

# Board of Custodians

Stephen McCraw, Secretary  
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**Date: May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026**  
**To: Certified Lecturers and Certified Instructors**  
**Re: Proficiency Examinations – Official Notification for 2026**

The annual proficiency examinations for 2026 will be held as follows:

**Saturday, August 8th**

**Greenville: Masonic Temple, located at 1104 Charles Street**  
**Greensboro: Masonic Temple, located at 426 West Market Street**

**Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Wilmington: St. John's Lodge No. 1, located at 4712 Oriole Drive**  
**Charlotte: West Gate No. 738, located at 5924 Brookshire Blvd**

**Saturday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Fayetteville: Phoenix Lodge No. 8, located at 221 Mason Street**  
**Asheville: Nichols-West Asheville No. 650, located at 22 Brevard Rd.**

Examinations will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. If you are due for an examination and cannot attend on one of these dates, please contact the Secretary of the Board prior to the examination. There will be no automatic extensions—they must be requested in advance of the examinations.

**Those brethren whose certificates expire in 2026** must be re-examined this year, and will be dropped from the certified roster if they fail to appear, or fail to request an extension or under the provisions of revised amendment 29-7(5), fail to request a waiver, if qualified. **An application form is enclosed and required for re-examination** and must be signed by another Certified Lecturer. An application form is required for a waiver, but it only has to be signed by the brother requesting the waiver.

**All applications that were extended from 2025 are now void**; new applications with proper recommendations are required. Under normal circumstances, no further extensions will be granted. All applications should be mailed to the secretary, at the address listed above, as soon as possible to aid in proper planning. **The final date for receipt of applications is Friday, July 1<sup>st</sup>. Please send in your application as soon as possible. Mail your application to the Secretary at the above address, NOT the Grand Lodge office.**

It is **extremely important** that we have a sufficient number of examiners at each location. If you can serve as an examiner, please return the enclosed 4 x 6 inch post card promptly indicating your willingness to assist. If you are being examined this year, the card does not apply to you and may be discarded.

**District Deputy Grand Lecturers** should review the names of any brethren whose certificates are expiring and assist in renewals if at all possible.

The Board of Custodians thank you for your support of the Certified Lecturer program.

With kindest fraternal regards,  
The Board of Custodians

The following A & B certificates will expire on August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026. Applications should be received by the Board Secretary as soon as possible, but not later than July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026.

| <u>Last</u>     | <u>First</u> | <u>Middle</u> | <u>County</u> | <u>No.</u> | <u>Dist.</u> | <u>Class</u> | <u>Expires</u> |
|-----------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| Abernathy, III  | Jacob        | Ray           | Catawba       | 606        | 34           | A            | 31-Aug-26      |
| Abernathy, Jr.  | Jacob        | Ray           | Catawba       | 606        | 34           | A            | 31-Aug-26      |
| Alderman        | Donald       | Sanford       | Wake          | 735        | 14           | A            | 31-Aug-26      |
| Alexander       | Phillip      | Mark          | Wilkes        | 407        | 33           | A            | 31-Aug-26      |
| Arnder, Jr.     | Alfred       | Joseph        | Surry         | 322        | 25           | A            | 31-Aug-26      |
| Bass, III       | James        | Alexander     | Orange        | 408        | 19           | A            | 31-Aug-26      |
| Bennett         | Michael      | Travis        | Lee           | 686        | 20           | A            | 31-Aug-26      |
| Bouldin         | James        | Alfred        | Guilford      | 271        | 23           | A            | 31-Aug-26      |
| Cook, Jr.       | James        | Warren        | Halifax       | 519        | 8            | A            | 31-Aug-26      |
| Couch           | John         | William       | Buncombe      | 387        | 38           | A            | 31-Aug-26      |
| Cox             | Hylar        | Wayne         | Hyde          | 294        | 3            | A            | 31-Aug-26      |
| Dearmin         | Homer        | Thomas        | Stokes        | 493        | 25           | A            | 31-Aug-26      |
| Dobbins         | Paschal      | Ray           | Yadkin        | 420        | 25           | B            | 31-Aug-26      |
| Dortch          | Kyle         | Lee           | Alamance      | 76         | 23           | B            | 31-Aug-26      |
| Gray            | Kenneth      | Seth          | Dare          | 521        | 2            | A            | 31-Aug-26      |
| Harrill         | Claude       | Ray           | Henderson     | 387        | 38           | A            | 31-Aug-26      |
| Heath           | Bennie       | James         | Greene        | 132        | 6            | A            | 31-Aug-26      |
| Hedrick         | Christopher  | Marvin        | Franklin      | 413        | 13           | A            | 31-Aug-26      |
| Hilton, Jr.     | Jeremy       | Scott         | Rowan         | 695        | 28           | A            | 31-Aug-26      |
| Horne, Jr.      | William      | P.            | Richmond      | 532        | 21           | A            | 31-Aug-26      |
| Hurt            | Marcus       | Johnson       | Franklin      | 377        | 13           | A            | 31-Aug-26      |
| Jackson, Jr.    | Thomas       | Roland        | Johnston      | 257        | 16           | A            | 31-Aug-26      |
| King            | Rudolph      | Lee           | Harnett       | 147        | 20           | A            | 31-Aug-26      |
| Kuhn            | Terry        | Lee           | New Hanover   | 1          | 12           | A            | 31-Aug-26      |
| Kuhn            | Philip       | Ryan          | Gaston        | 738        | 31           | A            | 31-Aug-26      |
| Kyle            | Dennis       | Ray           | Carteret      | 109        | 4            | A            | 31-Aug-26      |
| Lancaster       | James        | Henry         | Edgecombe     | 602        | 9            | A            | 31-Aug-26      |
| Lytton          | Charles      | Wayne         | Craven        | 568        | 7            | A            | 31-Aug-26      |
| McIntyre, Jr.   | Wesley       | Calvin        | Richmond      | 532        | 21           | A            | 31-Aug-26      |
| Millinor        | Karston      | Joshua        | New Hanover   | 395        | 12           | B            | 31-Aug-26      |
| Mills, Jr.      | Tommy        | Reavis        | Wake          | 277        | 15           | A            | 31-Aug-26      |
| Norris          | Steve        | Marion        | Brunswick     | 727        | 12           | A            | 31-Aug-26      |
| Payne           | William      | Michael       | Surry         | 322        | 25           | B            | 31-Aug-26      |
| Rainear         | Russell      | Matthew       | Craven        | 688        | 7            | A            | 31-Aug-26      |
| Register        | Michael      | Allen         | Randolph      | 127        | 24           | A            | 31-Aug-26      |
| Robinson        | Justin       | Michael       | Pitt          | 708        | 6            | A            | 31-Aug-26      |
| Rowe            | Scott        | Allen         | Brunswick     | 249        | 12           | B            | 31-Aug-26      |
| Rummage         | Wayne        | Ray           | Stanly        | 637        | 29           | A            | 31-Aug-26      |
| Russ, Sr.       | Robert       | Earl          | New Hanover   | 249        | 12           | A            | 31-Aug-26      |
| Skeen           | Murray       | Marrell       | Guilford      | 344        | 23           | A            | 31-Aug-26      |
| Smith           | Richard      | Lee           | Craven        | 724        | 7            | A            | 31-Aug-26      |
| Steel           | Edward       | Joseph        | Mecklenburg   | 461        | 32           | A            | 31-Aug-26      |
| Szakasits       | Frederick    | Alexander     | New Hanover   | 395        | 12           | A            | 31-Aug-26      |
| Turner          | Brian        | McKennley     | Union         | 461        | 32           | A            | 31-Aug-26      |
| Watkins         | John         | Wesley        | Burke         | 217        | 34           | A            | 31-Aug-26      |
| Williamson, Jr. | Isaac        | Hubert        | Franklin      | 229        | 13           | A            | 31-Aug-26      |
| Willis          | Roland       | Avery         | Carteret      | 741        | 4            | A            | 31-Aug-26      |

## EXTENDED IN 2025

The following certificates were extended in 2025 until August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026. A new application is required. When renewed, certificates will expire in 2030. Please file your application as soon as possible. It should be received by the Secretary no later than July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026.

| <u>Last</u> | <u>First</u> | <u>Middle</u> | <u>County</u> | <u>No.</u> | <u>Dist.</u> | <u>Class</u> | <u>Expires</u> |
|-------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| Hurt        | Mason        | Kenneth       | Franklin      | 377        | 13           | A            | 31-Aug-25      |
| Jackson     | Aaron        | Bruce         | Cumberland    | 206        | 11           | B            | 31-Aug-25      |
| McCowan     | Charles      | Elmo          | Cherokee      | 529        | 41           | A            | 31-Aug-25      |
| McGinnis    | Michael      | Lee           | Gaston        | 263        | 36           | A            | 31-Aug-25      |
| Myrick      | Samuel       | Eugene        | Moore         | 555        | 21           | A            | 31-Aug-25      |
| Spencer     | Michael      | John          | Wake          | 735        | 14           | B            | 31-Aug-25      |

**SPECIAL NOTE:** Regulation 29-7(5) was revised and adopted at the Annual Communication on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2006 as follows: To issue certificates for each grade or class for the period of time which it shall establish, but not to exceed five years. At the expiration of such time, the holder shall either renew the same by such reexamination as the board may determine, or his name shall be removed from the roster of his class, and he shall cease to be considered as a certified brother. Notwithstanding the five-year limitation, after a brother has been certified for twenty-five or more years, reexamination may be waived at the request of a brother."

This request by a brother, if qualified, should be received prior to the exams, no later than July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, and during the same year their current certification is scheduled to expire. Additional information can be found on the back of the Certified Lecturer application form.

Please call the Secretary - Board of Custodians if you have any questions concerning the qualifications or procedures for requesting the Waiver.

**All Applications for New, Re-exam, Re-certification, Requests for Extensions or for a Waiver, if qualified, should be mailed to:**

Stephen McCraw  
Secretary – Board of Custodians  
P.O. Box 1266  
Mt. Airy, NC 27030  
(Cell) 276-733-6164  
simmccraw@yahoo.com

Mail your application to the Secretary at the above address, **NOT** the Grand Lodge Office.

## IMPORTANT MESSAGE

From time to time, the Board of Custodians is asked for its opinion on various issues. Listed below are the Board's responses to some of these questions.

1. Plurals of words may be substituted as appropriate when there is more than one candidate.
2. When a lodge is being opened, the pass (or word) should also be received from the JW. This is consistent with the wording of the OSW.
3. It is preferred that the OSW not be used when coaching or instructing candidates, however, under no circumstances shall the OSW be given to a candidate for his own self-instruction. The Vocabulary shall not be used when coaching or instructing candidates.
4. Catechism coaching must be done only by Master Masons. A Master Mason must pass his 3<sup>rd</sup> degree proficiency before coaching the Master Mason's catechism.
5. To ensure consistency in this Grand Jurisdiction and in accordance with the rules governing the certification examinations, and for the purpose of conferring degrees, all parts of the Bahnsen Manual used in the ritualistic work and pertaining to the subjects listed in the certification exam outline *must be repeated from memory*. This does not include the opening and closing prayers, charges, or scripture readings of the three symbolic degrees, which may be read if desired.
6. Certified Lecturer Emeritus status may be granted to a brother who has at least twenty-five years of service, who is not currently certified, and who is experiencing significant health and/or memory problems.
7. According to the CODE (REG 29-07.4), a brother must give a valid reason for not appearing for recertification when directed to do so by the Board. There can be no automatic extensions for non-appearance.
8. When dignitaries are received, the Deacons do not give Private Grand Honors.
9. When conferring the Second Section of the Master Masons degree it is acceptable for the twelve Fellow Crafts, two Searchers and three Ruffians to wear their aprons as a Fellow Craft since they would be playing their specific parts as such. It would also be acceptable for any of the regular officers playing these roles to be allowed to wear white cloth aprons in lieu of their officer's apron in order to facilitate the ease of wearing their aprons as Fellow Crafts.
10. The words "Book of Faith", "Holy Book" or "Holy Writings" may be substituted for the words "Holy Bible" when appropriate if performing any of the three symbolic degrees for a candidate whose faith that does not adhere specifically to the Holy Bible.
11. In accordance with current OSW as adopted by the delegates at the annual communication in 2001, and until such time as it may be revised, the Board of Custodians fully supports the General Rules which on page seven allows for labor to be dispensed with for admission of non-masons into the lodge room provided the lodge is purged prior to resuming labor. Since exact wording for this procedure is not listed in the OSW, the preferred alternative, if exact wording is desired, would be to Call from Labor to Refreshment and then from Refreshment back to Labor as found on pages nine through fourteen in the OSW.
12. To clarify the definition of the word "Work", as referenced on page six of the General Rules, it is the official Opinion of the Board of Custodians, that any activity performed between the time the lodge is officially opened until the lodge is officially closed is considered "Work". If a lodge desires to use the OSW for the purposes of Masonic Education or Instruction, the options for these activities would be 1.) prior to opening 2.) after closing or 3.) calling from Labor to Refreshment and then from Refreshment back to Labor after the use of the OSW, for these purposes, have been completed.
13. The presiding officer of a lodge shall uncover during all prayers (unless his personal faith prohibits him from doing so).