

# Excelsior Masonic Lodge No. 261

Chartered 1867

3900 Litchfield Road

Charlotte, NC 28211

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

"The Friendly Lodge"



## March 2016 Trestle Board

Brethren,

In February, I created two very special Blue Ribbon committees. A "150 Year Anniversary Committee" to begin planning for our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary next year. Our Senior Warden Phillip Brent chairs this committee. The other committee, "Lodge Revitalization" is to cleanup, organize and do some enhancements to our building and grounds and is chaired by WB Jeff Peck. I hope you will come out, see what is going on, lend us a hand in doing some of this work or just give us your advice and encouragement.

Several years ago, we voted to explore creating a Temple Association and share ownership of our building and grounds with Temple Lodge No 676. Based on this vote, Temple Lodge moved into our building and has shared our building operating costs. Last fall, the Grand Lodge published a set of standardized Bylaws for Temple Associations. Excelsior Lodge now needs to decide if it wants to accept these Bylaws as written and move forward to create this Temple Association, reject these bylaws and abandon further consideration of a Temple Association or seek to modify these bylaws to satisfy our specific needs.

The buying and selling of real property is a major decision in the life of any organization. Obviously, having another lodge to share our operating costs is a good thing but does our giving up total control of our property outweigh this? Are there hidden dangers in an agreement of this kind? Are we compatible with Temple Lodge? Do we share common hopes for the future? Does Temple want to add on a larger, more elegant meeting room when we usually have eighty empty seats at a meeting? What happens if one of our lodges loses its 501© tax exemption or decides to close its doors without merging? What happens if Temple Lodge decides to merge with another lodge?

I am going to schedule at least two Monday evenings to discuss these and other issues related to this potential temple association. I would like for everyone to fully understand the issues before this matter is brought to a vote in lodge. The first session will be on Monday, March 21st @ 7:00 PM. I hope Temple Lodge members will join us on the evening.

I believe there are good reasons for lodges to join together to share expenses in this era of decreasing lodge sizes. I also believe lodges that join together must have similar goals for the future.

In closing, I would like to reassure everyone that no Master, Officer, or Trustee has the authority to buy, sell or pledge property without the approval of lodge members.

David Carriker, Master



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**Excelsior Masonic Lodge**

**No. 261**

**Chartered 1867**



**March 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

**March Calendar**

Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup>

**Philip Brown, PM Night**

**Stated Communication**

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

Monday, February 14<sup>th</sup>

**Shawn Snyder Night**

**Review for SOI**

Meet at 7:00pm

Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>

**Spring SOI- Temple 676**

Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>

**Spring SOI- James K. Polk**

Dinner at 6:30

Meeting at 7:15

Monday, March 21<sup>st</sup>

**Temple Association Discussion**

Meet at 7:00pm

Monday, March 28<sup>th</sup>

**FC Degree Review**

Meet at 7:00pm



**"THE FRIENDLY LODGE"**

**Excelsior Masonic Lodge No. 261**

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Charlotte, NC 28211-2012

**March Birthdays**

Charles Blake	Mark Bloomer
Dean Carras	Jerry Funderburk
Arthur Goldner	Jerry Gullede
Ralph Little	Ruskin McNeely
Chuck Menkel	Chris Naso
Stephen Neal	Tate Phillips
Warren Rawdon	BB Samuels
Clyde Smith	Ronald Spicer
Jimmie Steele	Donald Stroud
Glenn Tompkins	John Votik

**What's upon the trestleboard?**

Posted on [Between the Compasses](#).

<https://raisedbetweenthecompasses.wordpress.com>

So, what's upon the trestleboard?

The trestleboard is not just the agenda for your lodge. Each of us should have a trestleboard for ourselves to outline the projects yet to come. All of us are in charge of securing and carrying on the building of the temple. This is for both inside, and outside of the lodge. Many of us have things we would like to see done differently. And it will always be that way. For the younger brothers such as myself, there's a great deal that we think needs improvement. However, that doesn't always mean we are right in every case. Toss aside your pride if you're a brother who thinks they know everything. I'll be the first to admit that I don't know everything. In fact, in the whole grand scheme of things, I know very little. I may often have a unique perspective of our symbols and lessons. I may even have a perspective you have yet to consider, it's just that... a perspective. Sure, some things really need to be addressed from yesteryear. But since it hasn't been addressed or changed yet, that doesn't mean it won't be either. The true change comes from the action of the brothers involved. Complaining about an issue rarely, if ever, does anything. If social gathering is lacking, create your own trestleboard outlining your plan or course of action. If it's education you seek, the same action applies. The worst that can happen is it's shot down. But, as long as your idea involves everyone, there's no reason it should be. In most cases. If you truly want to see improvements made, get active. No one is going to take you

seriously if you're complaining from the sidelines. Get up, get involved. Help with anything and everything. Create your own trestleboard in which you, yourself, should follow. You are in control of yourself. Lead by example. I hear brothers complain about "grumpy" past masters who bicker about various things. Guess what, even if they themselves weren't "good" at being master of the lodge, or if they were; they tried. They got up there and did the work needed when it needed to be done. They do deserve respect in that regard as well as others. I appreciate a past master for the willingness to try. However good or not so good they may have been as master. Sometimes they're ideas aren't that great. But maybe they feel the same about yours. And that's okay. If you feel yourself getting discouraged, get back up and try again. This fraternity can't rely on past masters who sit in lodge forever. The fraternity is dependent upon good and worthy brethren who are willing to answer the call of the fraternal trestleboard. If that means going back and shaping our entered apprentices, then do that. If it means going to pick up past masters who can't see well enough to drive, go get them. Get brothers inspired to be a bigger part than they currently are. You never know the amount of wisdom that exists until you truly get to know them. I value the fraternity for what it is. I want to help polish this old jewel and make it amazing. Make it a fraternity that's true to its roots.

**Get involved!!!!** What's upon your trestleboard?



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*"The Friendly Lodge"*



## March Trestle Board Special Addition

### Our Most Important Decision in 30 Years

Temple Lodge No. 676 has asked about Excelsior's intentions regarding the proposed temple association. On Monday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM, we will review where we are now and explore the benefits and issues related to a temple association. I have invited Temple Lodge to join in the presentation and participate in the discussion. Both lodges need to know the other lodge's vision for the future.

A temple association can benefit both lodges but there are also some issues and concerns involved. We all need to understand these in order to make an informed vote on whether to proceed later this year.

### 150<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary Planning Begins

Excelsior Masonic Lodge No. 261 was chartered in 1867 and it is the second oldest lodge with continuous service in Charlotte / Mecklenburg. In the late 1950s, Excelsior became the largest lodge in the state of North Carolina with over eleven hundred members. It is fascinating to think about how life has changed in Charlotte since 1867; a time before air travel, cars, television, the telephone, and even the incandescent light bulb. Our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary is next year and the time to start planning is now. Be on the lookout for invitations to participate in the preparing for our anniversary

### Lodge Revitalization Committee Formed

In preparation for our 150<sup>th</sup> birthday, we need to spruce up our lodge building and grounds. We renovated and then occupied our current lodge building thirty years ago. Some of our furnishing and fixtures have reached the end of their life cycle. Areas of our lodge, like my attic, have fallen into disarray. A little up-dating is needed to keep our building functioning properly and keep it a desirable place for us to meet, enjoy performing degree ceremonies, and to improve our ability to generate rental income.

We have postponed some of these maintenance issues for several years due to the anticipated Temple Association. At this point, this refurbishing has become a necessity. We have no furniture in our lobby, we removed our flag pole because it became badly bent, we need some painting and the shrubbery in front of our building needs attention.

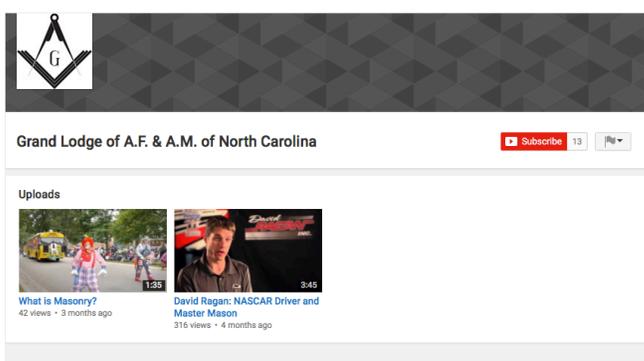
Brethren, be prepared because we will need to use some of our savings to finance these repairs and improvements where volunteer help is impractical.

I am involving Temple Lodge in the planning and execution of this project and plan to seek an agreement whereby, if a temple association is created, they will share the cost of upgrades.

Fraternally,

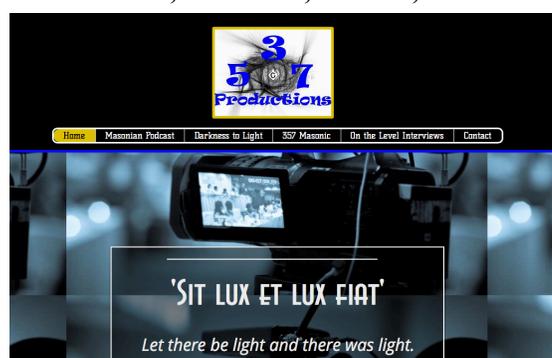
David Carriker

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