

# THE SUPREME COUNCIL

(MOTHER COUNCIL OF THE WORLD)

ANCIENT & ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY, SOUTHERN JURISDICTION, USA

To: The Orient of North Carolina  
From: A. Gene Cobb, Jr., 33°SGIG  
RE: A Special Thank You and Sharing of Important Information  
Date: October 5, 2025

Brethren:

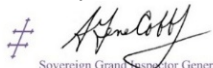
I am writing to express my sincere appreciation to all those who helped make our Orient Golf Tournament a huge financial success. Before I departed from New Bern, the net proceeds were higher than \$35,000.00, which is a result of the diligent and faithful work of all those who worked under the leadership of Thomas Van Etten and Rita Daniels. Both of them, being creative and innovative, and utilizing the resources and talents available to them, are to be greatly admired and appreciated by this Orient. I cannot begin to tell you how much time and energy these two and those who helped them put into this tournament. Whatever words are better than “thank you,” consider them our sincere thoughts for what has been done on behalf of our RiteCare programs.

Putting together an “Orient-Wide” event or program is challenging for four reasons. First, we are a vast geographical state — almost 600 miles from East to West, taking almost 10 hours to drive it legally. Second, the level of participation in planning and executing anything beyond a Valley-level event presents unique challenges and complications. Third, the development of innovative and creative approaches is often met with “we have never done it that way before thinking,” which can impede progress or redirect planning. Fourth, we experienced several unique challenges this year that were more “behind-the-scenes problems” that were not resolved until very late in the process. In response to these and other challenges, I have initiated five actions.

First, there are several “evaluations” underway in the Orient and individual Valleys related to fundraising activities. Second, beginning in 2026, I will appoint an Orient Fundraising Committee to review all fundraising applications and recommend approval or disapproval to the SGIG, based on our policies, procedures, compliance matters, forms, and the Statutes. Third, by sharing this information with each Valley and coordinating it with the Orient Strategic Plan, my goal is to help us follow the example just set for us by Thomas, Rita, and those who helped them in terms of creativity, innovation, and working smarter, not harder, in the future. Fourth, at the Honors Court meeting on November 22, 2025, I will announce who will assist me in overseeing the Orient Strategic Plan for the next two years. I have already secured a chairman. Please remember to submit all questions or concerns to me by noon on October 25, 2025. Fifth, I will review the plan forward with all Honor Men in our meeting on November 22, 2025, in Wilmington. The details and schedule have been sent to all Valleys.

As always, if anyone has questions or concerns, I am easily accessible and look forward to a conversation. Once again, join me in thanking our outstanding Golf Committee Leadership Team and all those who are stepping up or into new leadership roles, as well as increasing participation in the coming year, for the Orient of North Carolina!

Sincerely and fraternally,

  
Sovereign Grand Inspector General  
in North Carolina