

# North Carolina

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## July Edition

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Sir Knights:

Out-of-state visits have begun. I have been to joint meetings (Chapter, Council, and Commandery) in Panama City Florida and Macon Georgia. The Grand Commanderies in Virginia and Maryland meet separately from the Grand Chapter and Grand Council. They even meet in different cities on different dates. I personally like our way of meeting better.

The hospitality and courtesies afforded Maggie and me in all the states were very special to us and very much appreciated. It is always a pleasure to be with our Southeastern Department Commander, Sir Knight D. Samuel Tennyson. In Florida, Virginia, and Maryland, I was called on to speak. I took great pride in bringing greetings from all the Sir Knights in North Carolina.

I had the distinction of being the only Grand Commander from the Southeastern Department in the Maryland meeting. Next year, Virginia will be part of the Northeastern Department. When this is done, there will be two Northeastern Department Commanders appointed.

We were privileged to have the Most Eminent Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, Sir Knight William Jackson Jones with us in Roanoke Virginia. We were equally privileged to have the Right Eminent Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, Sir Knight Kenneth Fisher with us in Aberdeen Maryland. Sir Knight Fisher will, without a doubt, become the Most Eminent Grand Master at the Triennial to be held in St. Louis Missouri in August of this year.

Sir Knight Fisher told us, if elected, the Easter service at the George Washington National Masonic Memorial will return to being an Easter sunrise service, instead of a mid-morning service. Those in attendance were very happy to hear this.

As I write this, I am looking forward to the Southeastern York Rite Conference to be held in Myrtle Beach South Carolina. By the time you read this, it will be history, but I will give you a report about it later.

District and local meetings are continuing. Please attend any of the meetings you can when we are in your area. All of us need to remember what we were taught in our first degree. Masonry is not to interfere, but when you can, please support your Blue Lodge and other Masonic bodies and make something positive happen.

**Exercise daily – walk with the Lord.**

PLANNED JULY ACTIVITIES

<u>DATE</u>	<u>MEETING</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
July 7	Blue Lodge meeting	Madison
July 8	Easter Star meeting	Stokesdale
July 13-15	Summer Assembly	Maggie Valley
July 13	Grand Commandery family breakfast	Lake Junaluska
July 20	DeMolay Legion of Honor	Greensboro
July 21	Blue Lodge meeting	Madison
July 22	Eastern Star meeting	Stokesdale
July 31	Allied Masonic Degrees	Greensboro

Sincerely and fraternally,

*M. Gene Lewellyn*  
R. E. Grand Commander

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This Ode was submitted by Sir Knight Charles Cathey. The first three verses will be familiar to most Knight Templar's but last two verses are rarely seen.

**Ode to a Skeleton**

BEHOLD THIS RUIN! Twas a skull  
Once of ethereal spirit full.  
This narrow cell was Life's retreat,  
This space was Thought's mysterious seat.  
What beauteous visions filled this spot!  
What dreams of pleasure long forgot!  
Nor hope, nor joy, nor love, nor fear,  
Have left one trace of record here.

Beneath this mouldering canopy  
Once shone the bright and busy eye,  
But start not at the dismal void,  
If social love that eye employed,  
If with no lawless fire it gleamed,  
But through the dews of kindness beamed,  
That eye shall be forever bright  
When stars and sun are sunk in night.

Within this hollow cavern hung  
The ready, swift, and tuneful tongue;  
If Falsehood's honey it disdained  
And when it could not praise was chained;  
If bold in Virtue's cause it spoke,  
Yet gentle concord never broke,

This silent tongue shall plead for thee  
When Time unveils Eternity!  
  
Say, did these fingers delve the mine?  
Or with the envied rubies shine?  
To hew the rock or wear a gem  
Can little now avail to them.  
But if the page of Truth they sought,  
Or comfort to the mourner brought,  
These hands a richer meed shall claim  
Than all that wait on Wealth and Fame.

Avails it whether bare or shod  
These feet the paths of duty trod?  
If from the bowers of Ease they fled,  
To seek Affliction's humble shed;  
If Grandeur's guilty bribe they spurned,  
And home to Virtue's cot returned,  
These feet with angel wings shall vie,  
And tread the palace of the sky!

**Author Unknown**