

Excelsior Masonic Lodge No. 261

Chartered 1867

3900 Litchfield Road

Charlotte, NC 28211

www.excelsiorlodge261.org



"The Friendly Lodge"

September 2016 Trestle Board

Darkness to Light

In the early, silent movie, days of cowboy pictures the cowboys were always depicted wearing black hats. I still remember seeing Hopalong Cassidy, Roy Rogers and many others wearing these. Somewhere along the line someone started making the connection of darkness as being bad and light being good so all of the good cowboy actors changed over to wearing white or light hats to denote themselves as being good. The old saying of you can always tell the type of a man by the color of the hat he wears came into being. The bad guys wore the dark hats and the good guys wore the white hats so you could always see at once who the good and bad guys were. Our lives, our character, our most cherished beliefs that we put into living our everyday life is a profile of the unique and distinctive life style we wish to convey to the world and we must take extreme care as to how it is always perceived by others. As Freemasons, we should apply the lessons we learn in lodge to our ever day lives and always do our best to be worthy of a white hat.

Dan Andrews, Senior Deacon



Brethren,

There is a high demand for blood in our community right now. Keep your eyes open for details on an Excelsior / Temple Lodge Blood drive in the next few weeks. The effort was conceived by and will be coordinated by Brother Chris Pettit.

If you missed the Andrew Hammer talk last month, you missed a very inspiring presentation. Pride in our temple, in the processing of our applicants, in our degree work, in our interaction among members and in ourselves is everything in a fraternity like ours. Without pride, we do not even make a good social club and are destined to fail. How did our lodge appear to this world-class speaker? The weeds in our sidewalk were taller than the plants, the grass was eight inches high, two-thirds of our offices were missing, we have coffee stains on our carpet, our officer's aprons are tattered and worn, and our officer's jewels are broken. I am to blame too. We have become so accustomed to these deficiencies that we no longer notice them. Let's all recommit ourselves to returning Excelsior Lodge to its rightful place. I hope all of you, who are physically able, will support us in our rehearsal and work night this month.

Thank you,

David Carriker, Master

PS: I am continuing to search for fulfilling programs that will be of interest to all members. Please give me your ideas.



Proposed Amendments to The Code (Full text found at http://grandlodge-nc.org/storage/wysiwyg/2016_amendments_3.pdf)

Amendment Group 1: The following amendment has been proposed by the Grand Secretary. *This proposed amendment would clarify residency requirements for District Deputy Grand Masters by only requiring him to be a member of a lodge in the district.*

Amendment Group 2: The following amendment has been proposed by the Grand Secretary. *This proposed amendment would permit a member of a Grand Lodge Board, Commission, or Committee to live outside the state of North Carolina.*

Amendment Group 3: The following amendment has been proposed by Mystic Tie Lodge No. 237. *This proposed amendment would set the minimum initiation fee at three times the annual dues of the lodge, minus the amount paid toward the Grand Lodge's per capita.*

Amendment Group 4: The following amendment has been proposed by the Lodge Service Commission. *This proposed amendment will change some of the regulations pertaining to the Lodge Service Commission, allowing more flexibility for lodges to rent their facilities while maintaining compliance with the IRS.*

Amendment Group 5: The following amendments have been proposed by the Grand Secretary. *This proposed amendment would include the Chaplain on the list of lodge officers not required to be proficient in the third degree catechism.*

Amendment Group 6: The following amendment has been proposed by Vandora Lodge No. 745. *This proposed amendment would allow a member who was excluded for NPD to repurchase the total amount of dues equivalent to his years excluded, and in return have his NPD record expunged from his Masonic record.*

Amendment Group 7: The following amendment has been proposed by the Grand Secretary. *This proposed amendment will permit special ceremonies (cornerstone dedications) to be conducted on Sundays at a church.*

Amendment Group 8: The following amendment has been proposed by Lexington Memorial Lodge No. 473. *This amendment would suspend any future purchases of endowed memberships and grandfather-in-current endowed membership participants. The rules of transferring of memberships and other regulations regarding current endowed memberships would continue. Lodges would continue to receive endowed payments in perpetuity.*



September Birthdays

Lawrence Ammons, James Caton, Michael Causey, Norman Cohen, Andy Cooley, Benny Cox, Paul Digiocomo, Anthony Dudley, William Funderburk, David Galloway, John Hall, Frederick Hill, Jimmie Huggins, Maurice Keith, Herbert Lockwood, William Lowe, Alan Madsen, Thomas McCrea, George McCullough, Clay Pettit, Dick Schulz, Nikoloas Tsoutsias, William Willis, Scott Wilson

Excelsior Masonic Lodge

No. 261

Chartered 1867



September 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 | | |

September Calendar

Monday, September 5th

Labor Day
Lodge is Dark

Monday, September 12th

Stated Communication

Ralph Cogdell Night

Dinner at 6:00pm

Meeting at 7:00pm

Menu: Pizza, Tea, Dessert

Monday, September 19th

2nd Degree Rehearsal

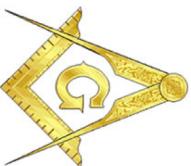
Caleb Clark Night

Meet at 7:00pm

Monday, September 26th

Work Night

Painting, Shampoo Carpet, etc.



Excelsior Masonic Lodge No. 261

3900 Litchfield Road

Charlotte, NC 28211-2012

"THE FRIENDLY LODGE"

Is the Honeymoon Over?

You petitioned with eagerness and anxiety. You got the call that you were voted in. You received your first degree and thought, "Okay, not exactly what I expected, but cool." You proved your worth somehow or other and were told you would be receiving your 2nd degree, and more excitement filled your brain. You received your Fellowcraft degree and thought, "Wow, that was a bit more involved. Really cool." Then you make your regular progress and are told you will be receiving your Master Mason degree, "...the highest level in Freemasonry", you are told, ad nauseam. After the 3rd degree, you sit in the lodge and ponder all there was in the degree; the lessons, the symbols and the incoherent rambling of a lecture you won't understand for years. But one thought trumps all, you are now a full fledged official Freemason. Congratulations!

Fast forward to your first unfavorable thoughts of the craft which started to enter your mind. You remember them. At first you thought you could just sweep them aside like crumbs on the floor. You've been in long enough now, to see the less than favorable peculiarities of the institution you once thought would make you truly a better man. Every organization has its flaws and now you see them.

Squabbling over bills, dealing with the unwavering dogmatic religious requirements by varying jurisdictions, replacing the carpet, local lodge politics, cliques, appendant bodies playing tug-of-war with base lodge members. The honeymoon is over. Just like real life though, now it's time to get to work and do as "Red" says in the Shawshank Redemption, "Get busy livin' or get busy dyin'."

We come to these times frequently after being involved in the fraternity in a multitude of areas. We serve our lodge and deal with the constant shutting down of ideas, although some stick and work out, fueling you for the

next implementation. You then get involved and you move around the lodge, district and maybe even the Grand Lodge, serving as a committee man or chairman, overseeing issues galore. All the while cursing this thing and loving it at the same time. This is the beginning of "Masonic Burnout", typically this happens to our new members, young or old, who want to hit the ground running.

The one thing we need to remember though, is that this is your time to shine. New members will see your zeal, they will see your servant leadership, they will see your tenacity in getting things done and pushing the craft into the next age. You might be struggling to reconcile membership or involvement after coming in and going strong for 2-5 years, and now seeing all the internal dynamics. It's easy to get disenchanted. The important thing to remember here is, that we have all been in that situation. When the thoughts about the fraternity in some way make you wish you didn't have to be involved and maybe even walk away from it all. Don't do it. Keep on pushing. Keep on making your voice heard and change will come and things, like life outside the fraternity, will get better. Be the example.

You are the keystone.

Bro. Robert Johnson, PM is the Managing Editor of the Midnight Freemasons blog. He is a Freemason out of the 1st N.E. District of Illinois and currently serves as the Secretary of Waukegan Lodge No. 78 where he is a Past Master. He also serves as the Education officer for the 1st N.E. District of Illinois. Brother Johnson currently produces and hosts weekly Podcasts.[Whence Came You?](#) & [Masonic Radio Theatre](#) which focus on topics relating to Freemasonry. He is also a co-host of [The Masonic Roundtable](#), a Masonic talk show. He is currently working on a book of Masonic essays and one on Occult Anatomy to be released soon.

