

# Excelsior Masonic Lodge No. 261

*Chartered 1867*

**3900 Litchfield Road**

**Charlotte, NC 28211**

[www.excelsiorlodge261.org](http://www.excelsiorlodge261.org)

*"The Friendly Lodge"*



## February 2016 Trestle Board

Brethren,

Our Stated Communication on February 1<sup>st</sup> will be WB Tim Berly Night in Excelsior lodge. Please come and show this dedicated Brother your appreciation for all he does for our lodge and for Masonry.

Due to the Grand Master's visit in January, we moved a number of items to the February Stated agenda:

- What's the most important thing we do in lodge? a) raise new members, b) care for our existing members, c) provide Masonic education, d) eat, e) fellowship f) build memories
- WB Jeff Peck will make a motion on use of Consent Agendas to speed up the business portion of our meetings, allowing more time for other activities.
- Buying new furniture for the lobby.
- WB Tim Berly's presentation, "Corn, Wine & Oil"

Brethren, please let me know a few days early of any motions you plan to make in a business meeting. I will appreciate it and it may prevent your motion from going to a committee.

**February 8<sup>th</sup>** - We will review conferral of the 1<sup>st</sup> Degree and talk about why it's done "that way." Also, I would like to share a few things we may be able to do to make our degree work look a little sharper.

**February 15<sup>th</sup>** - Will be Brother Dan Andrews Night in Excelsior Lodge. I am positive you will learn some good things about Brother Dan that you don't know. After receiving a 100% medical disability for things that happened to him in Viet Nam he came back to accomplish some pretty remarkable things.

**Also on the 15<sup>th</sup>** - **WB Chris Wilhoit**, a respected Masonic Speaker in North Carolina. will present "The Lodge System of Masonic Education – Good for the Candidate / Good for the Lodge." WB Chris uses the system in his lodge and it is extremely successful. He will share all of his up to date experiences.

**February 22<sup>nd</sup>** - we are going to have a lodge work night. We have jobs for all skill levels. There will be signup sheets with task descriptions (what needs to be done and how to do it). We can put every member of the lodge to work this night and guarantee you will leave at the end of the evening feeling you have accomplished something that needed to be done.

**February 29<sup>th</sup>** - I invite everyone to meet at the lodge at 6:30. We will go, as a group, to visiting Brother Walter Klein at the nursing home. Walter is an icon in our lodge and loves to have company, especially Masonic company. I assure you, you will go away feeling good.

I hope you have a great Valentine's Day and please don't hesitate to contact me if I can help you in any way.

David Carriker

Abbreviated Minutes from our January Stated Communication, covering section where GM Bryant Webster spoke:

❖ Visitors present from Grand Lodge and District Representatives:

Bryant Webster, Grand Master	Doug Caudle, Past Grand Master
Walt Clapp, Grand Secretary	Jonathan Underwood, Asst. Grand Secretary
John Burchfield, Grand Lecturer	
John Caudle, DDGM 32 <sup>nd</sup> District	Ed Steele, DDGL 32 <sup>nd</sup> District
Jack Barnett, DDGM 39 <sup>th</sup> District	Gus Sims, DDGL 39 <sup>th</sup> District

❖ GM installed Secretary Scott Wilson and JD Glen Tompkins into their respective positions

❖ GM gave remarks on challenges facing Excelsior. Stated that he and the PGM had made quite a few suggestions to the incoming Master, some of which were being followed and some were not.

- David Ragan Examination- Things were done wrongly in the past but it is the past so leave it there and move on.
- Generational gap- Embrace both the young and old. Recognize that there is a new generation that does things differently but we can learn from the past. "That's the way we've always done it" is not the way to move forward.
- Electioneering- Questionable things have occurred but the GL felt it was best for Excelsior to continue to determine its future. No exoneration of any members has occurred but recommendations for improvement were made.
- Toxicity in the lodge- Trust among members is a major issue. Cliques and meetings and whispering must stop. Truth and openness is vital to the lodge's survival.

Want to receive official notices and timely information from the lodge? Send an email to the Secretary at [scott\\_wilson1@hotmail.com](mailto:scott_wilson1@hotmail.com).

**Excelsior Masonic Lodge**

**No. 261**

**Chartered 1867**



**February 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

**February Calendar**

Monday, February 1<sup>st</sup>

**Tim Berly, PM Night**

**Stated Communication**

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

Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup>

**Digging into the 1<sup>st</sup> Degree- A Review**

Meet at 7:00pm

Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup>

**Dan Andrews Night**

**Educational Program- Chris Wilcolt**

Meet at 7:00pm

Monday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Work Night**

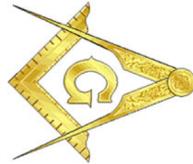
**All skill levels and abilities welcome**

**Meet at 7:00pm**

Monday, February 29<sup>th</sup>

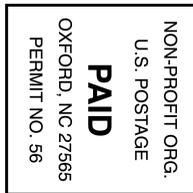
**Walter Klein Night**

Meet at 6:30pm and travel to Carriage Club where he lives



**"THE FRIENDLY LODGE"**

**Excelsior Masonic Lodge No. 261**  
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**February Birthdays**

Jack Austin	Josh Avitan
Philip Baugh	Phillip Brown
William Browning	Dale Dorsey
Glenn Ferrell	Bobby Foy
John Fullagar	Wayne Gilstrap
Danny Jones	William Patterson
David Sentelle	Robert Wade
Harold Wilkinson	Carl Williamson
Greg Williamson	



**No Mason Left Behind**

*by Midnight Freemason Contributor*  
**Bro. "Doc" Gentry**

Ok everyone repeat after me, "No man takes a step in Freemasonry alone." Say it again. Come on louder! Like you mean it! LET ME SEE YOUR WAR FACE! Sorry, I got carried away. Now, what does that mean? The saying, not being carried away. It's simple, oh so simple. From the point where a man says, "I need to talk to a Mason about this Mason thing.", he is not left alone in his steps. He is guided, step-by-step, and only by taking our time and doing it right, do we see the wisdom in this action.

A man comes to your lodge and says, "I want to be a mason." I encourage you NOT to throw a petition in his face. Take the time necessary to get to know him and his life. In fact, two or three brothers should take somewhere between 6 months to 2 years (whatever your Grand Lodge says to do on the petition ironically) to get to know your potential candidate. "But Brother Doc, he might leave if we don't push him through." Well then brothers, who's to say that he would actually come to lodge then? Besides, we are Masons, our word is our bond, so don't start the

potential brother off on the wrong foot by lying on his petition. Please don't get him started off wrong by pushing it through either. I know, I know, Grand Lodges are freaking out about numbers and attendance and this reason alone should be the basis of you vetting potential brethren more thoroughly. Besides that, how will this potential brother get work and receive instruction if you don't know where his passions are to give him work? Ok step one, get to know the potential brother, check. Step two, get to know his family as well. Don't leave that poor man to try and explain Freemasonry to his family all by himself, he has no idea what Freemasonry is....in fact, I still don't know all of what Freemasonry is, so don't send me in alone either! Invite the family to functions and events. If you don't know what you can and can't tell families, and there are things you can tell them I assure you, go back and read my [Mentoring piece](#).

Once the allotted time has passed and he still wants to join you crazy kids, oh and you all still want him to become a brother, then have him fill out the petition. Once he has filled it out and way before you initiate him, assign him a mentor. Do not wait; you will miss valuable opportunities for him to grow, even before he is voted on. What's the worst thing that happens? He doesn't join but is a better person for the experience?

No Mason Left Behind is not just some cute catch phrase that Brother Robert Johnson branded me with; it is a creed all Brethren should live by. No matter what you do, no one takes a step in Freemasonry alone!

~Doc

**Brother Daniel "Doc" Gentry** is a Brother Master Mason under the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Mason's of the State of Illinois, in the 1st Northeast district. His sign is Leo, and has been known to enjoy long walks in blizzards. He is stubborn and has no plans of joining the York or Scottish Rite anytime soon. Also in his spare time, he is a great DM for D&D games. Sacred Geometry! You can reach him by email at [doc@midnightfreemasons.org](mailto:doc@midnightfreemasons.org)