forward with in-person classes.

The Middle Chamber is doing very well with great participation. Classes are continuing to meet and are well attended. Everything is on schedule to wrap up with the Inner Chamber Session in February allowing time to start up the 2022 class in the Spring.

As always the Committee would like to thank the Grand Lodge Office and Officers for their continued support and assistance whenever needed. I would personally like to thank the Grand Lodge and current and Past Grand Masters for allowing me to serve the Membership. I look forward to seeing the great things the Education Committee will do in the future!

Respectfully submitted,  
Tony Rathbone - Chairman

## **Report of the NC Eagle Scout Task Force**

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

The Grand Lodge Eagle Scout Taskforce had a slow beginning of the year, but things started getting busy quickly once COVID restrictions were removed. On April 15, 2021, we started a project that had been sitting on the back-burner since COVID began, the Grand Lodge Eagle Scout Recognition Patch. There was a fundraiser that started after the patches were received and ended August 1. The primary purpose of the fundraiser was to pay for a supply of patches to issue to Eagle Scouts along with the certificate and congratulatory letter from the Grand Lodge. In mid July, this goal had been accomplished and the excess, a little over \$500 at the time of this report will be given to the Masonic Home for Children in Oxford.

This patch has increased interest in the program and so far in 2021, since May, nine Eagle Scouts have been recognized by the program. We are hoping that these numbers will continue to increase and Lodges and Districts will recognize Eagle Scouts in their area.

Going forward, we will be working with the Grand Lodge Office to hopefully get some information on the web site about it to make the program information more easily accessible. We have also looked into ways to better organize and mobilize Eagle Scouts and Scouters in our jurisdiction, and further

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steps in that area may be taken in the future. If you are a Scouter and not a member of the National Association of Masonic Scouters or an Eagle Scout who is not in the National Eagle Scout Association, we would recommend those organizations for your consideration.

If you have any questions, please let us know. We can be reached at [gln-eagles@gmail.com](mailto:gln-eagles@gmail.com).

Fraternally,  
 Will Highsmith, Chairman  
 Will Chriscoe  
 Matthew Collins  
 Todd Fyre  
 Jonathan Johnson  
 Eric Newton  
 Jeremy Powell  
 Michael Saviak

## Report of the Board of Custodians

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

The members who served on the Board of Custodians during the year 2021 were as follows: MWB R. David Wicker, Jr., Grand Master, Chairman Ex-Officio; Herbert “Dicky” Lyon, Grand Lecturer; E. Earl Wells, Chairman; Tom Dolinger, Secretary; Matt Cockman; Russ Jones; Stephen McCraw; and David Troxell. MWB Mack Sigmon served as the Liaison to the Board of General Purposes.

This has been another challenging year due to the Covid-19 pandemic and now the Delta variant of the virus. Changes were made again this year to keep our brothers safe during these challenging times. They include:

- Cancelling the requirement for even-numbered lodges to complete the five-hour lecture service which was initially carried over from 2020.
- Suspension of the mandatory once a year School of Instruction.

Certified brethren qualifying for the Laudamus Certificate in 2021 are as follows: Michael Travis Bennett, Angier Lodge No. 686; Bennie James Heath, Radiance Lodge No. 132; Christopher Marvin Hedrick, James A. Johnson Lodge No. 413; Philip Ryan Kuhn, West Gate Lodge No. 738; Wesley Calvin McIntyre, Hamlet Lodge No. 532; Tommy Reavis Mills, Green Level Lodge No. 277; Russell Matthew Rainear, Cherry Point Lodge No. 688; and James Robert Stevens, Jr., Garner Lodge No. 701.

District Deputy Grand Lecturers qualifying for the Past District Deputy Grand Lecturer Certificate in 2021 are as follows: James Warren Cook, Jr., District 8; Harold Vernon Stafford, District 9; Edward Earl Wells, PGL, District 11; Frederick Alexander Szakasits, District 12; John Lesley Watkins, District 18; Rudolph Lee King, District 20; William P. Horne, Jr., District 21; Matthew William Cockman, District 22; Charles Thomas Wheeler, III, District 25; Joseph Sterling Henry, District 31; Michael Stephen Kerhoulas, District

33; Gary Wayne Pyatte, District 37; James Michael Gaddy, District 39; and Jimmy Dean Blair, District 40.

WB William P. Horne, Jr., received a certificate for fifty years or more of service as a Certified Lecturer.

The booklet “Important Information Concerning the Certified Lecturers” is posted on the Grand Lodge Website and is available to anyone with access to the internet. A web page sponsored by the Board of Custodians is also being maintained on a regular basis. This page includes information of interest concerning the history of the Board, latest corrections to the OSW and Bahnson Manual, rules governing the Lecture Service and OSW/Vocabulary, various application forms, and a current roster of those Certified.

The fraternity has lost 11 Class A Certified Lecturers since Annual Communication last year. They have passed on to the celestial lodge above where the Supreme Architect of the Universe presides. They are as follows:

- Bunn Tate Phillips, PGM, Rockingham Lodge No. 495 - 50 years
- Thomas Dewey Israel, Biltmore Lodge No. 446 - 14 years
- Ralph Van Shipton, Sr., St. John’s Lodge No. 1 - 49 years
- George Eden Herring, Grantham Lodge No. 725 - 33 years
- William Boyd Safrit, Allen-Graham Lodge No. 695 - 13 years
- Jimmie Jake Dove, Williams Lodge No. 176 - 39 years
- David Joseph Walker, Jefferson Penn Lodge No. 384 - 34 years
- Johnny Marvin Smith, Belhaven Lodge No. 509 - 32 years
- Billy Hoston Barefoot, Creasy Proctor Lodge No. 679 - 46 years
- Lesley Thomas Robinson, DDGL District 7,  
Mount Vernon Lodge No. 359 - 10 years
- Douglas McArthur Chase, Creasy Proctor Lodge No. 679 - 45 years

The total numbers of Certified Brothers currently are as follows:

	293 Class A
	<u>37 Class B</u>
Total:	330

We have had 90 Coaches apply for and receive recognition as having passed the Coaches’ Proficiency Exam. Once passed, the Coach receives a certificate and card. There is no expiration date on the card as this is a one-time only exam. To pass the exam, the coach must recite both the questions and answers to the three catechisms.

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

The Board of Custodians express its appreciation to Grand Master R. David Wicker CL for his enthusiastic support of the Board and the Certified

Lecturer Program. The Board also wishes the best to Past Grand Secretary T. Walton Clapp, III, in his retirement. He was an invaluable asset to the Board for the last twenty-five years. The Board also wishes to thank our new Grand Secretary, WB Jonathan Underwood and his team consisting of Matthew, Vicki, and Hayley for their continued assistance.

The Board also expresses its appreciation to Grand Lecturer Herbert “Dicky” Lyon for his hard work as the Grand Lecturer for 2021. To all our Certified brethren throughout the state, we extend a sincere “thank you” for your continued faithful service to our beloved Fraternity, your support of your DDGLs, and lastly, your vigorous support of the Certified Lecturers and Certified Instructors Program.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Earl Wells, Chairman  
Thomas P. Dolinger II, Secretary

## Report of the Committee on Subordinate Lodge Special Activities

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

The Commission on Subordinate Lodge Special Activities presents this report in supporting lodge fundraising efforts. The following report reflects fundraising numbers from January 1 through August 9, 2021 and a final recap of 2020:

### Vital Statistics for 2020

<b>Number of Active Lodges in NC</b>	373		
<b>Lodges Participating in Fundraisers</b>	102	27%	
<b>Applications Received:</b>	146		
<b>Final Reports Received:</b>	145	99%	
<b>Total Applications &amp; Final Reports Processed:</b>	291		
<b>Final Reports Past Due:</b>	0		<u><b>Avg / Fundraiser</b></u>
<b>Total Gross Receipts:</b>	\$ 308,931.26		\$ 2,130.56
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	\$ 103,454.90	33%	\$ 713.48
<b>Net Proceeds:</b>	\$ 205,476.36		\$ 1,417.08

**Net Proceeds by Fundraiser Category**

<u>Category</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>ROI</u>	<u>Avg / Category</u>
Gun Raffles	13	\$ 54,089.86	59%	\$ 4,160.76
General Raffles	11	\$ 16,427.33	60%	\$ 1,493.39
Golf Tournaments	6	\$ 42,823.34	71%	\$ 7,137.22
BBQ	9	\$ 28,440.04	62%	\$ 3,160.00
Breakfasts	6	\$ 10,943.68	77%	\$ 1,823.95
Dinners	3	\$ 3,987.57	66%	\$ 1,329.19
Food Sales - Other	6	\$ 34,384.23	69%	\$ 5,730.71
Merchandise Sales	1	\$ 100.00	100%	\$ 100.00
<u>Other</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>\$ 14,280.31</u>	<u>97%</u>	<u>\$ 1,785.04</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>\$ 205,476.36</b>	<b>74%</b>	

**Net Proceeds by Charity Category**

<u>Charity</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Avg / Category</u>
MHCO	46	\$ 60,803.66	\$ 1,321.82
MESH, LLC	31	\$ 54,526.18	\$ 1,758.91
WhiteStone	12	\$ 6,846.04	\$ 570.50
NCMF	29	\$ 21,537.21	\$ 742.66
Other Charities			
Chosen by Lodges	11	\$ 14,851.49	\$ 1,350.14
<u>Lodge Building Funds</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>\$ 995.00</u>	<u>\$ 995.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>\$ 159,559.58</b>	

**Summary for 2020**

<b>Total Gross Receipts:</b>	\$ 308,931.26
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	\$ 103,454.90
<b>Net Proceeds:</b>	\$ 205,476.36
<b>Total Funds to Charity for 2020:</b>	\$ 158,564.58
<b>Total Funds to Lodge Building Funds for 2020:</b>	\$ 995.00

All lodges are reminded that final reports of fundraising activities are due to the Commission on or before 45 days after the fundraising event; all 2021 final reports must be submitted to the Commission by December 31, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,  
Charles Barrett, Chairman



## Report of the Library Committee

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Library Committee did not meet since the last Annual Communication. Nevertheless, much work continued in order to fulfill its mission to preserve, protect, and promote the records, manuscripts, books, and artifacts of the Grand Lodge. With the assistance of Paul Vincent of Widows Son Lodge No. 75, the early Proceedings of the Grand Lodge through 1820 are in the process of being transcribed for future publication. Brother Vincent also transcribed several older sets of minutes from Widow's Son Lodge No. 75, which will be reprinted in the next few months in celebration of the lodge's bicentennial. Brother Vincent is now progressing through other historic lodge minutes, and we are most appreciative of his time, talent, and dedication to the preservation of our early documentary history.

We are similarly pleased with the work of Brother Alex Wilson of Guilford Lodge No. 656 who took on the daunting task of indexing the Grand Lodge's library collection. He has further developed a system to code and catalog the books of our various lodges around the state into a central database for research accessibility. More on that project will be coming to you for your lodge to participate in in the near future.

This past spring the Board of General Purposes voted funds to digitize the final remaining microfilm reels of our lodge's annual returns from the 19th century. The microfilm reels were beginning to degrade and fade. This ensures their survival and availability to the membership in future. Additionally, the Board of General Purposes voted funds to digitize the Lodge Service Commission records. The Lodge Service Commission, founded in the 1930s, assists lodges with real property transactions and financial planning to ensure that the best possible outcome can occur. The records have grown so much over time that the complete set can no longer travel with the Chairman. This provides invaluable access to those records and information by the Chairman, his committee, and the Outreach Coordinator as they assist lodges with new programs. The remaining Grand Lodge proceedings from 1921-1950 have been digitized and are being posted online to [Archive.org](https://www.archive.org). They are accessible via the Grand Lodge's web page designated "Proceedings and Past Grand Masters."

Due to relocation of the lodges housed in the Raleigh Masonic Temple, Hiram Lodge No. 40 and William G. Hill Lodge No. 218 have deposited their records in the archives of the Grand Lodge for safe keeping. We are in the process of enumerating and accessioning them into the PastPerfect catalog system in order to keep their records in order and organized.

We have also coordinated with a PhD candidate from Biltmore Lodge No. 446 who is preparing a dissertation on effects of the American Revolution on North Carolina vis-a-vis Freemasonry. We are pleased to be able to offer our digitized and archived records for such academic work, and look forward to the completion of his thesis.

Mr. Joe Mobley, eminent scholar of North Carolina history, is nearing the end of his work on the history of North Carolina Freemasonry since the beginning of the 19th Century. Mr. Mobley is a steady and faithful companion to our archive and staff, and we look forward to his completed volume later this year.

We invite and welcome visitors to the Grand Lodge's Library and Archives and look forward to aiding those interested in North Carolina's Masonic Heritage.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Matthew Robbins, PM  
Outreach Coordinator

## **Report of the Grand Lodge Committee on Personnel**

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

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

In 2021, the Personnel Committee met quarterly conducting its usual work as outlined in The Code, including staff performance evaluations and salary recommendations. The reviews for the team were again outstanding. The Craft is fortunate to have such an excellent team running the daily operations of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina in support of its more than 380 lodges and 35,000 members. Recommendations for inflationary salary increases were transmitted to the Committee on Finance and are included as part of the 2022 Proposed Budget.

The Committee on Personnel also assisted the Grand Master to support the transition to a new Grand Secretary upon the retirement of Right Worshipful Brother Walter Clapp who on April 30, 2021, concluded 25 years of service as Grand Secretary and 42 years of service to the Grand Lodge of North Carolina. Worshipful Brother Jonathan Underwood was named and installed as Grand Secretary by Grand Master David Wicker. Since becoming Grand Secretary, Right Worshipful Brother Underwood has been doing a deep evaluation of job responsibilities, workloads, and staffing at Grand Lodge. Grand Secretary Underwood decided not to name an Assistant to the Grand Secretary this year and has focused his efforts on rebalancing workloads and refilling the administrative assistant role vacated by Cornelia Doherty upon her retirement last year. The Committee on Personnel approved a new job description for an administrative assistant which will keep staffing at the Grand Lodge at five full-time employees, as it has been for several years.

The Committee would like to express its appreciation to the former Grand Secretary Walt Clapp, Grand Secretary Jonathan Underwood, and the Grand Lodge staff for their outstanding work and dedication to our Fraternity. We are fortunate to have one of the leading Grand Lodge staffs in the country; without them, Masonry in North Carolina would not operate at the high level of excellence which it does.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kevan D. Frazier, SGW, Chair

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## **Report of the Scholarship Committee**

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

The Grand Lodge Scholarship Committee went to work to review this year's Charles Edward Cathey Masonic Scholarship applications. The committee divided up the applications and carefully reviewed each one. Due to conditions created by the COVID-19 pandemic and schools being involved in virtual learning, the response to the Charles E. Cathey Scholarship offering this year was a little lower among high school seniors than in years past, however, well over one hundred applications were received. The scholarship winners all demonstrated strong academic performance balanced with extensive volunteer service and extracurricular activities within their communities. We are most excited to have been able to award 15 scholarships valued at \$1,000 each. We hope that, through the generosity of the brethren, additional scholarships can be awarded each year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Grand Lodge Scholarship Committee  
Joseph B. Walls, Chairman  
Rory J. Byers  
William L. Dill  
James D. Richardson  
Jeffrey J. Troccoli



**Final Report**  
**of**  
**Grand Master**  
**P. Shaun Bradshaw**  
**to**  
**the**  
**Grand Lodge**  
**of**  
**Ancient, Free & Accepted Masons**  
**of**  
**North Carolina**  
**at**  
**Winston-Salem, North Carolina**  
**September 24, 2021**

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

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

My plan for last year was to share with you, my brethren, the true value of our fraternity through stories and examples of the Principal Tenets of Freemasonry — Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. As is common to those with eyes to see, Divine Providence, as symbolized by the Blazing Star in the center of every lodge, gave us the opportunity to not only contemplate these tenets, but to live them as well, as we dealt with the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, protests over racial injustices, and other challenges of our time. While I did not have the chance to share my story with all of you in the way I had hoped, my belief is that 2020, with its many challenges, gave us all a story to tell. I pray that one day, in the not-too-distant future, we can each look back to this most unusual time and see many examples and tell many stories of the best in our Craft and in our brethren.

### **State of the Craft**

In 2019, Most Worshipful Mack Sigmon's emphasis was on the need for each of us to study our ritual and practice the lessons they teach. As he said so well, "Masonry is Work" — important work. He reminded us that it is our ritual and symbols that set us apart from other fraternal and civic organizations and that we should strive every day to make the world a better place by choosing to hold ourselves to the higher standards inculcated by them. My intent was to build on his message by encouraging the Craft to look beyond the simple, outward explanations of our symbols, and to contemplate on their deeper meanings — just as we are taught to do by the third Principal Tenet of Truth. My hope was to share a deeper understanding of our ritual which so many of our members are seeking in order to experience the transformational nature of Freemasonry's initiatic experience. Unfortunately, governmental restrictions put in place to minimize the spread of COVID-19 required me to cancel the last twelve planned District meetings. Although in October 2020 I was able to resume a portion of the District meetings, although the circumstances and events of the prior six months required me to change part of the message I shared with my brethren.

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

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### Pre-Pandemic

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

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

### Shutdown

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

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

Grand Masters and received reports that the vast majority of lodges heeded my call to action and were actively reaching out to their brethren, widows, and other members of their community. In fact, I continued to receive reports from a few lodges through the end of my tenure as Grand Master.

As the shutdown continued, and based on a request from Lux Libertas No. 772, I saw a need for lodges to be able to conduct business even if they could not meet in person. This led me to issue my first Official Opinion on May 1, 2020, which permitted lodges to meet virtually. At the time, I believed this would be the most controversial decision I would have to make as Grand Master, but 2020 had more in store than I thought. Also, it this decision proved almost Providential in nature given that the 2020 Grand Lodge Annual Communication was held in a mostly virtual setting.

### Racial and Social Upheaval

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

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

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

It is unfortunate that many brethren believe that systemic racism no longer exists in our country, when many of our own lodges are prime examples of that very form of discrimination. For historical purposes I believe it is necessary to address this difficult topic now, and I hope my brethren understand the need to do so. Despite having recognized our Prince Hall counterparts on November 21, 2008, and the fact that our CODE has no restriction with regards to a petitioner's race, many of our lodges remain segregated to the point where not only are Prince Hall brethren not welcome to visit the lodge, but worse yet, a black petitioner is very likely to be rejected based only on the color of his skin.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We do not all have to agree on the solutions to the injustices and divisions in our country, but as Freemasons we must understand the meaning, the hope, of brotherly love. This tenet pushes us to see beyond those divisions, and as such, should help bring us together despite — and sometimes, because of — our differences. It should unite us. It should help us see ourselves in our

brethren and love them for who they are — men who are also traveling on that dark and difficult path, working to transform themselves into smoother, more level, and more upright members of society.

#### Post Shutdown

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

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

At that time, a number of brethren had been waiting months to stand proficiency and move to the next degree. After a thorough review of the Executive Order and in consultation with the Board of Custodians and Grand Line officers I again amended my previous order to permit lodges to request a dispensation to hold a lodge meeting outdoors for the purpose of either examining a candidate or conducting degree work. By the end of my term as Grand Master I provided 40 dispensations to lodges permitting them to hold an outdoor degree and/or examination.

As we approached Annual Communication, we worked hard to ensure the safety of our brethren while maintaining the feel of a normal Grand Lodge. We established a hybrid in-person/virtual setting which allowed the voting delegates to attend a lodge in their local district and connect virtually to the Winston-Salem Masonic Center where the Grand Lodge Officers hosted the meeting. I am proud to say that, with the exception of one minor glitch just as we were about to break for lunch, Annual Communication went as smoothly as anyone could have hoped for. It must be noted that things went so well because of the thorough planning, preparation, and execution of our newly appointed Grand Secretary, Bro. Jonathan Underwood, Bro. Matt Robbins, Bro. Joey Transou and the rest of brethren at the Winston-Salem Masonic Center, as well as the many District officers who hosted delegates across the state.

As the infection rate of COVID-19 began to slow, the Governor issued Executive Order No. 169 easing restrictions of gatherings across the state. In consideration of this change, on October 2, 2020, I issued Order No. 10, which, depending on the size of the lodge, permitted up to 100 members to attend meetings while observing due precautions. With the increased capacity permitted in lodges, I was able to resume a modified schedule of District meetings, visiting eight districts, in areas of the state I was previously unable to visit prior to the shutdown. It was also my privilege to attend several lodge meetings, degrees, and presentations.

Despite the trials of the previous several months, I was pleased to see the brethren anxious to return to lodge and continue their Masonic fellowship. Unfortunately, the pandemic did take its toll on many of our brethren and lodges. As lodges re-instituted their meetings, attendance was a bit lower, but

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still enthusiastic. I fear the mark of this pandemic will have lasting effects on our Craft that will not be known for years to come.

### **Necrology**

Every year at Annual Communication we fulfill our solemn duty to remember our brethren who passed “to that undiscovered country, from whose bourne no traveler returns.” From the Annual Communication in 2019 to the time of Annual Communication in 2020, 876 members of the Craft transitioned from their earthly presence to their pure spiritual essence. Included in that number were two Past Grand Masters: Most Worshipful Lester Poindexter Martin, Jr. (1991) and Most Worshipful Charles Albert Lewis, Jr. (2003). Following Annual Communication through to the end of my tenure as Grand Master a total of 253 members passed on to their heavenly abode including three additional Past Grand Masters: Most Worshipful Graham W. Pervier (2005) — my Masonic grandfather; Thomas W. Gregory (1998) — my Masonic great-grandfather; and Most Worshipful Bunn T. Phillips, Jr. (1990).

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

### **District Officers Meetings**

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

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

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

I know several DDGMs were able to complete official visits prior to the state-wide shutdown and most were able to perform their required duties prior

to the end of my tenure, although some were unable to visit every lodge in their district due to ongoing concerns of the pandemic or capacity restrictions. In every case, however, almost all DDGMS continued to stay in close contact with the officers of their lodges, even if visitation wasn't possible. I want to express my deep appreciation to all of the District Officers for everything they did during these most unusual circumstances. I realize I called on them to handle issues we never imagined we would need to deal with, not least of which was facilitating and hosting the district-level locations for the virtual Annual Communication last year. I know it is not enough, but thank you from the bottom of my heart to each of you!

#### **Honorary Title of Past District Deputy Grand Master**

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

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

#### **Honorary Title of Past District Deputy Grand Lecturer**

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

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

Although I was unable to award these brethren their certificates during Annual Communication, I made a special effort to personally meet with each of these Past District Officers to give them their certificates. This was one the

many highlights of my year.

### District Meetings

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

Instead, I asked the brethren to consider the value of helping a man with a genuine desire to be transformed by our ritual. This is the true benefit of membership in our fraternity. I then explained various ways in which contemplating our ritual and symbols could aid in that transformation and that "initiation [into Freemasonry] is designed to give us certain experiences that allow us to discover new things about ourselves."

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

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

The remainder of the district meetings followed a similar pattern, although I would regularly change or emphasize a different point of the talk based on my understanding of the lodge or district — in hopes to better connect with the brethren present. My final official district meeting was held at Sophia Lodge No. 767 on March 12, 2020. At the time, I didn't realize it would be my final district meeting until we were able to re-open lodges on October 2, 2020.

On October 19, 2020, I resumed my district meetings, attending eight more districts for a total of 20 district meetings. When I resumed the district meetings, my message remained largely the same with two key changes. First, I acknowledged and discussed the impact of the pandemic on our fraternity; and second, I brought considerable attention to the unfortunate negative reac-

tion a few of our brethren had to the racial and social upheaval, which occurred earlier in the summer. In discussing these issues I concentrated heavily on the first Principal Tenet of Brotherly Love, providing examples of conversations with a few brethren who clearly did not understand nor act on the important lessons of that Tenet. It is especially unfortunate because these particular brethren had been long-time, active members of the fraternity.

The following is the district meeting schedule for 2020:

<b>Date</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Host</b>	<b>Location</b>
01/27/2020	7	Doric 568	New Bern
01/28/2020	10	Wayne 112	Goldsboro
02/25/2020	22	Caswell Brotherhood 11	Yanceyville
02/26/2020	8	Johnston-Caswell 10	Warrenton
02/27/2020	14	Lodge of the Nine Sisters 773	Raleigh
03/03/2020	1	New Lebanon 314	Elizabeth City
03/04/2020	5	Charity 5	Windsor
03/05/2020	9	Queen City 602	Rocky Mount
03/10/2020	20	Siler City 403	Siler City
03/11/2020	24	Blackmer 127	Mt. Gilead
03/12/2020	28	Sophia 767	Salisbury
03/23/2020	12	St. John's 1 <b>CANCELLED</b>	Wilmington
03/24/2020	17	Phoenix 8 <b>Rescheduled to 03/17/2020</b>	Fayetteville
03/25/2020	18	St. Albans 114 <b>CANCELLED</b>	Lumberton
03/31/2020	35	Cleveland 202 <b>CANCELLED</b>	Shelby
04/01/2020	32	Phalanx 31 <b>CANCELLED</b>	Charlotte
04/13/2020	40	East LaPorte 358 <b>CANCELLED</b>	Cullowhee
04/14/2020	38	Kedron 387 <b>CANCELLED</b>	Hendersonville
04/15/2020	34	Mystic Tie 237 <b>CANCELLED</b>	Marion
04/16/2020	33	Liberty 45 <b>CANCELLED</b>	Wilkesboro
04/20/2020	2	Cape Hatteras 698 <b>CANCELLED</b>	Buxton
04/21/2020	3	Washington 675 <b>CANCELLED</b>	Washington
04/30/2020	23	Stokesdale 428 <b>CANCELLED</b>	Stokesdale
10/19/2020	12	St. John's 1	Wilmington
10/20/2020	32	Phalanx 31	Charlotte
10/21/2020	35	Cleveland 202	Shelby
10/26/2020	41	Junaluskee 145	Franklin
10/27/2020	39	Mount Hermon 118	Asheville
10/28/2020	34	Hickory 343	Hickory
10/29/2020	33	Snow 363	Boone
11/02/2020	23	Stokesdale 428	Stokesdale

(held in the Greensboro Masonic Temple)

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

### The Lion and Pillar Lodge of Excellence Award

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

Lodge	<i>Platinum Level</i>		
	District	Location	Years Qualified
Kilwinning 64	29	Wadesboro	1
Zion 81	7	Trenton	3
Oxford 122	13	Oxford	4
Carthage 181	21	Carthage	1
William G. Hill 218	14	Raleigh	4
Kenly 257	16	Kenly	4
Hibriten 262	34	Lenoir	1
Wilmington 319	12	Wilmington	4
Bula 409	22	Burlington	3
Thomas M. Holt 492	22	Graham	4
Pilot 493	25	Pilot Mountain	4
Mount Holly 544	36	Mount Holly	3
Cannon Memorial 626	28	Kannapolis	4
Semper Fidelis 680	4	Jacksonville	4
Steele Creek 737	32	Charlotte	4
Clemmons 755	26	Clemmons	1
James K. Polk 759	32	Pineville	4
Lux Libertas 772	19	Hillsborough	4

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

### **Joseph Montfort Medals**

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

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

The second Montfort Medal was presented to Most Worshipful Brother Dalton Wayne Mayo (2014), at Phoenix Lodge No. 8 on March 17, 2020. Prior to presenting the Montfort Medal, MW Bro. Dalton's Masonic Father MW Bro. Gene Jernigan and his Masonic Son, Right Worshipful R. David Wicker, Jr., presented him with his 50-year service award and 50-year Certified Lecturer's certificate. In terms of his dedication to preserving the ritual of our Grand Jurisdiction I can think of no one more deserving than him. MW Bro. Dalton became a certified lecturer just 6 months after being raised on March 3, 1970. Since that time, he served as a member, secretary, and chairman of the Board of Custodians, District Deputy Grand Master, District Deputy Grand Lecturer, Grand Lecturer, and Grand Master. He is the only person in our Grand Lodge's history to have served in all these positions and is now a proud recipient of the Montfort Medal.

The final Montfort Medal was presented to Worshipful Brother Chris-



topher Lee Wright at the final District meeting hosted by Stokesdale Lodge No. 428 at the Greensboro Masonic Temple on November 2, 2020. Bro. Chris served as the Grand Lecturer of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina during my tenure as Grand Master and is a laudable example of the ideals taught by our Craft. On more than one occasion, brethren have commented to me about how special Chris is. How he regularly calls to check on them, how he jumps in to do a part at a degree, how he coaches brethren. More than that, Chris acts on the virtues inculcated by our rituals in his roles as husband, father, son, and friend. Just prior to presenting the award I shared an illustrative story that a brother recently told me about Chris. He mentioned that Bro. Chris was the reason he had become reengaged in his local Scottish Rite bodies, because Chris regularly called to check on him to see how he was doing. Then one day, Chris called to ask if he would help out with a part in a ceremony. The brother, touched by the offer, and compelled by his love for Chris, enthusiastically agreed to assist. Brethren, THIS is what our fraternity is about, and I can think of no better example of the Tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth than that exemplified by Worshipful Brother Chris Wright.

### **Physical Disabilities**

Per Regulation 13-3.8(F) of the CODE, it is the responsibility of the Grand Master to approve all petitions for the degrees on which the petitioner indicates a physical disability. It is the duty of the District Deputy Grand Master to investigate and advise the Grand Master as to whether the petition should proceed through the normal process. During my tenure as Grand Master I received 3 such petitions. In each of these cases I have accepted the recommendation of the DDGM and approved the petition to be voted on by the lodge.

### **Dispensations**

Regulation 13-3.8 provides the Grand Master with the authority to issue dispensations to lodges for certain activities outside the normal practice or outside their approved by-laws. With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and my order limiting the types of Masonic activities permitted within our lodges it was necessary to issue a large number of dispensations. During my tenure as Grand Master I approved the following 143 Dispensations:

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

15. Move stated communication - Veritas 769
  16. Emergent communication - Veritas 769
  17. Emergent communication - Veritas 769
  18. Battleship Degree - St. John's 1
  19. Elect officers - John H. Mills 624
  20. Dispense with stated - Perquimans 106
  21. Dispense with stated - Perquimans 106
  22. Stated Communications - Wilkerson College 760
  23. Cancel stated - Sonoma 472
  24. Move stated communication - Lebanon 391
  25. Move stated communication - Monroe 244
  26. Move stated communication - Temple 676
  27. Dispense with stated - Campbell 374
  28. Dispense with stated - Orr 104
  29. Elect officers - Royal White Hart 2
  30. Elect Senior Warden - Rodgers 525
  31. Operate without Charter - Millbrook 97
  32. Move stated communication - Fellowship 84
  33. Dispense with stated - Perquimans 106
  34. Elect Junior Warden - Wake Forest 282
  35. Elect Master - Lovelady 670
  36. Cancel Stated - Orphans 761
  37. Cancel Stated - Veritas 769
  38. Virtual Stated Communication - Lux Libertas 772
  39. Virtual Emergent Communication - Glenville 551
  40. Virtual Stated Communication - Fuquay 258
  41. Outdoor degree - Hibriten 262
  42. Outdoor degree - Henderson 229
  43. Virtual Stated Communication - Lux Libertas 772
  44. Outdoor degree & catechisms - Kenly 257
  45. Outdoor degree & catechisms - Relief 431
  46. Outdoor degree - Mystic Tie 237
  47. Outdoor degree - Revolution 552
  48. Outdoor degree - Western Star 91
  49. Outdoor degree - Salem 289
  50. Outdoor degree - Semper Fidelis 680
  51. Outdoor degree - Granite 322
  52. Outdoor examination - Kenly 257
  53. Outdoor examination - Whetstone 515
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54. Outdoor degree - Truth 749
  55. Outdoor degree - Pythagoras 249
  56. Outdoor degree - Cranberry 598
  57. Outdoor degree - Bakersville 357
  58. Outdoor degree - Cannon Memorial 626
  59. Outdoor examination - Kenly 257
  60. Outdoor degree - Kenly 257
  61. Outdoor degree - Round Peak 616
  62. Outdoor degree - Granite 191 POSTPONED
  63. Outdoor degree - Maiden 592
  64. Outdoor catechism and degree - Angier 686
  65. Outdoor degree - French Broad 292
  66. Outdoor degree - Bula 409
  67. Outdoor degree - Granite 322
  68. Outdoor degree - Whetstone 515
  69. Outdoor degree - Cherry Point 688
  70. Virtual Stated Communication - Fuquay 258
  71. Outdoor degree - Mystic Tie 237
  72. Outdoor degree - Mill Creek 125
  73. Outdoor degree - Hibriten 262
  74. Outdoor catechism and degree - Southern Pines 484
  75. Outdoor degree - Revolution 552
  76. Outdoor degree - Phoenix 8
  77. Outdoor degree - Harmon 420
  78. Outdoor degree - James B. Green 735
  79. Moved stated communication - Hibriten 262
  80. Outdoor degree - Cookville 502
  81. Move stated communication - Knights of Solomon 768
  82. Outdoor degree - N. Wilkesboro 407
  83. Outdoor degree - Union 618
  84. Move stated communication - Widow's Son 519
  85. Move stated communication - Knights of Solomon 766
  86. Outdoor degree - Hibriten 262
  87. Move stated communication - Stokesdale 428
  88. Move stated communication - Lux Libertas 772
  89. Move stated communication - State College 770
  90. Move stated communication - Prometheus UD
  91. Move annual meeting - Cranberry 598
  92. Hybrid virtual/in-person stated communication - Nichols-W. Asheville 650
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93. Move annual meeting - Crissie Wright 741
  94. Virtual annual meeting - J. J. Crowder 743
  95. Virtual annual meeting - State College 770
  96. Postpone officers election until 2021 - Stanly 348
  97. Postpone officers election until 2021 - Catawba Valley 217
  98. Move stated communication - Mosaic 762
  99. Postpone officers election until 2021 - Oak Grove 750
  100. Move stated communication - Knights of Solomon 768
  101. Postpone officers election until 2021 - St. Andrew 702
  102. Postpone officers election until 2021 - Tabor 563
  103. Postpone officers election until 2021 - Troy 718
  104. Postpone officers election until 2021 - Stanly 348
  105. Postpone officers election until 2021 - Central Cross 187
  106. Elect officers - Mingo 206
  107. Elect officers - Fallston 356
  108. Elect Treasurer - Piedmont-Pioneer 685
  109. Move stated communication- Whetstone 515
  110. Emergent communication - Whetstone 515
  111. Hybrid virtual/in-person stated communication - Joseph Warren 92
  112. Hybrid virtual/in-person stated communication - Renfro Lodge 691
  113. Move annual communication - Oak Island 758
  114. Postpone officers election until 2021 - Pendleton 418
  115. Postpone officers election until 2021 - Providence 678
  116. Postpone officers election until 2021 - Copeland 390
  117. Postpone officers election until 2021 - Bush Hill 732
  118. Postpone officers election until 2021 - Cherry Point 688
  119. Postpone officers election until 2021 - West Gate 738
  120. Postpone officers election until 2021 - Gastonia 369
  121. Move annual communication - Relief 431
  122. Postpone officers election until 2021 - Wendell 565
  123. Postpone officers election until 2021 - Williams 176
  124. Postpone officers election until 2021 - State College 770
  125. Postpone officers election until 2021 - Acacia 674
  126. Move annual communication - Fulton 99
  127. Move annual communication - Davie 39
  128. Elect officers - Currituck 463
  129. Elect Senior Warden - Pilot 493
  130. Postpone officers election until 2021 - Sonoma 472
  131. Postpone officers election until 2021 - Belmont 627
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132. Postpone officers election until 2021 - Swannanoa 561
133. Postpone officers election until 2021 - Queen City 602
134. Postpone officers election until 2021 - Newport 706
135. Postpone officers election until 2021 - Selma 320
136. Postpone officers election until 2021 - Hollis 535
137. Move annual communication - Granite 322
138. Postpone officers election until 2021 - Mt. Moriah 690
139. Postpone officers election until 2021 - Charity 5
140. Move annual communication & hybrid meeting - Hominy 491
141. Move annual communication - Phalanx 31
142. Postpone officers election until 2021 - Zion 81
143. Postpone officers election until 2021 - Asheboro 699

### Orders

During the period of December 7, 2019, through December 5, 2020, I issued Eleven Orders for various lodge needs and other situations, with the majority of the Orders related to lodge operations during the pandemic. Listed below are the Orders issued:

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

ting lodges to request dispensation to perform degree work outside with up to 25 members present. Issued on 07/15/2020.

8. **All subordinate lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina, A. F. & A. M.** for the purpose of extending the cessation of all Masonic meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions put in place by the Governor of North Carolina, except as those instances duly noted in my Order of May, 13, 2020. This is effective as of August 5, 2020. Issued 8/11/2020.
9. **All subordinate lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina, A. F. & A. M.** for the purpose of permitting lodges to 1) utilize the lodge facility for stated and/or emergent communications with the lesser of 25 members or 50% of the maximum capacity of the lodge present and 2) request dispensation for an outdoor degree with up to 50 members present. This is effective as of September 7, 2020. Issued on 09/04/2020.
10. **All subordinate lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina, A. F. & A. M.** for the purpose of permitting lodges to utilize the lodge facility for stated and/or emergent communications with the lesser of 100 members or 30% of the maximum capacity of the lodge present. This is effective as of October 5, 2020. Issued on 10/02/2020.
11. **All subordinate lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina, A. F. & A. M.** for the purpose of permitting lodges to provide pre-packaged or catered meals inside a lodge facility This is effective as of November 6, 2020. Issued on 11/06/2020.

### Opinions

During the period of December 7, 2019, through December 5, 2020, I issued three Official Opinions. The Opinions are summarized below.

1. Based on a request from Lux Libertas No. 772, I saw a need for lodges to be able to conduct certain urgent business, even if they could not meet in person. After consultation with the Board of Custodians and the Grand Lodge's Ad Hoc Tech Committee, I issued my first Official Opinion permitting lodges to meet virtually for certain purposes, with dispensation from the Grand Master. Issued 05/01/2020.
2. Several subordinate lodges were concerned about the ongoing meeting restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic and the requirements for Election of Officers specified in Regulation 54-1 of the CODE. Based on these requests and concerns I issued an Official Opinion that 1) the exception to holding the Annual Meeting as outlined in Regulation 54-1.2 is intended to ensure the health and safety of the brethren of the lodge and the Grand Master, at his sole discretion, may issue a dispensation to postpone the Annual Stated Communication for reasons other than inclement weather and 2) given the circumstances of this year, and this year only, some flexibility to the procedures enumerated in Chapter 54 may be granted by the Grand Master to lodges wishing to forgo elections and retain their current officer line. Issued on 10/09/2020.
3. I received several requests from members and lodges to clarify the guidelines for the use of a Chamber of Reflection within the bound-

aries of our ritual. After consulting with the Board of Custodians I ordered the Committee on Masonic Ceremonies to prepare a set of specific guidelines for use by lodges that wish to implement a Chamber of Reflection for candidates to meditate and contemplate their initiatic experience. Issued on 12/01/2020.

### **Emergent Communications**

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

### **2020 Initiatives**

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

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

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

- Ensure Masonic Philosophy is a regular topic at every lodge meeting.
- Emphasize the need for deeper, more meaningful conversations among the brethren particularly on the topic of Truth
- Focus on being Masonic, not just doing Masonry by
  - Helping brethren internalize the lessons of the degrees
  - Engaging regularly in fraternalism
  - Memorizing AND studying the ritual
  - Focusing our energy and intent on the candidates during degree work

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

what you hope the future of the fraternity holds for yourself and others. Thank you, my brethren and remember to Keep the Light and Tell Your Story!

### **Whitestone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Community**

For an overview of the activities of WhiteStone during my tenure as Grand Master, I encourage you to read the reports of the Grand Lodge Committee on WhiteStone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Community, in the 2020 and 2021 Book of Reports, which will provide a more detailed explanation of the activities of the home, its residents, and staff. It was my honor to serve on the Board of Directors of WhiteStone for the past three years — under the able leadership of our chairman, Most Worshipful Gene Jernigan and the Executive Director, Brother Mark Lewis. Our amazing retirement community, located less than four miles from my home, is well on its way towards realizing our strategic vision of expanding the services and facilities offered to the residents. This expansion will increase the number Independent Living units, provide an Assisted Living option that is not currently available, update the Memory Care area, and renovate the Care and Wellness Center to better meet the needs of our residents.

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

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

### **Masonic Home for Children at Oxford**

I made my first pilgrimage to the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford on June 26, 2004, to participate in the St. John's Day celebration. On my first visit I felt the warmth and love afforded the children in our care, and I continue to see the depth of caring from the administration, staff, and brethren across the state who support this magnificent charity. Through my association with Wilkerson College, the Middle Chamber program, and the Grand Line I have had many opportunities to visit the beautiful campus, and I am grateful for every chance I have had to be in this awe-inspiring place.

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

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

On August 14, 2020, I was pleased to be part of the ceremony to dedicate a new bridge on the old farm road at the back of the MHCO property. It was a wonderful testament to the passion of the alumni and members of the community who contributed their time, talent, and treasure to build the bridge. I especially want to thank the contributions of HDR, Inc. for making the vision for a new bridge a reality.

Our continued support of the MHCO is vital to the future development of the children and young adults we support at the home. For more details concerning our home in Oxford I refer you to the report of the Committee on the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford in the 2020 and 2021 Reports Book.

### **North Carolina Masonic Foundation**

The NC Masonic Foundation continues to play an instrumental role in safeguarding the assets and investments of our Grand Lodge, many of our lodges, appendant organizations, and charities. In 2019 the financial returns of the Foundation's investments, like the rest of the market, saw substantial gains, only to see an equally large drop in early 2020 as the nation experienced widespread business shutdowns due to the pandemic. However, I am pleased to report that they not only have the investments recovered, but grown since that tumultuous time.

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

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

### **Veterans' Hospital Visits**

The Veteran's Administration Hospital Visitation Program is sponsored by the Masonic Service Association of North America, and it is the tradition for every Grand Master to visit as many of the hospitals as we can in our year.

North Carolina has four Veteran's Administration Hospitals: Asheville, Salisbury, Durham, and Fayetteville. In recent years it has become more difficult to identify suitable volunteers to aid with the program and, as such, most recent Grand Masters have only been able to visit one or two of them. Unfortunately, I was unable to visit any of the hospitals due to COVID-19 restrictions. I am hopeful that my successors will be able to return to this tradition in the coming years.

### **World Conference of Grand Lodges**

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

### **Conference of Grand Masters of North America**

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

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

In addition, to the useful information provided by some of the presentations, the really important information tends to come from the side conversations we have with our counterparts in other Grand Jurisdictions. For example, Right Worshipful Tim Wheeland, Grand Senior Warden in the Grand Lodge of OH, has been working with several grand jurisdictions to gather membership data to compare trends across Grand Lodges and identify potential programs that we can model based on positive outcomes in other jurisdictions. It is often said, but it has proven true based on my experience at these conferences, that our Grand Lodge is miles ahead of many other grand jurisdictions in terms of how it operates and how well the Grand Line officers get along. I have no doubt our current Grand Line will be able to maintain that solid lead for years to come.

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### Northeast Conference of Grand Masters

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

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

### Visitation and Special Activities

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

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

Date	Location	Event/Activity
12/06/2019	Greensboro	GL Installation Banquet
12/07/2019	Greensboro	GL Installation
12/09/2019	Raleigh	Meet with Raleigh Masonic Temple Lodges
12/11/2019	Wilmington	Wilmington Scottish Rite Building Dedication honoring Ill. Bro. Earl Wells, 33°
12/12/2019	Oxford	MHCO Christmas Dinner
12/13/2019	Washington, DC	Grand Lodge of DC Grand Installation Banquet
12/14/2019	Washington, DC	Grand Lodge of DC Grand Installation
12/16/2019	Online	Zoom Meeting with Miscellaneous Ceremonies Committee
12/17/2019	Stokesdale	Stokesdale Lodge No. 428 Installation
12/18/2019	Online	Meet with the Public Relations Committee
	Online	Meet with VA Assistance Committee
	Winston-Salem	Meet with MW Daniel "DT" Thompson, PHA GM for a podcast interview

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Event/Activity</b>
12/20/2019	Spartanburg, SC	Shrine Bowl banquet
12/21/2019	Spartanburg, SC	Shrine Bowl game
12/27/2019	Online	Meet with Wilkerson College Deans to discuss the 2020 schedule
12/28/2019	Kernersville	Install Officers for Kernersville Lodge No. 669
	Greensboro	Visit with Marian Simpson
01/04/2020	Charlotte	Oasis Shrine Installation
01/07/2020	Greensboro	Meet with Bernhardt Watch Company Representative
	Walnut Cove	Walnut Cove Lodge No. 629 for Grand Tyler's Sword presentation for WB Gary Handy
01/08/2020	Greensboro	Greensboro Scottish Rite Meeting
01/09/2020	Greenville	Install District 6 officers at Crown Point Lodge No. 708
01/10/2020	Raleigh	Board of Custodians meeting
	Winston-Salem	SRICF Meeting
01/11/2020	Greensboro	Greensboro Scottish Rite Banquet hosting Ill. Bro. Robert Davis, 33° GC
01/13/2020	Kernersville	1st Degree at Kernersville Lodge No. 669
01/15/2020	Raleigh	Raleigh Masonic Temple Board Meeting
01/18/2020	Raleigh	Amran Shrine Installation
01/21/2020	Raleigh	NCMF Meeting
01/24/2020	New Bern	Sudan Shrine Installation banquet
01/25/2020	New Bern	Sudan Shrine Installation
01/27/2020	New Bern	District Meeting (Doric Lodge No. 568)
01/28/2020	Goldsboro	District Meeting (Wayne Lodge No. 112)
01/30/2020	Winston-Salem	Conduct Summary Trial
1/31 - 02/02/2020	Carolina Beach	Grand Lodge Officers Retreat

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Event/Activity</b>
02/03/2020	Jacksonville	Inducted into Jacksonville National Sojourners
02/05/2020	Online	Audit Meeting
02/06/2020	Raleigh	Charity Summit
	Oxford	MHCO Development Committee Meeting
02/07/2020	Oxford	MHCO Board Meeting
	Greensboro	Grand Line Officer's Quarterly Meeting
02/08/2020	Greensboro	Whitestone Board Meeting
	Greensboro	MESH Lodge No. 771 - Present Montfort Medal to Ray Howard Coltrane
02/11/2020	Dunn	WB Eugene Jernigan's Funeral
02/13/2020	Raleigh	Meeting of GL Finance Committee
02/15 - 02/19/2020	Louisville, KY	Conference of Grand Masters of North America
02/21 - 02/22/2020	Raleigh	Host the American Masonic Renaissance Ingathering - Grand Lodge Office
02/23/2020	Mocksville	MW Lester Martin's Funeral
02/24/2020	Greensboro	Meet with Fred Amos to discuss GM's watch design
02/25/2020	Yanceyville	District Meeting (Caswell Brotherhood Lodge No. 11)
02/26/2020	Warrenton	District Meeting (Johnston-Caswell Lodge No. 10)
02/27/2020	Salisbury	Andrew Jackson Lodge No. 576 Brunswick Stew
	Raleigh	District Meeting (Lodge of the Nine Sisters No. 773)
02/28 - 03/01/2020	Wilmington	Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of NC, F&AM — 150th Anniversary Celebration
03/03/2020	Elizabeth City	District Meeting (New Lebanon Lodge No. 314)
03/04/2020	Eure	Visit with Bro. Cecil Taylor — Survivor of Attack on Pearl Harbor

Date	Location	Event/Activity
03/04/2020	Ahoskie	District Meeting (Charity Lodge No. 5/Davie Lodge No. 39)
03/05/2020	Rocky Mount	District Meeting (Queen City Lodge No. 602)
03/06/2020	Raleigh	Board of General Purposes Meeting
03/07/2020	Greensboro	Wilkerson College Session I at Whitestone
03/08/2020	Online	<a href="#">Interview for Ft. Worth Lodge No. 148 (GL of TX) podcast</a>
03/10/2020	Siler City	District Meeting (Siler City Lodge No. 403)
03/11/2020	Mount Gilead	District Meeting (Blackmer Lodge No. 127)
03/12/2020	Greensboro	Prepare communication about COVID-19
	Salisbury	District Meeting (Sophia Lodge No. 767)
03/14/2020	Salisbury	Sophia Lodge No. 767 — Education program and harmony with Rob Herd (Last major Masonic event before shut down)
03/16/2020	CANCELLED	Grand York Rite of NC
	Greensboro	Send letter requesting lodges do outreach to members and windows while shutdown
	Greensboro	Prepare Order for all lodges to cease business meetings effective at high-twelve on 03/18/2020
03/17/2020	Fayetteville	<p><a href="#">Address Phoenix Lodge No. 8 — videoed the program to be posted online</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Present 50 Year Service Award to MW Gene Jernigan</li> <li>• Present 50 Year Certified Lecturer Certificate and 50 Year Service Award to MW Dalton Mayo</li> <li>• Present 2nd Montfort Award to MW Dalton Mayo</li> </ul>

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Event/Activity</b>
03/20/2020	Online	Scottish Rite Orient Workshop Conference Call — Discussed need to support Whitestone expansion campaign
03/23/2020	Greensboro	Issued clarification on order to cease Masonic meetings
	CANCELLED	District Meeting (St. John's Lodge No. 1)
03/24/2020	CANCELLED	District Meeting (Phoenix Lodge No. 8)
03/25/2020	CANCELLED	District Meeting (St. Albans Lodge No. 114)
03/31/2020	CANCELLED	District Meeting (Cleveland Lodge No. 202)
04/01/2020	CANCELLED	District Meeting (Phalanx Lodge No. 31)
04/02/2020	CANCELLED	Present 50 Year Certificates for Fellowship Lodge No. 84
04/04/2020	CANCELLED	Wilkerson College Session II
	CANCELLED	Grand York Rite Banquet for Grand Commander Mike Daniels
04/06/2020	CANCELLED	Visit French Broad Lodge No. 292
04/10/2020	Online	Board of Custodians Meeting
	Online	Whitestone Board of Director's Update on COVID Response
04/11/2020	CANCELLED	Bob Gresham's Grandson's 3rd degree
	CANCELLED	Casar Lodge No. 579 Stair Chair Dedication in memory of Bro. Robert Beam
04/13/2020	CANCELLED	District Meeting (East LaPorte Lodge No. 358)
04/14/2020	CANCELLED	District Meeting (Kedron Lodge No. 387)
	Online	Online Masonic Education: North Carolina Masonic Research Society Presents Chuck Dunning

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Event/Activity</b>
04/15/2020	CANCELLED	District Meeting (Mystic Tie Lodge No. 237)
	Online	Raleigh Masonic Temple Meeting
04/16/2020	Online	Meeting to discuss the use of technology in Freemasonry
	CANCELLED	District Meeting (Liberty Lodge No. 45)
04/17/2020	Online	Board of Custodians — Meeting to discuss ideas on virtual lodge meetings
04/18/2020	CANCELLED	MHCO Landscape Day & 3rd Degree
04/20/2020	CANCELLED	District Meeting (Cape Hatteras Lodge No. 698)
04/21/2020	Online	NCMF Meeting
	CANCELLED	District Meeting (Washington Lodge No. 675)
	Online	Lux Libertas Lodge No. 772 Virtual Meeting discussion
04/22/2020	Online	DDGM Quarantine Check-in
04/23/2020	CANCELLED	Grand Lodge of SC
	Online	DDGM Quarantine Check-in
04/24/2020	CANCELLED	SRICF Meeting
04/27/2020	Online	Online Masonic Education: The Quadrivium - Understanding the Language of the Creator
04/28/2020	Online	Board of Custodians Meeting — vote on use of ritual on virtual platforms
	CANCELLED	Mooreville Lodge No. 496 Dedication for the newly renovated Lodge Hall
04/30/2020	Online	NC Masonic Foundation Zoom Meeting
	CANCELLED	District Meeting (Stokesdale Lodge No. 428)



<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Event/Activity</b>
05/01/2020	Greensboro	Issued Opinion on Virtual Lodge Meetings
	Greensboro	Issued dispensations to 3 lodges to meet virtually: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lux Libertas Lodge No. 772</li> <li>• Glenville Lodge No. 551</li> <li>• Fuquay Varina Lodge No. 258</li> </ul>
05/02/2020	CANCELLED	Wilkerson College Session III
	Online	Lux Libertas Virtual Meeting
05/05/2020	CANCELLED	York Rite Day
05/07/2020	CANCELLED	Dinner with MHCO Graduates (small gift for each)
	Online	Online Meeting with DDGMs
	Online	MHCO Financial Development Committee Meeting
05/08/2020	Online	MHCO Board of Directors Meeting
05/09/2020	Online	Whitestone Board of Directors Meeting
	CANCELLED	Spencer Lodge No. 543 Train Museum Degree
05/11/2020	CANCELLED	Hanks Lodge No. 128 Fish Fry
05/13/2020	Greensboro	Interview with Beth Grace
	Online	Online Scottish Rite Meeting - Appointed new PR for Greensboro Valley
5/15 - 05/16/2020	CANCELLED	Pig Jig
05/18/2020	CANCELLED	Rhode Island Grand Lodge
05/19/2020	Online	Northeast Conference of Grand Masters — Weekly Zoom Meeting
05/21/2020	Online	Online Education Meeting: An Evening of Freemasonry
05/22/2020	CANCELLED	Greensboro Scottish Rite Reunion
05/23/2020	CANCELLED	Greensboro Scottish Rite Reunion
	CANCELLED	Quarry Degree

Date	Location	Event/Activity
05/25/2020	CANCELLED	Memorial Day Parade - Thomasville
05/26/2020	Online	Northeast Conference of Grand Masters — Weekly Zoom Meeting
05/27/2020	Online	MHCO Executive/Finance Committee Meeting
	CANCELLED	Amran Shrine Dinner
05/31/2020	CANCELLED	World Conference of Regular Grand Lodges
06/01/2020	Greensboro	<a href="#">Haircut with Bro. Dewey Misenheimer — Masonic Barbershop Talk</a>
06/03/2020	Online	Meeting of the NC Masonic Foundation Board
06/04/2020	Online	Zoom with Marian Simpson
	CANCELLED	Oasis Shrine Ceremonial
06/08/2020	CANCELLED	Grand Chapter OES
	Raleigh	Sign Joint Statement with MW Daniel “DT” Thompson, PHA GM
06/09/2020	Online	Northeast Conference of Grand Masters — Weekly Zoom Meeting
06/11/2020	Online	Online Meeting with Scottish Rite Valley of Wilmington
06/12/2020	Online	Board of General Purposes Meeting
06/13/2020	Raleigh	<a href="#">United We Stand Event with MW Daniel “DT” Thompson, PHA GM at the Capitol Building</a>
06/16/2020	Online	Northeast Conference of Grand Masters — Weekly Zoom Meeting
06/17/2020	Online	Greensboro Scottish Rite virtual meeting
06/18/2020	Online	Speak at Harmon Lodge No. 420 — The Hero’s Journey
06/19/2020	CANCELLED	SRICF Annual Meeting
06/20/2020	CANCELLED	York Rite Honors Day and Grand York Rite Annual Meeting

Date	Location	Event/Activity
06/23/2020	Online	Northeast Conference of Grand Masters — Weekly Zoom Meeting
06/24/2020	Online	MHCO Executive/Finance Committee Meeting
06/25/2020	Online	Zoom Lunch Meeting with DDGMs to discuss Annual Communication 2020
	Online	Zoom Dinner Meeting with DDGMs to discuss Annual Communication 2020
06/26/2020	Online	Special Meeting of the NCMF
06/27/2020	Greensboro	<a href="#">Wilkerson College Symposium - Online</a>
	Valdese	Outdoor Entered Apprentice Degree - Hibriten Lodge No. 262
06/30/2020	Online	NC Piedmont York Rite College No. 124 - Virtual Assembly
	Online	Northeast Conference of Grand Masters — Weekly Zoom Meeting
07/01/2020	Online	Virtual York Rite Meeting
07/05 - 07/09/2020	CANCELLED	Imperial Shrine - Kansas City
07/07/2020	Online	Zoom Meeting of Scottish Rite Personal Representatives and Secretaries
	Online	Northeast Conference of Grand Masters — Weekly Zoom Meeting
07/10/2020	Online	Board of Custodians Meeting
07/11 - 07/14/2020	CANCELLED	York Rite Summer Assembly
07/13/2020	Online	Wilkerson College Officers Meeting
07/14/2020	Durham	Meet with MW DT Thompson, PHA GM
	Online	Northeast Conference of Grand Masters — Weekly Zoom Meeting
07/15/2020	Online	Attend Charlotte Scottish Rite
07/17/2020	CANCELLED	Speak at Prometheus Lodge UD - Beauty of Balance

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

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Event/Activity</b>
09/02/2020	Raleigh	Joint Legislative Reception with PHGLNC
	Online	Greensboro Valley SGIG Conference
	Online	Wilkerson College Regents Meeting
09/10/2020	Online	Speak at Ararat Lodge No. 558 — The Hero's Journey
09/12/2020	CANCELLED	USS North Carolina Battleship Degree
	Online	Grand Lodge Annual Communication Dry Run
09/15/2020	Online	Orient of NC, Scottish Rite - Virtual Reunion Discussion Zoom Meeting
09/17/2020	Online	Meet with Board of Custodians
	CANCELLED	SASA Meeting
09/18/2020	CANCELLED	SRICF Meeting
	Online	Meet with DDGLs
09/19/2020	Raleigh	Lodge of the Nine Sisters Lodge No. 773
09/21/2020	Greensboro	Speak at Guilford Lodge No. 656 - The Esoteric Essence of Freemasonry
09/22/2020	Online	Meet with Jurisprudence Committee
	Yadkinville	Harmon Lodge No. 420 - Outdoor 2nd Degree
09/25/2020	Winston-Salem	Grand Lodge Annual Communication
09/29/2020	Online	NC Piedmont York Rite College No. 124
10/02/2020	CANCELLED	Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of NC, F&AM — Annual Communication
10/06/2020	Online	Personnel Committee Meeting

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Event/Activity</b>
10/07/2020	CANCELLED	Forsyth Lodge No. 707 - Esoteric Program
	Online	Greensboro York Rite Zoom Meeting
10/08/2020	Raleigh	NCMF Meeting - Discuss organizational structure and communications
	CANCELLED	Mystic Tie Lodge No. 237 - 2nd Degree
10/09/2020	Winston-Salem	Radio interview with Richard Miller
	CANCELLED	MHCO Homecoming
10/12/2020	Winston-Salem	MW Graham Pervier's Funeral
10/14/2020	Online	Scottish Rite Water Cooler Chat: So What's Sojourner?
	Greensboro	Greensboro Scottish Rite Meeting
10/15/2020	Online	Podcast with André Béliveau
10/16/2020	Various	Deliver Past District Officers Certificates (Elizabeth City, Manteo, Plymouth, Rocky Mount)
	CANCELLED	Greensboro Scottish Rite Reunion
10/17/2020	Greensboro	Greensboro Scottish Rite Valley Review
10/19/2020	Wilmington	District Meeting (St. John's Lodge No. 1)
10/20/2020	Online	NCMF Board Meeting
	Charlotte	District Meeting (Phalanx Lodge No. 31)
10/21/2020	Shelby	District Meeting (Cleveland Lodge No. 202)
10/24/2020	Valdese	Hibriten Lodge No. 262 - Outdoor 3rd Degree
10/26/2020	Franklin	District Meeting (Junaluskee Lodge No. 145)
10/27/2020	Asheville	District Meeting (Mt. Hermon Lodge No. 118)
10/28/2020	Online	WhiteStone Finance Committee
	Hickory	District Meeting (Hickory Lodge No. 343)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Event/Activity</b>
10/29/2020	Boone	District Meeting (Snow Lodge No. 363)
10/31/2020	Rockingham	MW Bunn T. Phillips's Funeral
11/02/2021	Greensboro	District Meeting (Stokesdale Lodge No. 428) - Present Montfort Medal
11/03/2021	Online	WhiteStone Finance Committee
11/04/2021	Online	Online Masonic Education: North Carolina Masonic Research Society - The Hero's Journey
11/05/2021	Lenoir	Hibriten Lodge No. 262 - Making Good Men Better
11/07/2021	Greensboro	Lux Libertas No.772 - Installation of Officers
11/10/2021	Walnut Cove	Walnut Cove No. 629 - Installation of Officers
11/11/2021	Greensboro	Orient of NC, Scottish Rite Virtual Reunion Practice
	Greensboro	Greensboro Scottish Rite Meeting
11/12/2021	Raleigh	Committee for Centralized Charitable Planning (CCCP) Meeting
	Online	MHCO/WhiteStone Board Meeting
11/13/2021	Online	Quarterly Grand Lodge Officers Meeting
	Online	MHCO Board Meeting
11/14/2021	Online	WhiteStone Board Meeting
11/16/2021	Yadkinville	Visit Yadkin Lodge No. 162
11/17/2021	Online	Meet with NCMF - Discuss TouchPoints Data Scrub
11/18/2021	Raleigh	Meet with William Mills, David Wicker, Walt Clapp, Mike Faulkenbury - Discuss monies placed with NCMF
	Raleigh	NCMF Meeting - Discuss Development Program
11/19/2021	Newton	Speak at Prometheus Lodge UD - The Lodge as a Model for Emotional Energy



Date	Location	Event/Activity
11/20/2021	Greensboro	Orient of NC, Scottish Rite Virtual Reunion Practice and Setup
11/21/2021	Online	Orient of NC, Scottish Rite Virtual Reunion
11/24/2021	Mooresville	Mooresville Lodge No. 496 Dedication of Lodge Renovations
11/25/2021	Online	WhiteStone Auditor Proposals
11/27/2021	Lexington	Deliver Past DDGL Certificate to Bro. Roy West
12/02/2021	Online	Virtual Reunion Debrief and Discussion
12/03/2021	Benson	Present 50 Year Service Award to Bro. Charles Ryals
12/04/2021	Raleigh	Board of General Purposes Meeting
	Raleigh	Grand Lodge Installation Banquet
12/05/2021	Raleigh	Grand Installation of MW R. David Wicker - 168th Grand Master of Masons in NC

### Out of State Visitations

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

### Summonses and Summary Trials

This year I issued summonses to six (6) brethren for Summary Trials.

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

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

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

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

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

#### **Lodges Under Dispensation**

On November 15, 2019, Most Worshipful Mack Sigmon granted a dispensation to Prometheus Lodge UD at Newton, NC. This will be North Carolina's third Traditional Observance lodge and they anticipated receiving their charter this year. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic they were unable to fulfill the requirements to receive their charter and must apply for an extension to be considered for a charter in 2021.

#### **The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of North Carolina**

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

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which brought together Masonic legislators from both Grand Lodges, as well as the Grand Line Officers of both Grand Lodges.

### **Masonic Education**

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

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

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

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

### **Recommended Legislation**

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

### Initiation Fees

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

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

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

### Un-Masonic Conduct and Lodge Restrictions

A fair number of regulations and penalties for un-Masonic conduct were instituted in an era which is socially and legally substantially different than today. In light of more modern sensibilities and considering the shift in societal norms I recommend the following changes:

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

5. Regulation 86-2:51 states that it is a Masonic offense to circulate a “chain letter.” Given today’s technology, this regulation is outdated and may not be necessary. I recommend removing the regulation.

### **Closing Speech at the 2020 Annual Communication**

And now my brethren, I want to go back to something I mentioned earlier...

I’m sorry if my rebuke of racism in our fraternity came across as harsh or unwarranted. I don’t mean to offend you. That was not my intent. Our Closing Charge admonishes us to “do good unto all” and that “every human being has a claim upon our kind offices.” There are no exceptions mentioned, nor should there be. I believe it is the natural inclination of all human beings to want to live by each other’s happiness — not their misery. We don’t want to hate or despise each other — that certainly isn’t what our Craft teaches us. Rather, through the tenet of Brotherly Love it informs us that, “Masonry unites men of every country, sect, and opinion, and conciliates true friendship among those, who otherwise might have remained at a perpetual distance.”

Unfortunately, prejudice has poisoned the minds of some of our brethren. Like the ruffians in the 3rd degree, they permit their passions to overcome them with anger, fear, and hatred. But, there is hope. Just as the 12 fellow craft assisted in raising the body of our fallen Grand Master, there is hope (symbolized by the sprig of acacia) that the better nature of ourselves may raise us from the rubbish of our own temple. My hope is that these members may be raised from the rubbish of their own intolerance and prejudice.

Technology, as we have seen today, can bring us together — can unite us — but sometimes, as we see too often on social media, it enables division, rather than unity. And some members act on their basest instincts rather than the goodness of their heart. But our Craft teaches the Universal Brotherhood of man under the fatherhood of God — to strive for harmony among us all.

To those of you with me today, I say: our ritual teaches us a way to human progress, not just for ourselves, but for our communities and the world at large. If we use the working tools, as we are taught in each of the degrees — the 24-inch gauge, common gavel, square, level, plumb, and trowel — then our passions may be subdued and intolerance, tyranny, and fanaticism will fade, not just in us, but through our influence, in those around us as well.

Brethren! Don’t give yourselves to your vices, to your prejudices, to your intolerance. They will enslave you, control you, tell you what to do, what to think, and how to feel! Don’t give yourselves to these irregular passions! We are Freemasons. We strive to smooth our ashlar from their rude and imperfect state. To learn to love all humanity. Not to hate. We don’t hate because only the unloved hate — and brethren, I love you!

In the VSL it is written, “the Kingdom of God is within you” — not just you, not just your group, but the light of Deity shines in all of humanity! You have the power to create joy, happiness, and light!! You, my brethren, have the power to make this life beautiful. Then, in the name of Freemasonry, let us use that power — let us unite to keep that light shining. Let us make this Craft

what our ritual says it is. Let us fulfill the promise of making ourselves better men, truer men, kinder men. Brethren, in the name of Masonry and Brotherly Love, let us all unite!!

### **Acknowledgements and Special Appreciations**

Throughout my tenure as Grand Master I shared my story — how I was raised by my mother and grandmother with no real father figure in the house. Although neither my mother or grandmother were alive to see my appointment to the Grand Line, I have no doubt of their continued presence with me, helping guide me through life despite their departure from this earthly plane. They both knew my love for the fraternity and understood my attraction to Freemasonry because they raised me to believe in and act on Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. I love and miss them both and thank them for the many sacrifices they made to give me the best possible upbringing they could.

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

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

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

I first met my Masonic Father, Most Worshipful Dewey Preslar, when Right Worshipful Larry Thompson, Jr., and I crashed Most Worshipful Billy Dill’s installation banquet. While we were helping ourselves to the buffet, I was asked to come speak with Bro. Dewey who had just been appointed to oversee an Orient-wide fundraiser for the Scottish Rite. Brother Stan Dodd thought I might be able to assist Bro. Dewey by serving on the committee with him and wanted to introduce us. Through our years of working together on the Scottish Rite fundraisers and attending the GAP International training, we

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came to be close friends. I can only assume that Bro. Dewey saw in me some traits he believed would be useful to our fraternity, and I am grateful to him for giving me the opportunity to serve our Grand Lodge as Grand Master. Thank you, Dewey. I love you, brother.

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

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

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

In any typical year the Grand Master may have to call on substantial assistance from a handful of DDGMs or DDGLs. But, 2020 was not a typical year, and I am certain each of these brethren have put far more time and effort into their roles this year than they anticipated. I am particularly proud of our DDGMs who, due to the nature of how we conducted Annual Communication last year, were asked to do so much more coordination and facilitation to ensure Grand Lodge was as successful as possible. Thank you, my brethren, for all you have done and continue to do to for our Grand Lodge!

In 2006, Brother Larry Thompson and I began working with Brother Ron Page to oversee the preparations and execution of the Annual Communication. I served in that capacity until 2013 and during that time I formed a close relationship with members of our office staff, especially Cornelia Doherty, Vicki Lam, and Brother Jonathan Underwood. Being so close to them, and since becoming Grand Master, I decided to work in the Grand Lodge office one day every week, usually on Thursdays. I came to appreciate even more the work done by our Grand Lodge staff and Past Grand Secretary, Right Worshipful Walt Clapp. I am amazed at how well Vicki manages the various budget and finances of the Grand Lodge, the NCMF, and still finds time to help the lodges with their own budgets and forms. Hayley Moll has been an exceptional addition to our Grand Lodge team, since she joined us 5 years ago. It was a pleasure to see how efficiently she works through her various projects despite the many

interruptions she deals with daily. We were sad to see Cornelia retire last year, but were thrilled she can enjoy more time with her grandchildren now. Since her retirement we brought on Brother Matthew Robbins who took on several of Cornelia's duties along with working on a new lodge outreach program. He was a welcome addition to the team! As my year as Grand Master drew to a close, I knew this was the one thing I would miss most. My time with Walt, Jonathan, Vicki, Hayley, and Matt - our conversations, sharing stories over lunch, taking an occasional break to sit on the patio under the umbrella. Yes, these are memories I will cherish deeply. You are my favorites, and I love you all!

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

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

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

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

With warm fraternal love,  
Φ Paul Shaun Bradshaw  
Grand Master, 2020

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**Interim Report**  
**of**  
**Grand Master**  
**R. David Wicker, Jr.**  
**to**  
**the**  
**Grand Lodge**  
**of**  
**Ancient, Free & Accepted Masons**  
**of**  
**North Carolina**  
**at**  
**Winston-Salem, North Carolina**  
**September 24, 2021**

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To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina, Grand Lodge Officers, Past Grand Masters, Past Grand Officers, Officers of Constituent Lodges, Voting Delegates to the Annual Communication, and Brethren all:

Behold, how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! I welcome each of you back to Winston-Salem for the 235th annual communication of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina. Having been unable to meet personally for our annual communication last year, it is so good to be able to have the Craft together once again.

As Grand Master, Regulation 13-2.5 requires that I present this Interim Report setting forth my actions to date as your Grand Master, my assessment of the Craft, the general condition of Freemasonry in North Carolina and recommending such legislation as, to date, I deem necessary for the Craft to consider next year.

### **2021 Initiatives**

As we began to emerge from the Covid-19 pandemic, my primary objective was to bring to the attention of the Craft to the need to rekindle an interest in Freemasonry. I believe we do this by marketing our Fraternity. Before everyone gets upset, I am not talking about canvassing the neighborhood to solicit members. We never ask men, even good men, to join our ranks. Each must come to knock at Freemasonry's door of his own free will and accord. By marketing, I am referring to the fact that we must understand that everything we do and say, even what we fail to do or say, is marketing. Sometimes our words and actions serve us well. But at other times, we are our own worst enemy. We must understand that our very actions, our appearance, and our words provide an opportunity for us to attract the best men the world has to offer. Conversely, they can just as easily discourage someone from even considering joining fraternity.

My focus on marketing was on three areas: community involvement, Lodge stability, and reestablishing fraternalism. Community involvement has been discussed by prior Grand Masters. However, this cannot be stressed enough. When our lodges are out in the community in a positive way, we are relevant to today's society. Failure is not an option. Failure to engage our communities is failure for our Fraternity in the future. As I have discussed across the state, the lessons taught in our Masonic ritual and in the ritual of the Shrine and Appendant Bodies makes us better men. But it is not intended to do so in a vacuum. Freemasonry is intended to make you better so that you can make your community, our state, and our nation better.

Community involvement is marketing. There are endless ideas and opportunities to help in your community. Sponsor a kid's athletic team, sponsor a Boy Scout or Girl Scout Troop, adopt a highway, sponsor a blood drive, volunteer at a soup kitchen or Meal on Wheels or Habitat for Humanities. But find something your community needs and provide that support. Let people in your community know that you are there to make a difference. Let them see that you are engaged in helping make their community better. It is through your actions that you will attract the good men you want to join your Lodge. However, if you are just the old men in the building with no windows, you are

still marketing. But you are marketing yourself out of business.

Next, we must provide for Lodge stability. This is done by making certain your Lodge is financially secure. Brethren, we must be good stewards of our homes. As Grand Master, I want to know that your Lodge has sufficient funds to make the necessary repairs, renovations, and improvements going forward. Too many times I have stood in a puddle of water in a lodge because the roof leaked. Too many times I have worn an overcoat because there was no heat or had to take off my jacket because there was no air conditioning. This is because the Lodge had no money to make the necessary repairs need to maintain their building.

If you own your lodge, you should have sufficient funds on hand to be able to pay for the replacement of the roof and the HVAC system. If not, plan a fundraiser for the Lodge. I realize financial security will not happen overnight. But, you must make plans and move forward to make it happen. Otherwise, you are destined to lose your building. Fifty years ago, every important businessman in town was a Freemason. Does your lodge look like a place that an important businessman would like to go? Is the grass a foot tall? Have the bushes been allowed to become over grown? Does the building need painting? Are the gutters rusted out and the fascia boards rotted and falling off the building?

If this is the condition of your Lodge, why would anyone want to come inside? It's like selling a house. If there is no curb appeal, there is no sale. If you are not doing regular maintenance to keep lodge looking good, you are still marketing; it's just bad marketing.

Lastly, and most importantly, we must re-establish fraternalism within Freemasonry. You must keep up with your members. You have to contact them when you are not asking for money. You have to let them know they're important. It's not hard. Set an easy goal. At the beginning of my term of office, I asked the District Officers to have their Lodges contact each member two (2) times per year. However, that contact could not be related to money. It did not count if you asked them to pay their dues, contribute to a charity or buy a raffle ticket. But this was an easy goal to achieve: send them a birthday card and a Christmas card. Easy. Follow the same procedure with the widows.

Update your MORI system. Get phone numbers, get addresses, and get email addresses. You cannot contact a member if you don't have their information. Update the spouse's information. Send her a birthday card. Let her know she is important as well. Remember, she is the one that will be contacting you for funeral rites. Many times, she is the one who pays the bills. Keep in contact with your widows. We took an obligation to aid and assist our widows and orphans. See that she is well. She shared her husband with the lodge for years, do not forget her now that he is gone.

When you contact your members, their spouses, their widows, my brothers, you are marketing. You are marketing that we are a caring fraternity. But when you fail to do this, you are also marketing. You are sending a message that we care for nothing but the payment of dues. You are saying that we are here only to initiate, pass, and raise someone to send us a check. You fail at fraternalism; you are marketing yourself out of business.

By way of example, I must call your attention to and offer my personal thanks to Snow Lodge No. 363 and to Br. F. Lynn Castle and Br. Frank E. Guy. As I was attending the Imperial Shrine Session in Houston, Texas, I received

a telephone call. I recognized the caller as a brother from Person County. However, I was engaged in the session and could not take the call. I sent a text message asking if I could call later. I received a text in response saying that the brother, his wife, and grandchildren were stranded in Boone due to car trouble. I sent a text message to RWB Jonathan Underwood. RWB Jonathan contacted Br. Guy, Secretary of Snow Lodge. Br. Guy contacted Br. Castle and in less than thirty minutes from the original call, the brother and his family were being picked up by Br. Castle and taken to a local hotel while the car was being repaired. My brothers, Br. Castle and Br. Guy are shining examples of good men lifting up to their obligations. I am proud to be in a fraternity with men such as this. Well done, my brothers.

The choice of how you choose to represent yourself is a direct reflection on our fraternity. Each and every one of you is someone's idea and understanding of what Freemasonry is. Freemasonry is meant to be practiced in everything we do and say. Be the positive example that lets them know we are good men, made better by what we are taught in our Lodges.

### **State of the Craft**

Despite being closed for most of the first quarter of the year as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, to date I have been able to visit thirty-six (36) lodges in twenty-eight (28) different Masonic Districts. As time allows, I will continue to visit lodges throughout the state. As I have stated many times, it has been a truly humbling experience to serve the brethren as Grand Master of Masons. I have been received with kindness and respect by the Lodges, Shrine Temples, and the Appendant Bodies. I have enjoyed the opportunity to meet with so many of our brethren from across the state.

To date, there has been one lodge that has surrendered their Charter, that being Farmville Lodge No. 517. In addition, there have been two separate consolidations of lodges: Rodgers Lodge No. 525 with Bailey Lodge No. 411 and Corinthian Lodge No. 542 with P.P. Turner Lodge No. 746. Hopefully these consolidations will result in stronger lodges. There have been discussions with regard to two additional consolidations, only one of which is expected to go forward. I anticipate that there will be a dispensation granted to create a new Knights of Solomon Lodge. As of the date of this report, that is still in the works.

What is the state of the Craft in North Carolina? In offering my assessment as to the state of the Craft, I intend to be as direct and honest. To quote Charles Dickens, it is the best of times and the worst of times. Many of our lodges are strong and healthy. Their ritualistic work is superior. Their engagement among their members, other lodges in the District, and in their communities is excellent. Sadly, others are struggling to survive, sometimes barely having enough attendance to open the Lodge.

As I travel the state, I am more convinced that there is no problem with Freemasonry. Our tenants, our principles, and our teachings are as true today as they have ever been. The sad realization is that the problem with Masonry is with the Freemasons. I realize that it is easy to get discouraged. Membership continues to decline. The costs of maintaining lodge buildings continues to go up. But my brothers, if it were easy, everyone would do it. Masonry is work. It must be approached as work. Much of our problems are as a result of the fact that we fail to work.

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During my District Meetings, I used examples of where we needed to improve our engagement with the Craft and with others. We must have a fraternal relationship with each and every one of our members. On a day when I thought I was off duty, I was approached by a brother at the barber shop. I have since learned that the Grand Master is never off duty. The brother sat down and asked me what I thought was the most important part of Masonry. We talked about fraternalism and how we are a society of friends and brothers, even if we haven't yet met. The brother thanked me and explained he could not see me in lodge because he did not have a current dues card. He stated that he did not have a dues card because the secretary would not mail it to him. He was a fifty (50) year member and no longer paid dues. In essence, the secretary was telling the brother that he was no longer worth a \$0.50 stamp because he was now exempt from paying dues.

I told of how my uncle could not attend my Master Mason's Degree because after he moved from Greensboro to Middlesex, and unknown to him, he had been dropped by the Lodge for nonpayment of dues. You see, no one from his Lodge had contacted my uncle for years, and my aunt decided that paying the Lodge dues was not an important bill to pay. Instead of reaching out to my uncle to see if he needed assistance, to see if there was an issue with his health or well-being, the Lodge just dropped him from the rolls. But for me calling him to attend my 3rd Degree, he would have never known he was NPD and likely would never have been reinstated.

I addressed the need for taking care of our petitioners and our candidates. We continue to lose almost thirty percent (30%) of the candidates who are initiated, but never passed to the Fellowcraft Degree. I told the story of how I did not receive a coach after initiation. I thought that extreme, but a good tool to use to explain my point. However, on five occasions during my twenty-one District Meetings, brothers came to me and told of how, after initiation, they were not provided a coach or their coach failed to meet with them. One of these brothers was WB Russell Bridges, Past Illustrious Grand Master of the York Rite Council. Only because the candidates forced the Lodge to coach them to the next degree did Freemasonry not lose two Grand Officers, a Grand Master, and a Grand York Rite Officer. The candidate should never have to wait. The Lodge should be ready to conduct him through the Degrees and coach him along the way. The message you send to the candidate must be that we welcome you and look forward to you joining our fraternity. It should not be that we will get to you when we can and when it is the easiest for us.

Lastly, I have read two letters that I received from widows who reached out to me as a result of the loss of their husbands. In both cases, their husband's Lodge failed to address their loss. The Lodge failed to send a card, failed to call to check on how she was doing, failed to provide her comfort in her time of trouble. Sadly, my brothers, as of the date of this report, I have now received four such letters from the families of brothers who we failed. I have no doubt that these families have not only shared our failures with me, but they have shared it with their family members, friends, and neighbors. Freemasonry must be a story of success, not failure.

These issues must be something that the lodges address in the coming years. Many of us came into Freemasonry as a result of knowing someone that was a Mason. Try and engage your inactive members. Send them a card or a letter. Call them on the telephone. Invite them to a lodge meeting. If they can

no longer drive, offer to pick them up and take them to the meeting. Always make them feel welcome when they return. They may be looking for a way to reengage the lodge, but need a little assistance with getting in and meeting the newer members.

I am confident that you and your lodge can make a difference in this world. As you implement plans to reverse the membership trends, remember that you must always guard the west gate. We must not focus only on raising the number of members we have in our lodges. We do not need members, we need Masons. For too long, we have lowered our standards, and ourselves, to defend the indefensible, we have allowed ourselves to accept the unacceptable and we have learned to tolerate the intolerable. Freemasonry is and must be better than this. We must attract those who truly want to be transformed by our fraternity.

### **Necrology**

During 2020, The Grand Lodge of North Carolina lost to death five (5) Past Grand Masters, the most in a single year in our history. To date, we have not suffered the loss of any additional Past Grand Masters. Unfortunately, each year it is our sad duty to report the number of deceased brethren that have been called into that Celestial Lodge Above. During 2021, we have still lost 580 brethren to death. We grieve the loss of our brothers and know that they are now in a better place. We offer our continued thoughts and prayers to their families and thank them for sharing their loved ones with our fraternity during each of their Masonic journeys.

### **District Deputy Officer Conferences**

As Grand Master-Elect, I held five (5) area planning meetings with the District Deputy Grand Masters and the District Deputy Grand Lecturers. These meetings are critical for the Grand Master-elect to have the opportunity to meet with the District Officers in advance of his term as Grand Master. The Grand Master cannot be everywhere all the time. This meeting affords the Grand Master-elect an opportunity to get to know each of these officers. The District Officers are the eyes and ears of the Grand Master across the State. The Grand Master must know that he has the support of his District Officers and that he can rely on them to assist the lodges and the Craft in their respective districts. In turn, it also allows the District Officers to know that they have the full confidence and support of the Grand Master. The meeting allows the Grand Master to preview his message with the district leaders and allows us to learn best practices between districts and answer any questions the officers may have.

Unfortunately, the Covid-19 pandemic prevented me from having a single planning meeting at one of our Masonic campuses as has been done in recent years. The campuses of the Masonic Home for Children in Oxford and WhiteStone remained closed to the public, as well as to their respective Boards of Directors, until mid-2021. Hopefully the District Officers will be able to meet on our campuses in the coming years.

Because the campuses were closed, the area planning meetings on the following dates and at the following locations:

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<b>Date</b>	<b>Host</b>	<b>Location</b>
November 16	Greenville Lodge No. 284	Greenville
November 17	Hiram Lodge No. 40	Clinton
November 18	Sanford Lodge No. 151	Sanford
November 23	Waynesville Lodge No. 257	Waynesville
November 30	Statesville Lodge No. 27	Statesville

### **Honorary Title of Past District Deputy Grand Master**

Shortly after I issued a statement denouncing the violence that occurred at our Nation's Capital on January 6, WB Todd Trivette resigned his position as District Deputy Grand Master. To fill the vacancy, I was honored to appoint to a three (3) year term, WB Mark Alexander as District Deputy Grand Master of the 33rd Masonic District. WB Alexander is a member of North Wilkesboro Lodge No. 407 and Wilkerson College Lodge No. 760, as well as an honorary member of Mt. Pleasant Lodge No. 573. WB Alexander is a Past Master of North Wilkesboro Lodge and the Past District Deputy Lecturer of the 33rd District. I have full confidence that in WB Alexander, the 33rd Masonic District will have an officer that is be able to fill this position with honor and distinction.

It is my privilege to recommend that this Grand Lodge grant the honorary title of Past District Deputy Grand Master to the following Brethren who have completed their respective terms of service as DDGM and who are now eligible in accordance with The Code:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Lodge</b>	<b>District</b>
Norman Eugene Hiatt	Orr Lodge No. 104	3
Brian Keith Phelps	Perseverance Lodge No. 59	5
James Wilbert Futrell	Bethel Lodge No. 589	6
Ronald Thomas Bowling	Durham Lodge No. 352	19
Jonathan Shannon Johnson	Palmyra Lodge No. 147	20
Daryl Nathan Crowder	Dan River Lodge No. 129	22
David Keith Eddins	Hanks Lodge No. 128	24
Mark Douglas Thorpe	King Lodge No. 722	26
Harold Martin Brewer	Albemarle Lodge No. 703	29
Dan Bryant Beal	Cookville Lodge No. 502	34
Jeffrey Webb Ward	Fairview Lodge No. 339	35
Claude Ray Harrill	Kedron Lodge No. 387	38
Anthony Joseph Rathbone	Nichols-W. Asheville Lodge No. 493	39
Ronald Hensley	Blue Ridge Lodge No. 435	41

### Honorary Title of Past District Deputy Grand Lecturer

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

<b>Name</b>	<b>Lodge</b>	<b>District</b>
James Warren Cook, Jr.	Widow's Son Lodge No. 519	8
Harold Vernon Stafford	Corinthian Lodge No. 230	9
Edward Earl Wells	Hiram Lodge No. 98	11
Fredrick Alexander Szakasits	Orient Lodge No. 395	12
John Wesley Watkins	Oak Grove Lodge No. 750	19
Matthew William Cockman	Bula Lodge No. 409	22
Michael Stephen Kerhoulas	Mt. Pleasant Lodge No. 573	33
Michael Lee McGinnis	Gaston Lodge No. 263	36

### District Meetings

I was able to hold twenty-one (21) district meetings this year. The district meetings ranged from Franklin to Manteo. I can attest to each of you that this is a large state to cover. Twenty-one district meetings is slightly less than I had originally planned. Typically, the Grand Master begins his district meetings in late January and concludes at his home lodge by late May or early June. This allows about four months for the Grand Master to complete his district meetings. However, because the Covid-19 pandemic remained with us, restrictions on gatherings the size of a district meeting would not allow us to meet until mid-June. As such, I had limited time to complete my district meetings and, as a result, there were about five fewer meetings than I had hoped to make.

Nevertheless, I was able to get across the entire state in eight weeks, with a visit to the Imperial Shrine Session in between. The first meeting was held on June 15 in Wilmington at St. John's Lodge No. 1. The last meeting was on August 16 at the stated communication of Oak Grove Lodge No. 750, my home lodge. I enjoyed traveling the state and meeting with so many of my brothers that I may not have otherwise had the opportunity to meet. I was humbled by the large turnout at my district meetings, several of which had over one hundred brothers in attendance. I have been received warmly and enjoyed the kindness of the Craft, as well as the many wonderful meals that were served.

During my district meetings, I explained that the only trepidation I had with regard to being Grand Master was having to write six articles and speak with the Craft. Not that I could not write the articles or speak to a group, but that I needed to impart something that was of significant importance for the Craft to take time to read and to hear. I hope that the messages I brought to you this year have been worthy of your time.

This year, in an effort to show our support for the appendant bodies, I was pleased and honored to have each Shrine Center, the Scottish Rite, and the York Rite Bodies co-host a District Meeting. I believe this to be of great importance. My brothers, it is being transformed by the lessons taught in the Blue Lodge, the Shrine, the Scottish Rite and the York Rite that makes us better



men. For too long, we have failed to unite with our brethren in the appendant bodies. My brothers, this is not a competition. The Scottish Rite is not stealing members from the York Rite, and the Shrine is not stealing members from the Blue Lodges. Every brother must find a quarry in which to labor. The quarry that is of most interest to us as individuals may differ, but so long as we labor in unity, we can accomplish much. You will note from the list below which of the District Meetings was co-hosted by the appendant bodies. A special thanks to each for their continued support of me through the year.

As I crossed the State, I was pleased to have RW Jonathan Underwood with me. RWB Jonathan has done an excellent job assuming the role of Grand Secretary. He has become a good friend, and I have enjoyed his company and his humor throughout the year. He has served me and the Craft with distinction this year. When RWB Underwood could not be present, RWB Donald E. Kehler, JGW, and Ill. Sir C. Alvin Billings, Jr., PP, filled in admirably. I wish to thank each of them for their service.

Also in my travels, I was honored to have WB Calvin A. Rogers, Jr., Grand Tyler, and WB Herbert C. "Dicky" Lyon, Grand Lecturer, travel with me as well. Whether I was in Manteo or Franklin, or somewhere in between, they traveled the state with me. Of all my District Meetings, I believe neither missed more than two meetings total. Both are true and trusty friends, and I appreciate all they did for me this year. It was also a privilege to travel with WB Kevin Otis, Administrator of the Masonic Home for Children; Br. Mark Lewis, Administrator for WhiteStone; and WB Chris Richardson with the North Carolina Masonic Foundation. This year has been a trying time for all our charities, both financially and from the stand point of safety during a pandemic. Nevertheless, they were able to not only work tirelessly for our widows and orphans, but also travel the state to give the Craft a firsthand account of the condition of our Homes.

I would like to thank my Grand Lodge Officers and many of our Past Grand Masters for attending my meetings and offering me words of encouragement and support.

Following is a list of the 2021 district meetings:

<b>Date</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Host</b>	<b>Location</b>
June 15	12	St. John's No. 1	Wilmington
June 16	4	Semper Fidelis No. 680	Jacksonville
June 17	11	Hiram No. 98	Clinton
June 22	15	William T. Bain No. 231/Amran Shrine	Raleigh
June 23	23	Corinthian No. 542	Greensboro
June 24	31	Derita No. 715/Oasis Shrine	Charlotte
July 12	16	Mt. Lebanon No. 117	Wilson
July 13	17	Creasy Proctor No. 679/Sudan Shrine	Fayetteville
July 14	21	Roman Eagle No. 550	Southern Pines
July 19	2	Manteo No. 521	Manteo
July 20	1	Gatesville No. 126	Elizabeth City
July 21	3	Orr No. 104	Washington

July 26	28	Fulton No. 99	Salisbury
July 27	8	Royal White Hart No. 2	Halifax
August 2	41	Junaluskee No. 145/Scottish Rite	Franklin
August 3	39	Mt. Herman No. 118	Asheville
August 4	34	Hickory No. 343	Hickory
August 9	33	Snow No. 363	Boone
Apr 10	25	Elkin Lodge No. 454	Elkin
Apr 11	13	Oxford Lodge No. 122/York Rite	Oxford
Apr 15	19	Oak Grove Lodge No. 750	Durham

### Lion and Pillar Lodges for 2021

Despite the fact that we were closed for much of the first half of the year, the Lion and Pillar program continued in 2021. Since its inception in 2017, this program has been utilized by lodges for their continued growth and pursuit of excellence. Below is a list of lodges that have achieved excellence this year.

#### *Platinum Level Lion and Pillar*

Lodge	District	Location
Lux Libertas Lodge 772	19	Hillsborough
Semper Fidelis Lodge 680	4	Jacksonville
Fuquay-Varina Lodge 258	15	Fuquay-Varina
Eagle Lodge 19	19	Hillsborough
Thomas M. Holt Lodge 492	22	Graham
Zion Lodge 91	7	Trenton
Kenly Lodge 257	16	Kenly
Ashlar Lodge 765	12	Hampstead
William G. Hill Lodge 218	14	Raleigh
Cannon Memorial Lodge 626	28	Kannapolis
Mingo Lodge 206	11	Dunn
Bula Lodge 409	22	Burlington

#### *Standard Level Lion and Pillar*

Lodge	District	Location
Shallotte Lodge 727	12	Shallotte
Cleveland Lodge 202	35	Shelby
Wilmington Lodge 319	12	Wilmington
Guilford Lodge 656	26	Greensboro
Oxford Lodge 122	13	Oxford
Corinthian Lodge 230	9	Rocky Mount
Hibriten Lodge 262	34	Lenoir

As others have done, I would like to offer a special thanks to Most Worshipful A. Gene Cobb, Jr., PGM 2017, for his continued support of the Lion and Pillar Program. It was PGM Cobb that developed and implemented this Program. It has done nothing but help improve the quality of the Blue Lodge experience for those that chose to participate. If we came here to work and to improve ourselves in Masonry, the Lion and Pillar Program provides lodges with the tools to work with so that each lodge can become a success.

### **Joseph Montfort Medals**

Pursuant to Regulation 80-1, each Grand Master has been given the privilege to present not more than three (3) Joseph Montfort Medals during his term in office. The Montfort Medal can be presented by the Grand Master to “any Master Mason in good standing...who in the opinion of the Grand Master is deserving thereof because of distinguished Masonic service or achievement.” To date, it has been my honor to present two (2) Montfort Medals.

On August 13, 2021, I presented my first Joseph Montfort Medal to MWB Dewey R. Preslar, Jr., Past Grand Master. MWB Preslar was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason on October 1, 1988, in Andrew Jackson Lodge No. 576 in Salisbury, North Carolina. He served as Master of Andrew Jackson Lodge in 1993. MWB Preslar is a member of Rockingham Lodge No. 495, and a charter member of both Orphans Lodge No. 761 and Sophia Lodge No. 767. In addition, MWB Preslar is an honorary member of 16 other lodges across this great state. Over the course of his Masonic journey, MWB Preslar has served on numerous Grand Lodge Committees and Boards, some of which include Finance, Jurisprudence, Committee on the Masonic Home for Children, Committee on WhiteStone, Board of General Purposes, Board of Directors of WhiteStone, and the Board of Directors of the Masonic Home for Children. PGM Preslar is currently serving on the Board of General Purposes and as the Chair of the Board of Directors for the Masonic Home for Children, where he was conferred Emeritus Board Member status — one of only four (4) Masons to have ever been so honored. It was only fitting that PGM Preslar received the Montfort Medal at the Board of Directors meeting at the Masonic Home for Children. MWB Preslar is well-respected for his many contributions to Masonry.

On August 16, 2021, at my last district meeting, I presented my second Joseph Montfort Medal to WB Herbert C. “Dicky” Lyon. WB Lyon was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason on November 22, 1982, in Eno Lodge No. 210 in Durham, North Carolina. WB Lyon is a charter member of Mosaic Lodge No. 762 and is an honorary member of Eagle Lodge No. 19, Knap of Reeds Lodge No. 158, and Oak Grove Lodge No. 750. WB Lyon served as Master of Eno Lodge in 1990 and Master of Mosaic Lodge in 2013. WB Lyon has served as Secretary of Eno Lodge for thirty years and has been a Class A Certified Lecturer for 21 years. WB Lyon has served as both the District Deputy Grand Master and the District Deputy Lecturer for the 19th Masonic District. WB Lyon’s service as DDGL has been for more than ten years. In addition, he has served on the Grand Lodge Board of Custodians and as Grand Lecturer. For many years, WB Lyon has assisted the various lodges in the 19th Masonic District, as well as the surrounding districts, with their degree work and provided countless schools of instruction and lecture services. He is a true example of the definition of a Mason.

I intend to present a third Montfort Medal prior to the end of my term in office.

### Physical Disabilities

In the case of petitioners having physical disabilities, The Code requires the District Deputy Grand Master to conduct an investigation and advise the Grand Master as to whether the petition should proceed through its normal process. The Code provisions are in place to assist in determining whether an applicant is physically able to go through the initiation process and whether he would become an immediate financial burden to the Lodge.

As of August 31, sixteen (16) such requests have been submitted to me. In each case an investigation was conducted by the District Deputy Grand Master, with such assistance as he deemed necessary. Based on the information provided to me by the DDGMs, I have approved the request of fourteen (14) petitioners to proceed with the Degrees in Masonry with their physical disability. Unfortunately, two (2) of the petitioners suffered from physical and/or mental disabilities that were too severe to be approved. In those cases, I could not approve for the individuals to proceed.

I would again like to thank each of the District Deputy Grand Masters who thoroughly investigated these specific instances. Their assistance and the reports that were provided to me were invaluable and helped to expedite my final decisions.

### Dispensations

During the period from December 5, 2021, through August 31, 2021, I have issued one hundred twenty (120) Dispensations for various Lodge needs and situations. Listed below are the Dispensations issued to date:

1. **To Andrews Lodge No. 529** to postpone the election of officers until their 2021 annual communication. Issued December 8, 2020.
2. **To Perseverance Lodge No. 59** to postpone the election of officers until their 2021 annual communication. Issued December 8, 2020.
3. **To Roman Eagle Lodge No. 550** to postpone the election of officers until their 2021 annual communication. Issued December 8, 2020.
4. **To Mount Holly Lodge No. 544** to postpone the election of officers until their 2021 annual communication. Issued December 8, 2020.
5. **To Goldsboro Lodge No. 634** to move the annual communication and election of officers to the December 28, 2020, stated communication. Issued December 8, 2020.
6. **To Piedmont-Pioneer Lodge No. 685** to hold an election for Treasurer at the January 7, 2021, stated communication. Issued December 8, 2020.
7. **To Wilkerson College Lodge No. 760** to hold the December 12, 2020, stated communication virtually. Issued December 8, 2020.
8. **To Lincoln Lodge No. 137** to postpone the election of officers until their 2021 annual communication. Issued December 8, 2020.
9. **To Allen-Graham Lodge No. 695** to postpone the election of officers until their 2021 annual communication. Issued December 8, 2020.
10. **To Snow Lodge No. 363** to postpone the election of officers until their 2021 annual communication. Issued December 9, 2020.

11. **To South Fork Lodge No. 462** to postpone the election of officers until their 2021 annual communication. Issued December 9, 2020.
12. **To Robbinsville Lodge No. 672** to postpone the election of officers until their 2021 annual communication. Issued December 9, 2020.
13. **To Marble Springs Lodge No. 439** to move the annual communication and election of officers to the January 2, 2021, stated communication. Issued December 9, 2020.
14. **To Ocean Lodge No. 405** to hold an election for Senior Warden at the December 22, 2020, stated communication. Issued December 9, 2020.
15. **To New Lebanon Lodge No. 314** to move the annual communication and election of officers to the December 8, 2020, stated communication. Issued December 7, 2020.
16. **To Pilot Lodge No. 493** to hold the December 14, 2020, stated communication virtually and to elect a Senior Warden at said meeting. Issued December 10, 2020.
17. **To Whetstone Lodge No. 515** to move the annual communication and election of officers to the December 15, 2020, stated communication and to move the location of said meeting to Gaston Lodge No. 263. Issued December 11, 2020.
18. **To Mt. Lebanon Lodge No. 117** to move the annual communication and election of officers to the December 21, 2020, stated communication. Issued December 11, 2020.
19. **To Elkin Lodge No. 454** to postpone the election of officers until their 2021 annual communication. Issued December 15, 2020.
20. **To Numa F. Reid Lodge No. 344** to postpone the election of officers until their 2021 annual communication. Issued December 15, 2020.
21. **To Mocksville Lodge No. 134** to postpone the election of officers until their 2021 annual communication. Issued December 15, 2020.
22. **To East LaPorte Lodge No. 358** to move the annual communication and election of officers to their next communication. Issued December 15, 2020.
23. **To St. John's Lodge No. 4** to move the annual communication and election of officers to the December 28, 2020, stated communication. Issued December 23, 2020.
24. **To Hiram Lodge No. 40** to hold the January 4, 2021, stated communication at J. J. Crowder Lodge No. 743. Issued December 23, 2020.
25. **To Stanley Lodge No. 713** to postpone the election of officers until their 2021 annual communication. Issued December 23, 2020.
26. **To Forest City Lodge No. 381** to postpone the election of officers until their 2021 annual communication. Issued December 23, 2020.
27. **Lucama Lodge No. 527** to postpone the election of officers until their 2021 annual communication. Issued December 23, 2020.
28. **To Bailey Lodge No. 411** to postpone the election of officers until their 2021 annual communication. Issued December 23, 2020.

29. **To Jefferson Penn Lodge No. 384** to perform Masonic Graveside Rites on January 2, 2021, with certain safety protocols in place, during a period of time where gatherings are prohibited due to Covid-19. Issued December 30, 2020.
30. **To Kernersville Lodge No. 669** to open a Lodge of Sorrow and perform Masonic Graveside Rites on January 1, 2021, with certain safety protocols in place, during a period of time where gatherings are prohibited due to Covid-19. Issued December 30, 2020.
31. **To Corinthian Lodge No. 230** to hold the January 11, 2021, stated communication virtually. Issued January 8, 2021.
32. **To Pee Dee Lodge No. 150** to postpone the election of officers until their 2021 annual communication. Issued January 11, 2021.
33. **To Fairview Lodge No. 339** to move the January 11, 2021, stated communication to January 25, 2021. Issued January 11, 2021.
34. **To Lux Libertas Lodge No. 772** to hold the February 6, 2021, stated communication virtually. Issued January 11, 2021.
35. **To Relief Lodge No. 431** to hold the January 26, 2021, stated communication virtually. Issued January 11, 2021.
36. **To Kenly Lodge No. 257** to hold the January 19, 2021, stated communication virtually. Issued January 11, 2021.
37. **To Knights of Solomon Lodge No. 764** to hold the annual communication and election of officers on January 16, 2021, at Hibriten Lodge No. 262 and, thereafter, to hold stated communications at the following dates and at the following locations: April 17, 2021, at Salem Lodge No. 289; June 19, 2021, at North Wilkesboro Lodge No. 407; September 18, 2021, at Andrew Jackson Lodge No. 576; and November 13, 2021, at Charles M. Setzer Lodge No. 693. Issued January 11, 2021.
38. **To Mingo Lodge No. 206** to preform Masonic Graveside Rites on January 10, 2021, with certain safety protocols in place, during a period of time where gatherings are prohibited due to Covid-19. Issued January 10, 2021 and signed January 11, 2021, nunc pro tunc.
39. **To Wake Forest Lodge No. 282** to hold the January 12, 2021, annual communication and election of officers virtually. Issued January 11, 2021.
40. **To Knights of Solomon Lodge No. 766** to move the January 16, 2021, stated communication to February 20, 2021. Issued January 12, 2021.
41. **To Eagle Lodge No. 19** to install officers virtually. Issued January 12, 2021.
42. **To Liberty Lodge No. 45** to move the January 7, 2021, stated communication to January 21, 2021. Issued January 12, 2021.
43. **To Junaluskee Lodge No. 145** to move the January 5, 2021, stated communication to January 19, 2021. Issued January 12, 2021.
44. **To Enterprise Lodge No. 752** to move the January 11, 2021, stated communication to January 18, 2021. Issued January 15, 2021.

45. **To Jefferson Penn Lodge No. 384** to hold a special election of officers at the January 19, 2021, stated communication due to the death of the Master-elect prior to installation. Issued January 15, 2021.
46. **To J. J. Crowder Lodge No. 743** to install officers virtually. Issued January 19, 2021.
47. **To Yadkin Falls Lodge No. 637** to hold a special election for Junior Warden at the February 1, 2021, stated communication. Issued January 19, 2021.
48. **To Mosaic Lodge No. 762** to hold the February 16, 2021, stated communication virtually. Issued January 21, 2021.
49. **To Person Lodge No. 113** to hold a special election for Treasurer at the January 26, 2021, stated communication. Issued January 22, 2021.
50. **To Kenly Lodge No. 257** to hold all stated communications virtually until April 1, 2021. Issued January 26, 2021.
51. **To University Lodge No. 408** to install officers virtually. Issued January 26, 2021.
52. **To J. J. Crowder Lodge No. 743** to hold the February 4, 2021, stated communication virtually. Issued January 26, 2021.
53. **To Shelby Lodge No. 744** to hold the February 1, 2021, stated communication virtually. Issued January 27, 2021.
54. **To Forsyth Lodge No. 707** to hold the February 3, 2021, stated communication virtually. Issued January 27, 2021.
55. **To Fairview Lodge No. 339** to hold a special election for Master at the February 8, 2021, due to the death of the previously elected and installed Master. Issued February 2, 2021.
56. **To Currituck Lodge No. 463** to hold a special election for Senior Warden at the February 8, 2021, stated communication due to the Senior Warden-elect declining to office. Issued February 2, 2021.
57. **To Belhaven Lodge No. 509** to hold a special election for Junior Warden and Secretary at the February 9, 2021, stated communication. Issued February 2, 2021.
58. **To Knights of Solomon Lodge No. 768** to hold the February 6, 2021, stated communication at J. J. Crowder Lodge No. 743. Issued February 4, 2021.
59. **To Holly Springs Lodge No. 115** to hold all stated and emergent communications at Fuquay Lodge No. 258. Issued February 4, 2021.
60. **To Holly Springs Lodge No. 115** to hold the annual communication and election of officers on February 23, 2021. Issued February 4, 2021.
61. **To University Lodge No. 408** to hold all stated communications virtually until May 1, 2021. Issued February 4, 2021.
62. **To Wilkerson College Lodge No. 760** to hold the February 13, 2021, stated communication virtually. Issued February 9, 2021.
63. **To State College Lodge No. 770** to hold the February 17, 2021, stated communication virtually. Issued February 9, 2021.

64. **To Fallston Lodge No. 356** to hold the annual communication and election of officers on the March 8, 2021, stated communication. Issued February 9, 2021.
65. **To Knights of Solomon Lodge No. 774** to hold the February 20, 2021, stated communication at Mystic Tie Lodge No. 237. Issued February 16, 2021.
66. **To Eagle Lodge No. 19** to hold an emergent communication on February 27, 2021, at Durham Lodge No. 352 to confer a Master Mason Degree. Issued February 16, 2021.
67. **To Mt. Hermon Lodge No. 118** to operate without a Charter being displayed in the Lodge while the original Charter is undergoing historic restoration. Issued February 16, 2021.
68. **To Mosaic Lodge No. 762** to postpone the election of officers until their 2021 annual communication. Issued February 17, 2021.
69. **To King Lodge No. 722** to move the February 18, 2021, stated communication to February 25, 2021. Issued February 18, 2021.
70. **To Youngsville Lodge No. 377** to move the February 18, 2021, stated communication to March 1, 2021. Issued February 18, 2021.
71. **To J. J. Crowder Lodge No. 743** to hold the March 4, 2021, stated communication virtually. Issued March 2, 2021.
72. **To Hanks Lodge No. 128** to postpone the election of officers until their 2021 annual communication. Issued March 2, 2021.
73. **To Hibriten Lodge No. 262** to hold a special election at the March 4, 2021, stated communication for Junior Warden due to the death of the installed Junior Warden from Covid-19. Issued March 3, 2021.
74. **To Forsyth Lodge No. 707** to hold the March 3, 2021, stated communication virtually. Issued March 3, 2021.
75. **To Eagle Lodge No. 19** to hold an emergent communication on March 13, 2021, at Durham Lodge No. 352 to confer a Master Mason Degree. Issued March 9, 2021.
76. **To Neill S. Stewart Lodge No. 556** to postpone the election of officers until their 2021 annual communication. Issued March 9, 2021.
77. **To Oak Island Lodge No. 758** to move the March 18, 2021, stated communication to March 22, 2021. Issued March 18, 2021.
78. **To William G. Hill Lodge No. 218** to hold all stated communications at James B. Green Lodge No. 735. Issued March 24, 2021.
79. **To Kenly Lodge No. 257** to hold all stated communications in a hybrid format of both in-person and virtual until July 1, 2021. Issued March 24, 2021.
80. **To Carthage Lodge No. 181** to hold an emergent communication on April 10, 2021, at 599 Doubs Chapel Road, Carthage, North Carolina, for the purpose of conferring an outdoor Master Mason Degree. Issued March 24, 2021.
81. **To Dunn's Rock Lodge No. 267** to hold the annual communication and election of officers on the April 8, 2021, stated communication. Issued March 26, 2021.



82. **To Raleigh Lodge No. 500** to hold an emergent communication on April 1, 2021, for the purpose of conferring the Fellowcraft Degree at Cary Lodge No. 198. Issued March 26, 2021.
83. **To Ayden Lodge No. 498** to postpone the election of officers until their 2021 annual communication. Issued April 1, 2021.
84. **To Mount Olive Lodge No. 208** to postpone the election of officers until their 2021 annual communication. Issued April 5, 2021.
85. **To Laurinburg Lodge No. 305** to hold their stated communication on May 4, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. instead of 7:30 p.m. Issued April 5, 2021.
86. **To Scotland Neck Lodge No. 447** to hold a special election at the May 4, 2021, stated communication for Junior Warden. Issued April 7, 2021.
87. **To Raleigh Lodge No. 500** to hold the April 20, 2021, stated communication at James B. Green Lodge No. 735. Issued April 19, 2021.
88. **To State College Lodge No. 770** to hold the April 21, 2021, stated communication virtually. Issued April 21, 2021.
89. **To Spencer Lodge No. 543** to cancel the April 27, 2021, stated communication to attend a Master Mason Degree at Scotch Ireland Lodge No. 154. Issued April 22, 2021.
90. **To Knights of Solomon Lodge No. 768** to hold the May 1, 2021, stated communication at Waynesville Lodge No. 259. Issued April 23, 2021.
91. **To Jerusalem Lodge No. 95** to hold an emergent communication on May 15, 2021, at 728 Ormondsville Road, Hookerton, North Carolina, for the purpose of conferring an outdoor Master Mason Degree. Issued April 26, 2021.
92. **To Oxford Lodge No. 122** to hold an emergent communication on May 17, 2021, at Orphans Lodge No. 761 at the Masonic Home for Children in Oxford for the purpose of Masonic Education and to tour the Children's Home. Issued April 26, 2021.
93. **To Scotch Ireland Lodge No. 154** to cancel the May 11, 2021, stated communication to attend a Master Mason Degree at Spencer Lodge No. 543. Issued April 26, 2021.
94. **To Sophia Lodge No. 767** to postpone the election of officers until their 2021 annual communication. Issued April 30, 2021.
95. **To Perquimans Lodge No. 106** to postpone the election of officers until their 2021 annual communication. Issued April 30, 2021.
96. **To Raleigh Lodge No. 500** to hold an emergent communication on May 6, 2021, at James B. Green Lodge No. 735 to confer an Entered Apprentice Degree. Issued May 3, 2021.
97. **To Raleigh Lodge No. 500** to hold a stated communication on May 18, 2021, at James B. Green Lodge No. 735. Issued May 3, 2021.
98. **To Veritas Lodge No. 769** to hold the May 26, 2021, stated communication virtually. Issued May 3, 2021.
99. **To Knights of Solomon Lodge No. 774** to hold stated communications on the following dates and at the following locations: May 15,

2021, at Junaluskee Lodge No. 145; July 17, 2021, at Bakersville Lodge No. 357; and September 18, 2021, at Blue Ridge Lodge No. 435. Issued May 6, 2021.

100. **To Semper Fidelis Lodge No. 680** to hold an emergent communication on August 14, 2021, at Orphans Lodge No. 761 at the Masonic Home for Children in Oxford for the purpose of Masonic Education and to tour the Children's Home. Issued May 6, 2021.
101. **To Bald Creek Lodge No. 397** to hold an emergent communication on May 22, 2021, at 337 Camp Rainbow Road, Boone, North Carolina for the purpose of conferring an outdoor Master Mason Degree. Issued May 14, 2021.
102. **To Lodge of the Nine Sisters No. 773** to hold the May 15, 2021, stated communication virtually. Issued May 14, 2021.
103. **To J. J. Crowder Lodge No. 743** to hold all stated communications in a hybrid format of both in-person and virtual until September 1, 2021. Issued May 27, 2021.
104. **To Fuquay Lodge No. 258** to hold an emergent communication on June 24, 2021, at Holly Springs Lodge No. 115 for the purpose of conferring an Entered Apprentice Degree. Issued May 27, 2021.
105. **To Stump Sound Lodge No. 733** to hold a special election at the June 22, 2021, stated communication for Senior Warden as the previous Senior Warden resigned his position. Issued May 27, 2021.
106. **To Kenly Lodge No. 257** to hold an emergent communication on June 5, 2021, at 980 Cuddington Road, Kenly, North Carolina for the purpose of conferring an outdoor Entered Apprentice Degree. Issued May 27, 2021.
107. **To Lucama Lodge No. 527** to hold an emergent communication on June 5, 2021, at 980 Cuddington Road, Kenly, North Carolina for the purpose of conferring an outdoor Master Mason Degree. Issued May 27, 2021.
108. **To Piedmont-Pioneer Lodge No. 685** to hold a special election at the July 1, 2021, stated communication for Junior Warden as the previous Junior Warden resigned his position. Issued June 3, 2021.
109. **To Raleigh Lodge No. 500** to hold all stated communications at James B. Green No. 735 until October 31, 2021. Issued June 4, 2021.
110. **To South Fork Lodge No. 462** to hold all stated communications at Belmont Lodge No. 627. Issued June 8, 2021.
111. **To South Fork Lodge No. 462** to hold a special election at the June 8, 2021, stated communication for Senior Warden as the previous Senior Warden resigned his position. Issued June 8, 2021.
112. **To William T. Bain Lodge No. 231** to hold an emergent communication on June 22, 2021, at Amran Shrine Center, 11100 Creedmoor Road, Raleigh, North Carolina for the purpose of hosting the District Meeting for the Grand Master of Masons. Issued June 10, 2021.
113. **To Clay Lodge No. 301** to hold an emergent communication on September 11, 2021, at 6448 Hwy 64 West, Brasstown, North Carolina for the purpose of conferring an outdoor Civil War reenactment Mas-

- ter Mason Degree. Issued June 10, 2021.
114. **To Royal White Hart Lodge No. 2** to hold a special election at the June 20, 2021, stated communication for Senior Warden as the previous Senior Warden resigned his position. Issued June 17, 2021.
  115. **To Knights of Solomon Lodge No. 768** to hold a stated communication on July 10, 2021, at Pilot Lodge No. 493. Issued July 2, 2021.
  116. **To Wilkerson College Lodge No. 760** to hold stated communications on the following dates and at the following locations: August 14, 2021, at Pilot Lodge No. 493 and October 9, 2021, at Orphans Lodge No. 761. Issued July 2, 2021.
  117. **To Henderson Lodge No. 229** to hold all stated communications from August 2021 through December 2021 at John H. Mills Lodge No. 624. Issued July 30, 2021.
  118. **To Creasy Proctor Lodge No. 679** to hold the August 10, 2021, stated communication at Lebanon Lodge No. 391 due to the need to replace the HVAC system. Issued August 3, 2021.
  119. **To Clifford Duell Lodge No. 756** to hold all stated communications beginning August 16, 2021, at Lebanon Lodge No. 391 due to the need to replace the HVAC system at the Fayetteville Masonic Center. Issued August 16, 2021.
  120. **To Union Lodge No. 618** to hold an emergent communication on September 18, 2021, at 16924 Cabarrus Road, Midland, North Carolina for the purpose of conferring an outdoor Master Mason Degree. Issued August 25, 2021.
  121. **To Creasy Proctor Lodge No. 769** to hold all stated communications beginning September 14, 2021, at Lebanon Lodge No. 391 due to the need to replace the HVAC system at the Fayetteville Masonic Center. Issued August 30, 2021.

### Orders

During the period from December 5, 2021, through August 31, 2021, I have issued sixteen (16) Orders. Listed below are the Orders issued to date:

1. **To all subordinate Lodges and Appendant Masonic Bodies under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina** for the purpose of requiring that Lodges complete business and close no later than 9:30 p.m., to be in conformity with the Governor's statewide curfew. Issued December 22, 2020.
2. **To Dunn's Rock Lodge No. 267 and Brother BRG** for the purpose of removing Br. BRG from the office of Master of Dunn's Rock Lodge No. 267 as a result of un-Masonic conduct directed at Past Grand Master Bradshaw and Grand Master Wicker by Br. BRG and for Br. BRG's failure to comply with the Summons of the Grand Master which was lawfully sent to and received by him. Issued December 22, 2020.
3. **To all subordinate Lodges and Appendant Masonic Bodies under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina** for the purpose of sus-

pending all Masonic activities across the State of North Carolina from December 25, 2020, through January 15, 2021, as a result of recent outbreaks of the Covid-19 virus at various lodges. Issued December 24, 2020.

4. **To all subordinate Lodges and Appendant Masonic Bodies under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina** for the purpose of lifting the suspension of food sales as fund raising events and establishing standards for food preparation and service at such events. Issued January 28, 2021.
5. **To Rockingham Lodge No. 495 and Brother JRC** for the purpose of removing Br. JRC from the office of Secretary of Rockingham Lodge No. 495 and prohibiting him from participating in any Masonic activities in the State of North Carolina until such time as a final disposition of the criminal charge alleging murder against him has been resolved. Issued February 12, 2021.
6. **To all subordinate Lodges and Appendant Masonic Bodies under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina** for the purpose of rescinding the 9:30 p.m. curfew set out in Order No. 1. Issued February 25, 2021.
7. **To all subordinate Lodges and Appendant Masonic Bodies under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina** for the purpose of rescinding the prohibition of the service of meals in lodges prior to or after stated and emergent communications of all Masonic organizations in the State of North Carolina and establishing standards for food preparation and service at such events. Issued February 26, 2021.
8. **To University Lodge No. 408** for the purpose of declaring the ballot void and ordering a re-ballot on an application for affiliation by University Lodge No. 408 due to the failure of the Lodge to comply with the proper balloting procedure at the time of the original ballot. Issued March 11, 2021.
9. **To all subordinate Lodges and Appendant Masonic Bodies under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina** for the purpose of increasing the maximum capacity of Masonic meetings and functions, as well as rescinding the time limits on Masonic meetings and functions set out in the prior orders issued by PGM P. Shaun Bradshaw. Issued April 26, 2021.
10. **To all subordinate Lodges and Appendant Masonic Bodies under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina** for the purpose of rescinding Orders 9, 10, and 11 previously issued by PGM P. Shaun Bradshaw, as well as rescinding Orders 4 and 9 issued by Grand Master Wicker, and establishing new sanitation and COVID-19 health and safety protocols. Issued May 19, 2021.
11. **To Forsyth Lodge No. 707** for the purpose of declaring the bal-

lot void and ordering a re-ballot on an application for affiliation by Forsythe Lodge No. 707 due to the failure of the Lodge to comply with the proper balloting procedure at the time of the original ballot. Issued April 23, 2021.

12. **To Palmyra Lodge No. 147** for the purpose of declaring the ballot void and ordering a re-ballot on a petition for the Degrees of Masonry by Palmyra Lodge No. 147 due to the failure of the Lodge to comply with the proper investigating procedure prior to the original ballot. Issued May 24, 2021.
13. **To Balfour Lodge No. 188 and Brother PEW** for the purpose of removing Br. PEW from the office of Secretary of Balfour Lodge No. 188 as a result of un-Masonic conduct by Br. PEW in directing profanity in open Lodge to the Grand Master presiding in the East, as well as to other Brothers present at the stated meeting. In addition, Br. PEW failed to comply with the Summons of the Grand Master which was lawfully sent to and received by him. Issued May 25, 2021.
14. **To all subordinate Lodges and Appendant Masonic Bodies under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina** for the purpose of establishing additional health and safety standards for all Masonic organizations meeting in the State of North Carolina, in part requiring all those who have not been vaccinated for the Covid-19 virus to wear a cloth face covering at all times during any meeting. Issued July 21, 2021.
15. **To University Lodge No. 408** for the purpose of declaring the ballot void and ordering a re-ballot on an application for affiliation by University Lodge No. 408 due to the failure of the Lodge to comply with the proper balloting procedure at the time of the original ballot. Issued July 21, 2021.
16. **To Eagle Lodge No. 19** for the purpose of declaring the ballot void and ordering a re-ballot on applications for affiliation by Eagle Lodge No. 19 due to the failure of the Lodge to comply with the proper investigating procedure prior to the original ballot. Issued August 18, 2021.

### Approvals

During the period of December 5, 2020, through early August 31, 2021, I issued Six (6) Approvals for various Lodge needs and situations. Listed below are the Approvals issued:

1. James K. Polk Lodge No. 759 for my approval of the resignation of the Senior Warden. Issued January 8, 2021
2. Stump Sound Lodge No. 733 for my approval of the resignation of the Senior Warden. Issued May 4, 2021
3. New River Lodge No. 736 for my approval of the resignation of the Master. Issued June 24, 2021
4. Wendell Lodge No. 565 for my approval of the resignation of the Treasurer. Issued August 2, 2021
5. Fellowship Lodge No. 687 for my approval of the resignation of the Senior Deacon. Issued August 2, 2021

6. Harmony Lodge No. 340 for my approval of the resignation of the Junior Warden. Issued August 2, 2021

### **Emergent Communications**

As of August 31, 2021, I have called an emergent communication of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina on two (2) occasions. The date of each emergent communication and the purposes for which each was called is listed below.

Grand Lodge was opened on December 4, 2020, at Oak Grove Lodge No. 750 in Durham, North Carolina, for the purpose of installing the 2021 Grand Lodge Officers on December 5, 2020. The Grand Lodge was opened in Ample Form with the officers of Oak Grove Lodge No. 750 acting as Grand Lodge Officers pro tempore.

Grand Lodge was opened on May 1, 2021, at the Grand Lodge Offices in Raleigh, North Carolina, for the purpose of installing Jonathan Underwood as Grand Secretary. The Grand Lodge was opened in Ample Form with the Grand Lodge Officers filling their respective places and stations.

### **The North Carolina Masonic Foundation, Inc.**

For an overview of the activities of the North Carolina Masonic Foundation, Inc. during my tenure as Grand Master, I refer you to their reports found in the 2020 and 2021 book of Reports submitted by the Board of Directors and Staff and led by Michael Faulkenbury, Chairman.

To date, I have to participated in two (2) estate planning seminars sponsored by the Foundation as Grand Master. These seminars were well received and additional seminars are planned in the future to meet the needs of those who could not attend earlier this year. Subject to additional restrictions from the Covid-19 pandemic, I anticipate that there will be additional Foundation functions in the near future.

I want to offer a special thanks to the North Carolina Masonic Foundation for their support of our charities and lodges. The financial support they provide keeps the Masonic Home for Children in Oxford and WhiteStone operational. From personal experience in my own lodge, their assistance with investments of lodges makes us able pay the cost of maintaining our building. They provide so much for our fraternity and their work has not gone unnoticed.

### **Whitestone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Community**

WhiteStone, our Masonic and Eastern Star Community in Greensboro turned 109 years old in 2021. From a humble beginning where we were able to provide for the residents with 3 milk cows, 3 calves, 6 hogs, 2 mules, and 60 chickens, today, WhiteStone is a full retirement community providing Independent Living units, skilled nursing care and memory care.

We continue to improve our campus to meet the needs that the market demands. On July 22, we celebrated a ground-breaking ceremony for the new Independent Living (IL) tower currently under construction, as well as for the renovation of our Care and Wellness Center (CWC). In addition, we will be adding an assisted living component to our level of care. This has been missing from our continuum of care in the past. The Long-Range Committee/Development Team chaired by WB Joey Transou continues to work hard to oversee the new expansion. The renovations in the CWC should be completed in 2022 and

the IL units should come on line in 2023.

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

At present, the WhiteStone campus is closed as a safety protocol due to Covid-19. However, if you have never visited WhiteStone, when the campus re-opens, I encourage you to do so. See the life changing work that is being done in Greensboro. Your gifts and your support are making a difference in the quality of life for those in the golden years of their life. Several years ago, we established a foundation called the Masonic and Eastern Star Home, LLC. Please note that a donation to the MESH Foundation, LLC, qualifies as a 501(c)3 tax deductible donation. Donating to this foundation guarantees that your contributions will go to support only Masonically connected residents both internally and those served through the Fraternal Friendship outreach program.

Although many of our lodges provide financial support to the MESH Foundation, LLC, I am disappointed to say that many do nothing for the care of our widows and our elderly. I do not understand the lack of support. As Masons we are obligated individually to support our elderly brothers and their widows. In 1913 it was reported that half of the Lodges had not made any contribution to our Home in Greensboro. Today, that has not changed. I ask of you what was asked in 1913, “what, my brethren, can be the reason for this indifference and apathy? ... An opportunity of doing great good is at hand. How much better it is to provide a Home where your aged and indigent brothers can spend their last few remaining years in peace and comfort, and in the congenial society of brothers and friends, than it is to have small charity doled out to them by their home lodge and individual friends.” My brothers, we must do a better job supporting WhiteStone.

For more detailed report of WhiteStone, I refer you to the reports found elsewhere in these proceedings submitted by Worshipful Brother Steve Norris, Junior Grand Deacon and Chairman of the Committee on WhiteStone for 2021.

### **Masonic Home for Children at Oxford**

Our Masonic Home for Children at Oxford turned 148 years old in 2021. If you have never visited our home in Oxford, I encourage you to do so. In Oxford, you are changing the lives of children. Donations to our Children’s Home can be made out to MHCO, which qualifies as a 501(c)3 tax deductible charity.

Through most of 2020 and the first half of 2021, the campus was closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The campus opened in the late spring and remained opened until mid-August when the rise in Covid cases increased and the safety of the children mandated that we close the campus to visitors once again.

Nevertheless, in May we celebrated the final payments of the pool campaign. Not only was enough money raised to pay for the construction, we had a surplus which went for the payment of the supplies needed to operate the pool. This was done in great part by the support of the three (3) Shrine Temples and a few generous brothers. Thank you, my brothers for your support. The fundraisers you do enables us of provide a great home for children who would otherwise be homeless or in a dangerous or unsafe living environment.

I would like to thank Chairman, Most Worshipful Dewey R. Preslar, Jr., PGM 2013, and the entire team of Board of Directors for their many hours of service and continued support to ensure our home in Oxford continues to be successful. MWB Dewey will be required to come off the Board this year, having completed two consecutive three-year terms of service. Although his leadership will be missed, Most Worshipful C. Speed Hallman, PGM 2017 came on the Board last year and is in a position to take over the leadership of the Board. I wish to thank each of these brothers for all they do for our children.

We have a team of district Ambassadors working to update lodges in their district on activities and needs for operating our home. During my District Meetings, WB Kevin Otis and WB Alvin Billings presented walking sticks to our new Ambassadors. The walking sticks were made using trees from the Home. I offer a special thanks for each Ambassador for their continued support. I would also like to thank lodges who not only support the home financially but offer additional support in labor, materials, and financial scholarships for our graduates. All your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Sadly, the resurgence of Covid-19 has caused the cancellation of the annual Homecoming Festival at the Masonic Home for Children again this year. Hopefully, those who have not yet been vaccinated will do so and the pandemic will begin to subside once more. If this happens, I look forward to the resumption of Homecoming in 2022. It will be wonderful to be back on the campus in October to enjoy the barbecue cookoff and watch the parade featuring our three Shrine Temples — Amran, Oasis and Sudan — as they bring entertainment and joy to the Home and the entire Oxford community. Because the campus is closed, I am granting dispensations for Orphans Lodge No. 761 and Wilkerson College Lodge No. 760 to meet at Oxford Lodge No. 122. Hopefully, next year they will be able to meet on campus as usual.

One of my most special moments during my term as Grand Master was having the opportunity to be with the graduates of the Masonic Home for Children in Oxford at their annual Baccalaureate service on May 22, 2021. This was a unique experience for me as I have never addressed graduates. This year, we had four graduate high school and one graduate from college. One of our high school graduates is the first person in his family to ever complete high school. The young lady who graduated from UNC-Charlotte did so with a double major, earning a BS in Accounting and a BS in Finance. We are truly proud of all their accomplishments. I am grateful to the Masons of our North Carolina for continuing to provide this Home and for the success of our children.

This year, the Masonic Home for Children was scheduled for reaccreditation by the Council On Accreditation (COA). As of the date of this report, COA has completed their survey of the campus, interviews of our staff, and a review of our records. We are certain that all went well and are awaiting the final results.

For more detailed report of the activities concerning the Masonic Home for Children in Oxford I refer you to the report found elsewhere in these proceedings submitted by Worshipful Brother Robert Rideout, Senior Grand Deacon and Chairman of the Committee on the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford for 2021.

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### **Veterans' Hospital Visits**

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

North Carolina has four Veterans Administration Hospitals: Asheville, Salisbury, Durham, and Fayetteville. I was unfortunately unable to arrange a visit to any of the Veterans Administration Hospitals as a result of the limited visitation permitted due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

### **Conference of Grand Masters of North America**

The Grand Lodge of North Carolina is a member of the Conference of Grand Masters of North America. This conference consists of recognized Grand Jurisdictions in all fifty (50) U.S. states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the states of Mexico, the Grand Lodges of the Provinces of Canada, and the American Canadian Grand Lodge of Germany. The Conference is the largest gathering of Grand Masters in the world and assembles Grand Masters to learn items currently affecting the Craft, discuss best practices, and learn of new programs that can assist grand jurisdictions in operating more efficiently.

The annual meeting for 2021 was scheduled to be held February 20-24 in Seattle, Washington. Unfortunately, as with most events scheduled in 2021, the in-person Conference of Grand Master of North America was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Instead of an in-person Conference, a half-day meeting was held on February 20. That meeting was conducted via Zoom. At the 2020 Conference, I was privileged to have been elected to serve as an officer and member of the Time and Place Committee for the 2021 Conference along with Grand Masters from six other grand jurisdictions. Sadly, with the Covid-19 restrictions, only the bare minimum of business was conducted and most items were deferred to the 2022 Conference currently scheduled for February 2022 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Also attending with me via Zoon were Deputy Grand Master, RW Brother Larry B. Thompson, Jr.; Senior Grand Warden, RW Brother Kevan D. Frazier; Junior Grand Warden, RW Brother Donald E. Kehler; then-Grand Secretary, RW Brother T. Walton Clapp, III; then-Assistant to the Grand Secretary, WB Jonathan Underwood; and Grand Treasurer, MW Brother Lewis R. Ledford. This was a bittersweet conference for me personally as it was my last as an elected Grand Lodge Officer and one that the pandemic prevented us from having.

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

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

This year's conference was scheduled to be held July 16-19 in Cincinnati, Ohio. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Conference was cancelled. The Grand Lodge of Ohio, the Conference host, chose not to proceed with a virtual conference. All matters were deferred to the 2022 Conference currently scheduled for Baltimore, Maryland.

### **Board of Custodians and Certified Lecturer Examinations**

The first Board of Custodians meeting was held on January 8, 2021. The meeting was held via a Zoom virtual platform. As Grand Master, I opened the meeting and presided as Chairman ex-officio as required by our Code. It was an honor to return to the Board of Custodians as this was the first Grand Lodge Committee or Board to which I was appointed. I served on the Board from 2007-2009. After the meeting was opened, the Board elected WB Earl Wells as Chairman and WB Tom Dolinger as Secretary. Each has done an outstanding job this year.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, the annual examinations for certified lecturers and instructors conducted by the Board of Custodians were postponed. All lecturers and instructors, including the Grand Master, were granted an automatic extension until the 2021 examinations. The Board conducted a special examination and for the fourth time, I was certified as a Class A Lecturer.

This year, the Board of Custodians held examinations at six (6) locations across the state. The dates and examination sites are as follows: August 14 – Greenville and Greensboro, August 21 – Wilmington and Charlotte, and August 28 – Fayetteville and Asheville. I was only able to attend and assist with the examinations at the Charlotte location due to conflicts with the Board of Directors meeting at WhiteStone and graduation of Wilkerson College Class of 2020-21. At the conclusion of the examinations, one (1) new Class A Lecturer and seven (7) new Class B Instructors were certified. One (1) Class A Lecturer was reinstated to the rolls. Fifty-eight (58) Class A Lecturers and four (4) Class B Instructors renewed their certification. Unfortunately, twenty-two (22) brothers failed to recertify and were dropped from the rolls. There are currently two hundred eighty-one (281) Class A Lecturers and thirty-six (36) Class B instructors. This is a net loss of thirteen (13) from the prior year.

My brothers, we need additional lecturers and instructions to conduct our ritualistic work. If you know of a brother who would like to become a lecturer or an instructor, please have him contact the Board of Custodians. The Board will assist him with the examination process so that he can successfully complete the requirements of certification.

### **Capitol Insurrection**

As I began my term of office, I had no way of anticipating the tragic events that unfolded in our Nation's Capital on January 6. For the first time in our history, there was an attempt to prevent the peaceful transition of power after a presidential election. As Grand Master, I felt it was important for me to address these events through my thoughts as a Freemason as this matter related to an event of national and not local significance and the events occurred during my term of office. Matters occurring during the term another Grand Master, past or present, are only properly addressed by that Grand Master.

As it turned out, I was not the only Grand Master in the United States

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to issue a statement denouncing these acts of violence against our democracy. However, I was the first Grand Master to do so. I believe that it must be the Freemasons who lead our country out of the darkness of January 6 and into the light of the future. You see my brothers, it was the Freemasons who lead a movement whereby we would no longer be the subjects of a King. It was the Freemasons who founded this nation, a nation whose very Constitution is based in large part on the principles set out in Anderson's Constitution of Free Masons of 1723.

In condemning the actions of January 6, and those who engaged in and supported that conduct, I was guided by our Masonic teachings. These teachings instruct us, from the youngest Entered Apprentice to the Master of the Lodge, as to how we should act. In the First Degree Charge, we instruct our Entered Apprentice "to be a quiet and peaceable citizen, true to your government and just to your county." As citizens, we "are not to countenance disloyalty or rebellion, but patiently submit to legal authority, and conform with cheerfulness to the government." Before being installed as Master of a lodge, one must publically state their agreement to the duties of a Master of a Lodge. In part, these duties include that we are to be peaceable subjects, and to cheerfully conform to the laws of our country. We are to avoid plots and conspiracies against government, but patiently to submit to the decisions of the supreme legislature. In addition, we agree to pay proper respect to the civil magistrate.

Although unexpected, I received calls, letters, and emails of support for my statement from our Craft, other grand jurisdictions in this country, from grand jurisdictions in North and South America and from grand jurisdictions across Europe. Much to my surprise, I received some push back from a much smaller segment of our Craft. In taking the calls and responding to the letters and email, none were able to justify what happened January 6. To date, the only reason anyone has given me to rationalize their objection to my statement is that I did not address actions of someone else. I did not then, and I do not now, accept the "but what about" argument. The wrongful conduct of another can never be used as justification of one's own wrongful conduct.

I have often heard members of the Craft say that Masonry is not for everyone. They could not be more wrong. My brothers, for various reasons, not everyone should be a Freemason. But Masonry, its tenets, its principles and its teachings, is for everyone. That is why it is and has been prohibited and suppressed by every fascist and totalitarian regime throughout history. Today, I stand by the statement that I issued denouncing the attempted insurrection against our government.

### **In-State Visitation and Special Activities**

By co-hosting my District Meetings, the appendant bodies expressed their support of the Grand Lodge and the Blue Lodges. As a demonstration of my support and the Grand Lodge's support for the work being done by the appendant bodies, I was pleased to attend their meetings and events throughout the year.

### Scottish Rite

Through August 31, I have been able to attend meetings of the Scottish Rite Bodies on four occasions, as well as the Scottish Rite Summer Workshop that was held on June 16 in New Bern.

In December, shortly after being installed as Grand Master, I received telephone calls from MW and Ill. William B. Brunk. Being certain that I would not have enough to do this year as Grand Master, he asked that I accept the appointment as the Personal Representative of the Raleigh Valley. The appointment was a great honor. The Raleigh Valley and the Valley Secretary, J. Luigi Ammons, have been very supportive of me as I have attended my duties as Grand Master. I look forward to spending more time as Personal Representative when my term as Grand Master ends.

During my term of office, we saw a change in leadership in the Scottish Rite Orient of North Carolina. After more than twenty years, in December, MW and Ill. William B. Brunk retired as the Sovereign Grand Inspector General. A scholarship was set up in his honor with a goal of raising \$50,000.00 as an education endowment to the University of North Carolina. To date, more than \$66,000.00 has been raised. On March 12, there was a retirement dinner celebrating the many years of service given to our fraternities by Dr. Brunk. I was pleased to attend the dinner and offer a few words of honoring his service. In his place, the Supreme Council for the Southern Jurisdiction elected MW and Ill. A. Gene Cobb, Jr., as Deputy to the Supreme Council. I was in MWB Gene's Grand Line and it has been wonderful to again work under the leadership of MWB Gene in his new role.

### York Rite Bodies

I have been able to attend one meeting of the York Rite Bodies this year. I look forward to being more active next year. Although I have attended but a single meeting of the Bodies, I was able to attend the virtual installation of the Grand York Rite Officers on April 19. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Grand York Rite Officers could not have a public installation. Nevertheless I was pleased to be able to offer remarks and present a brief summary of my message to the incoming Grand Officers. I offered them my support and wished them well on their term of office.

Although many of our district meeting dates conflicted, I was able to attend the York Rite District Meeting in North Wilkesboro on June 21, 2021. Unfortunately, we were not able to meet in Maggie Valley again this year. For a second year in a row, the York Rite Summer Assembly was a casualty of the Covid-19 pandemic. I look forward to being in Maggie Valley in the years to come.

I would like to congratulate ME William C. Chriscoe, Grand High Priest, MI Jeffrey E. York, Grand Illustrious Master and SK Ludwik J. Wodka, Grand Commander for their excellent service and leadership to the York Rite Bodies. The opportunities we have had to spend time together this year have been memorable.

### Shrine

North Carolina is blessed to enjoy an excellent relationship with all three Shrine Temples. The lack of unity between other Grand Lodges and their Shrine Temples was shocking for me to learn about during my time as a Grand Lodge Officer. The dedicated Masons who are members of Amran, Oasis, and Sudan Shriners are doing great work in supporting the Shriners Hospitals for Children. In 2021, our Temples were led by Ill. Sir Thomas Stephenson (Am-

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ran), Ill. Sir Tommy Helms (Oasis), and Ill. Sir Coble Wilson (Sudan). This is the first time in recent history that each of the Potentates is also a Past Master of his Blue Lodge.

I was fortunate to attend the installations for each Potentate and his respective Divan. Having been a member of the Amran Shrine since 1999 and to have served during that time as their Temple Attorney, it was special to be the first Grand Master installed at Amran Temple. In addition to the installations, I was able to attend the Amran Awards night on February 8 at the Shrine Temple and the Oasis Black Tie Ceremonial held on July 31 at the Greensboro Shrine Club. On each occasion, I was afforded the opportunity to offer remarks of support for the great work done by the Shriners. In addition, On December 17, 2020, I attended W. G. Arnold Lodge No. 683 in Rolesville with the Potentate and Divan from Amran Shrine for a presentation by the Shrine to the family of William G. Arnold.

### National Sojourners

On May 26, I was inducted as an Honorary Member of the National Sojourners, Camp Lejeune Chapter No. 329. The induction was held at the York Rite Temple in New Bern where I was made a Member in Perpetuity. I want to thank all members who made this special honor possible. After the induction, I was honored to receive a framed copy of the Toast to the Flag.

### Masonic

In addition to the activities discussed herein, I have visited 36 different lodges in 28 Districts. I have also participated in many other Masonic related events. These events include the installation of officers, presentation of awards, assistance with degree work, concretion of a lodge, assistance with lodge consolidations, activities at the Masonic Home for Children and WhiteStone, as well as various Board, Committee and Commission meetings.

A Summary of some of these activities is as follows:

- Total travel in the Grand Master's car is in excess of 25,000 miles
- Presided over the Board of General Purposes Meetings in December 2020 and March and June 2021
- Attended meetings with the North Carolina Masonic Foundation
- Attended the meeting of the Code Commission
- Attended the Board of Directors Meetings at the Masonic Home for Children in February, May, and June
- Attended the Board of Directors Meetings at WhiteStone in February, May, and June
- Attended the Finance Committee Meeting
- Installation of Officers at Orphans Lodge No. 761 December 12 and at the Lodge of the Nine Sisters No. 773 on January 16
- Met on March 15 to discuss the consolidation of Rodgers Lodge No. 525 and Bailey Lodge No. 411
- Consolidation of P.P. Turner Lodge No. 746 with Corinthian Lodge No. 542

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- Discussions with Adoniram Lodge No. 149 with Orphans Lodge No. 761 (Lodges did not proceed with consolidation)
  - Met with Balfour Lodge No. 188 on May 18 regarding the sale of Lodge property
  - Masonic Home for Children on December 10 to deliver gift cards to the children in residence
  - Masonic Home for Children on March 20 for the Great Landscape Day to work around the cemetery at God's Half Acre
  - Attended Grand Lodge Officer Retreat on March 20 at the Trinity Center in Pine Knoll Shores
  - Met on March 8 with the MW Douglas V. Jones, Grand Master of Virginia regarding the construction of the Winston-Salem Masonic Center
  - Attended virtual estate planning seminars with the North Carolina Masonic Foundation held on March 23 and March 30
  - Re-Consecration of Semper Fidelis Lodge No. 680 on April 17 in honor of their 75th anniversary
  - Attended a tractor pull with the children from the Masonic Home for Children at GALOT Motorsports Park on May 21 and hosted by WB Earl Wells
  - Masonic Home for Children at Oxford on May 22 for the baccalaureate in celebration
  - WhiteStone Ground Breaking for the Construction of the new Independent Living facility on July 22
  - A part of the Service Awards I have presented to date:
    - 50 Year Service Award to WB J. Ray Fields of Henderson Lodge No. 229 at Amran Shrine Temple on January 9
    - 50 Year Shrine Award to MWB Dalton W. Mayo from Sudan Shrine at Hiram Lodge No. 98 on January 13
    - 50 Year Service Award to Br. Charles R. Ryals at Relief Lodge No. 431 on May 11
    - 25 Year Service Award to WB Gene E. Lee at Relief Lodge No. 431 on May 11
    - 60 Year Service Award to Br. Clyde Norman Walker of Eagle Lodge No. 19 at his home
    - 50 Year Service Award to Br. Terry L. Roush at Corinthian Lodge No. 542
    - 70 Year Service Award to Br. Douglas Van Horn Wade at Corinthian Lodge No. 542
    - 70 Year Service Award to Br. George D. Greene of Camp Call Lodge No. 534 at his home on July 24
    - 50 Year Service Award to Samuel D. Vaughan, Jr., at Oak Grove Lodge No. 750 on August 16
    - 50 Year Shrine Award to Samuel D. Vaughan, Jr., from Amran Shrine at Triangle Shrine Club on August 26
  - Conferral of Degrees in Masonry in which I have participated to date:
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- 3rd Degree at Garner Lodge No. 701 on December 12 as a Fellowcraft
- 3rd Degree at William T. Bain Lodge No. 321 on February 10 as the principal ruffian
- 1st Degree at Oak Grove Lodge No. 750 on March 22 to deliver the lecture
- 3rd Degree at Hiram Lodge No. 98 on April 6 sitting in the East for the Second Section of the Master Mason's Degree
- 3rd Degree at P. P. Turner Lodge No. 746 on April 15 to deliver the lecture
- 1st Degree at Henry F. Grainger No. 412 on April 20 to deliver the lecture
- 3rd Degree at Bula Lodge No. 409 on April 26 to deliver the lecture
- 3rd Degree at Pilot Lodge No. 493 on April 27 sitting in the East for the Second Section of the Master Mason's Degree
- 1st Degree at Person Lodge No. 113
- 3rd Degree at Semper Fidelis Lodge No. 680 sitting in the East for the First Section of the Master Mason's Degree

#### **Out of State Visitations**

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, my out of state visitation has been very limited. Most out of state annual communications have been postponed or cancelled. As a result, the only out of state annual communication I have attended to date was to Connecticut April 8-10. Their annual communication was limited in attendance and business. Nevertheless, I was warmly received by MWB Stephen W. Petir. The hospitality extended to Susan and me by the Grand Lodge of Connecticut was outstanding. I appreciated the opportunity to observe the business conducted in their grand jurisdiction, as well as be at the installation of MWB William E. Bohman as he was installed as Grand Master on the last day of their annual communication.

June 10-12, the Grand Secretary and I attended the bicentennial celebration of the Grand Lodge of Alabama. The Grand Lodge of Alabama was founded June 11, 1821, at Cahawba, the capital of Alabama at the time. It was formed by lodges chartered from the Grand Lodges of North Carolina, Louisiana, Kentucky, Georgia, South Carolina and Tennessee. The ceremony included the dedication of a historical marker located at the site of the original Grand Lodge building. Today, the city of Cahawba no longer exists. The former city is today a state park and an archeological site. During our visit, the Grand Secretary and I were well received by MWB Shelby Thomas Morrow, Jr., Grand Master of Alabama, and his officers. At the conclusion of the celebration, Grand Master Morrow presented me with a commemorative flag of the State of Alabama. I was most grateful to Grand Master Morrow for his hospitality while in his jurisdiction.

During July 2-8, Amran, Oasis and Sudan Shrine Temples invited Susan and me to attend the 147th Imperial Shrine Session in Houston, Texas hosted by Imperial Sir Jim Smith. Susan and I enjoyed the hospitality of our Shrine Temples as well as the opportunity to spend time with the Shrine Potentates, Ill. Sir Thomas Stephenson, Ill. Sir Tommy Helms, and Ill. Sir Coble Wilson

along with their respective Divans. During the Imperial Session, I was proud of the work done by Oasis Shriners as they presented over \$1 Million to the Shriners Hospitals and First Lady's charity.

There were approximately twenty Grand Masters in attendance for Imperial Shrine. At the Imperial Session, Imperial Sir William S. Bailey was elected and installed as the new Imperial Potentate. Imperial Sir Bill Bailey is in commercial real estate sales in Chicago, Illinois. Of note, Imperial Sir Kenny Craven was elected Imperial Chief Rabban. Imperial Sir Craven is from Summerville, SC, but is also a member of Shallotte Lodge No. 727. Imperial Sir Craven will be bringing the Imperial Shrine Session to Charlotte in 2023.

Although the message regarding the work done at the Children's Hospitals was inspiring, it was troubling to hear legislation being presented to permit Shrine Temples to allow non-Masons to become Shriners. The legislation failed to get the necessary support for adoption. However, almost twenty percent (20%) of the delegates supported passage of this amendment. This further shows the disconnect that many Grand Lodges have with their Shrine Temples. Fortunately in North Carolina, we have a wonderful working relationship with our Shrine counterparts.

### **Honorary Memberships**

It was my distinct pleasure to have received honorary memberships from Sudan Shriners, Oasis Shriners, and the National Sojourners. These honorary memberships were unexpected, and words fail me in trying to express the gratitude shown to me by all the three Shrine Temples and the National Sojourners. I am honored to be a Shriner and a Sojourner. It is said that no man stands so tall as when he stoops to help a child. This is true of the Masons and the Shriners of North Carolina. You will understand that when you visit the campus of the Masonic Home for Children in Oxford or the Shriners Hospital in Greenville, South Carolina. As with the lessons taught in our ritual, visiting these campuses and meeting the children you help will transform your life. Likewise, there is nothing more honorable than being a member of the National Sojourners. The National Sojourners is an order of Freemasons who have served in the United States Armed Forces. There is nothing nobler than the service provided by the members of our Armed Forces. They selflessly answer our country's call and put themselves in harm's way to preserve our freedoms. I am honored to be associated with such a wonderful group of men.

### **Wilkerson College, the Davie Academy, and the Middle Chamber**

Wilkerson College is sponsored jointly by the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, Orient of North Carolina, and the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina. It consists of three different sessions at WhiteStone, the MHCOC, and in Raleigh which includes a tour of the Grand Lodge Office. For many attending the College, this is the first time they have had the opportunity to be on the campuses of our Homes or at the Grand Lodge Office. Having met Grand Masters from across the United States and discussed Wilkerson College with them, it is apparent that North Carolina has the premier educational program in the nation.

Every Grand Master likes to believe that the graduating class in his year is special. This year, it truly is. The class of 2020 was unable to continue their education due to the Covid-19 pandemic. After completing the first session at



WhiteStone, as with the rest of the world, the College was shut down for over a year. On June 11-12, almost eighteen months later, the class was able to meet again in Oxford at the Masonic Home for Children to resume their study. On August 27-28, the class met for the final time in Raleigh. After a tour of the Grand Lodge offices on Friday afternoon, the class completed their training at the Embassy Suites. There were thirty-five graduates in the Wilkerson College Class of 2020-21. At a banquet held in honor of the graduates, Deputy Grand Master Larry B. Thompson, Jr., 2020 Past Grand Master P. Shaun Bradshaw, and I had the distinct pleasure to present each graduate with his certificate of graduation. Since its inception in 2002, there have been 619 graduates from Wilkerson College.

As with Wilkerson College, the Covid-19 pandemic shut down the other educational programs in North Carolina. As lodges tried to reopen, the Davie Academy, Middle Chamber Program, and Speakers Bureau also looked to re-start their programs. These are other educational resources offered to the Masons and Lodges in North Carolina. Sadly, they are unavailable in most other grand jurisdictions. North Carolina is truly blessed to have wonderful training and education programs available for its members. I hope you will choose to take advantage of some of these as you seek to improve yourself in Masonry.

### **Summons and Summary Trial**

Through August 31, 2021, I have not had the need to conduct any summary trials. However, there have been five (5) occasions that I have been compelled to issue a Masonic Summons.

The first Summons was issued on December 23, 2020, to Br. BRG, Master of Dunn's Rock Lodge No. 267. The Summons directed Br. BRG to appear before the Grand Master at the Grand Lodge office to discuss reason for the un-Masonic and hate filled email communication he sent to the Grand Master. The comments contained in his email were directed at the Grand Master and at PGM Shaun Bradshaw, neither of whom he had ever met or spoken with. In response to receiving the Summons, Br. BRG again sent a volatile email to the Grand Master stating that he was a grown man and no one would tell him what to do. Br. BRG further stated that he refused to comply with the Summons. When Br. BRG failed to comply with the Summons, he was removed as Master of Dunn's Rock Lodge, and the matter was referred to the Judge Advocate for such action as he deemed appropriate. I refer you to the Report of the Judge Advocate for details of his actions.

The next Summons was issued on May 19, 2021, to Br. PEW, Secretary of Balfour Lodge No. 188. The Summons directed Br. PEW to appear before the Grand Master at the Grand Lodge office to discuss the reason for his outbursts and un-Masonic conduct in open Lodge where he directed profanity toward the Grand Master and other Brothers in the Lodge. At the time, a discussion was ongoing regarding the sale of Lodge property and the Grand Master was presiding in the East. Thereafter, Br. PEW stormed out of the Lodge leaving the station of secretary unattended. When Br. PEW failed to comply with the Summons, he was removed as Secretary of Balfour Lodge, and the matter was referred to the Judge Advocate for such action as he deemed appropriate. I refer you to the Report of the Judge Advocate for details of his actions.

The next Summons was issued on June 22, 2021, to Br. EAC, Secretary of Temple Lodge No. 676. The Summons directed Br. EAC to appear before the Grand Master at the Grand Lodge office to discuss his un-Masonic conduct

relating to an angry and disrespectful voicemail he left for the Grand Master. Br. EAC appeared as directed in the Summons. Br. EAC had a frank and open discussion with regard to his actions with the Grand Master, Junior Grand Warden, and the Judge Advocate. Br. EAC was counseled by those present and apologized for his comments and the disrespectful manner in which he addressed the Grand Master. Given the productive nature of the conversation with Br. EAC, I deemed the matter to be successfully concluded and no further action was necessary.

The next two (2) Summonses were issued on August 17, 2021, to Br. BEG and Br. DEB, both of Eagle Lodge No. 19. The Summons directed Br. BEG and Br. DEB to appear before the Judge Advocate at the Grand Lodge office to discuss with the Judge Advocate un-Masonic conduct relating to an allegation of electioneering that occurred at Eagle Lodge. The Summonses were necessary as members of Eagle Lodge were refusing to discuss the matter with the Judge Advocate and, as a result, impeding his ongoing investigation. These matters are properly before the Judge Advocate. I do not anticipate that these matters will be concluded in time to be reported this year. However, when they are concluded, I refer you to that future Report of the Judge Advocate for details of his actions.

### **Recommended Legislation**

The Grand Master has the privilege of recommending legislation for the Craft to consider at the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge following his term of office. Although it has been the tradition of every Grand Master to recommend legislation, I believe that recommending legislation for the sake of tradition is unnecessary and unproductive. Therefore, I am reserving my decision to recommend legislation until later in my term of office.

Nevertheless, I am considering recommending legislation related to the structure and makeup of the North Carolina Masonic Foundation. When originally incorporated in January of 1929, the purpose of the Foundation was to receive, take, own, hold, administer, apply, and distribute gifts to support and assist Masonic Home for Children in Oxford and the Masonic and Eastern Star Home in Greensboro (WhiteStone). While this Foundation has done an admirable job with the investment of the gifts it and our Homes have received, it was never designed and intended to engage in financial development and oversee employees.

Times have changed. Financial development is becoming an integral part of what this Foundation must do to see that our Homes have the funding necessary as we go forward in the future. To properly engage in financial development, the Foundation must engage employees with the skills and capacity to perform the job. With regard to those employees, there must be oversight and supervision. The Foundation must be able to develop a strategic plan to not only invest the gifts received, but to develop potential gifts for the future.

Although the Foundation has established a pronounced ability to invest and grow the funds our Homes need to survive today, it is not equipped to oversee and supervise employees. Nor does it have the ability to develop the strategic plan necessary for future financial development such that our Homes are financially secure into the next century. Therefore, I am considering legislation that will restructure the Foundation. It is apparent that the Foundation Board needs to expand to be in a position to accomplish what is needed going forward. Prior to offering legislation, I intend to meet with the Foundation

Board to determine if these goals can be accomplished without legislation, with minor changes in the current legislation or whether Chapter 35 of the Code needs to be abolished and re-codified in its entirety. This decision and any recommendations for legislation will be made before the end of my term of office.

### **Acknowledgements and Special Appreciations**

I am deeply honored to have been elected to serve as the 168th Grand Master of Masons in North Carolina. I intended to be installed as Grand Master in the York Rite Chapel on the campus of the Masonic Home for Children in Oxford. I worked with WB Kevin Otis, the Administrator of the Home, in planning to bring Masons from across North Carolina to Oxford. It was my goal to have them experience firsthand the great work being done at our Home. Unfortunately, the Covid-19 Pandemic was ongoing and like most of North Carolina, the campus of the Home was closed to visitation as a safety measure for the Children we serve. Therefore, I was forced to make other plans.

With the campus of the Children's Home closed to visitation, I turned to Amran Shrine, my home Shrine Temple. Stepping up to assist me with my installation was Ill. Sir C. Alvin Billings, Jr., Potentate, and Ill. Sir J. Ray Fields, P.P. and Recorder. These brothers made certain that the installation of the Grand Master was a first-class event. I have thanked them before and I wish to thank them and all the Nobility of Amran Shrine for helping make the installation special event for me and the entire line of Grand Lodge Officers.

I offer a special thanks to the Master, Wardens, Officers, and Masons of my home lodge, Oak Grove Lodge No. 750. There are too many names to mention individually. Their efforts were a key factor in making my installation weekend a success. In addition to installation, they worked tirelessly at the Lodge, cleaning, painting, renovating, and preparing the building and grounds to host my last District Meeting. Words cannot adequately express what your friendship means to me. As a special thank you to Oak Grove Lodge, at their stated meeting on December 21, I presented the Lodge new Wardens' Columns. The columns, along with two gavels I have used this year, were turned by Mr. David Stoval, a cabinet maker in Granville County. The columns and gavels were turned from a log I took from a pecan tree that fell on the Masonic Home for Children during a storm some years ago. Anticipating that my schedule will not be as hectic as this year, I look forward to being in Lodge on a more regular basis.

As they have done for so many Grand Masters, Worshipful Brother Johnny Surles and Worshipful Brother Bobby Meadows assisted in directing the installation ceremonies. Susan and I want to thank these fine Brothers for their help. Their experience was invaluable in making the ceremony go smoothly.

I would like to thank my Grand Lodge Officers for their continued support of my year as Grand Master. You each bring a special talent to the officer line. It is those special talents that, when combined, makes our officer line one of the strongest in the country. You are each very special to me. You have supported me and provided good counsel all year. I know each of you will make an excellent Grand Master, and I look forward to your success. You have my continued support and admiration. Know that I will be there to assist each of you as you may need.

Thank you to our Past Grand Masters and their families for your support. We stand upon the shoulders of great leaders like you. As with my Grand Line

Officers, many of you have been there to provide me with good counsel. Thank you for all you have done and continue to do for our great Fraternity.

The District Deputy Grand Masters, District Deputy Grand Lecturers, and Board/Committee members provide a voluntary service that is essential in managing our grand jurisdiction. The Grand Master cannot be everywhere all the time. You are the eyes and ears of the Grand Master across the State. My gratitude for your support cannot be overstated. Thank you for everything you did for me this year.

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

It would be impossible for our Grand Lodge to have the respect it does and a reputation for leadership in Freemasonry across the nation without the work of our office staff. After 40 years of service, Right Worshipful Brother Walt Clapp retired early in my term of office. Walt has always been a great friend to me and to our fraternity. Although he is missed, he left us in good hands. Right Worshipful Brother Jonathan Underwood has so ably filled the position of Grand Secretary. His leadership in the office has been a great help to me this year. Cornelia Doherty also retired last year, and she is very much missed. Vicki Lam and Hayley Moll do so much for our fraternity, and I cannot thank them enough. They are always there to assist. Matthew Robbins has taken a position at the Grand Lodge. Matthew has assisted me with my duties and, as a trained architect, has begun assisting lodges as they plan the use of their space for the future. I expect to see great things from Matthew as he becomes more comfortable in his position.

There are many that have contributed to my becoming Grand Master. I would like to thank WB Archie L. Smith, III. Br. Archie first took the time to discuss Freemasonry with me. He was the top line signer on my petition to the lodge, to the Scottish Rite and to the Shrine. When I did not get a coach, Archie stepped up to become my coach. I am the only Mason that Br. Archie has ever coached. I have asked him to become more active and coach new candidates, but he insists that he only coaches Grand Masters. For that, I thank him.

Next, I need to thank WB Herbert C. "Dicky" Lyon. When I started learning the lectures, Brother Dicky encouraged me to become a certified lecturer. After I was certified, Brother Dicky encouraged me to become District Deputy Grand Lecturer. After completing my term as DDGL, Brother Dicky encouraged me to make an application to become District Deputy Grand Master. I thank him for seeing some quality in me to hold these offices and his encouragement for me to take the next step in the leadership in our Craft.

I would like to Thank MWB Billy Dill for appointing me to my first Grand Lodge Committee, the Board of Custodians. I would also like to thank MWB Lew Ledford appointing me to the Board of Directors of WhiteStone and for his support and wise counsel all these years. You have both been an inspiration to me.

None of this would be possible if were not for MWB Dalton W. Mayo. A very special thank you to my Masonic Father for appointing me as Junior

Grand Steward. I hope that my travel through the Grand Lodge Officer Line has made him proud, as well as the rest of my lineage, PGM Gene Jernigan and PGM Charles Ingram. The support, guidance, and counsel that I have received from PGM Mayo, PGM Jernigan, and PGM Ingram has been invaluable for my success. Thank you.

Finally, I owe a debt of gratitude to wife Susan. You have been patient in my many absences over the past decade. However, I am glad that we were able to travel together and that you have been able create your own friendships with many who we would otherwise have never met. You have been and continue to be my biggest supporter, documenting my journey across the state and the nation. I love you and thank you for all that you have done for me.

Respectfully and Fraternaly,  
R. David Wicker, Jr.  
Grand Master, 2021



## Necrology Service

### Opening of the Grand Lodge of Sorrow

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

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

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

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

**Grand Master:** Brother Paul F. Menard, Grand Chaplain will lead our necrology service.

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

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

### Eulogies for deceased Past Grand Masters:

PGM Graham Wiles Pervier, Date of Death October 5, 2020

PGM Thomas Warren Gregory, Date of Death October 25, 2020

### Homily for all other Masons - Grand Chaplain Menard

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

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

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

### Closing Prayer: Grand Chaplain Menard

**Grand Master:** I now declare the Grand Lodge of Sorrow for the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina opened and closed for the year 2021. Let us not forget those we have remembered today.

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