

Excelsior Masonic Lodge No. 261

Chartered 1867

3900 Litchfield Road
Charlotte, NC 28211

www.excelsiorlodge261.org

"The Friendly Lodge"



June 2016 Trestle Board

What Does Masonry Mean to You?

Brethren we are amidst important times for the lodge and for ourselves. It's been discussed that our membership is declining, there's also current discussion about the Temple Association with Temple 676. As we encounter these situations is important that we keep this question at the forefront of our minds. Why? Because I believe it's the foundation to solving both of the aforementioned issues.

What You Focus on Becomes Your Reality

An ancient proverb states that, "what you focus on becomes your reality," simply put this means the more attention you give to something the closer it is to manifesting in your life. In any area of your life if you want it to improve give more focus and/or attention to it.

How does this apply to our lodge? As of late we have been focusing on the wrong side of the equation, the decline in membership, so naturally that's what we will continue to see. Our focus should instead be on how do we increase our membership, what programs can we implement to be more visible online and in our local community, etc. This simple shift in focusing on the increase instead of the decline will ultimately become our reality as a lodge.

Another shift in focus should be towards the reason (s) you became a Mason, take a few moments to reflect back to that time when you first petitioned and how you felt towards the lodge once you were raised. From there bring that same spirit back to the lodge so that brotherly love may spread. Good energy and a positive spirit are contagious, people will want to chat with and hang around you just because you make them feel good by your presence. Now imagine if a lodge of men embodied this as a whole?

A Personal Note

When I became a Mason I honestly didn't know what to expect, all I knew was that it was the oldest fraternity in the world, my grandfathers were Masons, and I wanted to be a part of something that many great men were before me. As I've grown in the lodge I can honestly say that it has been one of the greatest decisions that I have made in my adult life.

Failure is only certain if you quit, if you have checked out or given up on the lodge, not only are you hurting the lodge but ultimately yourself. The lodge can get new members but can you get a new fight? If you aren't willing to fight for your lodge that you went through so much to become a member of, then you will give up on other things in life when it gets tough as well.

I want to challenge you, come back and fight, fight for something you believe in and show that you're not a quitter. If you've been away for a while, come back with a renewed spirit and vigor, which may just be all the lodge needs to rekindle the fire. One thing is for certain, you will quit before I do!

From the West,
Phillip Brent



50 Year Members Celebrating their Anniversary on May 16th
Bobby Foy, Jerry D. Furr, Joe Barkley, Troy Brown (left to right)

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June 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

June Calendar

Monday, June 6th

**Charles Blake Night
Stated Communication**

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

Monday, June 13th

**No Meeting but anyone who wishes can
come learn to read The OSW and / or learn a
lecture or a part is welcome**

Meet at 7:00pm

Monday, June 20th

Josh Barnett Night

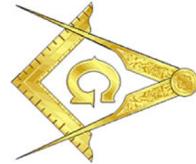
**Discussion- How a lodge can function
without the support and attendance of its
Officers**

Meeting at 7:00pm

Monday, June 27th

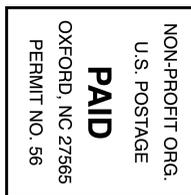
**No meeting but all who would like to help
straighten up around the lodge building for
our 150th Anniversary is welcomea**

Meet at 7:00pm



"THE FRIENDLY LODGE"

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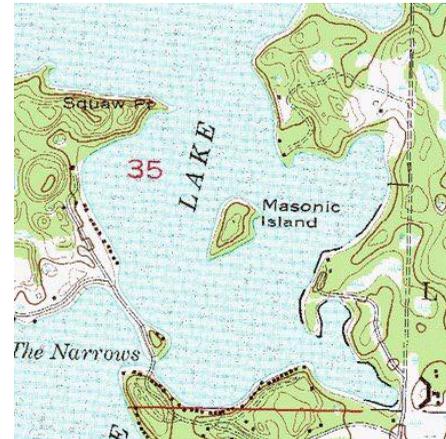


June Birthdays

David Allison	Dan Andrews
Joe Barkley	Frank Bishop
Larry Blackmon	Troy Brown
Herman Burton	Ian DeMallie
Sam Fadel	MJ Hannush
Khalil Kardous	John McCracken
Pete Milliones	Mike Molyneaux
Ilias Nikolaidis	Jordan Parker
Paul Parker	John Robinson
Ketan Shah	George Smith
Barney Stegall	Joseph Walker
Albert Warren	

June Dinner

Breakfast for Dinner: eggs, pancakes, grits, sausage, bacon



Masonic Island is a seven acre site on Lake Metigoshe in the Turtle Mountains of North Dakota. It was originally named Park Island. In 1904, the island was owned by Bro. V.J. Noble, who was a member of Tuscan Lodge #44 of North Dakota. With a dispensation from the Grand Lodge of North Dakota, and the permission of Bro. Noble, the island was cleared in 1906 for the purpose of holding outdoor Masonic conferrals of degrees. Tuscan Lodge was joined by Westhope Lodge #74 for conferrals of three Master Mason Degrees that year. The events were such a success that rituals were held annually for six consecutive years. When Bro. Noble died, Masons became

interested in reviving the conferral of rituals on the island. On November 28, 1933, the Probate Court authorized the sale of the island with a deed to the North Dakota Masonic Foundation for the sum of \$277.25. At the landing dock is a flight of winding concrete stairs consisting of three, five, and seven steps that rise to the representation of a Lodge Room. The significance of the steps might be explained to you if you have a Masonic guide. An altar and officers' chairs were constructed of "beach stones" and mortared cement. Other amenities were added over the years to accommodate the island's use by Royal Arch Masons, Eastern Star, and other appendant and concordant bodies.



Detroit Masonic Temple, the largest Masonic Temple in the world serves as home to various Masonic Organizations. The cornerstone was laid on September 18, 1922, during a ceremony attended by thousands of Detroiters, using a trowel previously used by George Washington during the construction of the U.S. Capitol. Significantly, the opening of the theater was celebrated during a concert by the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Ossip Gabrilowitsch, on February 22, 1926--George Washington's birthday. The formal dedication of the building took place on Thanksgiving Day, 1926. Once again, thousands of Detroiters were present for the ceremony. For more details of the history and virtual 360 degree picture tour: www.themasonic.com/