

Excelsior Masonic Lodge No. 261

Chartered 1867

3900 Litchfield Road
Charlotte, NC 28211

www.excelsiorlodge261.org

"The Friendly Lodge"



April 2016 Trestle Board

Brethren,

Last month we were fortunate to have Chris Wilhoit visit us to deliver part of the Grand Lodge Lecture Series. A dozen or so Excelsior members along with several guests learned about the Lodge System for Masonic Education. The education system is a way to guarantee that each new candidate for the lodge is properly instructed in the fundamentals of the Craft, which each newly made Mason must know. Not only does the program help prepare candidates, it also continues as they progress through the degrees. This ensures that a candidate, then Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, and new Master Mason has a full understanding of Masonry.

On April 11th we will gather around the altar and deliver "Subject 1, Meeting 1" of this program to our newest Master Masons. This program was practiced religiously in Excelsior Lodge for many years but fell by the wayside years ago. It is intended to be delivered to groups of candidates as they work their way through the degrees but in order to reintroduce our lodge to the program, we will deliver it this time with our non-participating lodge members looking on. I am convinced this program is one of those things that will make lifetime members of our initiates. Please join us for this most informative program.

Then on April 18th, we will have another Grand Lodge speaker. This time the topic will be the Generational Differences / Opportunities that exist in Masonic lodges. We do not have the perfect speaker picked out just yet but I have been assured that he will be a great match for our lodge and our members. This subject has come up in several of our planning sessions late last year and early this year. Have you ever wondered why the "other" (age) group thinks the way they do? This may be your chance to find out.

Finally, on April 25th, we will have the lodge work night we missed due to bad weather in February. We will have lists of things that need to be done in all skills levels. From cleaning up the yard to cleaning out the storage room, there is something for everyone.

Brethren, we are going to have a lobby furnishing design and layout competition. I have placed some graph paper in our lobby with the room dimensions already drawn. Just draw in your vision of the perfect furniture layout (chairs and tables), find and attach some pictures of the furnishing style you are recommending, and get them to me. You can get extra credit if you include vendor and price information. The lodge will vote to select one of the submissions or reject them all at our May Stated. What is the prize for the winner? Well that has not exactly been worked out yet.

In closing, we are looking for a gently used clothes washer & dryer (a stack unit) to wash the kitchen washcloths and candidate uniforms. We have water supply, drain and electric in place but limited floor space so it must be a stack unit. Call David at 704-364-0309 to arrange for pickup.

David Carriker, Master



Expect Greatness

by [Midnight Freemason](#) Contributor
RWB Michael H. Shirley

"It is the nature of man to rise to greatness if greatness is expected of him." –John Steinbeck



Too many lodge leaders think that they can motivate others with harsh words and high demands. They can, but not in the way they think. There are two external drivers to achievement: the desire to prove someone right and the desire to prove someone wrong. Someone who thinks we are capable of great things can fill us with such confidence that we rise to their expectations. Too often, however, we are motivated to disprove others' doubts about us. We can achieve greatness either way, but positive motivation is inherently creative, and negative motivation is inherently destructive. Anger motivates, but it destroys. Positive motivation arises from and creates love and gratitude. To create something positive and lasting, we must practice positive motivation. If we would be Masonic leaders, we must act first with compassion for others, and recognize high potential in those who do not see it in themselves. If we expect greatness from others, they will achieve it.

R.W.B. Michael H. Shirley serves the Grand Lodge of Illinois, A.F. and A.M., as Leadership Development Chairman and Assistant Area Deputy Grand Master of the Eastern Area. A Certified Lodge Instructor, he is a Past Master and Life Member of Tuscola Lodge No. 332 and a plural member of Island City Lodge No. 330, F and AM, in Minocqua, Wisconsin. He is Past Most Wise Master of the George E. Burow Chapter of Rose Croix in the Valley of Danville, IL; he is also a member of the Illinois Lodge of Research, the York Rite, Eastern Illinois Council No. 356 Allied Masonic Degrees, Eastern Star, Illini High Twelve, and the Tall Cedars of Lebanon. The author of several articles on British and American history, he teaches at Eastern Illinois University. You can reach him at:

m.h.shirley@gmail.com

Want to receive official notices and timely information from the lodge? Send an email to the Secretary at scott_wilson1@hotmail.com.

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No. 261

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April Trestle Board

2016 Officers

| | | |
|-----------|-----------------|--------------|
| Master | David Carriker* | 704-351-7653 |
| SW | Phillip Brent | 704-909-8160 |
| JW | Jeff Peck* | 704-900-9625 |
| Treasurer | Tim Berly* | 704-849-7886 |
| Secretary | Scott Wilson | 704-200-7430 |
| SD | Dan Andrews | 704-535-1511 |
| JD | Glenn Tompkins | 704-941-5301 |
| SS | Josh Barnette | 704-884-6913 |
| JS | John Robinson | 980-263-8114 |
| Chaplain | Charles Blake | 704-617-0080 |
| Tyler | Harold Kossove* | 980-253-9624 |

* Past Master

April Calendar

Monday, April 4th

**Pete Hansen, PM Night
Stated Communication**

Dinner at 6:00pm, Meeting at 7:00pm

Monday, April 11th

**Glenn Tompkins Night
Meeting #1 of the Lodge System of
Masonic Education**

Meet at 7:00pm

Monday, April 18th

**Lecture- Generational Difference /
Opportunities in Lodges**

Meeting at 7:00pm

Saturday, April 23rd

Masonic Monument Trip

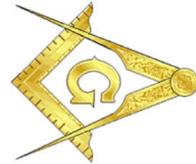
Monday, April 25th

GM Visit to District 32

Mint Hill Lodge 742

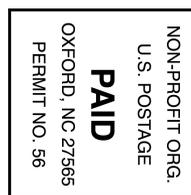
Dinner at 6:00pm

Meet at 7:00pm



"THE FRIENDLY LODGE"

Excelsior Masonic Lodge No. 261
3900 Litchfield Road
Charlotte, NC 28211-2012



April Birthdays

| | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Robert Allen | James Charles |
| Flave Edwards | Max Howie |
| Elvin Luckie | Nick Mohr |
| Don Piasecki | William Austin |
| Bobbie Cranor | Jerry Furr |
| Alfred Liner | John Maybury |
| Stephen Phillips | Howard Smith |

A reminder of some of the rules of the lodge when it comes to speaking per our Bylaws with references to The Code

Article 22, Section 1

C. When a brother is about to speak, he shall rise from his seat and respectfully address the Worshipful Master. [45-23.2]

D. If any brother, in speaking or otherwise, shall transgress the rules of the Lodge, the Master, or any member may call him to order; he shall immediately take his seat, and the member calling him to order shall state the point of order. The Master shall decide the question of order without debate, except that the brother called to order may be allowed to explain. If the decision be in favor of the brother, he shall be at liberty to proceed if he continues to be in order. [45-23.2]

E. When two or more members rise at once, the Master shall name the one entitled to the floor.

F. No visitor shall address the lodge without leave being first

G. When the Master is stating a question or addressing the lodge, or when a brother is speaking, no person shall enter, or go out of, or cross the room, nor shall one be permitted to enter into public discourse. [45-23.14]

April Dinner

Spaghetti, Garlic bread, salad, sweet tea, and cannoli for dessert

On April 23rd, I am planning a day trip from Charlotte to The Masonic Marker on the Blue Ridge Parkway near Black Camp Gap. Call or text me if you want to go: 704-562-0283

- Phillip Brown

0800: Meet at my house (near Rea and 485), hit the road, all ride together or if we have a nice size group take multiple cars.

1100: eat lunch at 12 Bones
www.12bones.com/menu

1230: finish up the drive to the Masonic Marker. Maybe find a good hike to do near by, or some site seeing in the area

1545: start down the Mountain to Hendersonville

1700: Dinner at the Black Rose
www.zomato.com/asheville-nc/black-rose-pub-hendersonville/menu

1830: Start back to Charlotte **2030:** Arrive back in Charlotte



A hidden gem at Disney Magic Kingdom in Orlando. Found behind Thunder Mountain and seen from the Steam Boat ride.