

Synopsis
of the
235th Annual Communication
of the
Grand Lodge of AF & AM of North Carolina

The 235th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of AF & AM of North Carolina met at the Twin City Quarter in Winston-Salem on September 30th and October 1st, 2022. Worshipful Brother Gary D. Handy opened the Session.

Presiding and Present were:

- Larry B. Thompson, Jr., Grand Master
- Kevan D. Frazier, Deputy Grand Master
- Donald E. Kehler, Senior Grand Warden
- Robert W. Rideout, Junior Grand Warden
- Lewis R. Ledford, Grand Treasurer
- Jonathan A. Underwood, Grand Secretary
- Steve M. Norris, Senior Grand Deacon
- Gilbert D. Bailey, Junior Grand Deacon
- Michael A. Register, Grand Marshal
- Philip R. Johnson, Grand Steward
- C. Alvin Billings, Jr., Grand Steward
- James G. Jones, Grand Chaplain
- Joel M. Howard, Grand Tyler

Brother W. Leon Rippy gave the oration.

In accordance of Reg. 10-1.2.A, a motion was made and seconded to consider a proposal to amend the Preamble of the Grand Lodge's Constitution, which required the unanimous consent of the Grand Lodge. The motion did not receive unanimous consent and was thereby **DEFEATED**. Thus, in accordance with Reg. 10-3, the proposal shall be considered at the next Annual Communication.

Most Worshipful R. David Wicker, Jr., PGM, delivered his final address (Reports Book page 69) covering his year as Grand Master in 2021. Then, Most Worshipful Larry B. Thompson, Jr., Grand Master, delivered his interim report (Reports Book page 117).

The Credentials Committee reported 858 lodge officers or proxies from 288 lodges were present. Additionally, 32 Grand Lodge Officers and Past Grand Officers were present; 60 Board, Committee, and Commission members were present, 28 District Deputy Grand Masters were present, and 19 District Deputy Grand Lecturers were present, totaling **997 DELEGATES PRESENT**.

The proposed 2023 budget of the Grand Lodge was **APPROVED** (Reports Book page 6)

The following grand lodge officers were elected or appointed for the year 2023, to wit:

- Kevan D. Frazier (118), Grand Master
- Donald E. Kehler (409), Deputy Grand Master
- Robert W. Rideout (565), Senior Grand Warden
- Steve M. Norris (727), Junior Grand Warden
- Lewis R. Ledford (27), Grand Treasurer
- Jonathan A. Underwood (770), Grand Secretary
- Gilbert D. Bailey (693), Senior Grand Deacon
- Michael A. Register (493), Junior Grand Deacon
- Philip R. Johnson (106), Grand Marshal
- C. Alvin Billings, Jr., (409), Grand Steward
- Joseph Transou, (434), Grand Steward
- Steven A. Greene (118), Grand Chaplain
- Jason C. Riggs (118), Grand Tyler
- Thomas P. Dolinger (767), Grand Lecturer
- Steven A. Campbell (127), Grand Historian
- T. Marcus Browne, III (352), Judge Advocate

The installation of the above named elected and appointed Grand Lodge Officers will be held on Saturday, December 3, 2022, in Asheville, North Carolina.

The Committee on Charters and Dispensations reported **Winston Lodge 167**, **Salem Lodge 289**, and **Wendell Lodge 565** all requested duplicate charters, and recommended each be granted a new charter. The motion of the Committee on Charters and Dispensations was **APPROVED** (Reports Book pages 34-35).

The Committee on Charters and Dispensations further reported Knights of Solomon Lodge (Under Dispensation) at Yadkinville requested a new charter be granted to them for the practice of regular Masonry. Having found all the lodge's paperwork and fees successfully executed, the committee recommended a charter be granted. The motion of the Committee on Charters and Dispensations was **APPROVED**, and **Knights of Solomon Lodge 776** was granted a charter. The ceremony of institution will take place on Thursday, November 3 at Yadkinville, North Carolina (Reports Book pages 36).

Four foreign grand lodges requested recognition, all of which were **TABLED** until further information could be obtained to affirm their validity, which will be taken up at the Annual Communication in 2023.

The Committee on Appeals submitted its report (Reports Book pages 22), to wit:

4 Applications for Restoration were made this year, including:

- JWM formerly of West Gate Lodge 738, whose petition was recommended **APPROVED** by the Committee on Appeals, was subsequently approved, and he was **RESTORED** as a un-affiliated Master Mason by the delegates assembled.
- ZCM formerly of West Gate Lodge 738, whose petition was recommended **REJECTED** by the Committee on Appeals, was **REJECTED** by the delegates assembled.
- CTG formerly of Carthage Lodge 181, whose petition was recommended **APPROVED** by the Committee on Appeals, was subsequently approved, and he was **RESTORED** as an un-affiliated Master Mason by the delegates assembled.
- JEB formerly of Proctorville Lodge 643, whose petition was recommended **REJECTED** by the Committee on Appeals, was **REJECTED** by the delegates assembled.

All of the actions of the Judge Advocate (Reports Book pages 23) were recommended for approval by the Committee on Appeals and all those actions were **APPROVED** by the delegates assembled (Reports Book pages 23).

All the actions of the Trial Commission (Reports Book pages 22) were recommended for approval by the Committee on Appeals and all those actions were **APPROVED** by the delegates assembled.

The Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence (Reports Book pages 37) presented its report, to wit: the delegates assembled **APPROVED** the remaining 2 Orders of Past Grand R. David Wicker,

Jr. Likewise, the delegates assembled also **APPROVED** all 6 of Grand Master Larry B. Thompson, Jr.'s Orders (Reports Book pages 39).

The following amendments to The Code were considered, along with the results of each amendment group.

Amendment Group 1 (Reports Book pages 42)

- This amendment permits lodges to move stated communications with due and timely notice and meet on the appropriate degree to conduct its business and education with dispensation from the Grand Master.
- This amendment was **APPROVED** by the Grand Lodge.

Amendment Group 2 (Reports Book pages 43)

- This amendment permits the purchase of an endowed membership by bequest by a deceased member and increases the Veteran and Memorial Endowed membership fees to align with inflation.
- This amendment was **APPROVED** by the Grand Lodge.

Amendment Group 3 (Reports Book pages 44)

- This amendment would have codified the rules pertaining to virtual lodge meetings.
- This amendment was **WITHDRAWN** by its proposer.

Amendment Group 4 (Reports Book pages 47)

- This amendment increases the members of the size of the Commission on Special Activities from 5 to 7 members and removes the requirement of its members being Past Masters.
- This amendment was **APPROVED** by the Grand Lodge.

Amendment Group 5 (Reports Book pages 47)

- This amendment would have permitted Entered Apprentices and Fellowcraft to wear Masonic emblems.
- This amendment was **WITHDRAWN** by its proposer.

Amendment Group 6 (Reports Book pages 48)

- This amendment would have added diversity inclusion in the Constitution's Preamble.
- This amendment was **WITHDRAWN** by its proposer.

Amendment Group 7 (Reports Book pages 48)

- This amendment would have increased the minimum initiation fee to \$75.
- This amendment was **WITHDRAWN** by its proposer.

Amendment Group 8 (Reports Book pages 48)

- This amendment would have raised Grand Lodge's initiation fee to \$75 and reassigned greater amounts for charity and income.
- This amendment was **WITHDRAWN** by its proposer.

Amendment Group 8 Substitute (Reports Book pages 48)

- This amendment would have raised Grand Lodge's initiation fee to \$75 and reassigned greater amounts for charity and income.
- This amendment was **REJECTED** by the Grand Lodge.

Amendment Group 9 (Reports Book pages 49)

- This amendment allows consolidating lodges to request the Grand Master determine their new name and number.
- This amendment was **APPROVED** by the Grand Lodge.

Amendment Group 10 (Reports Book pages 50)

- This amendment restores language to The Code enshrining certain functions and relationship between the Grand Lodge and the North Carolina Masonic Foundation.
- This amendment was **APPROVED** by the Grand Lodge.

Amendment Group 11 (Reports Book pages 50)

- This amendment pertained to the assets of defunct lodges.
- This amendment was **WITHDRAWN** by its proposer.

Amendment Group 12 (Reports Book pages 51)

- This amendment creates a lodge Committee on Fraternal Support to investigate the status of brethren before they are excluded for non-payment of dues.
- This amendment was **APPROVED** by the Grand Lodge.

Respectfully submitted,
Jonathan A. Underwood
Grand Secretary