



Greetings from the South!

Brethren,

As we progress into the new year and we look forward to the work in the lodge, I want to invite you brothers who have not visited in a while to come out and share in supporting your Lodge.

The officer staff is working hard to represent Hickory #343 and Masonry in your community. Many degrees are being put on and there are countless opportunities available for a dedicated

brother to be involved. Here are some of the ways you can help.

Contacting and updating the Lodge on events and the charities we support. Building maintenance such as painting or cleaning. Membership and attendance committees... we need more candidates...and we need them to come back. Orientation of new brothers and participation on investigating committees. Coaching new brothers on their path to more light. Examination of candidates. Masonic education or sharing of your Masonic stories or travels.

Prayer, because we all know the power of it. OSW and Bhanson manual training degree work ...even if it be as the active candidate or preparation of the candidate. Kitchen support for the Stewards...even if it be the coffee and tea... we promise good fellowship.

Event planning such as Family Day, Charity Breakfasts, Fund Raisers, Awards Night; all these events could use your brotherly touch in planning, design and execution .

As you can see Brethren, there are many areas where a brother can fit in. There are over 60,000 Masons in North Carolina alone. What a wonderful organization to be a part of. The richness of it's history and traditions are something to be proud of. Tell the world you're a Mason. "What you do today becomes the History of the Future".

I invite you all to search for your place in your Lodge and share in the treasures of Masonry.

Fraternally,
Dan Rolon

OFFICERS 2008

Worshipful Master	J. David Abernethy	323-8349
Senior Warden	Richard L. Rozzelle	294-3013
Junior Warden	Daniel J. Rolon	493-3543
Treasurer	W.J. "Buz" Hunley	ul256-7633
Secretary	Kevin D. Johnson	465-5619
Senior Deacon	G. Lee Spach	446-1924
Junior Deacon	James L. Johnson	328-1679
Senior Steward	Eddie Elliott	244-3162
Junior Steward	** Anyone interested contact the WM **	
Chaplain	James Hope ul	465-0063
Tyler	Robert B. Bickel	294-6619
Trustees	Lawton H. Hatley	294-0910
<i>Chairman</i>	David L. Brandon	294-2124
	W. Grimes Byerly	324-8678

LIVING PAST MASTERS

J.N. Cagle	1973	J.P. Hilton	1994
J.L. Johnson	1974	D.L. Reep	1995
E.W. Beckom	1978	P.C. Ray	1996
J.F. Taylor	1979	L.D. Huffman	1997
J.H. Elmore	1981	W.G. Byerly	1998
T.L. Hartman	1984		2007
E.C. Cline	1986	D.J. Wallace	1999
J.E. Vaught	1987	H.W. Walker	2000
J.H. Elmore	1988	J.W. Davidson	2001
C.E. Isenhour	1989	M.D. Hale	2002
E.W. Masche	1991	W.J. Hunley	2003
J.D. Crawley	1993	J.P. Kuykendall	2004
		D.L. Brandon	2006

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Name	Date	Name	Date	Name	Date
Paul Bollinger	3/1/1927	Timothy Hewitt	3/10/1968	Solomon Sutton	3/17/1935
Lawton Hatley	3/1/1945	Johnny Miller, Jr.	3/11/1958	Paul Wilson	3/17/1942
Mark Huffman	3/3/1971	Johnny Hollar	3/12/1936	Jamie Yrigoyen	3/19/1969
Joseph Cohen	3/4/1943	William Baird	3/12/1943	Robert Bickel	3/24/1954
Vernon Hodge	3/7/1942	Larry Huffman	3/14/1948	Bradley Davis	3/25/1967
John Crawley	3/9/1952	Wayne Yoder	3/14/1948	Andy Brinkley	3/27/1938
Darrell Chapman	3/10/1955	James Beckom, Sr.	3/16/1935		
		John Keever	3/17/1924		

CARING REPORT: The Hoyle Cline, Jr. Family, Joe Vaught, David London's In-laws, Henry Holland, Ted Rhyne, Carl Isenhour, John Harden's wife, Clyde Price, Bill Deitz, David Duncan, Darrell Chapman, Jack Lingerfelt, Jerry Johnson's daughter, Gregg Conley, Herbert Chilton Jr. , Bob Gregg, Click Truitt, Charles Meadows, Jim Rader, Richard Rozzelle's son, A.W. Morris, Kimberly Austin, Rufus Smith, and Bruce Pope all need our prayers and attention.

SPECIAL REQUEST; Brother David Early, a member of Maiden Lodge #592 has recently been diagnosed with an aggressive cancer in several organs of his body. He became extremely ill very suddenly and to everyone's surprise. Maiden Lodge is in the process of planning some type of assistance for this early 40's year old Brother. Meanwhile, the First United Methodist Church of Maiden has established a fund in his name. Please keep this young brother in your prayers as he undergoes treatment to fight this terrible illness.

OSW / Ritual Training Class

Monthly the 34th Masonic District meets at the Hickory Masonic Center for what used to be the Certified Lecturers Training Class. However, this class is not just for brethren seeking certification as a lecturer. Therefore the class has become a study time to learn more about the correct way to conduct our rituals

and rites. It is open to all brethren and it is highly encouraged by Brother Mack Sigmon, facilitator of the class, that anyone interested in becoming more proficient and learn more about our rituals to attend.

It appears after the first two classes this year that Brother Sigmon's message is getting out because attendance is at an all time high. In January there were 27

brothers at the class. At the meeting in February there were 38. Both of these were new records for the 4 year old program.

The meetings are held the 3rd Sunday of each month through July from 3pm—5pm, except for June which is held on the 4th Sunday so not to conflict with Father's Day. We hope to see you at the next class on Sunday March 16th.

Annual Pancake Breakfast for Charity!

ALL proceeds going to The Masonic Home for Children, The Masonic and Eastern Star Home and The NC Masonic Foundation

Saturday — May 3, 2008 7:00am—10:00am

Hickory Masonic Center— \$5.00 per person

Menu: pancakes, sausage, coffee, orange juice, and tea

Children 12 and under eat free. Open to Public

For take out orders call the lodge at 322-8016

FREE Delivery for orders greater than 10

Contact Brother Dan Rolon dkrolon@juno.com or 493-3543

The NC Masonic Foundation

At a recent lodge meeting several brethren indicated they knew very little about the Masonic Foundation. Here is what we found out.

Most Worshipful Raymond C. Dunn wrote in the 1929 Proceedings, "It is true that Oxford Orphanage has, within the past several years, received a few devises and bequests of property, but these have been made, to a large extent, without suggestion or effort on the part of the Masons, and even in these instances it is highly probable the gift would have been larger had there been such suggestion or effort." MW Dunn prepared a resolution and presented it to the Grand Lodge on January 16, 1929.

The Foundation seeks its sustenance from the Masons of North

Carolina. It is the one true Masonic Endowment for North Carolina. At present, 384 lodges with members totaling over 60,000 strong, support the North Carolina Masonic Foundation. This support comes by way of annual gifts, deferred gifts and legacies.

As an endowment it is a source of assistance to the annual incomes of The Masonic Home for Children and The Masonic and Eastern Star Home. Every dollar that is presented, received and receipted into the Foundation adds to the principal and is endowed in perpetuity.

The asset fund balance in the Foundation is over \$17,000,000. These assets are invested and reinvested and the interest and dividends born off the corpus is used to assist in the annual operations of the two Masonic Homes in NC.

The mission of the North Carolina Masonic Foundation and the Development Programs & Activities are to offer a communication link from the charities to the membership in their respective areas; educate and instruct on the general operations and well-being of the North Carolina Masonic Charities; to assimilate a better understanding of Brotherly Love and Relief and the necessity for helping the young and old who need assistance; and to motivate constituent lodges and members in philanthropic endeavors through annual giving, planned and deferred gifts designated for the Masonic Home for Children, The Masonic and Eastern Star Home and the North Carolina Masonic Foundation.

Taken from - <http://www.grandlodge-nc.org/Foundation/>

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34th NC Masonic District

HICKORY LODGE NO. 343

Ancient Free and Accepted Masons
P.O. Box 451
Hickory, NC 28601
828-322-8016

www.hickorymasoniccenter.org
secretary@hickorymasoniccenter.org

Hickory York Rite

The Hickory York Rite held its annual Spring festival in conjunction with the Wilkesboro and Lenoir lodges on Feb 8th and 9th and exemplified the Chapter, Council, and Commandery degrees in full regalia. Congratulations to the 12 new York Rite Masons that participated in the two day ceremony. The Hickory York Rite ritualistic cast did an outstanding performance conducting several of the degrees, culminating in the Order of The Temple (Knights Templar).



Several members of the Hickory York Rite Ritualistic cast.

Sweetheart Dinner

More than fifty people attended the 2nd annual York Rite Sweetheart dinner on February 13th, signifying the growing popularity of this wonderful event. The meal was extraordinary and the fellowship unforgettable. Thanks to Carla Johnson and Susan Brandon for all their hard work making this such a success. The night's entertainment consisted of 4 couples competing in a "newlywed" type of game which had everyone laughing and enjoying themselves immensely. Come join us next year!!!

The Lambskin Apron

It is not ornamental, the cost is not so great, There are other things far more useful, yet truly here I do state: Though of all my possessions, there's none which can compare, With that white leathern apron, which all Freemasons wear.

As a lad I wondered just what it all meant, When Dad hustled around, and so much time was spent, On shaving and dressing and looking just right, Until Mother would say: 'There's a Lodge meeting tonight.'

And some winter nights she said: 'What makes you go? You see the same things every month of the year.' Way up there tonight through the sleet and the snow? Then Dad would reply: 'Yes, I know, my Dear.'

'Forty years I have seen the same things, it is true. And, though they are old, they always seem so new. For the hands that I clasp, and the friends that I greet, Seem a little bit closer each and every time we meet.'

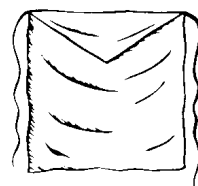
Years later I stood at that very same door, With good men and true who had entered before. I knelt at the altar, and there I was taught That Virtue and Honor can never be bought.

That the spotless white lambskin that all Freemasons revere, If worthily worn grows more precious each year. That Service to others brings blessings untold; That without it man may be poor even when surrounded by gold.

I learned that True Brotherhood flourishes there, That enmities fade beneath the Compass and Square, That wealth and position are all thrust aside, As there on the Level Brethren meet and peacefully abide.

So Honor the lambskin, may it always remain Forever unblemished, and free from all stain. And when we are called to the Great Father's love, May we all take our place in the Celestial Lodge up above.

- Author Unknown



Lodge Events Calendar

MARCH 2008

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3 6:30pm meal 7:30pm BL stated	4 7:30pm OES	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 6:30pm meal 7:30pm York Rite	13	14	15 7:00am – School of Instruction. Lovely Lodge #670
16 3:00pm—5:00pm OSW training class	17 6:30pm meal 7:30pm BL stated	18 7:30pm OES	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					