

THE GRAND LODGE

of Ancient, Free and
Accepted Masons
of North Carolina



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Synopsis of the 239th Annual Communication

of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina
September 25–26, 2026 · Benton Convention Center, Winston-Salem

Brethren, the 239th Annual Communication has closed. Grand Master Steve M. Norris presided, and by the close of business 294 of our 323 lodges and 861 delegates were present.

REPORTS AND BUDGET

The Final Report of Past Grand Master Robert W. Rideout was ***Received***, and the Interim Report of Grand Master Norris was ***Accepted*** and entered on the record. The Orders of both Grand Masters were ***Approved***, and the reports of the Boards, Committees and Commissions were ***Received*** and ***Accepted***. The Proposed Budget for 2027 was ***Approved***.

HONORS

- **Joseph Montfort Medal:** RW Randy D. Ward, Grand Lecturer, for his service to the fraternity.
- **Thomas Warren Gregory Masonic Leadership Award:** W Johnny D. Sutphin, Black Mountain Lodge No. 663; W Johnny C. Surles, Zion Lodge No. 81; and W Job R. Connor, Bladen Lodge No. 646.
- **Order of the Long Leaf Pine:** MW Robert W. Rideout, PGM, conferred by Governor Josh Stein for his service to North Carolina in the Hurricane Helene relief effort and to his country, and presented by MW A. Gene Cobb, Jr., PGM.
- **Honorary Membership in the Grand Lodge:** MW Andrew H. Barnett, Grand Master of Alabama, and MW Roy C. Etherton, Past Grand Master and Grand Secretary of Tennessee.

IN MEMORIAM

The Grand Lodge remembered the 1,088 Master Masons who laid down their working tools since our last Annual Communication, and marked the passing of Brother Edward J. Steel, Past District Deputy Grand Lecturer, who had been named to serve as Grand Lecturer.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CODE

- **Amendment Group 1:** Consolidated lodges take the name and number of the oldest lodge: *Failed*
- **Amendment Group 2:** Standing Committee on Insurance: *Approved*
- **Amendment Group 3:** Income other than dues and the cost of lodge operations: *Referred to the Board of General Purposes*
- **Amendment Group 4:** Temple Corporations for lodges sharing meeting space: *Approved*
- **Amendment Group 5:** Grand Sword Bearer, Grand Pursuivant and Grand Standard Bearer as appointed offices: *Approved*
- **Amendment Group 6:** Limits on changes to the adopted budget: *Referred to the Board of General Purposes*

APPEALS AND RESTORATIONS

On the report of the Committee on Appeals, the Grand Lodge affirmed eleven expulsions, one dismissal, one reprimand and one one-year suspension, and modified one expulsion to a suspension of six months. Both petitions for restoration were granted.

GRAND LODGE OFFICERS FOR 2027

Elected

Grand Master: Gilbert D. Bailey (693)
Deputy Grand Master: Michael A. Register (493)
Senior Grand Warden: Philip R. Johnson (106)

Junior Grand Warden: C. Alvin Billings, Jr. (409)
Grand Treasurer: Lewis R. Ledford (27)
Grand Secretary: Jonathan A. Underwood (770)

Appointed

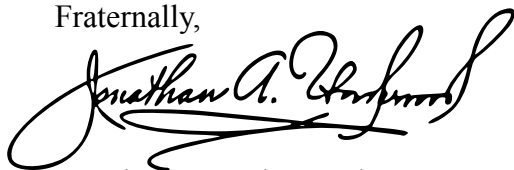
Senior Grand Deacon: J. David Cashion (435)
Junior Grand Deacon: Gary D. Handy (629)
Grand Marshal: John E. Burns (708)
Senior Grand Steward: Russell Bridges (262)
Junior Grand Steward: Kenneth W. Lambert (693)
Grand Chaplain: A. Gene Cobb, Jr. (127)
Grand Lecturer: [To be announced]

Grand Orator: Noah T. Goode (205)
Grand Historian: L. Scott Brand (461)
Judge Advocate: Matthew W. Cockman (409)
Grand Tyler: Glenn R. Sigmon (31)
Grand Pursuivant: Tommy R. Mills (277)
Grand Standard Bearer: Ronald J. Coleman, Jr. (693)
Grand Sword Bearer: Jorge Iván Izaguirre-Medina (693)

240TH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION

The Grand Lodge will meet in Annual Communication at the Benton Convention Center, Winston-Salem, beginning Friday, September 24, 2027.

Fraternally,



Jonathan A. Underwood
Grand Secretary