



# The North Carolina Mason

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## 211<sup>th</sup> Annual Communication Concludes

Raleigh — On April 24–25 the Civic Center here was home to the 211<sup>th</sup> Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina. Nearly 1,200 voting delegates participated. Three hundred fifty-eight lodges were represented.

The only striking change to come out of the communication was the forthcoming sale of *The Official Standard of the Work or OSW*. The Code was amended to allow the Board of Custodians to sell a copy of our ritual manual to any Mason in good standing. As with any change in our bylaws, it goes into effect August 1. The price of the OSW has yet to be set.

Opponents of the Board of General Purposes resolution against racism succeeded in keeping the assembly from voting or even discussing that June resolution. A parliamentary technicality was introduced which allowed a majority of those present to say they would just rather not talk about it.

Things started rather slowly with officers and board members trickling in Wednesday afternoon and evening to be ready for Thursday morning meetings. Virtually all the committees and boards of the Grand Lodge met the day before Annual Communication was formally opened.

Thursday afternoon featured workshops for lodge secretaries and wardens. Dalton Mayo taught communication skills to the blue lodge wardens. This was the first year for the Wardens' Workshop. Expect it to return next year.

For the Secretaries' Workshop the Grand Lodge office staff was joined by several friends. Bill Cope talked to them about the importance of protecting lodge records and archives in fireproof cabinets. Cloyce Anders helped with questions about lodge insurance. Joey Transou demonstrated the new version of lodge software *The Scrivener*, now in beta testing.

The numbers on hand increased drastically on Friday morning. At 10:00 A.M. Gerry

T. Smith Jr., son of Grand Master Gerry Smith, rapped the meeting to order. The American and state flags and Grand Lodge banner led a procession of district officers, out-of-state guests, and leaders of the state's appendant bodies. After Grand Lodge officers assumed their stations, Annual Communication was opened and guests were officially welcomed.

Grand Orator and Representative in our state legislature David Redwine made the keynote address. The rest of the morning was dominated by reports made or formally received. Those reports were distributed as a booklet. They will be included in their entirety in *The Proceedings*.

Representatives of North Carolina's Masonic youth organizations spoke to the gathering after lunch. They were followed by the annual memorial service to those brothers who died in the past year. More reports were presented.

Five lodge newsletters got Excellence in Communications awards: Laurinburg 305's *The Masonic Messenger*, Joppa 401's *Illumination*, Bailey 411's *Newsletter*, Conover 709's *Conover Connection*, and West Gate 738's *Trestle-Board*.

Seventy lodges got Grand Master's Five-Star Awards for improving their efforts for Masonic charity this year.

District deputy grand masters got certificates. At the close of the session, district deputy grand masters and grand lecturers gathered for their meetings.

Many delegates gathered in the Raleigh Plaza Hotel for the Grand Master's Reception Friday night. There was music, refreshments, and lots of good company.



Grand Master Gerry Smith presides over Annual Communication.

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### Amendment Scorecard

- Create Education Committee (amended) ..... YES
- Make Visitation Language Clearer ..... NO
- Limit Committee Terms ..... NO
- Sell The OSW ..... YES
- Allow Lodges 20 OSWs ..... Withdrawn



Delegates vote on the 1998 budget during their first visit to the Raleigh Civic Center.

## From the Grand Master In Our Hearts

I want to thank the delegates at our Annual Communication for electing me as your Grand Master. I promise to serve each of you to the best of my ability.

Like many of you, I left our Annual Communication very disappointed. I had just been installed into a position more prestigious and honorable than any I could ever have hoped to assume as a Master Mason, yet I was disappointed. Why? Because on that same Saturday morning a point of order prevented the delegates discussing and voting on the resolution of the Board of General Purposes condemning racism and bigotry as un-Masonic.

Immediately after the close of the Annual Communication I confided to a close friend that I felt inept and didn't handle the chair as well as I should. I felt I did not prepare well and did not insist on having counsel available that would enable me effectually to get the issue to the floor and voted on by the delegates. I told my friend that I wished I were an attorney who was well versed in parliamentary procedure.

Well, as has happened many times in my life, I got the counsel I needed most in church. The story of David and Goliath was part of our Sunday school study today. It's an old story we all know well, but one which taught me a new meaning today. Today the story taught me that I didn't need to be an attorney. It taught me that, like David, we can all do God's work with whatever talents he has given us.

I intend not to sweep the topic of hatred and bigotry under the carpet. I plan to speak against intolerance and racism as long as I am your Grand Master. I will do that with whatever few talents I possess. I know that the measure of a man has nothing to do with his race. I know that if there is a Masonic Lodge in Heaven, it most certainly has good men of every color seated in it, and I believe the Great Architect of the Universe would consider no objection based on the color of a man's skin.

Masonry teaches us that we are all children of one almighty parent — that we are to aid, support, and protect each other — that it is the internal and not the external qualifications of a man that should recommend him to be made a Mason — that Masonry unites men of every country, sect, and opinion, and conciliates true friendship among those who otherwise would have remained at a perpetual distance.

John Brown (Red) Earle was my Masonic catechism coach many years ago. As good coaches always do, he taught me about more than just the ritual. Red helped children throughout our city. There's no telling how many pairs of shoes Red bought for needy children. There's no counting the number of bats, balls, and gloves he gave to children whose families could not afford them. Red was colorblind to the color of a person's skin



Grand Master  
Thomas W. Gregory

— he just saw someone in need.

Red and I were returning from a Masonic funeral when we last discussed the issue of race. Red said that bigots are like the pupil of your eye — the more light you put on them, the more they shrink away.

Well brethren, I plan to put as much Masonic light on that topic as I can this year. I know that upsets some of you. I can't help that. Like you, I was first made a Mason in my heart, and my heart says love your neighbor as yourself. The Grand Lodge of North Carolina will never realize its potential until it deals effectually with the issue of race.

A black Mason from a lodge recognized by our Grand Lodge has every right to visit a lodge here in North Carolina. As Grand Master, I will not tolerate a situation where this man is turned away because of the color of his skin.

Someone at Annual Communication said we shouldn't air our dirty laundry. No brethren, we shouldn't air it — we should wash it! With our prayers and the blessing of God, we can all do the right thing. We only have to look at our Masonic teaching and be attentive to what we feel in our hearts. I have every confidence that the Masons of this state will do just that.

## Gregory Is New Grand Master

Thomas Warren Gregory was born April 8, 1946, in Statesville, North Carolina. Tom was the fourth child of James S. Gregory of Mytilene, Greece and Mary B. Gregory of Loray, North Carolina. He attended Iredell County Schools, Mitchell Community College, and Pembroke State University where he graduated in 1969 with a degree in Psychology.

Tom is very active in his community. He has served as vice president of the Statesville Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Mayor's Council On Race Relations, board member of the Iredell-Statesville YMCA, president and crusade chairman for the Iredell County unit of the American Cancer Society, board member of the local American Red Cross, and on Central Piedmont Safety Council.

Tom and his wife Marilyn are active members of Broad Street United Methodist Church, where he has served as Sunday School teacher, Scoutmaster, president of the United Methodist Men, member of the Finance Committee, Staff-Parish Committee, and chairman of the Administrative Board.

Gregory was awarded the Sertoma Club Service to Mankind award in 1984, the Boss of the Year award from the local ABWA Chapter in 1992, and the Manager of the Year award in 1993 by the Iredell County Personnel Association. He has been active in the Statesville Little Theater, having played roles in a number of local productions through the years.

Tom and Marilyn live in Statesville in Iredell County. They have two children, Kimberly and Thomas Jr.

He is employed by Speedball Art Products Company in Statesville, where he serves as Director of Operations.

Tom's Masonic career began in 1962 when he was initiated into the Statesville Chapter, Order of DeMolay. He was raised a Master Mason in 1975 by Statesville 27.

Tom served as Chapter Dad of the Statesville DeMolay from 1975-79, and as chairman of its Advisory Council from 1980-84. He was elected master of Statesville 27 in 1981 and 1987. He was awarded the J. C. Brown and the Lon Schulerberger Awards in 1979 and 1981 respectively. Statesville Lodge gives those awards for outstanding service. He is a recipient of the DeMolay Legion of Honor and Cross of Honor. He has been a certified lecturer since 1992 and has done many Masonic funerals in his area since 1981. He was appointed grand steward in 1991 by Grand Master Lester P. Martin.

He is a charter member, past president, and past secretary of the Iredell Scottish Rite Club. He chaired the Masonic Community Blood Day for the 51<sup>st</sup> and 52<sup>nd</sup> Masonic districts for a number of years. The event is the largest of its kind in North Carolina and one of the largest in the United States.

He is a very active member of the Winston-Salem Scottish Rite Bodies and Salisbury York Rite and many of their honorary bodies. Tom is a member of Oasis Shrine and a

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# Homes Sponsor DDGM Weekend

Oxford — If your district deputy grand master seems a little prouder and more prepared this year, it may have something to do with efforts to seek out even better men for the positions and better train them for their responsibilities. The Masonic charity administrators came up with the idea of getting DDGMs to visit the campuses of the Masonic Homes. The idea grew into a weekend dedicated to training the men and letting them get to know one another better.

More than forty incoming DDGMs came to the campus of the Masonic Home for Children the last weekend in March to get an early start on the next Masonic year. They spent Saturday morning learning about North Carolina's Masonic charities. They broke up into groups before lunch for campus tours conducted by residents of the Home.

After lunch in the cafeteria, they returned to the learning center in the basement of the York Rite Chapel for sessions conducted by the Research and Development Committee. There they got

instruction on the Program for Progress, leadership training, and time to discuss the coming Masonic year.

They shared dinner with their wives, administrators, and each other on Saturday night at a nearby steak house be-

fore returning to their motel. Sunday morning they enjoyed breakfast and chapel on campus before returning home.

The DDGM Weekend will be held at the Masonic and Eastern Star Home next year and alternate between the Homes in the future.



Norman Karr and Eddie Moody of the Research and Development Committee demonstrate Program for Progress for the DDGMs.



## Want Your Lodge To Be A Star?

Holly Springs — Imagine my surprise this morning to open my local newspaper and find a picture of me on the front page!

It wasn't because I had been arrested. I was working on a 150-year history of my lodge, Holly Springs 115, and I've gone to some effort to make sure our lodge got mentioned in the paper any time we do something worthwhile.

There it was — a picture of me sitting on the steps of the lodge with 50 years worth of minutes stacked next to me. They ran a long article about the history of the lodge, and two old pictures I loaned the reporter. The article recapped some of our charitable projects and included a quote about Freemasonry not being secret society and existing to serve in the community.

The moral of the story is that if you want help your lodge thrive, you have to let people know what it does and what it stands for. You can develop a contact on the staff of your local newspaper and make sure he or she is aware of every fund-raiser and every event you put on that benefits the community. People want to hear positive news today, and Masons have lots of it. The newspaper needs your story as much as you need the publicity.

You can easily promote the image of Freemasonry in your community. All you have to do is pick up the phone. If I can do it, you can do it!

— **Bob Dixon, secretary, Holly Springs 115**

## Gregory

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charter member of the Oasis Past Masters unit. He is a member of Statesville Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star.

He has a keen interest in Masonic research and is a member of several research lodges including Quatuor Coronati Lodge of Masonic Research, Philalethes Society, Phylaxis Society, and Civil War Lodge of Research.

When Tom is not actively involved in Masonry, he enjoys trout fishing and waterfowl hunting, particularly with his brother John and son Tommy Jr.

Grand Master Tom Gregory plans 14 area meetings this year. These will be in addition to the district meetings held by each district deputy grand master in June. District and lodge officers will be notified and pass the information along to you as details become available.

Date	Host Lodge	Location
July 8	Joppa 530	Charlotte
July 9	Snow Lodge 363	Boone
July 14	Oconee 427	Bryson City
July 23	Concord 58	Tarboro
July 24	Eureka 317	Elizabeth City
July 27	Lexington 473	Lexington
August 7	Eagle 19	Hillsborough
August 10	Mt. Hermon 118	Asheville
August 13	Southern Pines 484	Southern Pines
August 14	St. John's 1	Wilmington
August 20	Palmyra 147	Dunn
August 21	Doric 568	New Bern
August 25	Leaksville 137	Eden
September 9	Statesville 27	Statesville



## Junaluske Gets Christmas Spirit

Franklin — Donnie Wallace, then master of Junaluske 145, decided the holidays would be a good time to put a little extra shine on the lodge. Christmas decorations and a spotlight made their building one of the town's bright spots for the season.

— **Bob Kraus**

# North American Grand Masters Meet In City of Brotherly Love



Philadelphia — The Conference of Grand Masters and Grand Secretaries of Masons in North America always furnishes some excitement and enlightenment. This year's conference, February 22-24, was no exception.

The highlight for the North Carolina delegation this year was the keynote speech of Marine Corps General Tom Wilkerson. Wilkerson is a Tar Heel Mason, a member of Semper Fidelis 680 in Jacksonville, and the son of retired Marine Corps General and head of Scottish Rite in North Carolina Lloyd Wilkerson. Other well-known Masons speaking to the group were Senator and past Presidential candidate George McGovern and Drug Czar Barry McCaffery.

The Conference annually hosts grand lodge officers from around the world for discussions of progress and problems shared by Masonic organizations. Three Prince Hall past grand masters, including Conference of Grand Masters, Prince Hall Masons, Inc. President Howard Woods, spoke at two overflow sessions. They spoke of their history, the current status of Prince Hall Masonry, and the future of their relationship with traditionally white grand lodges. More than half the grand jurisdictions in North America currently recognize their local Prince Hall counterpart.

Other educational sessions included an introduction to the Grand Lodge of Ohio's leadership training program for lodge wardens and an update on the National Masonic Renewal program. There were also sessions on using the Internet and Pennsylvania's Student Assistants Program.

The Masonic Service Association and George Washington Masonic National Memorial held their annual board meetings. Past Grand Master Pete Thomas, North Carolina's representative to those bodies, attended.

The 1998 Conference was held just a block from Philadelphia's Masonic Temple, one of the most beautiful Masonic buildings in the world. The 125-year-old building contains seven lodge rooms which serve as the meeting place for many blue lodges and appendant bodies. Each room is very different and emulates different forms of architecture from Egyptian to Renaissance. It is also the home of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, their museum and library, and a large banquet hall.

North Carolina's delegation included Deputy Grand Master Tom Gregory, Grand Secretary Walt Clapp, Grand Treasurer Cliff Everett, and NC's Scottish Rite Sovereign Grand Inspector General Lloyd Wilkerson among others.



Scenes from the North American Conference of Grand Masters and Grand Secretaries, clockwise from left: the grand masters' meeting room featured a gallery for observers around the horseshoe arrangement of GMs; Grand Secretary Walt Clapp at his opening session; Renaissance Hall lodge room in Philadelphia's Masonic Temple; Tarheel Mason General Tom Wilkerson was closing day keynote speaker; Senator George McGovern spoke on Sunday; and Deputy Grand Master Tom Gregory filled in for GM Gerry Smith at the conference.