

Trestleboard

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

Look to the East

Charity and community service play a vital role in strengthening the fabric of society by ensuring that those in need are supported and uplifted. When individuals give their time, resources, or skills to help others, they directly contribute to reducing hardship and inequality within their communities. Acts of charity—whether through donating food, mentoring youth, or assisting the elderly—help meet immediate needs while also fostering a culture of compassion and generosity. This spirit of giving reminds us that we are interconnected, and that collective well-being depends on our willingness to care for one another.

Beyond meeting material needs, community service builds stronger relationships and a deeper sense of belonging among people. When individuals come together to volunteer for a shared cause, they develop trust, empathy, and mutual respect. These shared experiences break down social barriers and create unity across different backgrounds, beliefs, and generations. In this way, service not only improves conditions for those receiving help but also enriches the lives of those giving it, creating more engaged, understanding, and resilient communities.

Finally, charity and community service inspire long-term positive change by encouraging civic responsibility and leadership. People who serve often become more aware of social challenges and more motivated to be part of the solution. This awareness can spark innovation, advocacy, and sustained efforts to address root causes rather than just symptoms. By promoting kindness, cooperation, and accountability, charitable actions help build communities that are not only supportive in times of need but also proactive in shaping a better future for everyone.



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JP Ledford
Master

Officers of the Lodge 2026

	Master	J.P. Ledford	
Senior Warden	Antonio Saenz, Jr	Junior Warden	Jimmy Johnson
Treasurer	Earl Wilson	Secretary	WB Jason Caldwell
Senior Deacon	Nate Bailey	Junior Deacon	Austin Dorschel
Senior Steward	Steve Lewandowski	Junior Steward	Jeff Blackwell
Chaplain	WB Denny Norris	Tyler	Harry Weatherly

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,

Every Brother now has the availability to view our By-Laws and Past Trestleboards in Grand View. It is in the 'Lodge Documents' option where you would look at past minutes. If you have any questions, please let me know and I will help you with this.

It is early in the year and we are already down to 33 Brothers who have left to pay dues. This is an incredible improvement over the past few years. The goal is not to have any Brother who is left unpaid and we will have to Exclude for Non-Payment of Dues.

We have been running into a few concerns with Brothers and their families getting important information to the Lodge. If your mailing address, phone number and email address have changed recently, please let us know. We send a large amount of communications to the Craft concerning our events at the Lodge.

Also, please tell you families to contact us if there are any concerns with health, finances, a passing, or anything that is going on with your lives. This can include happy things as well (i.e. birth of children, grand children, graduations, returning home from deployments, etc.). We love to hear from our Brethren and their families so we can keep a better Brotherly fellowship with each of you.

If you have any updates to your mailing address, phone number, email address, please send to: semperfidelislodge680@gmail.com.

Jason Caldwell
Secretary

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.

- 02 Mar—Sojourners Blue Lodge Night—New Bern
- 07 Mar—Breakfast—0800
- 07 Mar—Onslow County Secretary Class—1200
- 08 Mar—DeMolay Meeting—1500
- 10 Mar—OES
- 11 Mar—Stated—Education will be WB Hap Alexander on his life
- 12 Mar—Ritual Workshop—1800
- 18 Mar—EA Degree
- 20-21 Mar—Scottish Rite, Valley of New Bern Spring Reunion
- 21 Mar—Breakfast—0800
- 21 Mar—Onslow County Masonic Blood Drive at Lafayette
- 22 Mar—DeMolay Meeting—1500
- 24 Mar—Discussion Group—History of Letter G—1800
- 24 Mar—OES
- 25 Mar—Stated—Education will be WB Gary Handy on Deacon Staves
- 28 Mar—Easter Egg Hunt—1000-conclusion
- 28 Mar—Ladies Night Out

All of these events are located on the calendar online with details. Remember that we have transitioned to Grand View. Please log onto Grand View at nc.grandview.systems.

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

*WHAT WE HAVE
DONE FOR
OURSELVES
ALONE, DIES WITH
US; WHAT WE
HAVE DONE FOR
OTHERS AND THE
WORLD, REMAINS
AND IS IMMORTAL'*
ALBERT PIKE



Random pictures of the Lodge:



The Wisdom of Yoda

*When Everything Seems Dark,
Consider That You May Be The Light.*



Happy Birthday Brothers

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

03/02 BILLY LEE FUSON, JR	03/04 GEORGE ALONZO GREENE	03/06 JOSEPH LYNN HOULE
03/06 JONATHAN RICHARD PADGETT	03/07 NOAH RUNDELL	03/10 CARLTON EDWARD POULSEN
03/12 TIMOTHY NEAL BLACK	03/13 JOHN THOMAS GAINEY	03/13 MICHAEL BENJAMIN GREENLEAF
03/13 WILLIAM FRANCIS HARRELL	03/13 ROGER ERNEST RUIZ	03/14 FRITZ MATHEW LOWE
03/20 ALEXANDER CHRISTOPHER ALCON	03/20 WINSTON GABRIEL MCMILLAN	03/23 ERNEST BENJAMIN HALL
03/24 SHAWN WAYNE PYLE	03/24 JOSEPH PIERCE SHIRLEY	03/25 ADAM MICHAEL HOGUE
03/27 TYLER JOSEPH EASTGATE		

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

Necrology Report



Brethren,

Since the last publishing of this Necrology Report, we have learned about the passing of Brother Woodrow 'Woody' Haskell Myers. Brother Woody was a 62 year Mason when he laid down his working tools. He was first Initiated in 1962 and became a member of Semper Fidelis in 2000. He climbed that mystic ladder on 14 January 2026.

He was active in his professional life, serving in the Navy, teaching high school and working in construction and then founding his own reality company. He was also active in the community as he served on the Beirut Memorial Advisory Committee and many other endeavors. He was also a member of the Onslow County Shrine Club. He was laid to rest on 24 February 2026.

Keep watching out for each other and ensure our Brothers are doing well.

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.

Do You Know?

Something to get people thinking:

In our 2nd Degree, we learn that Fellowcraft earned their wages in Corn, Wine, and Oil. In ancient times, Corn was not what we consider it to be today. Maize was not available during the building of the Temple. Instead, it is meant as a grain, similar to what we call wheat today!!

We have lots of books in our Lodge Library if you wish to continue your learning, just please check them out and return them when you are done!!

Masonic Education:

What is Ritualistic Excellence?

December 16, 2020

By: R.W. Andrew J. Bennert, District Deputy Grand Lecturer, District No. 4, Grand Lodge of New Hampshire

From the moment that a candidate knocks on the door of the lodge, to the time a Master Mason reaches the door of the Celestial Lodge above, Masonic Ritual is ingrained in everything that we do. As many of you know, New Hampshire's ritual is one of the purist rituals here in the United States. It is incredibly close to what Thomas Smith Webb first recorded in his book, *The Freemason's Monitor*, a volume that was printed 223 years ago. Though first documented by Webb in 1797, the words are believed to be much older, passed down, mouth to ear, for generations before that, making our ritual here in New Hampshire that much older and authentic to our Masonic Forefathers original intent. That link to the past has made the Masons of New Hampshire even that more aware of getting the ritual right.

In his four pillars of Retention, Ritual Excellence, Masonic Education, and Communication, our Grand Master has highlighted the importance of our ritual as one of the key factors of Masonry here in New Hampshire and something that we all should strive to make as flawless as possible. After all, what would we be without our ritual?

What is Ritualistic Excellence?

Many would argue that Ritualistic Excellence is getting every word right, as written, and committed to memory. This has been the norm for many years, but it is only one third of the puzzle of Ritualistic Excellence. To complete the puzzle and reveal the full picture of what Ritualistic Excellence truly is, two more vital pieces are needed. Ritualistic Performance, and Ritualistic Understanding.

Let's take a moment and touch on each part of the puzzle.

Ritualistic Memorization

You have certainly heard it said by a Brother "I can't memorize." I am here to tell you that that statement is false. Every person can memorize, but because everyone learns differently or has their own personal learning obstacles to overcome, the key is finding the method that works for the individual. There are many memorization methods in existence. One method is to repeat a phrase repeatedly until it is ingrained, adding bits and pieces along the way, until eventually they have the whole of a piece committed to memory. Others may do better by hearing it over and over again. Some people learn better when working with a partner to help prompt them if they need it.

Whatever the method you choose, it is the commitment of time that is the most important element in this process. A Brother who says, "I can't memorize" is really saying "I don't have the time to commit to this right now" or "I am not willing to give that much time to the ritual." We all came to this fraternity for varied reasons and the length of everyone's cable-tow is different, so we must be mindful of that when asking a Brother to sit in an officer's seat. Every officer of a lodge should, at the minimum, have committed to memory the ritual for the office that he holds (and be actively working on his next office's ritual if in the line) to ensure that lodges can keep this most important part of our fraternity alive and strong.

Ritualistic Performance

If you have ever been a patron of theatre, enjoyed movies, or watched television, I am sure that you have seen some bad performances. I am sure that you have also seen some ritual that was not as good as it should have been, even if the officers were all word perfect. Ritual, or any performance, is



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Education Cont:

enhanced by how the words are delivered. When executing a degree, you are performing. An actor does not just learn the words and deliver them. He spends time to work out where to infuse meaningful inflection, pauses, and movement to enhance what was written and make the words his own. The same should be done by each officer of the lodge. When the Senior Deacon receives a candidate at the door, he should think very carefully about how he asks his questions. What are the ruffians feeling as they deliver their lines and is that portrayed in the delivery? Every aspect of our ritual, right down to how the Worshipful Master raps his gavel, is part of the performance and a good performance will only enhance the experience that a candidate has in what should be a defining moment in his life.

Ritualistic Understanding

Though memorization and performance are vital aspects of Ritualistic Excellence, there is nothing more important to the puzzle than Ritualistic Understanding. This goes far beyond just knowing what the words mean. Our ritual is old and many of the words that were chosen are not common in everyday language today. Because of this, we should look up any words that we don't know so that we have a base understanding of what it is that we are actually saying. True Ritualistic Understanding goes a step further. This is where we become scholars and dive deeper into the meaning behind the ritual. Why was the lesson that the Chaplain gave during that degree used? What is its significance? What are the seven liberal arts and sciences, and why are they important to Masons? What is the Master speaking about in his opening and closing charges, how do those words ring true in lodge and how do we keep them alive in our dealings outside of the Temple?

Ritualistic Understanding is something that will never truly be mastered because your understanding of the ritual and all its subtle nuances and intricacies can continue to be studied and discussed with other Masons and shaped by those experiences. This is where Ritualistic Excellence and Education truly work hand in hand to help us develop ourselves and our understanding of the Ritual and the Craft.

Ritualistic Excellence is a journey that started the moment you cracked open your first E.A. Lesson book and that journey is lifelong. There is always a way to improve upon your knowledge of the ritual and how best to deliver it with meaning. Constant review of the text and study of its meaning will ensure that words that are already memorized are fresh in your memory and learned correctly. Our ritual is a key aspect of our fraternity that makes it so incredibly unique. It deserves our attention to detail and our commitment of time to ensure that it is delivered properly so that every Brother gets the best possible experience we can give them.