



CARTHAGE MASONIC LODGE No 181
A.F. & A.M
P.O. Box 1865
CARTHAGE, NC 28327

31 Oct 2025

SUBJECT: Increase of yearly dues:

GREETINGS BRETHERN:

Our lodge is facing the need to increase our annual dues. Our Order of Eastern Star Chapter #154 (OES) chapter moved and combining with the Southern Pines OES chapter due to a decrease in their membership.

As many of you know, the OES held their meetings in our lodge for many years and contributed in many ways such as purchase of furniture, Lawn service and mostly they paid for ½ of our lodge's utility bills (Water, Electric, Gas). Last year they contributed **\$1700.00**.

At our last 2 stated communications, our members in attendance discussed increasing our dues from our current rate of \$160.00 to \$220.00 in order to cover the lodges expenses. We wanted to survey our members to see if an increase would cause undue hardship to our members during these troubling times. Everyone is getting hit with increased costs and our lodge is started to feel the effect as well.

The current and proposed break down of our dues is as follows"

Current:

\$124.00 – Lodge funds
\$35.00 - Grand Lodge
\$1.00 – George Washington Memorial
Total: \$160.00

Proposed:

\$184.00 – Lodge Funds
\$35.00 – Grand Lodge
\$1.00 – George Washington Memorial
Total \$220.00

The following is an estimate of our must pay bills for next year.

\$2800.00 - Utility Bills (barring cold or hot weather)
\$2200.00 - Per Capita bill
\$1650.00 - Insurance
\$828.00 - Internet Service
\$7278,00 - Total

We currently have 54 Members in our lodge, of these, 48 members are regular members and pay dues (Exempted are Endowed, 50-year, WM, Secretary and Treasurer) so with our current dues rate provides the lodge **\$7680**. This leaves very little for maintenance and normal operations.

Therefore, it is time for our lodge to increase our dues. With an increase to \$220.00 per year this would bring in **\$10,560.00** per year and this would provide **\$2880.00** in reserve for repairs, and normal operations. By order of the Grand Lodge and IRS laws, we cannot conduct any fund raising events to cover lodge expenses.

We wanted our members to voice their concerns and the lodge will re-table this for discussion and vote at our next Stated Communication which is also our Annual Communication on 11 November. Please attend the meeting or contact myself or our lodge secretary if you have any questions.

Feel free to contact me at m9north@yahoo.com, tele: 678-525-2850 or our Lodge Secretary at hermanreeves@hotmail.com or 910-315-5218.

With Best Wishes and Respectfully,

Matthew Northen
Carthage Masonic Lodge No 181
Master