



WILKERSON COLLEGE LODGE NO. 760

January / February, 2006

Issue No. 1

First Attempt

By: Dudley H. Sheppard, PM

As this is my first endeavor at attempting to provide a newsletter for my brethren, please bear with me as I gain experience with “*on the job training*”.

Plans are to send out a newsletter after each meeting to provide news to the brethren who were unable to attend the meeting. There will be a brief article on the goings on in WCL 760, a paragraph or two concerning the meeting’s education program, news from MESH and MHCO and I intend to hound the Master for a message and our Chaplain for an inspirational paragraph or two.

Brethren, I will need your help to make this newsletter successful. It will need your ideas, your input and articles from you. If you would like to send me an article, a suggestion or comment, e-mail me at dsheppard@triad.rr.com.

I would like to attempt a few new ideas that have not been included in some of the newsletters I have seen. Something that may be interesting is a brief book report from some of our avid readers. If someone has a burning question about Masonry they would like an answer to, maybe some of our brethren will have the answer or share where the answer can be found. We need articles from the chairmen of the Oxford Children’s Home and the MESH Committees to keep us informed of what is going on in the homes.

The Sunshine Report is for our brethren and their families who have illnesses so that we may remember them in our prayers.

In an effort to save our Lodge the cost of postage, I will e-mail the newsletter in the Adobe format, to the majority of our members. Those without computer access will receive their newsletter via snail mail. The newsletter will also be sent to the Grand Lodge officers, the *NC Mason*, the *Tarheel Mason*, the Oxford Home for Children and the Masonic and Eastern Star Home as well as to all of the Lodges in the 23rd Masonic District.

Echoes from the East

My Brothers,
I want to thank each of you for allowing me, and the “officers elect,” the opportunity to serve you and Wilkerson College Lodge this calendar year. We are very excited about the meeting sites and educational programs planned for this year and hope you will be as well: Our lodge locations have been selected based on age and historical importance and our educational programs were designed to compliment and/or highlight the Masonically historical significance of each respective geographical area(s). Brethren, this will, optimistically, be a year of historical enlightenment and I certainly hope it will be shared with not only our membership but with those Brothers of other lodges throughout North Carolina as well.

Sharing “our” wealth of expertise and Masonic information can only occur if all of us put forth the effort to communicate and publicize not only our meeting sites, but also our

educational programs. I would like this year to be a year of record attendance for Wilkerson College Lodge. With each Brother’s help, I know it can be done!

With exception, I have tried to keep our meetings within a reasonable travel range of the Raleigh-Durham Complex to allow more participation from our membership. So please make every effort to attend as many of our meetings as your “cable-tow” will allow. I firmly believe you will not only thoroughly enjoy the comradery experienced, but also the educational enlightenment.

May this year bring to each of you and your families, prosperity, health, fortitude and increased spirituality. Looking forward to seeing each of you in Lodge, I remain

Yours in Masonry,
Ron Sortino
Master

Last Meeting

The December 10, 2005 meeting of WCL 760 was held at Palmyra Lodge #147 in Dunn.

At the top of the brief business meeting was Senior Warden Ron Sortino’s presentation

of an Endowed Membership to Master Tom Gregory for his service as Master for the year 2005.

Dudley H. Sheppard, PM, resigned after four years serving as Treasurer of WCL 760.

After the meeting, some of our brethren attended the installation of Most Worshipful Grand Master Gene T. Jernigan. The installation was held at Midway Elementary School.

Officers Elected, Selected and Installed

After the brief business meeting, the members of WCL 760 got down to the business of electing officers for the year 2006.

The officers elected are as follows:

- Master: Ron Sortino, PM
- Senior Warden: Larry Thompson, PM
- Junior Warden: Frank Spears, PM
- Treasurer: Doug Wright, M
- Secretary: Ray Hall, PM, PDDGL, PDGM, CL

Master Ron Sortino appointed the following officers:

- Senior Deacon: Randy Ogburn, M
- Junior Deacon; Dudley Sheppard, PM
- Senior Steward: Stephen Smith
- Junior Steward: Mark Conner
- Tyler: Benton Oakes, Jr.
- Chaplain: Ed "*Bless Your Heart*" Lawing, PM, PDDGM

Congratulations to Worshipful Brother Ron Sortino and the Ron-Don Raiders.

After the election was over, we proceeded with the Installation. Worshipful Brother H. Lloyd Wilkerson served as the Installing Officer and Worshipful Brother Howard Kahn performed the Installing Marshal duties.

What's in the Future

The next meeting of WCL 760 will be 11:00 AM, February 11, 2006 in the Greensboro Masonic Temple. Gate City 694 will prepare lunch for the meeting. If you plan to attend please let our J.W., Frank Spears know so that

we will have an idea of how many we will have for lunch. The menu for lunch will consist of Chicken Tetrazzini, Corn Soufflé and Pie for dessert.

The education program for the days

meeting will be presented by W.M. Ron Sortino and the subject will be Masonic Symbols of Washington D.C. This is a DVD by Akram Elias who is in the Grand Line in Washington.

From the Web

By: Linda Sheppard, Web Mistress

YOUR web site – www.wcl760.com is alive and doing well! If you haven't visited it lately, take the time to take a peek and see what is happening.

You will find an itinerary for upcoming meetings, which includes a map for each meeting location. Let the brethren of your home Lodges know about these meetings and the great educational programs that are being presented. After all, the purpose of Wilkerson College Lodge is EDUCATION FOR ALL MASONS, and the ladies are welcome to attend the education sessions.

We have links for a number of other Blue Lodges on our links page. If your home lodge has a web site and would like to be included in our links, you can let us know by

emailing the information to webmaster@wcl760.com and we will be sure to include it.

We have included some other "fun" information for your pleasure; Masonic anniversaries of our members, members birthdays, inspirational items and some recipes. If you have something that you think would be enjoyed by your fellow Brethren, please send it to the web mistress.

You will be able to access the Traveler through the web site as well. We will include this first issue as well as all future issues.

If you have any comments or suggestions for your website, please direct them to your web mistress.

Wilkerson College Announces 2006 Schedule and Transformation

By: Morty Jayson, PM

The Wilkerson College Board of Regents met Friday, January 27, 2007 at a called meeting. The purpose was to convene the newly expanded Board and continue the transformation and restructuring of the College. Joining Ill. Sir William B. Brunk, Ill. Sir H. Lloyd Wilkerson, Worshipful Lew Ledford, Most Worshipful Tom Gregory, PGM and Most Worshipful Bill Simpson, PGM on the Board are: Most Worshipful Bill Mathis, PGM, Most Worshipful Leonard Safrit, PGM, C. Ray Hall, PDDGM and Benton W. Oakes, Jr., PDDGM. Appointed as Officers of the College are Worshipful Billy Dill, Assistant Dean, Worshipful Ron Sortino, PM as Dean of Academics, Worshipful Larry Thompson, PM as Treasurer and Dean of Facilities and Logistics and Morty Jayson, PM as Secretary and Administrative Officer. The Officers will report to Dan Weatherington, Dean, who in turn reports to Dr. Brunk who was elected Chancellor of the College and President of the Board.

The intent behind the reorganization is to identify the various responsibilities of the College as well as the person or position to whom is accountable for actions.

Wilkerson College, North Carolina's College of Freemasonry, is sponsored jointly by The Scottish Rite Orient of North Carolina and the Grand Lodge of AF&AM of North Carolina. Its mission is a clear and simple one: to provide Freemasonry with the best trained Masonic leaders possible. Through classroom lectures, projects and homework assignments, the participants receive extensive training in effective lodge leadership and management, including Masonic history, fundraising techniques, mentoring, public speaking, Masonic education, meeting organization, finances, in-depth discussions on the Code as well as opening up and improving communications between the Master and the Lodge Secretary.

The 2006 schedule includes the first session, which is being held at the Masonic Home for Children in Oxford. The class will begin on Friday, March 3rd at Camp Oak Hill, located just outside of Oxford. On Saturday the class will meet at MHCO where they will begin their formal classes.

The second session will be held in Raleigh on Friday, March 31 and Saturday, April 1st. As in the past, Friday night activities will include dinner at the Grand Lodge, as well as a historical review of Freemasonry in North Carolina.

The third and final session for 2006 will take place at the Masonic and Eastern Star Home in Greensboro May 5th – 7th.

For additional information or applications for attendance please contact Morty Jayson at (919) 345-7439 or via e-mail at morty@mjayson.com. Snail mail: P.O. Box 1444, Cary, NC 27512. Applications are accepted up to the week of the first session, space permitting.

News from MESH

By: Lloyd Wilkerson, PM

The Masonic and Eastern Star Home is affectionately known as MESH.

There has been a “paradigm” shift in our Masonic Home. At its inception in 1910, and since the first residents arrived in 1913, MESH has been dedicated to charity.

John A. Rose, PM of Stokesdale Lodge 428, our Administrator, says that, *“Poverty and the Health are the great equalizers. The shift at MESH has been in defining the term, ‘need’.* “

“Need” has evolved from simply the need for money to other issues. In fact, the definition includes the absence of resources to satisfactorily

address other issues such as dignity, pride and independence, loss of physical and/or mental health, exhaustion of financial resources, suitable or affordable housing near needed services, physical, emotional or financial security and lack of family support.

In evaluating need, consideration is given to issues such as availability or willingness of supportive family members, ability to care for oneself, financial resources, emotional needs, and, beyond money, whether one needs the care, social environment, and assistance of the Home.

Residents have always "*paid their way*". Some, however, live longer than their assets can fully support. Today, rather than having to "assign" assets and income to MESH, a resident may pay their way as long as they can. At the point they can no longer afford to do so, MESH will step up to the plate with subsidy to the extent the Home has been supported.

Economy of scale allows those able to pay their way to actually help MESH with its charitable relief

burden. This business plan has allowed the construction of a \$6.5 million Care Center and a \$7.0 million Independent Living Village without additional burden to our members.

MESH continues to need help from its members. In the long run, the extent of our charity is determined by our members. Given the current economic constraints, MESH is temporarily unable to admit those who require subsidized services.

In fiscal year 2005, North Carolina Masons supported MESH with \$401,772. A charity shortfall, combined with the effects of war and economy, has resulted in a cost of \$850,284 for relief of residents who are sponsored by Masonic Lodges. This is a variance of \$448,512 or \$10 per member.

The average gift per Mason is \$8.92. Semper Fidelis Lodge [My Home Lodge] contributed \$5,305 for a per member average of just under \$25.00. Our Lodge contributed 59% of the \$9,019 for District 4, of which we are a part.

News from the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford

By: Brother Chris Richardson, M

MHCO receives another accreditation

Further illustrating the high quality of care given by The Masonic Home for Children at Oxford to its residents, on January 19, 2006 the Home learned that it had received EAGLE accreditation. For the second time in five months The Masonic Home for Children at Oxford was recognized for its excellence of operation and its adherence to standards of continuous quality improvement, best practices, and the strength of its mission to assist children and their

families. **Educational Assessment Guidelines Leading toward Excellence**, or as it is more commonly known, EAGLE is an accreditation program of the United Methodist Association of Health and Welfare Ministries that is being shared with other religious, faith-based and social welfare organizations and is recognized as the only spiritually centered accrediting body that acknowledges organizations that exemplify excellence in their faith-based relationship and Christian mission. After a rigorous review of operations and the Home's policies and procedures and following a two-day site visit, EAGLE Vice President of Programs and Services Teresa Trost informed the Home that it would be receiving its official recognition nationally in March of 2006 in St. Louis, Missouri at the Associations National Convention. In 2005, The Home received accreditation from the Council on Accreditation, a nationally recognized accreditation organization which distinguishes children's homes and other organizations for their exemplary work in helping their children and their families. Find out more about both organizations at www.umassociation.org/Programs_Events/EAGLE_/eagle or for COA at www.coanet.org.

Calendar Campaign continues, goal not yet reached

The Masonic Home for Children's annual calendar campaign was mailed in late October, as it has been for the past several years. This year, as in years past, the campaign began quickly with over 1,000 responses in the first two weeks. The fundraiser, which sends a calendar to each member of the Masonic Fraternity in North Carolina, generates much needed money for the operation of the Home. As of January 1, 2006, the campaign was just over \$60,000 in total funds received, well short of the \$120,000 goal. The campaign continues throughout the year and annually receives donations averaging \$25 per calendar donor from over 1,800 members of the Masonic Fraternity.

Orphans Lodge receives Charter

On December 17, 2005, The Masonic Home for Children at Oxford played host to a very special and historical ceremony as the members of Orphans Lodge No. 761 received their charter as an official Masonic Lodge of The Grand Lodge of North Carolina. Over seventy Orphans Lodge Charter Members, fellow Masons, and family members packed the Cobb Center Museum and Archives Building for the ceremony. Just a few hundred yards from the Cobb Center, renovations have begun on Shipman Cottage which will be the permanent home of Orphans Lodge. The former residence home is slated for completion as a Lodge Temple in the fall of 2006 and will hold a Lodge room, a fellowship hall and kitchen, and a separate parking area and handicap entrance. In 2006 Orphans Lodge will conduct stated communications on April 8, June 24, October 14, and December 16. All Master Masons are invited to attend these meetings that will be held on the campus of The Masonic Home for Children and those brothers interested are encouraged to submit an application for affiliation to become a part of this very special Lodge dedicated to heightening the awareness and meeting the needs of the children at our Home in Oxford.

Planned Giving to Highlight Needs for Home in 2006

The importance of planned gifts and the financial security it can provide will be promoted to supporters of the Home in 2006. Planned gifts have accounted for over 40% of the total dollars given to the Home in years past and generate substantial sums of money for the Homes investment fund, capital campaigns, or during times of financial need. Supporters of the Home are encouraged to talk to their financial planner, accountant or legal advisor to see the advantages of planned gifts for themselves and their families and how they can include the Home and its children in their planned giving. Wills, trusts, annuities, and gifts of property or stock will ensure the success and survival of the Home, tomorrow and in the years ahead. Planned Givers also become members of the Home's Planned Giving Societies, The Hayes and Neal Societies, and will have permanent recognition for their gift on campus as society members. Look for mailings and articles throughout the year placing a special emphasis on including MHCO in your planned giving.

Did You Know?

The **Masonic Medical Research Laboratory** (MMRL), a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit corporation sponsored by Freemasonry, has made the study of cardiac arrhythmias, ischemic heart disease, and sudden cardiac arrest its primary focus. You may not be aware that cardiac arrhythmias or irregular heartbeats claim more lives than any other mechanism of heart disease or that MMRL scientists are credited with either discovering or unraveling the mechanism of the majority of known cardiac arrhythmias. As a result of our scientific achievements, the practice of medicine has been revolutionized and mortality from heart disease has been greatly reduced. The MMRL's scientific record has earned it international prominence as one of the leading research centers in the fight against heart disease in the world.

To make a tax-deductible donation to the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory's *Campaign for Discovery* call our donation hotline at 1-888-888-6675 or go to www.mmrl.edu click on support and make a donation using your credit card (MasterCard and Visa only) at our secure website.

You can learn about other avenues for donations by contacting the Development Office at 1-888-888-6675.

When someone asks you how Freemasonry can make a difference in today's world, please think of medical research and the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory!

The above paragraph was taken from *The Short Talk Bulletin*, a monthly publication by The Masonic Service Association of America.



In Memory...

Richard Burton Clingman

Brother *Richard Burton Clingman*
passed away November 30, 2005.
Brother Clingman was born August
2, 1942. He was raised to the

Sublime Degree of Master Mason
April 17, 1995. Richard's home
lodge was Guilford 656 in
Greensboro.

Sunshine Report

Please keep the following Brethren and the members of their families in your prayers:

Karen Jason, wife of Morty Jayson, PM.
The family of Brother Richard Burton Clingman