

Excelsior Masonic Lodge No. 261

Chartered 1867

3900 Litchfield Road

Charlotte, NC 28211

www.excelsiorlodge261.org



January 2015 Trestle Board

Brethren,

A New Year, new officers and a new direction for the lodge. Welcome to 2015 my Brothers and may the Grand Architect bless over you and your families this year.

Brothers, this is the year of Education. With that I would like to start out this year by welcoming all of the brothers that have not attended the lodge in the past few months and who would like to but can't make it. Freemasonry has long lived by the unofficial rule of "2 Be 1, Ask 1." We are initiating a new program this year called "Ask 1, Bring 1". What does that mean? If you are unable to make it to lodge due to an illness or inability to drive during the night hours, please give any of the officers a call or email us to let us know your zip code. Then we will arrange for a brother that lives in your area to come by and pick you up and bring you to lodge. It's that simple and just a phone call away.

We have a lot of exciting things that will be happening this year inside and outside of the lodge and we would really like to have as many brothers who can attend to come out and enjoy these activities with us. We are dedicated to doing whatever we can to get our family back together. Once you have arrived we will fill you in on all that you have missed and let you voice your opinion to your officers, me, and the rest of the lodge. This year will be unlike any that we have seen in the past. A perfect example of this was the surprise that everyone encountered at installation. We had a catered dinner, which included Ossobuco, better known as Veal Shanks. This is a rare dish to be served but our members were worth it and we do plan other items like this throughout the year. Want to find out more? Come out and see what we have in store for you!

Fraternally,
Randy Nealey, Master



BYLAWS AMENDMENT VOTE IN JANUARY

There will be a bylaws amendment vote at the January Stated Communication. This is to fix an overlooked part of Excelsior's Bylaws to reflect that our Annual Communication, where officers are elected, is held at the first Stated Communication during the month of November each year.

2015 Dues Notices were mailed in November. Dues are our lodge's primary income source so please pay your dues as soon as you can.

Due to a Grand Lodge website glitch, we were unable to vote in December on NPD exclusions. We will instead be voting on 2014 NPD's in January.



Masters Corner

January Stated Itinerary:

- Minutes from December
- Correspondence
- Voting on Petitions
- Treasurer's Report
 - Bills, Updates
- New Business
 - Read NPD and Vote
 - General Updates
- Informal Business
- Wellness Report
- Closing Remarks

Masonic hats worn by the Master of the Lodge signify his authority of his rank and status...the origins of which go back over many centuries. The wearing of a hat by the Worshipful Master alludes to the crown that adorned the head of King Solomon. In the United States, a Stetson Homburg or Fedora style hat is quite popular and is often chosen by the Master of the lodge. Other hat brands and styles are also worn.

Albert Mackey, Masonic researcher and historian had this to say about Masonic hats in his *Revised Encyclopaedia of Freemasonry*, 1929: To uncover the head in the presence of their superiors has been, among Christian nations, held as a dutiful obligation. Among Eastern nations, it is their custom to uncover their feet when they enter a place of worship.

Kings:

Historically, Kings wore crowns to denote their rank, while the courtiers standing around him removed their hats in deference to his superior status.

Ancient Romans

We are told that the ancient Romans prayed with their head covered or veiled. The woolen cap, called a *pileus*, was allowed to be worn only by the free-by-birth or manumission (papers with which one is formally released from slavery), but it was forbidden for Roman slaves to wear this cap.

House of Commons - London

Historically, it was customary that a member of the English Parliament, London's House of Commons, wear a hat when he addressed the membership of the House. If he were to have risen to speak without his hat, other members would greet him with cries of "Order, Order!"

France

In France, it was the custom of monks at the Sorbonne, (previously called the University of Paris which was founded in 1257 by Robert de Sorbon) to remove their cap when a member did not wish to speak or was in token of agreement with the others.

Masonic Hats: United States:

Today, Masonic hats are worn, ceremonially, in the United States during the time when the lodge is in session. Some Grand Lodges require that the hat be constructed with a brim. Others simply decree that the Worshipful Master remains covered at all times.

Internationally:

In different jurisdictions around the world, it is also common to see many different styles of Masonic hats.

<http://www.masonic-lodge-of-education.com/masonic-hats.html>

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Lodge No. 261**

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**January
Trestle Board**

2015 Officers

Master	Randy Nealey	704-796-7973
SW	David Carriker*	704-351-7653
JW	Phillip Brent	704-909-8160
Treasurer	Tim Berly*	704-849-7886
Secretary	Scott Wilson	704-200-7430
SD	Greg Williamson	980-656-3838
JD	Dan Andrews	704-535-1511
SS	Clay Pettit	704-361-6429
JS	William Mitchell	765-251-8570
Chaplain	Glenn Tompkins	704-941-5301
Tyler	Harold Kossove	704-542-7008

January Calendar

Monday, January 5th
Stated Communication
 Dinner at 6:00pm
 Meet at 7:00pm

 Monday, January 12th
1st Degree Practice
 Meet at 7:00pm

 Monday, January 19th
1st Degree Conferral
 Meet at 7:00pm

 Sunday, January 25th
3rd Degree Practice
 Meet at 4:00pm

 Monday, January 26th
3rd Degree Conferral
 Meet at 7:00pm



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January Birthdays

Andrew Branch	Joe Camp
Lawrence Campbell	Anthony Diramio
Floyd Fike	Russell Hammacher
Charles Hill	Carl Hirt
Bill Iuliano	Ray Jones
Brian Karpel	William Lawing
Honore Missihoun	Charles Serrell
Shawn Snyder	Donald Suttles
Cullie Tarleton	Ronnie Walker

January SC Menu

Chicken Breast	Black Eyed Peas
Greens	Rice
Cornbread	Dessert

Officer Installation Pictures



Committee Appointments

Charity
 Randy Nealey ©, Phillip Brent, David Carriker, Greg Williamson

Finance & Budget
 Scott Wilson © Jay Frechette, Brian Karpel

Reference Committee
 Warren Rawdon, Tim Berly, TBD

MHCO
 David Carriker ©, Terry Revels, Glenn Tompkins

Masonic & Eastern Star Home
 David Carriker ©, Terry Revels, Glenn Tompkins

Masonic Education
 David Carriker, Scott Wilson

DeMolay
 Phillip Brent ©, Chris Naso, Bill Sewing

Buildings & Grounds
 Randy Nealey ©, Jim Ringley, Phillip Brent

Visitation
 Glenn Tompkins ©, Terry Revels, David Carriker, Ray Jones

Fundraising
 Greg Williamson ©, Shawn Snyder, Phill Brent

Event Planning
 Phillip Brent ©, Caleb Clark, Greg Williamson