

Excelsior Masonic Lodge No. 261

Chartered 1867

3900 Litchfield Road
Charlotte, NC 28211

www.excelsiorlodge261.org

"The Friendly Lodge"



October 2017 Trestle Board

Dear Brother,

This is the month we celebrate our 150th Anniversary, which will be held on October 21, 2017 with doors opening at 6pm. It will be a black tie event so if you need to rent a tux, now is the time to do so. Tickets are also available to purchase on our website. They are only \$60 and will include the following: admission to the banquet event, valet parking, lantern tour of the Hezekiah Alexander House (optional), alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, 3 course dinner, speakers from the Grand Lodge, awards and presentations, silent auction to benefit our Masonic Charities, live music, and so much more.

September Recap

Inclement Weather

Although hurricane Irma was in our midst and we didn't experience much of her wrath other than heavy rain. I appreciate those who endured to come and conduct our business for the month.

Lecture Series

Worshipful Brother Ed Steel, our DDGL, was gracious enough to conduct our Lecture Series as required by the Grand Lodge. I must say that it was a great experience and we learned a lot as a lodge, what we were doing wrong, as well as what we were doing right. What we learned will only make us better in coming months and years.

Grand Lodge Annual Communication

The principle officers, Worshipful Brother Phillip Brown, Dan Andrews, and myself attended the annual communication of the Grand Lodge. There was an intense discussion about the Grand Lodge budget as well as some of the proposed amendments to the code. The following amendments passed: one, two, five, six, seven, eleven, and twelve. The rest failed with the exception of thirteen, which was withdrawn. It was a great time networking and learning more about the Craft.

October Updates

Mason of the Year Voting

Instead of voting for Mason of the Year in November during officer voting, we will have that vote at the October Stated so we can present it during the awards presentations at the banquet. So come out so you can participate in that vote as we determine which brother deserves such an accolade.

Hiram Fixit Award

As with the Mason of the Year award the winner of the Hiram A Fixit Award will be announced by last years winner brother, Joshua Barnett.

Lodge Property

If you haven't heard, we have officially received a **TWO** written offers to purchase our property. Thus far we've had thorough discussion on how this should be pursued. In August, a committee was formed to entertain the offer(s) and explore any options moving forward. We will be providing an update on the progress thus far as well as discussing the new offer that was received. Please come out to hear all the details and share your opinion of how we should proceed as a Lodge.

Commemorative Coin

We only have about 30 coins left and once they're gone, they're gone, if you haven't grabbed one already you can do so by visiting the website or get one at the stated. This is our fundraiser for the year and we have already raised about \$2,000 that will be donated to our charities once all of the coins are sold.

Ask 1 Bring 1

I'm including this section again as we faced inclement weather in September that may have prevented you from participating in this initiative. I previously handed out a lodge roster for the purpose of increasing attendance during our events. I implore you to reach out to a brother in your zip code or one on your route to the lodge, and just ask them if they would like to accompany you.

If you simply brought someone with you our attendance would double instantly. It doesn't take much of an effort and I'm sure the brother would appreciate you reaching out to them even if they can't come.

I would like you to join me in this initiative and bring someone with you to October's stated. If you don't have transportation and would like to attend, please reach out to our Secretary or myself and we'll coordinate someone to pick you up accordingly.

Fraternally,
Phillip Brent



The
CHARLOTTE MUSEUM
of HISTORY



Excelsior Masonic Lodge

No. 261

Chartered 1867



October Trestle Board

2017 Officers

Master	Phillip Brent	704-995-4550
SW	Phillip Brown*	704-562-0283
JW	Dan Andrews	704-535-1511
Treasurer	Bob Foy*	980-722-4777
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
	* Past Master	

October Calendar

Monday, October 2nd

Stated Communication

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

Monday, October 9th

MM Degree Practice

Meet at 7:00pm

Monday, October 14th

MM Degree Conferral

Breakfast at 9:00am, Degree at 10:00am

Monday, October 16th

Lodge is Dark

Tuesday, October 17th

District 32 Fall SOI- Phalanx #31

Dinner at 6:15pm, Meeting at 7:00pm

Wednesday, October 18th

District 32 Fall SOI- Mint Hill #742

Dinner at 6:15pm, Meeting at 7:00pm

Monday, October 23rd

EA Degree Practice

Meet at 7:00pm

Monday, October 30th

EA Degree Conferral

Meet at 7:00pm



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“THE FRIENDLY LODGE”

In voting at the Annual Communication, the following amendments to The Code passed:

Amendment Group 1
Would allow the Board of Custodians to elect officers after the installation of the Grand Master.

Amendment Group 2
This amendment will clarify editorial control of Grand Lodge news and information through The North Carolina Mason and other forms of publication.

Amendment Group 5
This amendment is being proposed to close certain loopholes by requiring the conduct of background checks for those seeking Advancement, Restoration after Exclusion, Restoration after Demitting or Affiliation after two years.

Amendment Group 6
This amendment is being proposed to codify the Grand Lodge Committee on Personnel, which has functioned since 2013 as an ad hoc committee, and which has greatly professionalized the handling of our personnel matters and brought us compliant with best practices.

Amendment Group 7
Would allow the Grand Master to dispense with the reading of minutes of any lodge communication he closes in ample form.

Amendment Group 11
This amendment modifies the order of business for a lodge business meeting.

Amendment Group 12
This amendment makes the Senior and Junior Grand Deacon chairmen of the Committees for Whitestone and Masonic Home for Children at Oxford.

The following amendments failed:

Amendment Group 3
This amendment would allow a lodge to open

lodge on the First Degree and conduct its business.

Amendment Group 4
This amendment would allow a lodge to charge a late fee on unpaid dues after March 31. The late charge is optional and would require a lodge to amend its bylaws before it becomes effective.

Amendment Group 8
This amendment would increase the per capita amount to \$25 per member.

Amendment Group 9
This amendment immediately stops the purchase of new Endowed Memberships. Applications for Endowed memberships already accepted by the Grand Secretary would be unaffected. Current endowed membership participants would be unaffected. The rules of transferring of memberships and other regulations regarding current endowed memberships would continue. Lodges would continue to receive endowed payments in perpetuity.

Amendment Group 10
This amendment creates a new type of lifetime membership, Legacy Membership. Legacy Membership is crafted after Endowed Memberships, except with the amount paid out increasing over time. This allows the dues paid to the lodge to keep up with inflation, leaving a true legacy.

The following amendment was withdrawn:

Amendment Group 13
This amendment will require unanimous consideration for this Grand Lodge. Its purpose is to “suspend” membership of a member who has been charged with a crime but has yet to be adjudicated in criminal court. If he is found guilty, the Judge Advocate will summarily expel him from the fraternity or if found not guilty, his membership is fully restored and all notations expunged from his record.

