

Excelsior Masonic Lodge No. 261

Chartered 1867

3900 Litchfield Road
Charlotte, NC 28211

www.excelsiorlodge261.org

"The Friendly Lodge"



July 2016 Trestle Board

Hello my brothers and Greetings from the South!

This year has flown by so far. Excelsior has done a lot of activities during refreshment such as visiting some of our shut-in brothers, a lodge cleanup and maintenance day, several guest speakers, and of course good fellowship. Do we have a lot more work to do? Yes, we do. There are a bunch of great ideas on the table right now to better utilize our space and make it more visually appealing. The lodge needs your input! How can we make the lodge not just a place for Masonic reflection and circumspection, but that feel good place for new and old members as well as potential candidates? Easy if you think about the first time you came to a lodge. Were you in awe? Maybe even a little nervous? How about overwhelmed? Take all of these things out of the lodge experience and what do you have? A friendly place to congregate and work on what is really important in masonry. Making yourself and others better men, fathers, brothers, mentors, husbands, the list goes on and on. We have learned over time that each one of us has core competencies and most importantly our own ideology. What makes us all common is our beliefs that participating in this fraternity can make us better men. Take that to heart. If you haven't been at the lodge for a stated or other function, we would love to have you back. If there has been something that has affected any of these items come back and lets work it out. Each one of you is an integral part of the lodge's survival. I will be the first to admit I can come off very brash at times and have learned over my years of being a mason that the words we speak can forever change the demeanor of brotherhood and lodge strength. For this I am sorry. Hopefully this message finds a place in each one of your hearts and we can get back to what's really important, being the best men and masons we can. The lodge is everyone's during light and dark so please get involved!

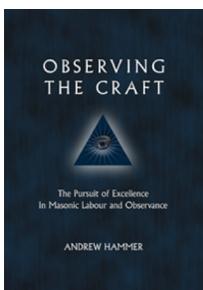
I leave you with a quote from MW brother Benjamin Franklin: "Remember not only to say the right thing in the right place, but far more difficult still, to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment."

Jeff Peck, PM
Junior Warden



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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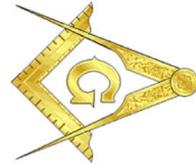
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July Trestle Board

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	



“THE FRIENDLY LODGE”

Excelsior Masonic Lodge No. 261
3900 Litchfield Road
Charlotte, NC 28211-2012

Brethren,

We will, as usual, be dark in July (no regular meetings are scheduled). However, I would like to let you know that we have an exceptional opportunity on August 15th.

Internationally known Masonic author and speaker Andrew Hammer will speak at Excelsior Lodge. Please mark your calendars now to attend this special event, learn more about the requirements for a good masonic life, and about this fraternity called Freemasonry.

Also, another reminder that we will vote at our August Stated Communication (August 1st) on whether or not to further pursue creation of a temple association with Temple Lodge.

David Carriker, PM, CL
Master

July Birthdays

Herman Anderson	Harold Baker
Tim Berly	Donald Biltcliffe
Michael Brown	Mason Dorsey
Julius Goldman	James Jamison
Dmitriy Kobzar	Harold Kossove
John McCaskill	Ryan Pedersen
Ralph Phillips	James Ploger
Jim Ringley	Isaac Scruggs
Anderson Stegall	John Suddreth

July Calendar

LODGE IS DARK IN JULY

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE! -- from the Masonic Service Association of North America.

Have you ever wondered, who was responsible for the writing of the Declaration of Independence, and what Masonic figures might have been influential? The Second Continental Congress appointed 5 people to draw up the declaration, with Thomas Jefferson, of Virginia, as chairman, and eventual author. The committee included Benjamin Franklin, of Pennsylvania; John Adams, of Massachusetts; Roger Sherman, of Connecticut; and Robert Livingston, of New York.

One timeline shows that Jefferson worked on the writing from June 11 to June 28, 1776. He presented a draft to Franklin and Adams, who made revisions. Then the document was presented to the Continental Congress for approval.

What about Masonic influence? Benjamin Franklin was a well-known Mason in the Colonies and in Europe and served as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. Robert Livingston was the first Grand Master

of the Grand Lodge of New York. John Adams was definitely not a Mason.

However the other two of the five committeemen are questionable, but generally declared NOT Masons. Roger Sherman is the only person to sign the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Association, the Articles of Confederation, and the Federal Constitution. Although his Masonic apron is in the historical Collection of Yale University, “his membership in the fraternity is based on tradition and not supported by any evidence,” according to "10,000 Famous Freemasons," of the Missouri Lodge of Research.

In the case of Thomas Jefferson, even though numerous claims on behalf of his Masonic membership have been made and even one of the Masonic youth organizations acknowledges him as a Mason, the authoritative "10,000 Famous Freemasons" says, “It is doubtful he was ever a member of the Craft. All claims to membership are based on association or insinuation . . . “

A final thought: As we greet and welcome others on this holiday weekend, let us not say, “Happy 4th of July,” but boldly say, “Happy Independence!” For it is not the holiday we celebrate, but the Freedom those early patriots provided for us.



Masonic Service Association of North America

www.msana.com

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