

Grand Lodge of NC Annual Communication Communique

Thursday Symposiums

I attended 3 of the classes which I thoroughly enjoyed and found both enlightening and rewarding. The first was “Maintaining Harmony in an Era of Discontent”. The second was “Creating a Program of Masonic Education in Your Lodge”. Lastly was “Candidate Engagement and the Masonic Experience”. I will share some of the highlights with you when we get together again.

Next year the School of Instruction AND the 5 Hour Lecture service will be reinstituted with the School of Instruction happening every other year (odd lodge numbers, odd years and even lodges, even years). However the 5 Hour Lecture service will be required every year.

Friday Events

The Annual Communication was opened in Ample Form but first Right Worshipful Robert (Bobby) Rideout explained the situation that prompted Grand Master Donald Kehler to step down. In a nut shell Don Kehler directed purchase of shares of ownership in GrandView without proper authorization or approval. This amounted to a total of \$700,000 of which \$225,000 was paid up front with the balance pending.

The Deputy Grand Master Bobby Rideout was informed around 9pm Monday 9/23 that he would be running the Annual Communication and training classes beginning Thursday morning which he did a remarkable job. As Acting Grand Master he informed us that the Grand Lodge would be getting the money back from the California company. We will continue to use the software but will not participate as partial owners.

The Amendments that we voted on at our September stated meeting were returned to the Committee of Jurisprudence until next year’s Annual Communication as they were issued in draft form which is not allowed by Code. Last year an action was put in place to prevent issuing drafts for review and the penalty for violation was enforced at this meeting. If you remember one of the Amendments we voted on deals with that very subject.

Freddy Szakasits, our District Deputy Grand Master, received the Thomas Gregory Award which he humbly accepted. It was a very proud moment for the 12th Masonic District.

Right Worshipful Jonathan Underwood (Grand Secretary) requested all Masons to read his annual report (available on Grandview) so they can get an idea of the direction Masonry is shifting, from his perspective.

775 ballots were present compared to 868 last year (88%) representing 265 out of 353 lodges (75%) that came to the meeting.

Saturday Events

To give the Grand Lodge the opportunity to operate normally for the next month plus (until the new line can be installed), it was decided - by unanimous vote to install the new Grand Master (Rt. Worshipful Bobby Rideout and Deputy Grand Master (Rt. Worshipful Steve Norris), both of which were elected during this Annual Communication for the ensuing year. The remaining officers for the upcoming 2025 year were named and introduced. This allows the Grand Lodge to continue to fully function without limitations. The Grand Lodge Installation was quite an experience!

If anyone has further questions or would like to talk to me on any of the details disclosed to the attendees please reach out to me and I will do my best to answer any/all questions.

Fraternally yours,
Richard Armistead WM