



WILKERSON COLLEGE LODDGE NO. 760

March / April, 2006

Issue No. 2

Grand Master Presents Award

Most Worshipful Brother Gene T. Jernigan, Grand Master, presented a fifty-year service award and pin to Brother James O'Neal.

Wilkerson College Lodge #760 was called from labor to refreshment and Most Worshipful Brother Jernigan, Brother O'Neal and his lady entered the lodge room. MWB

H. Lloyd Wilkerson conducted Brother O'Neal to the Altar where MWB Jernigan performed the ceremony.

Lunch and a small reception followed in the dining room.

Congratulations Brother O'Neal upon reaching such a great milestone in your Masonic life.

Last Meeting

Our February stated communication was held at the Greensboro Masonic Temple.

WB Doug Wright, Treasurer, presented the operating budget for the year 2006. After the usual discussion, a motion was made, seconded and voted on to accept the budget.

Ballots were spread and two new brothers became members of Wilkerson College Lodge #760.

WB Kevin Wood, DDGL 23rd Masonic District and WB Shaun Bradshaw, DDGM 23rd Masonic District made their official visit for 2006.

WB Wood challenged the lodge to come up with a program to present to the blue lodges across the state promoting Wilkerson College for Deacons.

WB Bradshaw brought greetings from MWB Gene T. Jernigan, Grand Master of Masons in North Carolina. WB Bradshaw shared the following concerns from the Grand Master:

- The lodges should share information with each other.
- We should teach by example and put Masonry in a positive light by our actions.
- MWB Jernigan is concerned about the number of our members that are lost to NPD each year. He requested that the lodges make a

concerted effort to contact these brothers and lower the number being lost.

A motion was made, seconded and voted on to continue our sponsorship of the 23rd Masonic District's Arthur L. Johnson Memorial Golf Tournament again this year. WM Sortino appointed WB Shaun Bradshaw as WCL 760's team captain. GOOD LUCK SHAUN!

WM Sortino called the Lodge from Labor to refreshment. Guests were admitted and MWB Gene T. Jernigan presented Brother James O'Neal with a 50-Year Award.

After the presentation, the brethren and guests enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by the Steward of Gate City Lodge. After the meal MWB Jernigan and Brother O'Neal served a cake honoring Brother O'Neal's 50 Years of Masonry.

The brethren and guest were treated to a very interesting and informative education program on the Masonic connections to the architecture of Washington, DC.

Welcome New Brethren

We would like to take this opportunity to extend a hearty welcome to two new Brothers to our Lodge.

The ballot was spread and Brother Jonathan Shannon Johnson was elected for affiliation.

Brother Johnson is a member of Palmyra Lodge #147 in Dunn.

A second ballot was spread and Brother Russell Elton Jones was elected for affiliation.

Brother Jones is a member of Lafayette Lodge #83 in Jacksonville.

Welcome to Wilkerson College Lodge Brethren.

What's in the Future

Wilkerson College Lodge No. 760 will visit **Crown Point Lodge No. 708** in Greenville NC for the April 8, 2006 meeting. The meeting will begin at 11:00 AM. You can obtain a map to the Lodge by going to www.wcl760.com and clicking on the "Itinerary" button.

If you are planning to attend and having lunch, please let WB Frank Spears know. You may contact him at spears@technicalsolutions.com.

WB Dr. Michael Brantley, Grand Historian for The Grand Lodge of AF & AM of North Carolina will provide the educational program.

From the DDGL

By: Kevin Wood, DDGL 23rd Masonic District

At our district area meeting, the DDGLs met with M. W. Gene Jernigan, GM, W. Bro. Robert Street, GL and members of the board of custodians. There was no strict agenda for presentation, but we discussed several trouble spots

as well as successes over the past year. During our official visits to each lodge, we covered several areas of interest for which each DDGL is responsible.

During the last examination period, we had several new certified

lecturers/instructors who certified for the first time. Some did not re-certify, some asked for extensions, but our overall numbers are increasing again. Please continue to encourage members who have the skill and desire to become certified to do so. Also remember those current certified lecturers with ≥ 25 years of service who, for health/memory reasons are unable to re-certify. These individuals are eligible for a CL Emeritus, and enable them to retain their well-deserved CL status. Those with 15 years of service should receive a CL Laudimus certificate for their service.

We have witnessed an increase in the number of candidates needing extensions after six months. It is the candidate's responsibility to ask for the extension, so make sure they are aware of this responsibility. Coaches should monitor the candidate's progress and keep an eye on the timeline. After the initial six months expires, the candidate is prohibited from attending any lodge communication and coaching

activities must cease until an extension is granted. Coaches need to remember that use of the OSW is strictly prohibited in the presence of a candidate at any time.

The 23rd District School of Instruction will be held Saturday, April 29, 2006 at the Greensboro Temple from 10:00 am to 3:00 PM. P. P. Turner Lodge No. 746 will be the host lodge. Remember that each lodge must have 3 officers and 2 members present.

A District Workshop will be held Wednesday evening, March 29, 2006 at the High Point Temple at 7:00 PM. I would like to emphasize the floorwork and cover any area of interest for those participating. This workshop will be of particular interest to deacons and stewards as well as any newly raised masons. I encourage all lodge members to attend.

For Masonic Education, each lodge must have 5 programs during the year. Study of the upcoming amendments to the code is **not accepted** for ME purposes: this is regular lodge business and should be considered as such.

From the Web

By: Linda Sheppard, Web Mistress

www.wcl760.com

Yes.....that is the address for **YOUR** web site. Take a short trip and visit. Sign the guest book, or just view each page and enjoy your time. Perhaps you may learn a little something you didn't know, or think of something you would like to have included.

The Itinerary page has now been updated to include all meeting locations for this year, along with links for a map for each location. There is always an interesting educational segment at each meeting. Join us as often as you can for the fellowship.

We have added a button on the main page called "In Remembrance". This will take you to a page designed to honor brethren who have passed before you and are now resting in eternal peace with the Great Architect.

There are now more recent photographs of your 2006 officers, thanks to Brother Benton Oakes and his faithful camera.

If you have anything you feel would be of interest please let us know by sending an email to webmaster@wcl760.com We welcome all comments from you and look forward to seeing your name in the guest book.

Wilkerson College Announces 2006 Schedule and Transformation

By: "Dean" Dan Weatherington; PDDGM

In a few days another session of Wilkerson College begins. So what?

Isn't it just another Masonic meeting? Isn't it just like all the rest with the same people and the same words? Isn't it just as boring? Doesn't it accomplish just as little? Absolutely Not!

Try to remember your last lodge meeting. Were all your members there or was there just a few? Where were the rest? Why weren't they there?

This is why Wilkerson College isn't just another Masonic meeting. The underlying purpose of the college is to learn about Masonry and how to conduct an interesting meeting. . . a meeting the members gain from and want to attend.

The college begins with a form of "shock therapy". One of the first sessions begins with the true history of Masonry, one that most Masons have never heard. Masonry didn't come from King Solomon or twelve fellowcrafts. It came from

somewhere entirely different. Wilkerson College students learn about the origins of Masonry and, more importantly, its purpose.

Wilkerson College students learn why the fraternity exists. They learn what to expect from the fraternity and what they are expected to contribute. Masonry is more than a meal and repeating the same words over and over. Masonry has a purpose for every member and the Wilkerson College student learns this purpose.

The student who returns to his lodge and eventually becomes Master has an obligation. If he becomes a Master who does no more than repeat an agenda from the back of a Bhanson's Manual he has failed. . . failed miserably. He knows how to create an interesting meeting that every member will benefit from. He knows how to help his lodge members be the best they can be. We can only hope he uses this knowledge.

A Brief History of the Arthur L. Johnson Memorial Golf Tournament

By: Ray Hall; PDDGM

WB Arthur L. Johnson was a "Rock Solid Mason" and member of Gate City Lodge # 694 in Greensboro. WB Johnson had a great love for the children at MHCO and he also loved to play golf. Shortly after WB Johnson's death in 2001 WB Bill Ray approached me with an idea. He felt the 23rd District should undertake a golf tournament in memory of WB Johnson that would benefit MHCO. I carried the idea to the lodges of the district where it was enthusiastically received. It was decided that the profits would go to establish the Arthur L. Johnson Memorial Scholarship Fund. Each year one or more deserving graduates of MHCO would receive a scholarship to further their education.

The lodges threw themselves into this project and in September 2002 the first tournament was held. The day dawned dark and rainy. It continued to rain through the morning and as the 1:00 PM start time neared it appeared the tournament was doomed. At about 12:15 the Supreme Architect smiled on our endeavors, the clouds broke and sunshine prevailed for the remainder of the day. I had hoped that we could raise \$500.00 to \$1,000.00 the first year. When everything was added up and all bills paid we had a profit of \$7,000.00. The second tournament raised \$8,000.00 the third and fourth each raised \$10,000.00. In the four-year history we have placed \$35,000.00 in the scholarship fund. This is beyond my wildest dreams. The tournament continues to grow each year. We have been fortunate to have hard workers and dedicated lodges who give of their time, efforts and money to help this cause.

The fifth annual AJM Tournament will be held Saturday May 20, 2006 at Holly Ridge Golf Links on Hwy. 311 S in Archdale. The cost to play is \$50.00 per person or \$200.00 per team. The format is Captain's Choice. The entry fee includes greens fee, cart, snacks on the course and a cookout after the round and door prizes. Sponsorships are available from \$100.00 to \$3,000.00. Anyone wishing entry forms, sponsorship forms and additional information can contact me at (336-292-4633) or by e-mail secy76@yahoo.com.

Special thanks go to the many Brothers, their families and Wilkerson College Lodge #760 for their hard work and continued support of this most worthwhile project.

It is with much regret that we report the loss of one of the founders of the ALJ Memorial Golf Tournament. WB William (Bill) Ray, 33rd Degree Scottish Rite Mason and Past Master of Gate City Lodge No. 694, moved on to play golf with the Great Architect on Tuesday, March 7, 2006. WB Bill will be greatly missed.

"The Chaps Corner"

By: Ed "Bless Your Heart" Lawing; PDDGM

There is a Volume of Sacred Law known by all Freemasons. Wherever a Lodge in the Jurisdiction of North Carolina, or a Lodge in a Jurisdiction recognized by us, meets at a given time, there is a hallowed book displayed upon its altar.

Upon the open pages of Holy Writ you obligated yourself to walk, as all Masons should walk, in the light of its eternal truths. It is fitting

that the craft refer to it as the "Great Light". By it we are taught to put our trust in God, and our trust (faith) being well-founded, to fear no danger as we pursue our journey toward the East.

The year is in order and we impress upon you look to the "Great Light" to find peace and comfort and hope and light and understanding within its blessed pages!!

Bless Your Heart
Chap Ed

News from MESH

By: Lloyd Wilkerson, PM, PSGIG



H. Lloyd Wilkerson, Grand Master Gene T. Jernigan, James O'Neal, Anne O'Neal, Stephen K. Smith, Master of Semper Fidelis Lodge, and Past Grand Master William H. Simpson (Photo by Brother Ben Oakes)

Greensboro, NC – February 11, 2006. At a regular meeting of Wilkerson College Lodge No. 760 the Grand Master of Masons in North Carolina presented the 50-Year Veteran's Award to Brother James O'Neal, a member of Semper Fidelis Lodge No. 680, Jacksonville, NC

Brother O'Neal, a "plank-owner", was a member of the Marine Detachment aboard the USS Wasp, CV-7, when she was commissioned. He was serving aboard the Wasp when Sir Winston Churchill requested President Roosevelt to send her to deliver British Spitfires to Malta during the battle for the Allies to control the Mediterranean Sea. The Wasp unloaded her own planes, and in April and May, 1942 made two trips through the Straits of Gibraltar and deep into the Med. to launch loads of Spitfires to reinforce the depleted British RAF struggling to defend Malta from the Axis forces. For this service King George VI awarded the George Cross Medal to Brother O'Neal. The George Cross was established by King George VI in 1940 to be awarded for bravery. It is second only to the Victoria Cross.

Wasp with O'Neal still on board sailed to the Pacific and was sunk on 15 September 1942 by Japanese Submarine No. 19 while protecting reinforcements sailing through the Solomon Islands to Guadalcanal. Brother

O'Neal, a swim away, was rescued from the sinking Wasp as it burned at sea. He was rescued by the destroyer USS Landsdown. He later participated in the battle of Iwo Jima as a member of the 28th Marine Regiment. This regiment assaulted Mt. Surabachi and some of its members participated in the famous flag raising on it. He also served in combat in the Korean War and in the Vietnam War.

Brother O'Neal served a 30-year career in the U. S. Marine Corps and retired in the coveted rank of Master Gunnery Sergeant. After retirement from the Corps and earning a degree from San Diego Mesa College, he became a successful real estate broker and Vice President of Clark Harrison & Company, Inc., Brunswick, Georgia.

North Carolina Masons are proud of resident Brother James O'Neal who fully supported his wife Anne as Legacy of Fidelity, Dynasty Grand Family, Georgia, Order of the Eastern Star, 2002-2003. His fraternal service includes: Charter Member Order of the Amaranth, Port City Court No. 19; more than 25 years in the Order of the Eastern Star, Neptune Chapter No. 153, and Honorary Member Marshes of Glynn Chapter No. 243; and a Charter Member of Atlantic Daylight Lodge No. 752 in Brunswick, Georgia.

Did You Know.....

Napoleon Bonaparte's four brothers, Jerome, Joseph, Louis and Lucien were all Masons but not Napoleon himself?

George M. Cohan, entertainer and author of the song "*Over There*" was a member of Pacific Lodge #223 in New York City?

The father of "*Sherlock Holmes*", Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was a member of Phoenix Lodge #257 in Portsmouth, England?

The inventor of the Gatling Gun, Richard J. Gatling was a Mason? He was a member of Center Lodge #23 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Louis Armstrong, the Jazz legend was a member of Montgomery Lodge #18 PHA in New York City?

That Cornelius Harnett, Governor of North Carolina and American Revolution patriot died in a British prison in Wilmington? At one time he was Deputy Provincial Grand Master under then Provincial Grand Master, Joseph Monfort. He was a member of St. John's Lodge #213 under English constitution and St. John's #1 in Wilmington under North Carolina constitution.

Actor and singer Al Jolson was a member of St. Cecile Lodge #568 in New York City?

King Kamehameha V, King of Hawaii, was the first Hawaiian to be made a Freemason? He was a member of Hawaiian Lodge #21.

American Naval architect, Simon Lake, who in 1897, built the Argonaut, the first submarine to operate successfully in the open sea, was a member of Ansantawae Lodge #89 in Milford, Connecticut?

James W. Marshall, who was the first to discover gold in California at Sutter's Mill in 1848 was a member of Sonora Chapter #2 Royal Arch Masons?

Now you do...

Sunshine Report

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

The family of WB Shaun Bradshaw, DDGM 23rd District for the loss of Shaun's grandmother, Lois Bradshaw who passed away March 28, 2006.

Officers and Committees

Master: **Ron D. Sortino, PM**
Sr. Warden: **Larry Thompson, PM**
Jr. Warden: **Frank E. Spears, PM**
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Tyler: **Benton Oakes, PDDGM**

Chaplain: **Ed "Bless Your Heart" Lawing, PDDGM**

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George "Dick" Pierce
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Kevin Walton, Chairman
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Newsletter and Website

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Randy Ogburn, M
J. Morty Jayson, PM
Linda W. Sheppard, Webmistress

Attendance and Telephone

Larry Thompson, PM, Chairman
Michael S. James, PM
Jim Medlin, PM

Visitation

Frank E. Spears, PM, Chairman
Mark Conner
Todd Sutton
Stephen K. Smith, PM

Historian

Richard J. Smith, Ed. D., PDDGM,
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Ron D. Sortino, PM
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James E. Vann, PDDGM

DeMolay

Stephen K. Smith, PM, Chairman
Mark Conner

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