

Excelsior Masonic Lodge No. 261

Chartered 1867

3900 Litchfield Road
Charlotte, NC 28211

www.excelsiorlodge261.org

"The Friendly Lodge"



May 2016 Trestle Board

Brethren,

Have you checked out our website, www.excelsiorlodge261.org, recently? I would like to thank Brother Scott Wilson for learning the process and making some significant improvements to bring it more up to date. Our website is now our main source of new member applications so we need to strive for excellence in keeping it current and functioning well. We still have some work to do but progress is being made.

The website, however, does not take away the need for our members to talk to people about Masonry. Some Masons think the non-solicitations rule means they cannot talk to anyone about Masonry. Nothing could be further from the truth. It means a man must come to Freemasonry of his own free will and accord. There can be no coercion or solicitation. Nothing in Freemasonry prevents us from telling good non-Masons about the Craft. We can tell them we welcome good men to join, but they must ask to join.

On May 16th, we will honor our 25 and 50-year veteran members (no 60 year members this year) by presenting them a Grand Lodge Certificate of Appreciation and a lapel pin. This is moving up our usual November celebration a few months. The brothers to be honored are:

50 Years

Joe Barkley
Mason Dorsey
Jerry D. Furr
Ralph Phillips

Troy Brown
Bobby Foy
Billy Grant

25 Years

William Culp

Let's make every effort possible to get these deserving brothers and their families to attend lodge on May 16th to receive their awards in person. I plan to personally call and invite each one to attend but I may need some of you to help provide transportation. Please let me know if you are willing to pick up one of the honorees and get them back home after the program.

On Saturday, May 21st, we will have a lodge workday. This will be a great opportunity to fellowship together and get some cleaning up and organizing done around the lodge. Even if you don't attend lodge regularly, come help us on the 21st. It will be a good day to refresh some old friendships and create some new ones. We will start around 8:00 AM and will have work for all skill levels. We may even have breakfast at the lodge that morning. I will confirm this to you in a phone tree message when the time gets closer.

Have a great month and I look forward to seeing you in lodge.

David Carriker, Master



A Leadership Trap

by *Midnight Freemason Contributor*

RWB Michael H. Shirley

"You cannot push anyone up the ladder unless he is willing to climb." –Andrew Carnegie

One of the traps of leadership is our desire to see people succeed. It is an essential characteristic in a leader, but a leader cannot create that desire in others. Success requires work, and work requires the desire to work, translated into action. Leadership is influence, not doing another's work because we want that person to succeed. We cannot force action on our fellow Masons. We can only do what we can do, enthusiastically, offer opportunities, praise when praise is due, and act fraternally. In all things, we must lead by example.

R.W.B. Michael H. Shirley serves the Grand Lodge of Illinois, A.F. & 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 & AM, in Minocqua, Wisconsin. He is Past Most Wise Master of the George E. Burrow 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 contact him at:

m.h.shirley@gmail.com

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May 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

May Calendar

Monday, May 2nd

George Smith Night
Stated Communication

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

Monday, May 9th

Officers Meeting Only

Monday, May 16th

Veterans Award Night

Harold Kossove Night

Meeting at 7:00pm

Saturday, May 21st

Lodge Work Day

Meet at 8:00am

Monday, May 23rd

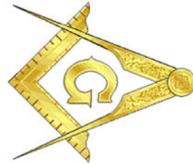
Visit John Hall at Merrywood Retirement

3600 Park Road

Meet at 7:00pm

Monday, May 30th

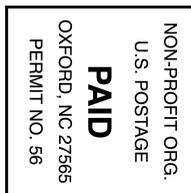
Memorial Day- LODGE IS DARK



"THE FRIENDLY LODGE"

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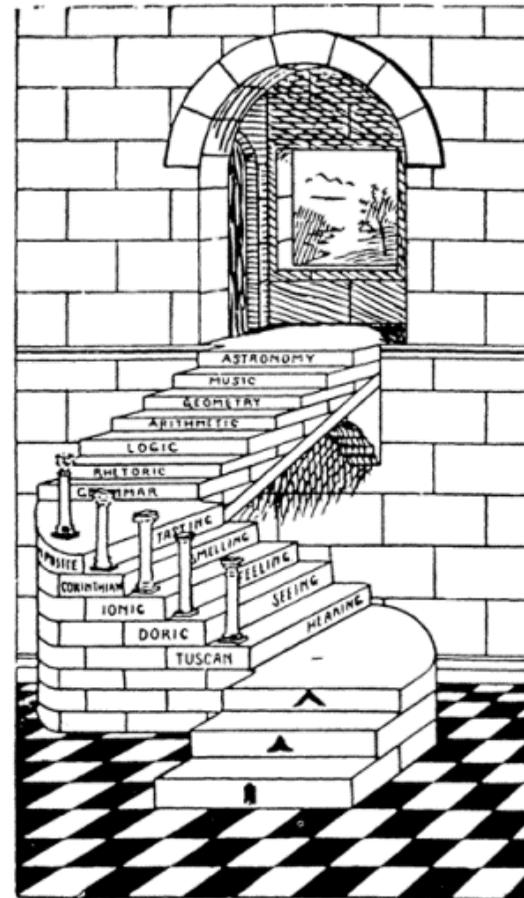


May Birthdays

Caleb Clark	Scott Clarkson
Ralph Cogdell	William Culp
Jerry D. Furr	Derek Grady
William Isenhour	Richard Klein
Ned Lyerly	David Marrow
James Pepper	Lewis Shuler
Clonnie Smith	Peter Spero
Thomas Wheat	

May Dinner

Chicken Alfredo, Breadsticks, Salad, and Brownies



www.charlottescottishrite.com

www.charlotteyorkrite.com

www.oasishriners.org

Brethren,

I would like to introduce a new program from the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Education. The William Richardson Davie Leadership Academy will debut later this year as a training platform that provides our members with practical education on leadership and management of the Lodge, and classes on the history, traditions, and structure of Freemasonry in North Carolina.

The W. R. Davie Leadership Academy will replace the existing Wardens' Boot Camp education program in late 2016, and will be fully implemented in 2017. The new format will offer training and education programs up to 12 times per year at locations throughout the state. The revised format will consist of both introductory and advanced sessions, offering members a progressive path toward exploring the Craft and improving themselves as Masonic leaders.

In support of this effort, the Education Committee is looking for talented Brothers who are interested in teaching classes or serving in an administrative or logistics-support role. Instructor interviews will be held at three locations in May 2016:

- May 7th Goldsboro (Wayne 112)
- May 14th Statesville (Statesville 27)
- May 18th Greensboro Temple

Additional details regarding training dates and venues are available at the Grand Lodge website in the "Educational Resources" section. If you or a member of your Lodge may be interested in serving as an instructor or staff member, an application is available on this website. This will start the process for your interview. If you have any questions, please contact me at bengradywallace@gmail.com or at (910) 572-7678.

As always, thank you for the work you do for our great fraternity. Fraternally,
Benjamin G. Wallace, PM