

Excelsior Masonic Lodge No. 261

Chartered 1867

3900 Litchfield Road
Charlotte, NC 28211

www.excelsiorlodge261.org

"The Friendly Lodge"



August 2016 Trestle Board

Brethren,

"Light in Masonry, More Light in Masonry, Further Light in Masonry." What do these words mean to us as Masons? Do they refer to physical light or do they have a deeper meaning? Many scholars believe they are an admonition to Masons to "always" seek further knowledge into the teachings of the Craft. Teachings that can make us better men. This month we have an excellent opportunity to learn more about our mysterious fraternity. On August 15th at 7:00 PM, we will have WB Andrew Hammer, Past Master of Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22, A.F. & A.M. in Virginia, Grand Chancellor, Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, F.A.A.M. and Past Grand Orator, Grand Lodge of North Carolina, A.F. & A.M., speak to us on "Observing the Craft." W. B. Hammer, an internationally acclaimed masonic author and speaker is the son-in-law of our own W. B. Richard Klein, Past Master of Excelsior Lodge. Please take advantage of this special opportunity to learn more about our fraternity.

I hope by the time you read this, we will have a new black and white Mosaic floor under the altar in our meeting room. This will be the most ritualistically significant addition we have made to our building since we occupied it thirty years ago. "The mosaic pavement is a representation of the ground floor of King Solomon's Temple." It "is emblematic of human life checkered with good and evil." The floor will have a star between the Master and the altar and a Cable Tow around the border. To pay for this floor, we are going to sell squares (probably in the \$8 - \$10 range) with a donors list being placed on permanent display in the lodge.

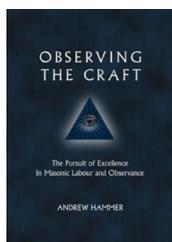
I made a motion to amend our by-laws at our June Stated Communication to create a permanent committee on website review. Brethren, our website has become, by far, our primary source of applications. As such, it deserves our very highest priority for care and updating. We presently have two very devoted brothers maintaining it, Phillip Brent and Scott Wilson, and we owe them a debt of gratitude. But, in my experience, an even better website can be had by having some non-programmers, who are not constrained by the technical issues of writing the code, review the product and make layman's / user's suggestions. We need programmers (Phillip and Scott) but, in my opinion, we also need people to routinely monitor the website to ensure everything is up to date, that it reads easily and correctly and that it flows well. I do not see this committee telling Phillip and Scott what to do. I see it making suggestions to the Master and the Master discussing the appropriate suggestions with Phillip and Scott. We will vote on this motion at the August Stated.

David Carriker, Master



Observing the Craft

Andrew Hammer, Past Master and Secretary, Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22, A.F. & A.M., Grand Chancellor, Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, F.A.A.M. and Past Grand Orator, Grand Lodge of North Carolina, A.F. & A.M., an internationally acclaimed masonic author and speaker will speak on 'Observing the Craft' in Excelsior Lodge No. 261 on August 15th at 7:00 PM. There will be a question and answer period following the presentation. All Master Masons and invited to attend



Andrew Hammer

President, Masonic Restoration Foundation
Grand Orator, Grand Lodge of North Carolina
Past Master, Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22
Secretary, Fiat Lux Lodge No. 1717

Observing the Craft is a manifesto of sorts for the observant Mason, who seeks quality over quantity in every aspect of Masonry.

It is a stringent argument for the Symbolic (Blue) Lodge as the *ne plus ultra* of the Craft, asking that Masons put actions behind their statements that 'nothing is higher than the third degree.'

It is a book that calls for nothing but the utmost personal effort and commitment to be put into the operation of a Masonic Lodge, and the experience of a Masonic meeting, in search of the transformational experience which Masons define as 'making good men better'.

<http://observingthecraft.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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August 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

August Calendar

Monday, August 1st

Stated Communication

Caleb Clark Night

Dinner at 6:00pm

Meeting at 7:00pm

Monday, August 8th

Work Night

Meet at 7:00pm

Wear your painting clothes!

Monday, August 15th

Andrew Hammer Lecture

Meet at 7:00pm

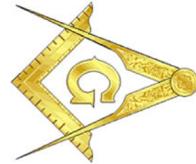
Monday, August 22nd

1st Degree Rehearsal

**Discussion on Implementing Elements of
a Traditional Observance Lodge**

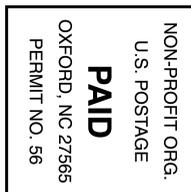
Monday, August 29th

Lodge is Dark



“THE FRIENDLY LODGE”

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3900 Litchfield Road
Charlotte, NC 28211-2012



August Birthdays

Tarek Aboulhoda	Walter Barnett
Martin Borgersen	Phillip Brent
Joe Butler	Bobby Coggins
Sam Davis	Shaheen Fadel
Paul Gay	Fred Gilbert
Johnny Gregory	Douglas Hamer
Mark Hayes	Joe Hunt
Steven Leighton	Robert Lowder
Philip Maloney	Jack Mulligan
Bobby Parker	Jeff Peck
James Russell	Doug Spicer
Buster Tanner	Robert White
James Wooten	

Past Master

**by Midnight Freemason Contributor
R.W.B. Michael H. Shirley**

Last week the Master of my lodge, Worshipful Brother Dave McCrory, texted me to ask when he could come by. He wanted to make sure he had a chance to say goodbye before I left town for good. We settled on the following Thursday. This evening the doorbell rang, as expected, but it wasn't just Dave who was at the door. Several other Brothers were there with him to present me with a Past Master's apron. It was both unexpected and humbling. We chatted a bit about my plans, and then they took their leave. And so I was left to contemplate the past ten years, represented in that wonderful gesture and welcome gift.

Being Master of a lodge is a great responsibility. During my tenure, I learned to run meetings, to deal with our Grand Lodge, to confer degrees, and generally how to set an example to my newer Brethren. I had a wonderful time, and then, too soon, it was over. I was a Past Master, with the title "Worshipful Brother" in perpetuity, but with no power at all. And that's as it should be. Masonry requires humility, and being a Past Master requires it even more. Humility — right-

sizedness—for a Past Master requires not saying, "I didn't do it that way," or, "that's the wrong way to handle things." It requires silence when not asked for advice and prudence when given the chance to contribute. Wearing a Past Master's apron is not an exercise in ego: it is a reminder that all things pass, that Masonry is eternal, and that every award given is an honor, not one's just due. I'm truly grateful to my Brethren for their gift, and not just because I won't have to search out the aprons with the long strings when I go to a lodge meeting. They've given me something that will remind me, whenever I put it on, that the chance to serve my lodge and my Craft are blessings. It is the internal and not the external qualifications of a man that recommend him to be a Mason, and that doesn't change with fancy aprons or titles. My new apron is a continued admonishment to me to act as a Past Master should: with humility, reverence, and fraternity.

~MHS

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. 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 article on British and American history, he teaches at Eastern Illinois University. You can contact him at: m.h.shirley@gmail.com