



The North Carolina Mason

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Annual Communication Time For Grand Lodge

Raleigh — The 206th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina will convene April 20. All business sessions will be held in Memorial Auditorium in downtown Raleigh. Tuesday's meeting begins at 10 a.m. and Wednesday's kicks off at 9 a.m. Election of officers begins at 11 o'clock Wednesday morning.

Your lodge should soon receive formal notification along with credentials, documents, and other important announcements about the meeting. You must bring these completed credentials with you and present them to the Credentials Committee. The committee may be found at the Radisson Plaza Hotel on Monday afternoon and in the lobby of Memorial Auditorium on Tuesday and Wednesday. DO NOT mail them to the Grand Lodge offices, present them in person. The committee will furnish you with necessary materials.

Name tags and disposable aprons will be available in the lobby of Memorial Auditorium. There'll be a number of tylers outside the hall. They'll expect you to give them the Third Degree pass as well as show them your current dues card.

There's quite a bit to go through in opening the proceedings. The Grand Lodge officers will be received. After Grand Master Ray Norris opens the meeting, past grand masters and distinguished visitors from other states will be received. These VIPs will be introduced and seated on the stage.

The first day's business will, for the most part, deal with what has transpired over the past year. Miscellaneous reports of committees and boards will be received. Some will be read, others will simply appear in the *Proceedings*. Grand Master Ray Norris, and former Governor and Grand Orator James G. Martin will address the Communication. Memorial services will be conducted for those who passed away in the last year. Business may vary somewhat according to special needs of the session.

Wednesday, the second day of the session, will begin at 9 a.m. and see more action. It'll be up to you to approve or reject the past year's actions of the Grand Master, Judge Advocate, Trial Commissions, Appeals Committee, and others. Their actions do not stand without the approval of the delegates. You'll receive and vote on the annual budget. Amendments to the Code as well as resolutions with the weight of law will be considered. Grand Lodge officers for 1993-94 will be elected. It is hoped that business will be finished by lunch time.

Installation of new officers will be later in the afternoon after the lodge is closed. It is usually held about 2:30 at the Masonic Temple on Caswell Street in Raleigh.

The Annual Communication is NOT just for delegates and voting members of the Grand Lodge. Every Mason in North Carolina is welcome and encouraged to attend. We hope to see you there.

What Votes Will We Face?

There are a number of issues to be considered by the Grand Lodge this year. Some are simple matters of form. Others would change some basic tenets of the Craft.

You are urged to discuss each of them with your Brothers at lodge. When deciding how you think your delegates should vote at the Annual Communication, please regard the proposed amendments with the same seriousness you would a candidate for the degrees. Your votes should be cast for the good of Masonry.

The following is a short summary of the amendments to The Code to be voted on at our 1993 Annual Communication.

Black Cubes: One of the most entrenched of Masonic rules is the ballot on membership of a novice. A single black cube has long been all that was necessary to reject a petitioner. A proposed amendment would have us increase that number to three. Those presenting the issue contend that the "extreme ends of any process are seldom the best method." They believe that many candidates don't make it because of a single vote cast in "ignorance, fear, or hate."

Opening Emergent Communications on First or Second Degree: Another possible amendment would alter the way we open emergent communications. It proposes to allow emergent communications called for the purpose of doing degree work to be opened and closed in the degree to be conferred. No longer would we open a Master Masons' Lodge only to dispense with labor and open a First or Second Degree lodge. The idea is to keep the candidate included in the group. It would make him the center of attention for the entire evening rather than having him banished to solitude while all the members exclude him from opening and closing. Some say the time savings would be a valuable by product on those extra meeting nights.



Brother Windell Is Limbering His Fingers

Raleigh — Windell Cunningham has a regular place on stage in Raleigh's Memorial Auditorium each April. Chances are you'll hear him before you see him. He plays organ to help fill the time it takes to get things done in such a big lodge room. It may not take

long for your junior deacon to get to the tyler, but it's a different story in a room that holds several thousand. Come hear Windell's music at Annual Communication. He's just one of many new and interesting Masons you can meet on April 20-21.

Annual Lodge of Sorrow: It has been proposed that lodges be allowed to open and close a lodge of sorrow once each year rather than being required to do so before each Masonic funeral service. Those making the suggestion note that the graveside services performed by Masons are one of our most important opportunities to interact with the

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Con Man Still In State

In the last issue of *The Mason* we reminded you about a con artist preying on Masons around the country. Benny Webb, from up in Yadkinville told us his story. Regrettably, that wasn't the last we heard of Leroy Wilkenson.

In late January, he made at least two at-

tempts in the northern part of the state near Interstate 95. David Faircloth, secretary of King Solomon 56 in Jackson, and Albert Hill, secretary of American George 17 in Murfreesboro, were both called. Their homes

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A Message From the Grand Master

Our Youth — Our Future

The Masonic youth organizations of this Grand Jurisdiction have experienced a good year and are well prepared for the challenges of 1993. The International Order of DeMolay, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, and Job's Daughters have met many challenges. New challenges were recognized and many goals were accomplished. We applaud the successes of our young people. We thank them for the many efforts and contributions they have made to their respective organizations. Their leadership has been wonderful.

It was indeed an honor and privilege to be in Fayetteville with our future leaders at the Grand Master's Class, Order of DeMolay, January 8 and 9. The conduct and professionalism of these young men were excellent. It was a joy and a very rewarding experience to witness their outstanding leadership qualities during the business sessions. Their ritualistic work during the conferral of the Initiatory and DeMolay Degrees on a class of 21 young potential leaders was super. They are sincere and dedicated young men, keeping alive the high ideals of truth, liberty, democracy, and service that are

Ray Norris
Grand Master

central to Freemasonry. We were impressed.

The formal banquet on Saturday evening was exciting and very impressive with over 200 youth and adults in attendance. It was heartwarming to see our young people from many geographical locations within the state come together and enjoy a fun-filled weekend. Several awards and honors were presented to young men, women, and chapters for their many outstanding accomplishments during 1992.

Under the leadership of State Master Councilor Colin Vance of Burlington, the North Carolina State Association of the Order of DeMolay is off and running. A new chapter is being organized in Fayetteville. With the help of the present chapter in Fayetteville and the many Master Masons' who support them, the new charter, no doubt, will be forthcoming. This is the first new chapter in North Carolina for the year 1993. With the 1993 goals of Brother Colin, his state officers, and the team work of DeMolay and Advisors statewide, additional chapters will be established this year. Many inquiries have been made from Masonic districts around this Grand Jurisdiction. We expect the lodges and other Masonic bodies to support our young people and bring about a growth never before experienced in North Carolina.

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