Fall 2026

North Carolina Orient Wide

Newsletter

HEADLINE:

Brethern, login to your ScottishRite.org Membership Portal to recieve current information going on in the Great State of North Carolina.



ORIENT OF NORTH CAROLINA

Brotherhood for a Greater Tomorrow

For more news and updates, visit our website at ncscottishrite.org or pick up a copy of our latest edition.

Message from the

SOVEREIGN GRAND INSPECTOR GENERAL

The Final and First Chapter

On August 29, 2026, the Scottish Rite in North Carolina made history in our beloved state. Prince Hall Scottish Rite, and AF& AM Scottish Rite held its first ever joint unity reunion. The 2026 Joint Scottish Reunion conferred degrees 4, 14, 18, and 30. Prince Hall conferred degrees 4 and 18. AF&AM conferred degrees 14 and 30. Damien Jack from Prince Hall communicated degrees 15-17 and 19-27. Gene Cobb from AF&AM introduced the degrees and communicated degrees f-13 and 28-29. Thirty-four Prince Hall Knights alongside thirteen AFAM members made a total creation of forty-seven new Knights of Kadosh. Each of these will pursue degrees 31 and 32 in his respective Consistory as directed by Orient leadership.

This event had several beginnings. In January 2021, Grand Master Wicker and I met with Grand Master D. T. Thompson and Deputy James Upchurch in Fayetteville to begin discussing efforts to bring our two groups together in more visible and significant ways.

On September 7, 2022, all four Supreme Councils in the United States signed an agreement expressing solidarity and unity moving forward. This event paved the path for all other Orients to begin moving forward in more visible and significant ways. The signers of the document were James D. Cole 33°, Sovereign Grand Commander Supreme Council 33° Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite SJUSA; Corey D. Hawkins, Sr., 33° Sovereign Grand Commander USC 33° A & ASR of Freemasonry PHA SJ, USA; Peter J. Samiec, 33°, Sovereign Grand Commander Supreme Council 33° Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite NMJ; and Dr. Melvin J. Bazemore, 33°, Sovereign Grand Commander USC 33° A & ASR of Freemasonry PHA NJ, USA.

Before the ink was dry, Deputies Cobb and Upchurch continued conversations that would express and shape a more perfect harmony and brotherhood among the Scottish



Ill. A. Gene Cobb, Jr., 33°, PGM
Sovereign Grand Inspector
General of North Carolina



Rite members of North Carolina. These conversations continued over three and a half years, working through challenges that were not fully anticipated that cold January day in 2021.

Finally, the breakthrough came and was officially announced by now Sovereign Grand Inspector General Cobb at the April 16, 2026, Council of Deliberation for the Prince Hall Affiliate Scottish Rite. The next day word had spread through the AF&AM world as well that the long-anticipated first ever Joint Reunion for Scottish Rite for PHA and AF&AM in North Carolina

It started over 28 years ago. It happened because Past Grand Masters and Masonic Leaders from both organizations worked for recognition. A steady progression of Grand Masters beginning with MW Gary Smith and Tom Gregory through the present day have supported the recognition of our brothers that was sealed through the “Mutual Compact” signed in a ceremony in the Old State Capitol Building November 21, 2008, on the very table North Carolina voted to exit the Union and join the Confederacy in 1861.

The Joint Scottish Rite reunion in 2026 will be a significant and visible action that we can think of as the final and first chapter of a past behind us and a future before us. We went to work with the Right/Rite heart!

Message from the

ORIENT HISTORIAN

The History of the Orient of North Carolina

A Forthcoming Publication

The History of the Orient of North Carolina, AASR, is currently in preparation. This forthcoming book will begin by exploring the earliest appearances of the Scottish Rite in North Carolina and the circumstances that led to the establishment of the first Scottish Rite bodies in the state. The book will then trace the growth and development of the Rite throughout the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, highlighting the significant events, influential leaders, and defining moments that have shaped the Scottish Rite experience in North Carolina. Numerous photographs and illustrations will help bring this rich history to life.

This work is intended not only to preserve our history but also to deepen our appreciation of the generations of Scottish Rite Masons whose dedication and service have shaped the Orient of North Carolina. We invite brethren throughout the state to join us in rediscovering this remarkable heritage and the legacy we are entrusted to carry forward. A more detailed examination of the history of the individual Valleys is planned for a future publication.

Fraternally,

Ludwik
Ill. Ludwik Wodka, 33°
Historian, Orient of North Carolina

Message from the

VALLEY OF FAYETTEVILLE

A True Builder

Chartered just over three years ago, the Valley of Fayetteville continues building its collection of aprons, cordons, jewels, candles, and other items needed for degree performances.

Several members have made significant contributions. Ken Wical, Wise Master of the Marquis de Lafayette Chapter Rose Croix, procured aprons for every degree Fayetteville is chartered to exemplify. Joe Wofford built columns used in multiple degrees.

For its Sept. 19 fall reunion, Fayetteville added the combination 9th/10th Degree, which includes scenes set in a cavern and stone quarry. Peter Hedges, a member of the Valley of New Bern, volunteered to help after overhearing a discussion following one of Fayetteville's meetings.

Drawing on a theatre background dating to middle school in California, Hedges initially planned to build a couple of rocks that could double as seats. He then expanded the project, transforming his Lee County home into a workshop where he constructed the cavern and quarry sets.

"With the Scottish Rite degrees being primarily theatrical, I wanted to be able to do something, especially for a Valley that is starting a degree from scratch," Hedges said. "It was an opportunity to create a set that visually triggers, in the mind of the candidates, exactly what they're looking at."

A U.S. Army veteran who served mostly at Fort Bragg, Hedges settled in the Sandhills after leaving the military. He lives in Broadway, belongs to Friendship Lodge 763, became a Scottish Rite Mason in March 2024, and is a member of New Bern's Knights of St. Andrew.



Peter Hedges' neighbors surely had to scratch their heads wondering what kind of project he had tackled with his 9/10 Degree props.

Designed for relatively quick setup and transport, the sets can generally be moved by one person, though some require assistance.

Unfortunately, Hedges missed their debut because Friendship Lodge had a degree to confer that same day.

"I'm looking forward to seeing pictures."

News Article by:
Ill. Thomas Pope, 33°, Personal Representative — Valley of Fayetteville

North Carolina Scottish Rite

Valley of Fayetteville

Meeting

3rd Wednesday Night

Dinner 6:30 RSVP

Meeting 7:30pm

Our meetings are held at

2860 Village Drive
Fayetteville NC 28304

www.scottishritefayettevillenc.com

secretary@scottishritefayettevillenc.com

(910) 574-1005

Personal Representative
Ill. Thomas Pope, 33°

General Secretary
James Pugsley, 32° KCCH

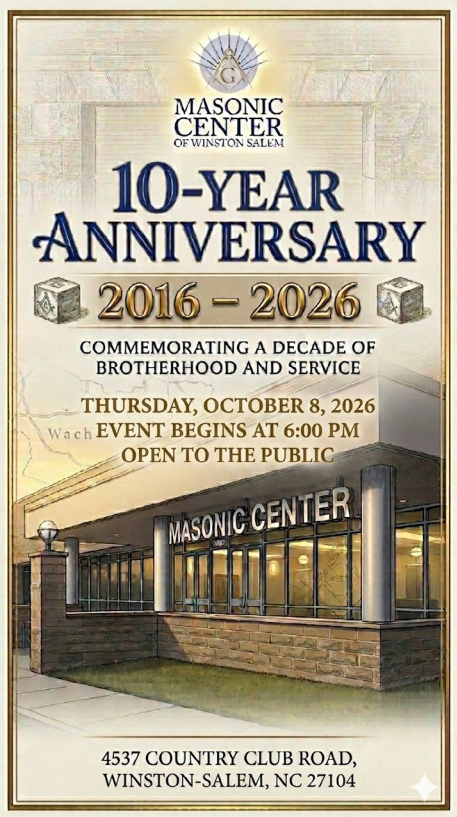
Director of the Work
Chris Donahue, 32°

Membership Chairman
Ian Harbison, 32°

Message from the

VALLEY OF WINSTON-SALEM

10-Year Anniversary Celebration of the Masonic Center of Winston-Salem



Winston-Salem Scottish Rite September Meeting in Boone

The Winston-Salem & Asheville Valleys held a joint meeting in the high country in Boone, NC on September 10, 2026. We had guests from the Greensboro Valley, and from across the Orient of North Carolina. The afternoon started with a tour of the Charles and Geneva Scott Clinic at Appalachian State University.

We then traveled to Snow Lodge No. 363, where we enjoyed a tremendous and delicious southern-cooked feast by Brother Bill Carter and his wife. After the meal, we moved to the Blue Lodge room where representatives from ASU gave a compelling presentation on Camp Jean Rankin. After the presentation, the Stated Meeting commenced, with a great evening of fellowship.

Over $10,000 Raised for the NC Scottish Rite Masonic Foundation

Congratulations to Brother Mick Gunter for raising over $10,000 for the NC Scottish Rite Masonic Foundation with this year's Winston-Salem Scottish Rite Masonic Charity Golf Tournament. Well-done brother!

Scottish Rite Caps Presentation

Congratulations to Brothers Randy Laster and Luke Vance who recently were presented with their Scottish Rite caps and 14th Degree rings.

O.E.S. Grand Organist

Congratulations to Illustrious Brother Roy West, 33° who was recently appointed Grand Organist of the North Carolina Order of the Eastern Star Grand Line.

News Article by:
Christopher Pearman, 33°

North Carolina Scottish Rite

Valley of Winston-Salem

Meeting

2nd Thursday Night

Dinner 6:00 RSVP

Meeting 7:00pm

Our meetings are held at

4537 Country Club Road
Winston-Salem NC 27104

www.winstonsalemscottishrite.org

secretary@winstonsalemscottishrite.org

(336) 723-1217

Personal Representative
Ill. Kirby Matthews, 33°

General Secretary
Ill. Michael Fischer, 33°

Director of the Work
Ill. Todd Hildebran, 33°

Membership Chairman
Andy Thomas, 32° KCCH

Message from the

NCSCOTTISHRITE.ORG > NEWS & EVENTS



SCOTTISH RITE

SOUTHERN JURISDICTION

ORIENT OF NORTH CAROLINA

Better Men Today... Stronger Communities Tomorrow.

A MESSAGE FROM THE SGIG

Opportunities, Experiences, *and Innovations*



OUR REUNIONS BRING US TOGETHER

- DEGREES
- FELLOWSHIP
- LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
- COMMUNITY SERVICE
- RITECARE SRCLP

More than a Masonic journey... a lifetime of opportunities.

The Scottish Rite has always been filled with opportunities and experiences to make us better. Our degrees have never professed to take a bad man and make him good. We are not the "Damascus Road" experience, but we are a "golden opportunity." If our members will read, review, recollect, resolve, and respond, then we will be better men tomorrow than we were yesterday.

Consider why we call our "degree work" a Reunion.

First, it is a time for candidates to be brought into the fold and explore the potential as to how they might become fellows. Some of you will understand my play on these words better than others which proves the point of this paragraph.

Second, reunions are opportunities for brothers to gather, see one another, confer, and communicate degrees, as well as receive new Perfect Elus, Knights of Rose Croix, Masters of Kadosh, and Masters of the Royal Secret. The fact we call these "opportunities, experiences, and gatherings" a "Reunion" means that for those who live, in some cases hours, away from the geographical location of their Valley, they get to return and re-unite with those who we do not have the privilege to work with on a regular basis.

> *"Opportunities don't just happen — you create them through fellowship, participation and a willingness to grow."*
>
> — ILL. A. GENE COBB, 33°
> *Sovereign Grand Inspector General of North Carolina*

Some years ago, there was a Valley that had no candidates. They wondered what to do about the Reunion since there were zero candidates. They decided to get together and do "degree read-throughs." It led to new degree teams being formed and easier transitions to the 2004 Revised Pike Ritual. It led to doing degrees over the course of several weeks and months. It led to positive changes that did not try to fix a Masonry that is not broken. It led to innovative ways to share the beautiful teachings of our degrees.

In the Orient of North Carolina, we are making innovative changes that will share the wisdom, strength, and beauty of a process designed to make good men better. You will be hearing about it in the form of the Tetragrammaton Society, Family Gatherings, Ladies' Auxiliary, Scottish Rite Clubs, the Future Orient Leadership Development program (FOLD), the Statutory Feasts, Joint Installations, the Grand Master/SGIG Annual Train Trip, Biennial Session 2027, and hopefully, if someone steps forward to lead it by December 1, an Orient-Wide Golf Tournament to support RiteCare SRCLP. We welcome Kenny Allen, 32°KCCH as Team Leader for the Orient RiteCare SRCLP. Reports will be resuming in November at each Valley meeting.

As we approach the holiday season, we celebrate the innovations that our opportunities and experiences provide. Who knows? There may also be another endeavor with Prince Hall and our Orient. I expect it next year. Stay tuned to **ncscottishrite.org** for more opportunities, experiences, and innovations.

Message from the

VALLEY OF WILMINGTON

Henry Lever Action Rifle Raffle

The Valley of Wilmington is holding a raffle for a .44 magnum Henry Lever Action Rifle.



The raffle will support our RiteCare Scottish Rite Childhood Language Program of North Carolina and the

DRAWING IS SET TO BE HELD ON THE AFTERNOON OF NOVEMBER 7TH DURING OUR FALL REUNION.

TICKETS ARE $100.00 EACH WITH 250 TICKETS BEING SOLD.

Tickets are available by emailing secretary@wilmingtonscottishrite.org and payment can be made over the phone or by check mailing to the Wilmington Scottish Rite at PO BOX 7253, Wilmington NC 28406.

Brother Mike Cole, 32° Exemplifies Brotherhood Outreach

If you are a member of the Valley of Wilmington, chances are you received a call from a 757-area code in the past couple of months. If you answered, you heard the voice of Brother James Michael "Mike" Cole, 32° on the other end. Brother Mike accepted the role of membership chairman this year after exemplifying his warm and friendly nature and sharing ideas about reaching out to our membership. Needing a membership team leader to help with reaching out to brethren, I asked him to do just that. And he did.

Brother Mike personally reached out to 605 of our Scottish Rite Masons and made 293 successful contacts. Brother Mike wanted to first make sure that contact information was correct and, more importantly, to inquire of the brother's welfare and if there was anything that we could do for them as brothers. Conversations were had regarding past masonic experiences, health status, and even discussing mutual acquaintances. Brother Mike informed me that this experience, while a large undertaking, was one of the most meaningful things that he has done as a Mason. And it was equally as meaningful to the brethren of our Valley to receive a call from a brother who deeply cares about them on a personal and fraternal level.

If you would like to hear more from Brother Mike and this endeavor, you can email him at jmcnc1@gmail.com.

New Article by:
Harry Steele, Jr., 33°, Personal Representative — Valley of Fayetteville
News Article by:
Matt Moore, 32° KCCH

READ MORE

North Carolina Scottish Rite

Valley of Wilmington

Meeting

2nd Thursday Night

Dinner 6:30 RSVP

Meeting 7:30pm

Our meetings are held at

1415 S 17th Street
Wilmington NC 28401

www.wilmingtonscottishrite.org

secretary@wilmingtonscottishrite.org

(910) 762-6452

Personal Representative
Ill. Earl Wells, 33°

General Secretary
Matt Moore, 32° KCCH

Director of the Work
Aaron B Jackson, 32° KCCH

Membership Chairman
J Mike Cole, 32°

Message from the

VALLEY OF NEW BERN

Missing Man Table



Missing Man Table ceremony honors missing or fallen service members with a symbolic table, each item representing aspects of their sacrifice and absence.

The table is small and round, symbolizing the vulnerability of a lone prisoner and the everlasting concern of those remembering them.

Tablecloth (White): Represents the purity of the service member's intentions in answering the call to duty.

Single Red Rose: Signifies the blood, shed in sacrifice and the love of family, friends, and the nation.

Red Ribbon on Vase: Symbolizes the determination to account for the missing.

Slice of Lemon: Reminds attendees of the bitter fate of those captured or missing.

Pinch of Salt: Represents the tears of families and loved ones awaiting answers.

Inverted Glass: Symbolizes the inability of the missing to share in the toast or meal.

Bible: Represents the strength gained through faith to sustain those lost.

Lit Candle and Yellow Ribbon: Symbolize hope for reunion and remembrance.

Empty Chair: Represents the absence of the missing service member.

"Lest we Forget"

News Article by:
Robert Mull, 32°

North Carolina Scottish Rite

Valley of New Bern

Meeting

2nd Thursday Night

Dinner 7:00 RSVP

Meeting 7:30pm

Our meetings are held at

2100-A Glenburnie Road
New Bern NC 28562

www.scottishritenewbern.org

secretary@scottishritenewbern.org

(252) 638-4031

Personal Representative
Ill. Asa Buck, 33°

General Secretary
Ill. Johnny Surles, 33°

Director of the Work
Arthur Romans, 32° KCCH

Membership Chairman
Joe Thomas, 32°

Message from the

VALLEY OF RALEIGH

Of BLUE Caps and our own Bro. Philbrick

At the historic joint Reunion of NC Scottish Rite and the NC Prince Hall SR, the PH Deputy asked our SGIG, Ill. Gene Cobb, to explain to the Class the significance of the various colors of our coronet caps. After describing the service meaning of the red, white, and purple caps, as well as the Glengarry cap worn by the Knights of Saint Andrew, he said that one particular cap was most important and deserved special attention: the BLUE cap.

The light blue color is worn by Brethren who have been SR members for 50 years and more. The SGIG pointed out that being an AASR member for 50 years, paying dues and being a diligent and dedicated Mason working in the quarries of the Craft, is one of the most important things that a Brother can do. It is a testament to the value and spirit of the Masonic principles we learn in the SR degrees. Being a great Mason does not mean one has to have accolades. These Brothers with the Blue cap living the tenets of the SR degrees, and doing so for 50 years, is paramount and worthy of respect and admiration.

In the Valley of Raleigh, the latest Blue cap recipient is Bro. C. Russell Philbrick. He was raised in 1972 in Frank W Thompson Lodge in Concord Massachusetts. Growing up, his DeMolay Chapter in Cary, NC was sponsored by Cary Lodge 198, which he came to affiliate with in 2012.



Photgraph from left to right: Ill. Don Butto, General Secretary and Dr. Russell Philbrick, PhD.

Prof. Philbrick is Professor Emeritus at NC State University and a prominent atmospheric physicist. He earned his BS, MS, and PhD degrees there in Physics. His military and civilian service career began as a research physicist for the U.S. Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratories in Massachusetts. He then served as a Professor of Electrical Engineering and Senior Scientist at the Applied Research Laboratory at Pennsylvania State University.

In 2009, he returned to NCSU, mentoring graduate students in Physics and in Atmospheric Sciences. Throughout his career, he led research on atmospheric dynamics, rocket and satellite instrumentation, lidar (light detection and ranging) remote sensing, and air pollution detection.

News Article by:
Elliot Chikofsky, 32°

North Carolina Scottish Rite

Valley of Raleigh

Meeting

2nd Thursday Night

Dinner 6:30 RSVP

Meeting 7:00pm

Our meetings are held at

11150 Durant Road
Raleigh NC 27614

www.raleighscottishrite.org

secretary@raleighscottishrite.org

(919) 795-8505

Personal Representative
Ill. David Wicker, 33°, PGM

General Secretary
Ill. Don Butto, 33°

Director of the Work
Ill. Will Chriscoe, 33°

Membership Chairman
Charles Talley, 32° KCCH

Message from the

VALLEY OF GREENSBORO

FALL 2026 REUNION HAS STARTED AND WILL CONCLUDE IN NOVEMBER

The Fall Reunion for the Greensboro Valley started on October 14 with the Feast of Tishri and the 4th Degree. Then continued on October 17. It will conclude on November 11 at the stated meeting with the conferral of the 32 degree.

GREENSBORO VALLEY KSA HAS BEEN ACTIVE

The KSA of the Valley of Greensboro has been active in the Valley having several stated meetings and enjoying a social gathering over the summer. Many of the Knights have been involved in leadership positions within the valley and have been very, very active with numerous parts in the reunions this year.



Photo Courtesy of Alex Wilson

News Article by:
Jason Hicks, 32°

North Carolina Scottish Rite

Valley of Greensboro

Meeting

2nd Wednesday Night

Dinner 6:30 RSVP

Meeting 7:30pm

Our meetings are held at

426 W Market Street
Greensboro NC 27401

www.greensboroscottishrite.org

greensborosr@gmail.com

(336) 275-3579

Personal Representative
Ill. Shaun Bradshaw, 33°, PGM

General Secretary
Ill. Gary Handy, 33°

Director of the Work
TBA

Membership Chairman
TBA

YOUR VALLEY HAS A STORY TO TELL — LET NORTH CAROLINA HEAR IT!

Share your news, experiences and activities in the North Carolina Scottish Rite Quarterly Newsletter.

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Mark your calendar and meet the deadlines!

ISSUE	PUBLICATION DATE	SUBMISSION DEADLINE
FEBRUARY	February 1	December 15
MAY	May 1	March 15
AUGUST	August 1	June 15
NOVEMBER	November 1	September 15

WHAT TO SUBMIT

- Valley & Club news
- Photos & captions
- Member achievements & milestones
- Charitable activities & community service
- Degree reunions, special events & Scottish Rite history

Your stories help keep our Brothers connected across North Carolina!

KEEP IT CONCISE!

250 WORD MAXIMUM per article

SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

- ☑ Articles and photos must be 250 words or less (text only).
- ☑ Include photo captions and identify the people pictured, where appropriate.
- ☑ Submit by the deadline for the intended issue.

SEND YOUR ARTICLES & PHOTOS TO:

Craig Horton, 33°

editor.ncsrjournal@gmail.com

Real Brothers. Real Stories. One Community.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

FROM THE ORIENT OF NORTH CAROLINA

As the year draws to a close, we pause to reflect
with gratitude on the friendships we have strengthened,
the service we have shared, and the bonds that unite us as Brothers.

From the warmth of Thanksgiving to the many meaningful
celebrations observed throughout this season, may these days bring
peace, joy, hope, and treasured moments with family, friends,
and loved ones.

May the spirit of generosity, compassion, and fellowship
continue to guide us in the year ahead.

With warmest wishes for a joyful holiday season
and a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year.

Ill. A. Gene Cobb, 33°, PGM
Sovereign Grand Inspector General *of North Carolina*
Orient of North Carolina
Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction

SCOTTISH RITE
SOUTHERN JURISDICTION
ORIENT OF NORTH CAROLINA

VOLUNTEER JOB BOARD

HELP NEEDED

Your time. Your skills. A bigger impact.

Our work depends on volunteers.
A few hours of your time can make a difference.

OPEN POSITIONS

SOCIAL MEDIA & CONTENT
Share our news, events and stories across platforms.

EVENT PROMOTION
Help spread the word about upcoming events and activities across North Carolina.

WEBSITE CONTENT WRITERS & NEWS GATHERERS
Help collect stories, photos, announcements and updates from Valleys and Clubs. Website maintenance is outsourced; volunteers ensure the site has timely, meaningful content.

MEMBER OUTREACH
Connect with and support our members and potential new Brothers.

NEWSLETTER & ARTICLE EDITING
Review and prepare articles for our publications.

GRAPHIC DESIGN
Create eye-catching graphics for print and digital media.

PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEO
Capture the moments that showcase our mission and impact.

PROJECT COORDINATION
Help organize and support special projects and campaigns.

No marketing experience? No problem. We'll help you get started.

INTERESTED? CONTACT:
Gene Cobb, 33°
sgig@ncscottishrite.org
919-671-4960

Many hands. One mission.

ORIENT OF NORTH CAROLINA • SCOTTISH RITE SOUTHERN JURISDICTION

2027 Honors

Once the quotas are announced for North Carolina, the SGIG will hear recommendations from all who wish to make them. His final nominations will be after conversation with each Personal Representative. Valleys are advised of all required deadlines that must be met for candidates to be considered from their Valley which include:

1) Valley of the Year Application by December 31, 2026 (See scottishrite.org)

2) Americanism Application by December 31, 2026 (see scottishrite.org)

3) Filed Fiduciary Report by January 31, 2027 (see SGIG)

4) Filed CPA Audit/Review for 2025 by December 31, 2026 or Filed Internal Audit for 2026 by January 30, 2027 signed off by Personal Representative

5) Filed 990 for 2025 and process begun or 2026



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North Carolina Scottish Rite

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Installation of Officers

December 9, 2026
Greensboro
December 10, 2026
Winston Salem
December 16, 2026
Franklin and Asheville @ Franklin
January 6, 2027
Charlotte
January 11, 2027
New Bern
January 14, 2027
Raleigh
January 20, 2027
Wilmington and Fayetteville @ Fayetteville

OWLS Winter Meeting

January 15, 2027
9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.
11101 Creedmoor Rd • Raleigh, NC 27614