

Excelsior Masonic Lodge No. 261

Chartered 1867

3900 Litchfield Road

Charlotte, NC 28211

www.excelsiorlodge261.org



July 2014 Trestle Board

What Has Excelsior Accomplished Recently?

Since I have been a member of Excelsior Lodge No. 261, we have strived to increase membership participation, fulfill our obligation, and to make Excelsior better.

In order to accomplish this goal, Excelsior has started bringing in speakers like Steven Campbell and Ben Wallace, with return speaking engagements on the horizon as well as other Brothers who have committed to speak recently such as our Master Michael Gregory and Secretary Scott Wilson. Implementing a masonic education program in our lodge so the meetings are more than "I vote to pay the bills" has been a success.



Excelsior organized and put on a fundraiser that raised \$578.21 for The Masonic Home for Children at Oxford and also had a blood drive where 21 people donated and the blood will be used locally at our community hospitals. The lodge has adopted 10 residents at [Whitestone](#) and committed to sending cards at least 4 times per year. One of the happens to be Betty Moser, widow to Johnny Moser a Past Master of Excelsior Lodge and another is H. Lloyd Wilkerson, PM, PSGIG (yes he is the Brother that [Wilkerson College](#) is named after). Also, to reach out to our members at Excelsior, we have started sending Birthday Cards to all members as a way to keep in touch and let everyone know every membership is valued in the wonderful fraternity we have chosen to belong.



At our June stated, Excelsior's Master decided to hold a casual Hawaiian shirt and flip flop meeting in order to have some fun and continue our fellowship! Perhaps this will be one of Mike Gregory's legacies and the start to a new tradition.



For anyone who is interested, Ben Wallace, who spoke in our lodge and gave a brief overview of the meaning of the three degrees will be holding the entire lecture at Sophia Lodge in Salisbury from 7-10 PM on July 25, 2014, those interested in attending, please let me know for directions and carpooling. Dress is casual, Ben stated he'd be wearing shorts, although not a tiled event, open to Master Masons only.

In July we are traditionally dark and continue to be this year to spend time with family and friends and enjoy the summer. There will be some casual educational events and possibly even a degree though so please stop by the lodge if able. Also, please come join us for our August Stated Communication on August 4th and see how your lodge continues to improve.

Jay Frechette, Senior Warden

ENDOWED MEMBERSHIPS

Question: What is Endowed Membership?

Answer: Endowed Membership allows a Brother to voluntarily give to his lodge an amount of money equal to his annual dues times 21 or \$750, whichever is more. He is no longer required to pay annual dues.

Question: Why is the cost of an Endowed Membership fee set at 21 times lodge dues?

Answer: The multiplier of 21 creates an amount that, if invested at 5%, should return interest income to your lodge equal to the same amount of money it would have received in annual dues from you. For instance, if your lodge dues are \$50 multiplying by 21 establishes an Endowed Membership fee of \$1,050. At a 5% return your lodge receives \$50 in interest, the same amount it would have received in dues.

Question: Is there a provision for purchasing an Endowed Membership in installments?

Answer: Yes. A Brother may purchase an Endowed Membership with the option to pay the fee in five equal annual installments. To determine the annual installment payment, simply multiply your annual dues, at the time of purchase by 5.25.

Question: Why is an Endowed Membership beneficial to my lodge?

Answer: The interest from this money is available for use by your lodge and the Grand Lodge every year, even after your death. It is a gift that keeps on giving.

Question: Why do we need Endowed Memberships?

Answer: An Endowed Membership is a way to contribute to an endowment fund for your lodge, insuring future financial security.

Question: Is there a reduced rate for older members?

Answer: No. The program is not really designed as a membership program. Its intent is to create a trust fund for lodges. The primary funding of this account is from Endowed or Memorial Endowed Memberships. It is a way for a Brother to make a voluntary, long-term financial contribution to his lodge and Grand Lodge.

Question: What if I transfer my membership to another lodge?

Answer: If you affiliate with another North Carolina lodge, your Endowed Membership may move with you. If you affiliate with a lodge outside North Carolina and later return to your North Carolina lodge, your Endowed Membership is restored. If you join another North Carolina lodge, you may transfer your Endowed Membership by paying 21 times the difference in lodge dues.

Question: How can I become an endowed member?

Answer: An application form will be available from your lodge secretary, or you may download it [here](#).

Question: What are Veteran's Endowed Memberships?

Answer: Veteran's Endowed Memberships can be bought by Masons who have received their Veteran's Emblem for 50 years of membership. The fee for this membership is \$500. There are no provisions for installment payments for Veteran's Endowed Memberships.

Question: Can I pay with a credit card?

Answer: Yes, we take Visa and MasterCard.

More information can be found at:

<http://www.grandlodge-nc.org/center-for-members-endowed-membership>

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Lodge No. 261**

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**July
Trestle Board**

2014 Officers

Master	Mike Gregory	980-328-5074
SW	Jay Frechette	704-904-1065
JW	Randy Nealey	704-796-7973
Treasurer	Tim Berly, PM	704-849-7886
Secretary	Scott Wilson	704-200-7430
SD	Michael Smith	704-763-5627
JD	Phillip Brent	704-909-8160
SS	Clay Pettit	704-361-6429
JS	Glenn Tompkins	704-941-5301
Chaplain	Charles Blake	704-366-7385
Tyler	Bill Sewing	704-542-7008

July Calendar

Thursday, July 3rd

Traveling Gavel to Temple Lodge
Meal at 6:30pm, Meeting at 7:30pm

Monday, July 7th

Dark

Monday, July 14th

Degree Workshop

Learning 3rd Degree parts
Meet at 7:00pm

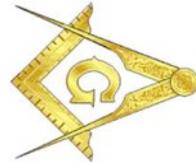
Monday, July 21st

Funeral Workshop

Learning the Masonic Funeral
Meet at 7:00pm

Monday, July 28th

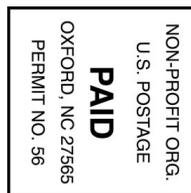
3rd Degree Conferall (Tentative)
Meet at 7:00pm



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

3900 Litchfield Road
Charlotte, NC 28211-2012

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Freemasonry is alive at Excelsior!



Hawaiian shirt, shorts and flip flop night at the June SC! Even more dressed for the occasion but left before the picture.



Tyler Bill Sewing made a special appearance after a recent injury that has kept him away and was greeted by Pete Milliones and other brothers.



Signing birthday cards and fellowshiping before dinner

Pictures by David Carriker, PM, CL

July Birthdays

Herman Anderson	Harold Baker
Tim Berly	Donald Biltcliffe
Michael Brown	Mason Dorsey
Howard Dozier	Edward Eshebaugh
Howard Foy	Jay Frechette
Julius Goldman	James Jamison
John Jones	Larry King
Dimitriy Kobzar	Harold Kossove
John McCaskill	Ryan Pedersen
Ralph Phillips	James Ploger
Jim Ringley	Isaac Scruggs
Baxter Stegall	John Suddreth, III

Below is an appeal for relief from the Grand Lodge of Serbia. The country has been struck recently by devastating floods. The appeal letter is from the Masonic Service Association. All contributions sent to the Masonic Service Association will be forwarded to the Grand Lodge of Serbia for distribution. As we are a part of the worldwide brotherhood of Masonry, please contribute as liberally as possible. The Grand Lodge of North Carolina is making a \$2,500 contribution to MSA Serbia fund from its Charity fund. Please send all donations directly to MSA.

*Fraternally yours,
Walt Clapp, Grand Secretary*

Torrential rains and massive flooding have caused thousands of families to be evacuated from homes in Serbia and surrounding regions. One comment regarding the areas affected is that "everything is destroyed." News reports say that the equivalent of three months of rainfall occurred in three days, creating the "worst floods since records began being kept 120 years ago."

An appeal for assistance has been made by the Regular Grand Lodge of Serbia. "In Serbia, we are facing a real national tragedy," Igor Krstic, Grand Secretary for Foreign Relations, said. He described "floods of Biblical proportion," and said that animals and food stock "have been extinguished." There is also fear of subsequent disease from water and destruction.

With the approval of the Regular Grand Lodge of Serbia, the Masonic Service Association today is issuing a disaster appeal for assistance. We also note that Croatia and Bosnia are suffering with the same flooding conditions but no contact has yet been made with Grand Lodges of either of those countries.

Please forward to the MSA such funds as you feel appropriate to help our devastated Brothers and their families in this stricken jurisdiction. Please make checks payable to MSA Disaster Relief Fund and send to 3905 National Drive, Suite 280, Burtonsville, MD 20866. MSA is a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization. Thank you very much for your help.

Most sincerely and fraternally,
George O. Braatz, PGM
Executive Secretary