

Trestleboard

May brotherly love prevail, and every moral and social virtue cement us.

Look to the East

Brethren,

Over this past weekend, I had the privilege of being one of our Lodge's delegates to the 237th Annual Communication of our Grand Lodge. Having the opportunity to gather with friends and Brothers from across the state continues to be an experience that every Brother should experience at least once in their Masonic Journey. While this year was a bit different due to the circumstances that our Jurisdiction has found itself experiencing.

On Friday, the Acting Grand Master, RW Bobby Rideout, started off by giving those assembled the facts of what has happened with GM Don Kehler and explained why he was under a disability. Afterwards, he opened Grand Lodge and conducted the business of the craft. The overall theme for this Annual Communication was healing. On Saturday, Grand Lodge Officers were elected, and the Grand Master Elect and Deputy Grand Master Elect were installed in a simple installation. The hope for this is that the work of OUR Grand Lodge will continue without interruption.

As the work of the Grand Lodge was happening, many were missing due to the horrific tragedy that was happening in the Western part of North Carolina. I know that many who came from that direction were unable to get back to their homes and loved ones. On the back of this Trestleboard, I will post the letter from the Grand Lodge office on ways to donate to those in need. Also, our DDGM has informed me that Seaside Lodge in Swansboro will be a collection point for those donations going West.

As we heal from everything that has occurred in this state over the past few weeks, let us remember the words of our Grand Master, MW Bobby Rideout, "Together... we R.I.S.E." He has given us this acronym to challenge us to continue the great work that we are doing, Recognition, Innovation, Structure, Every day.

Let us take a moment in our personal reflections to Deity to remember those who are being affected by this tragedy, as well as the personnel who are busy working to help. I would like to challenge each and every Brother in our Lodge to donate to the relief work in whatever way their cable-tow allows.

Mike Bartlett
Acting Master



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Officers of the Lodge 2024

	Master	Dustin Wood	
Senior Warden	Michael Bartlett	Junior Warden	J.P. Ledford
Treasurer	Earl Wilson	Secretary	WB Jason Caldwell
Senior Deacon	Antonio Saenz, Jr	Junior Deacon	Jimmy Johnson
Senior Steward		Junior Steward	
Tyler	WB Henry Drake	Chaplain	WB Denny Norris

Brethren, please do not forget to take a moment, as we always do in our Lodge; to remember the sick, ailing, and those away from their families defending our way of life...and add to it our families.

On the Secretary's Desk

Brethren,

As of this posting, our Lodge has 22 Brothers who have yet to pay their dues. If you know any of these Brothers, please reach out and talk to them OR if you are one of these Brothers, please reach out to me so we can work through this.

Many of us have been getting used to Grandview over the past year, and as a Lodge we have been doing exceptionally well getting logged onto this platform. With this knowledge, the goal for the Lodge is as close to 100% as we can get. If anyone needs assistance in this, please let me know. I can help get you onto Grandview and give you a short class on where things are located.

We all know of the horrific tragedies that have occurred through North Carolina, Tennessee and other areas. Please if you are in this area, let us know that you are doing ok. Also, as the Master has expressed, please donate to the ability of your cable-tow. This might be monetarily or with physical donations, but know that our family is in need. Many times throughout the history of our Grand Lodge, they have donated to Eastern North Carolina in times of need. Let us work together and support. On the back page of this Trestleboard, there will be places you can donate financially AND remember that we are taking physical donations to Seaside to be taken to the distribution centers.

If you have any updates to your address, phone number, email address, please send to:

semperfidelislodge680@gmail.com.

Jason Caldwell
Secretary

Together...We R.I.S.E

*'Spread the cement of
Brotherly Love and
Affection; that cement
which unites us into
one sacred band, or
society of friends and
brothers, among
whom no contention
should ever exist, but
that noble contention,
or rather emulation,
of who can best work
and best agree.'*

Upcoming Events

Brethren,

Upcoming events are in the works and if you have any ideas for our Lodge bring them up so we can all benefit from your ideas.

- 07 Oct - Practice for the Fellowcraft Degree
- 08 Oct - Order of the Eastern Star
- 09 Oct - Stated Communication - education will be Grand Lodge review
- 11-13 Oct - MHCO homecoming
- 13 Oct - DeMolay Awards in Cary
- 14 Oct - Practice for the Fellowcraft Degree
- 16 Oct - Fellowcraft Degree
- 19 Oct - Breakfast
- 23 Oct - Stated Communication - education will be given by WB Mike Register
- 24 Oct - Ritual Practice
- 26-27 Oct - DeMolay lock-in
- 30 Oct - Open House



All of these events are located on the calendar online with details. Remember that we have transitioned to GrandView.

Please log onto GrandView at nc.grandview.systems.

If anyone wants to help with the upcoming events, please let the Officers know.

Grand Lodge Recap:

The 237th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of North Carolina was held on September 27-28, 2024 in Winston-Salem.

Thursday the 26th was set aside for classes and opportunities to meet with the Grand Lodge Officers during town hall sessions.

Grand Lodge Officers Elected and Appointed for 2025:

Grand Master: Robert Rideout

Deputy Grand Master: Steve Norris

Senior Grand Warden: Gilbert Bailey

Junior Grand Warden: Michael Register

Grand Treasurer: Lewis Ledford

Grand Secretary: Jonathan Underwood

Senior Grand Deacon: Philip Johnson

Junior Grand Deacon: Alvan Billings

Grand Marshall: Joseph Transou

Grand Steward: David Cashion

Grand Steward: Julian Setzer

The Grand Master Bobby Rideout and Deputy Grand Master Steve Norris were installed at the Annual Communication. There was a vote on the floor of Grand Lodge to allow the installation of these offices for this year. After unanimous decision to allow this vote to go to the floor, it passed and these Brothers were installed.

Amendments to the Code:

All Amendments to the Code for 2024 were called out of order due to the timeliness of Lodges receiving the Amendments. They will sit over until 2025 Grand Communication. The three that were withdrawn previously still stand as withdrawn.,

- 01: Withdrawn 02: 03: 04:
- 05: 06: Withdrawn 07: 08:
- 09: 10: 11: 12:
- 13: 14: Withdrawn



Happy Birthday Brothers



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10/07 CRAIG COMEAUX
10/17 KEITH FOUNTAIN
 10/26 KEITH BURGESS
 10/28 DENVER JONES

10/08 JAMES ASKINS
 10/20 WILLIAM DAVIS
 10/26 ANTHONY KRAEMER
 10/28 JASON THOMAS

10/15 GREGORY POWER
 10/23 WADE HAYNES
 10/26 WESLEY SALES
 10/31 LEONARD TIPPETT II

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11/01 SEAN REEVES
 11/3 LEON BURTON
 11/06 CASEY WHITSON
 11/09 JOHN STEIN
 11/17 CHRISTOPHER GENDRON
11/23 JONATHAN COLVIN
 11/27 RICHARD DENNIS
 11/29 THOMAS RECONNU

11/02 WILLIAM DILL
 11/05 JOSEPH CAMPBELL
 11/07 JAMES JOHNSON
 11/14 ANTHONY PAMINTUAN
 11/19 DEAN JONES
 11/23 JEREMY JOHNSON
 11/29 MATTHEW KUHNIS
 11/29 STEPHEN SMITH

11/02 LEONARD MENDONCA
11/06 JOHN HOLMES II
 11/09 TYREL GAROUTTE
11/14 DENNIS SMITH
 11/20 RYAN PORTMAN
11/24 JOHN BROWN
 11/29 JEPH-RAY PREJUSA
 11/30 PATRICK MCGIRL

Those in **BOLD** are over the age of 70

Necrology Report

Brethren,

As of this publication, we have had not been notified of any of our Brothers passing upward and inward through the Pearly Gates.

Ensure your families know your wishes upon passing. Notifying the Lodge and requesting Masonic Honors (if you so desire) is vital to ensure we get things accomplished according to your wishes.

Masonic Education:

During my reading and studying, I came across this article in *Old Tiler Talks* by Carl H. Claudy which I found exceptionally fitting for the state of our Craft at the moment.—Jason

Country Lodge

“It was the funniest thing I ever saw!”

“What was?” asked the Old Tiler of the New Brother

“That lodge meeting I attended in Hicksville. Listen, and I’ll tell you!”

“I’m listening, Anyone who can find a lodge meeting funny deserves to be listened to!” answered the Old Tiler.

“The lodge room was funny!” began the New Brother. “Lodge rooms ought to have leather-covered furniture and electric lights, a handsome painting in the east, an organ—be dignified, like ours. This lodge room was over the post office. There were two stoves in it. And every now and then the Junior Deacon put coal on! The Lesser Lights were kerosene lamps, and the Altar looked like an overgrown soap box! The benches were just chairs, and they didn’t have any lantern or slides—just an old chart to point to in the lecture.”

But it wasn’t so much the room, it was the way they did their work. You’d have thought they were legislating for a world, not just having a lodge meeting. Such preciseness, such slow walking, such making every move and sign as if they were a drill team. There wasn’t a smile cracked the whole evening and even when at refreshment, there wasn’t much talking or laughing. I’m glad I belong to a lodge where people are human!”

“Yes,” answered the Old Tiler, “I expect it is.”

“Expect what is?”

“Impossible for a New Brother to understand the work of a country lodge,” answered the Old Tiler. “What you saw wasn’t funny. Listen—it is you who are funny.”

“Me funny? Why, what do...”

“I said for you to listen!” sternly cut in the Old Tiler. “I have never been to Hicksville, but I have visited in many country lodges and your description is accurate. But your interpretation is damnable!”

“Masonry is beautiful, truthful, philosophical, strives to draw men closer to God, to make them love their fellows, to be better men. Is that funny? The more regard men have for outward symbols, the more apt they are to have regard for what is within. A man who won’t clean his face and hands won’t have a clean heart and mind. A man who is slovenly in dress is apt to be slovenly in his heart. A lodge which reveres the work probably reveres the meaning behind the work.”

“You criticize the Hicksville Lodge because it is too precise. Would that our own was more so! The officers who have so deep a regard for appearances can only have learned it through a thoughtful appreciation of what the appearances stand for.”

Masonic Education cont:

“You have been taught that it is not the externals but the internals which mark the man and Mason. What difference can it make whether a lodge seats its membership on leather benches or chairs, or the floor, or doesn't seat them at all? Our ancient brethren, so we are taught, met on hills and in valleys. Think you that they sat upon leather benches, or the grass?”

“It's good to have a fine hall to meet in. It's a joy to have an organ and electric lights and a stereopticon to show handsome slides. But all of these are merely easy ways of teaching the Masonic lesson. Doubtless Lincoln would have enjoyed electric lights to study by, instead of firelight. Doubtless he would have learned a little more in the same time had he had more books and better facilities. But he learned enough to make him live forever.”

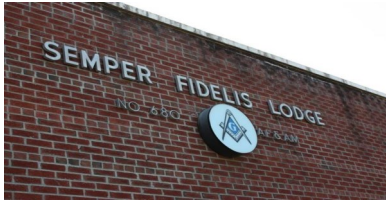
“We teach in a handsome hall, with beautiful accessories. If we teach as well in the poor country lodge with its chairs for benches, its kerosene lamps for Lesser Lights, its harmonium for organ, its chart for lantern slides, we can congratulate ourselves. When we look at the little lodge with its humble equipment, that the Great Architect that there is so grand a system of philosophy, with so universal and appeal, as to make men content to study and practice it, regardless of the external conditions.”

“I do not know Hicksville Lodge, but it would be in even bet that they saved up money to get better lodge furniture and spent it to send some sick brother South or West, or to provide an education for the orphans of some brother who couldn't do it for his children. In a country lodge you will get a sandwich and a cup of coffee after the meeting, in place of the elaborate banquet you may eat in the city; in the country lodge you will find few dress suits and not often a fine orator, but you will also find a Masonic spirit, a feeling of genuine brotherly regard, which is too often absent in the larger, richer, city lodge.”

“I find nothing ‘funny’ in the dignity and seriousness of our country brethren. I find nothing of humor in poverty, nor anything but sweet Masonic service in the Junior Deacon putting coal on the fire. Would that we had a few brethren as serious, to put coal upon our Masonic fires, to warm us all.”

‘You've put coals of fire on my head!’ answered the New Brother; “I deserved a kicking and got off with a lecture. I'm going back to Hicksville Lodge next week and tell them what they taught me through you.”

“If you wont expect me to laugh, I'll go with you!” answered the Old Tiler, but his eyes smiled.



Semper Fidelis Lodge #680

Emergency cell: (472) 206-9840

727 Henderson Drive
Jacksonville, NC 28540

Email: SemperFidelisLodge680@gmail.com

<https://nc.grandview.systems/>

Acting Master

Mike Bartlett - (910) 545-6468

Secretary

Jason Caldwell - (760) 670-7381

Here are the links available for you to copy and paste into your browser:

North Carolina Masonic Foundation's Relief Fund here:

<https://host.nxt.blackbaud.com/donor-form/?svcid=tcs&formId=4c44c9d5-f241-4de1-9cf2-f486b70070af&envid=p-xxZoiBNq0UibeqA0LpqlZQ&zone=usa>

State of North Carolina's Relief Fund here:

<https://www.ncdps.gov/our-organization/emergency-management/hurricane-helene>

Hurricane Helene Donation Needs and Drop Off Locations:

<https://nc211.org/hurricane-helene-donation-needs-drop-off-locations/>

Also remember that we are coordinating at Seaside as a donation drop off site for the 4th District.



The Wisdom of Yoda

Let us together as a craft

Take the time

And heal one another.