



Winston Lodge # 167
Ancient & Accepted Masons
4537 Country Club Road
Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27104
The Trowel
Monthly Edition July 2026



Officers information

WBro. Richard Lashley	W.M.	Bro. Andrew Stuart	SW
Bro. Curtis Scott	JW	Bro. Robert Dufresne	SD
Bro. Chris Jeffords	JD	Bro. Ronnie Vaughn, PM	Sec.
Bro Zackerie Dawson, PM	Treas.	Bro. Larry J.Toth, PM	Coach
Bro. Phillip Johnson PM	Tyler	Bro. Steve Miley	Chaplain
Bro. Chris Stevenson	SS	Bro. Steve Stuart	JS

Saying – Author Unknown

"Man is a spiritual being, clothed in a material body, and his destiny is to attain to perfect wisdom and knowledge."

Upcoming Events

Upcoming Event		Date	Time
Practice	Every Sunday at 3 PM and every Monday at 6:30 PM		Come join us and learn!
First Degree	2 Candidates	7/6/2026	6:30 PM –
Stated Communication	All	7/13/2026	7:30 PM
2 nd Degree	1 or 2 candidates	7/20/2026	6:30 PM

Brethren: We need your help to put these degrees on. If you can help us out, please try to participate in these degrees to show Prospective new Masons that as you were initiated by dedicated Brothers, show the same to new candidates for Masonry. There is no end to what you can do to help, and when you do help, you learn.

Good News

Winston Lodge is in the top 2% of lodges in North Carolina that have had the most new members join our lodge. Kudos to the Master and the Brothers that have been an inspiration for this to happen. I have been a member for 40+ years and the spirit in the lodge has never been as vibrant as it has lately. If you are one of the newly raised Brothers, please try to repay those that were there for you by attending events and being there for your fellow Brothers!

Not so Good News

WBro. Larry Toth is having a lot of health issues lately, and is currently in a rehab facility for a finite period. He recently had a hip replacement and there were multiple issues with his recovery. The prognosis is much better now, but thoughts and Prayers to him for a speedy recovery.

Masonic Quotes

Be Loyal To Others (Your Word is Bond)

If I shake your hand, in my eyes, that's as good as a written, signed, and stamped legal document. My word is my bond, and I expect yours to be too.

You do not want to be associated with a man who does not keep his word, and nobody else does either.

Masonic Humor

It is said that three people were sentenced to death by guillotine: a clergyman, a lawyer, and a physicist. The clergyman was placed on the guillotine and told to speak if he had anything to say. He cried out, "I am innocent! I believe that divine providence will save me!" The blade moved but stopped centimeters from his neck. The onlookers gasped and shouted, "He is innocent! He is innocent!" and he was released. Then they brought the lawyer and placed him on the same guillotine. He was told to speak. He cried out, "I am innocent! I believe that

justice will save me!" The blade moved but stopped, as it had for his colleague, centimeters from his neck. The onlookers shouted, "He is innocent! He is innocent!" and he too was released.

They brought the physicist, placed him on the guillotine, and asked him, "What do you have to say?" He replied, "I am a physicist, and I don't know what the clergyman and the lawyer are talking about. But all I am certain of is that there is a mechanical fault in this guillotine." They examined it and found a knot in the rope that held the guillotine in place at the last moment, preventing it from slipping. They fixed it and released it, and his head fell to the ground.

Letter from the Grand Master of Masons of North Carolina

An Independence Day for Reflection and Joy

My Brethren,

This Fourth of July, as we mark 250 years of American independence, it's worth remembering a truth about our fraternity that's easy to overlook: Freemasonry did not fight the Revolution.

As it had for centuries before and has for centuries since, the Lodge itself stood apart from the fight — not from indifference, but by design. Our purpose has never been to act as an institution in the affairs of nations. It has always been narrower, and in its own way more demanding: to make Masons, and to keep alive the tenets — brotherly love, relief, and truth — regardless of what storms rage outside the door.

That was true in 1776. It is true today.

But the men the Lodge formed did not stay inside it.

Richard Caswell, first recorded Master of St. John's Lodge No. 4, left the lodge room and became North Carolina's first governor after independence — with no roadmap, in the middle of a war, at the exact moment the colony became a state.

Cornelius Harnett, a Mason and merchant of Wilmington, left the lodge room and became so central to the cause that the Crown named him one of only two men in the colony excluded from amnesty. He read the Declaration of Independence aloud to the people of Halifax, gave his health to the cause, and ultimately his life.

Samuel Johnston did both halves of the work. He rebuilt the institution itself, gathering North Carolina's scattered lodges as our first Grand Master after the war — and then he too left the lodge room, and led the fight to ratify the United States Constitution.

Three names history happened to remember. Alongside them stood countless other Masons whose names we will never recover — brothers who carried the same obligation and the same tenets into their own service and their own sacrifice, in the Revolution and in every generation of American Masons since.

That is the legacy worth remembering this Independence Day: not that our lodges shaped a nation, but that they shaped the men who did. Our lodges have one job — to make Masons, and to renew in us the tenets this fraternity has always stood for. What we do with that formation, out in the world, has always been up to us. Remember the generous principles of our closing charge. And, two hundred fifty years later, that charge hasn't changed. It was never the Lodge's job to shape society. It is ours.

Be happy, be safe, and do good unto all. Happy Independence Day, my Brethren.

So mote it be.

Steve M. Norris
Grand Master

Officers for 2026

Officers and contact information

WBro. Richard Lashley	W.M.	336-263-4234	ricklashley@triad.rr.com
Bro. Andrew Stuart	SW	336-920-9491	stuartandrewk98@gmail.com
Bro. Curtis Scott	JW	336-760-8514	cscottredsox@gmail.com
Bro. Ronnie Vaughn, PM	Sec.	336-309-2769	ronnv5@yahoo.com

Bro Zackerie Dawson, PM	Treas.	336- 416-8090	zackerie.dawson@gmail.com
Bro. Larry J.Toth, PM	Coach	336-565-6765	engdesigner1981@yahoo.com
Bro. Robert Dufresne	SD	Bro. Chris Jeffords	JD
Bro. Christopher Jeffords	JD	Bro. Chris Jeffords	JD
Bro. Phillip Johnson PM	Tyler	Bro. Steve Miley	Chaplain
Bro. Chris Stevenson	SS	Bro. Steve Stuart	JS

Lodge Committees

Name	Chairman	Tel
Charity	WBRO Rick Lashley	336-263-4234
Coaching	Larry Toth, PM	336-565-6765
DeMolay & Rainbow Girls	Mark Wilson PM	(910) 581-9437
Finance & Budget:	Larry Toth PM	336-565-6765
Internal Communications(Trowel)	Dan Sheets PM	336-409-0430
Masonic & Eastern Star Home (MESH):	Morgan Williams PM	(336) 251-4184
Masonic Education	Larry Toth PM	336-565-6765
Masonic Home for Children at Oxford (MHCO):	Larry Toth PM	336-565-6765
Public Relations	Ronnie Vaughn, PM	(336) 309-2769
Reference	Larry Toth, PM	336-565-6765
Technology	Mark Wilson, PM	(910) 581-9437

Committee Highlight

Winston Newsletter Contacts

Bro. Dan Sheets, PM	Newsletter Contact/Editor	336-409-0430	dansheets@triad.rr.com
Bro. Ronnie Vaughn, PM	Newsletter Committee	336-309-2769	ronnv5@yahoo.com
Bro. Larry Toth, PM	Newsletter Committee	336-414-0913	engdesigner1981@yahoo.com

From WBro. Larry Toth

When PGM Shaun Bradshaw was asked, "What is the purpose of Blue Lodge?"; He responded, "To make Masons."

This leads to two questions:

What is a proper Mason?

How does a lodge "make" a proper Mason?

Before you contemplate, read the Code or Officer's handbook, "Duties of a Mason".

And read our Vision and Mission Statement, "Mission".

Now contemplate How does our lodge do that?

Then discuss among each other your results.

Worshipful Master contact information

WBRO. WBro. Richard Lashley Email: ricklashley@triad.rr.com or for more information call him at (336-263-4234

Links of interest

- 1) Lodge Education/reference- Winston Lodge #167 * [Winston Lodge No. 167 | Grand Lodge of North Carolina A. F. & A. M. | Winston 167 home](#)
- 2) Masonic Center of Winston Salem: <https://www.masoniccenterws.com/>
- 3) Grand Lodge Homepage - <https://www.ncfreemasons.org>
- 4) Masonic Home for Children at Oxford - [Masons - Masonic Home for Children at Oxford](#)

The Trowel Committee