

# Excelsior Masonic Lodge No. 261

Chartered 1867

3900 Litchfield Road  
Charlotte, NC 28211

[www.excelsiorlodge261.org](http://www.excelsiorlodge261.org)

"The Friendly Lodge"



## January 2017 Trestle Board

Dear Brother,

First of all Happy New Year! As we move into 2017 the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Lodge, you can get excited because it's going to be an awesome year. In addition to the festivities and events to celebrate our anniversary, we will have seminars to bring us into further light and outings to increase brotherly love. But that's not all, this year we will also strive to give more to our Masonic charities. As of right now there are three fundraisers slated to reach the goal that I've set of \$5,000 in donated funds. Imagine the need(s) that would fill for them and the impact it would have on the lives of those affected. Fundraising is something that has been neglected in years past and it's time to give it more attention.

I will be proposing a few things at our January stated communication, to make the lodge more efficient in terms of our communications, payment of dues, merchandising, fundraising, and donations. Come out to learn more about it and cast your vote.

### Ask 1 Bring 1

This is something that we'll be launching at our January stated communication as well, and the primary purpose is to increase our attendance not only at our stated's but also other lodge functions as well. It's a simple program that a few brothers informally already participate in, now we'll be looking to make it a part of the lodge as a whole. A byproduct of this will increase our brotherly love in addition to attendance. This will be explained more as well of a breakdown of how easy it will be to implement.

### Signs and Symbolism

This is something that I'm personally excited about as I understand you may be as well, one of the reasons that I became a Mason is to learn more about the "secrets" and deeper meanings behind our signs and degree work. The focus in the first quarter will be the signs and symbolism within the first degree, we'll have a brief discussion during the stated and get more in depth on January 30, 2017.

We feed our stomach before the stated and you can expect your mind to be feed as well. This is The Year of Enlightenment so come out, get back active within the Lodge, and let's have a great 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

Fraternally,

Phillip Brent



We have a new candidate being initiated in January so let's be sure to be sure to make his first experience in obtaining the light of Masonry a good one. We'll be continuing the Lodge System of Masonic Education that we first introduced last year on January 16<sup>th</sup> and then hold the degree on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please come out and join us for both nights.

No man has a mind big enough, quick enough, open enough, to absorb and understand in an evening even the introduction to what Freemasonry knows; not in a month of evenings! No degree, no matter how impressively performed, can possibly take him far along this road. All that the Entered Apprentice Degree can do is



to point the way, and give the seeker sustenance by which he may travel.

One may travel with ears closed, and eyes upon the ground. One will arrive, physically, even as a traveller with bandaged eyes may arrive after a toilsome journey. But to travel thus is not to learn. And the Freemason who does not learn, what sort of a Freemason is he?

Carl H. Claudy



### January Stated Communication

The January Stated Communication will be held on January 9<sup>th</sup>. Excelsior typically meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month for our Stated Communication unless it is a legal holiday. January 2<sup>nd</sup> is when New Years Day is legally observed since the New Year occurs on a weekend so we will meet the following week.

Want to receive official notices and timely information from the lodge? Send an email to the Secretary at [scott\\_wilson1@hotmail.com](mailto:scott_wilson1@hotmail.com).

**Excelsior Masonic Lodge  
No. 261  
Chartered 1867**



**January Trestle Board**

**2017 Officers**

Master	Phillip Brent	704-909-8160
SW	Jeff Peck*	704-900-9625
JW	Dan Andrews	704-535-1511
Treasurer	Tim Berly*	704-940-1825
Secretary	Scott Wilson	704-200-7430
SD	Clay Pettit	828-223-6429
JD	Josh Barnette	704-884-6913
SS	John Robinson	980-263-8114
JS	Lawrence Campbell	917-902-8126
Chaplain	Terry Revel	828-322-8472
Tyler	Bob Foy*	704-664-6422
	* Past Master	

**January Calendar**

Monday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Lodge is Dark for New Years Holiday**

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Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup>

**Stated Communication**

Dinner at 6:00pm

Meeting at 7:00pm

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Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup>

**Lodge System of Masonic Education**

**Practice 1<sup>st</sup> Degree**

Education at 7pm, Practice at 8pm

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Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup>

**William R. Davie Leadership Academy**

Hosted by Excelsior

10am-12:30pm

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Monday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>

**Confer 1<sup>st</sup> Degree**

Begin at 7pm

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Monday January 30<sup>th</sup>

**Signs and Symbolism: First Degree**

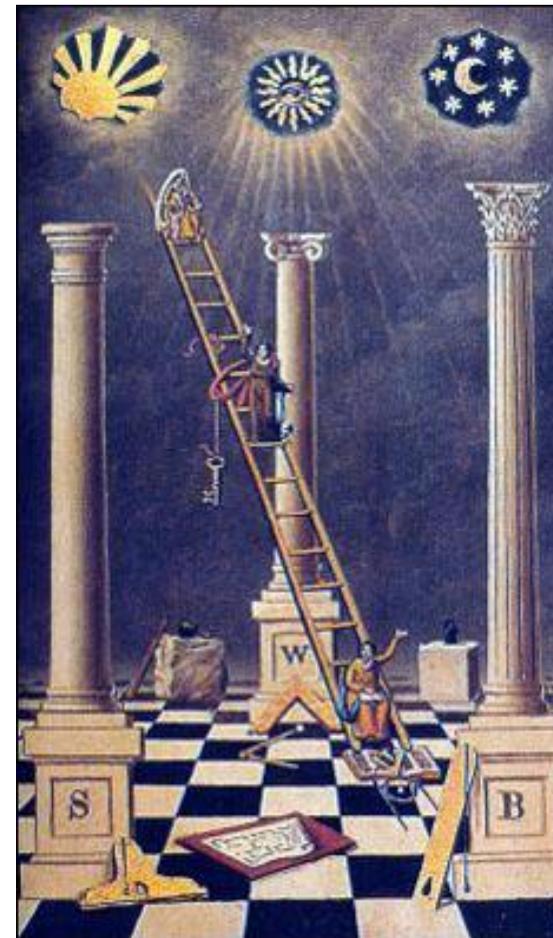
**Lodge Education**

Meet at 7pm



**“THE FRIENDLY LODGE”**

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



**First Degree Tracing Board**



**MENTORSHIP**

Every new Entered Apprentice needs guidance and assistance. He will ideally get this guidance from his Masonic coach. Most lodges will assign a learned brother to this important task of ensuring that the newest member of the fraternity has the proper tools and encouragement to realize his full potential as a man and as a Mason.

The broader role of the coach is to aid the new member in developing meaningful bonds with the fraternity in general and the brothers of his new lodge in particular. The rest of the

lodge members also play an important mentoring role, and the new Entered Apprentice should feel comfortable engaging any of his new brothers in conversation and asking questions on Masonic topics.

Some lodges present new members with various Masonic books or other materials to help them develop an understanding of the lodge’s philosophical and intellectual interests. The books may differ for each candidate, depending on his level of knowledge and previous experience with symbolic and philosophical subjects. By assisting each candidate early on in his pursuit of knowledge and self- improvement, the lodge endeavors to develop within him a lifelong interest in Masonic Formation.

- From the Grand Lodge of California



*William R. Davie*

**WILLIAM R. DAVIE**

LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

**“The Art of Chairing a Lodge Meeting” seminar offered for new masters and their wardens Jan. 21**

Sessions held in Asheville, Charlotte, Greensboro, Raleigh and Wilmington

Register by Jan.18

*Worshipful Master, I now place in your hands the gavel, an additional insignia of your rank and authority. Wield it, my brother, with prudence and discretion – firmly, but never arbitrarily – to the end that good order and harmony may be preserved.*

These familiar words will be heard across North Carolina over the next few weeks as Masonic lodges install new masters.

If a gavel is being entrusted to *your* hand, are you prepared to wield it?

To help new lodge masters and their wardens run effective and efficient meetings, the William R. Davie Leadership Academy is offering a workshop, “The Art of Chairing a Lodge Meeting.” All sessions will be held on Saturday, Jan. 21, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., in five locations across the state: Asheville, Charlotte, Greensboro, Raleigh and Wilmington. The \$10 cost covers materials, refreshments and a certificate of completion. Registration through Eventbrite is strongly encouraged by Jan. 18 at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-art-of-chairing-a-lodge-meeting-tickets-30007437052>.

Topics include creating an agenda, modifying the order of business for efficiency, principles of organization, chairing the meeting, Masonic parliamentary usage, and proper handling of motions and voting.

To register, go to

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-art-of-chairing-a-lodge-meeting-tickets-30007437052>