

## Mt. Nebo Lodge #67 F. & A.M. PHA

2832 Georgia Ave. Nashville, TN 37209

p. 615.260.0128

e. mtnebo67sec@gmail.com

w. www.mtnebo67.org



**Worshipful Master** Bro. Xavier Lewis, 32°

**Senior Warden** Bro. Recco Seay, 33°

**Junior Warden** Bro. Preston Shaw, Jr. 32°

**Treasurer** P.M. Stephen Ward, 32°

**Secretary** Bro. Nathaniel Mason

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# Worshipful Master's 2025-2026 Stewardship report

Greetings 17th Most Worshipful Grand Master L. Lamont Banks, Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master Spencer E. Rollins, Middle TN Grand Trustee Jason Senter, District Deputy Grand Master Chad Ivie, Grand lodge officers, District officers, Past Masters, Wardens, brothers, and any other distinguished guests that I may have missed. I give honor and recognition to all according to your respective ranks, titles, and stations. It is with humility, gratitude, and profound sense of responsibility that I stand before you today to present my stewardship report of Mt. Nebo lodge No. 67 for the 2025-2026 Masonic year.

Before proceeding, I humbly invoke the aid and blessings of Almighty God, the Grand Architect of the Universe, without whose guidance, mercy, and favor none of our labors would be possible. May he continue to direct our paths, strengthen our hands for service, and grant us wisdom as we seek to fulfill the obligations entrusted to us.

Now that protocol has been established, before discussing the accomplishments of this administration, I would first like to acknowledge the officers and brethren of Mt. Nebo whose dedication, sacrifice, and commitment made this year's success possible. No Worshipful Master accomplishes anything alone. Every achievement reflected within this report is the result of collective effort, shared visions, and unwavering support. I would also like to express my appreciation to our district leadership, our jurisdiction, our community partners, and the families who continuously support the work of our great craft. This report is intended not only to account for the work completed during this administration, but also to provide an honest assessment of where we stand as a lodge, the progress we have made, the challenges we continue to face, and the opportunities that lie ahead.

## Opening reflection

Brethren, As I reflect on my first year serving as Worshipful Master of Mt. Nebo Lodge No. 67 F&AM PHA, I am filled with gratitude, humility, and pride. This year has challenged us, stretched us, and ultimately strengthened us. Through teamwork, sacrifice, and a shared commitment to the principles of Prince Hall Masonry, Six7 has continued to establish itself as a lodge known for Service, Achievement, Vision, Assertiveness, Galvanized, and Excellence.

At the beginning of this masonic year, I challenged Mt. Nebo to embrace the spirit of S.A.V.A.G.E. This theme was not intended to be merely an acronym or a slogan. It was intended to be a call to action.

**Service** reminded us that our purpose extends beyond the walls of the lodge on 2nd Tuesday and 4th Thursday.

**Achievement** challenged us to set goals and produce results.

**Vision** required us to think beyond today and build for tomorrow.

**Assertiveness** demanded that we lead rather than follow and address challenges directly.

**Galvanized** called upon us to unite our efforts, strengthen our bonds, and move together with a common purpose.

**Excellence** reminded us that average was never the standard for Six7.

As I reflect on this year, I believe our lodge embodied each of these principles. Whether it has been through our community service, our support of youth development, our partnerships throughout the community, our participation throughout the district and jurisdiction, and our commitment to one another, we demonstrated what can happen when a lodge becomes truly galvanized around a shared vision. Once again this report serves not only as a record of what was accomplished during this administration, but as evidence of what can be achieved when vision is matched with action.

### Accomplishments of Mt. Nebo Lodge No. 67

- Aug. 23, 2025 - Hosted our 3rd annual appreciation BBQ
- Aug. 24, 2025 - Attended the joint installations
- Sep. 6, 2025 - Came together to confer Last Rites for our departed brother Kenneth Greer.
- Sep. 9, 2025 - Held a special elections for the first time that I can recall at least in our lodge
- Sep. 20, 2025 - Attended the JAH Consistory Gold Band Ball
- Sep. 25, 2025 - conferred the FC degree for 2ea's and middle chamber for all 4 fc's
- Sep. 27, 2025 - Ensured that the Cigar Nights 15 presented by the GMen of Nashville was a success
- Nov. 1, 2025 - Attended the joint Master Mason & OES Workshop

- Nov. 11, 2025 - Continued our long going support of K104's Thanksgiving drive
- Dec. 6, 2025 - Attended our district Christmas party and held our position as reigning champs for total cans/toys donated.
- Dec. 9, 2025 - Conferred the EA degree to our MIW
- Jan. 3, 2026 - Brought back our Six7 breakfast
- Jan. 19, 2026 - Participated in the annual MLK March
- Jan. 22, 2026 - Participated in the NMOESD Joint town hall meeting.
- Feb. 28, 2026 - Raised 4 new MM
- April 11, 2026 - Ensured the success of the 3rd annual sneaker ball presented by the gmen of nashville
- April 11, 2026 - Attended Grand Masters visitation to Nashville district & District 19
- May 2, 2026 - Came together once more to confer the last rites for our departed brother James Oglesby
- June 6, 2026 - Had the most brothers sign up and participate in unity day
- Attended numerous district meetings
- Lead the district in the district walks
- Traveled at least twice to each lodge within our district to include serving on the degreework team for a few of the degrees conferred within the district

### My stewardship as Worshipful Master

In addition to the above list I personally served as representation to quite a few events over this past masonic year. Events such as;

- The Association meetings
- Traveled to Murfreesboro 12 after the Gold Band Ball
- Esther Day
- Not only was I present but I also assisted ensure that the Joint workshop moved smoothly by making store runs and helping with serving food as well as clean up
- Every 5th sunday visitation not just the one hosted by us (Nov. 30th, Mar. 29)
- District SOI Webinars
- The preparation for the district can drive
- Saint Johns day - hosted by phI
- Read & Ride ceremonies both semesters for all schools
- Outside of the district I sat as a talent show judge for the Upsilon Sigma Alumnae chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority inc. on April 10, 2026
- Participated in every district walk except 1,
- Attended and participated in every district meeting except the last one
- Served food to the homeless on 2 different occasions( once after the potentes ball, and the second time in conjunction with k104)
- Was representation at EGC Run for the roses event, as well as ensured we were represented at the Sunbeams pieces of purpose gala
- Was representation at K104's scholarship jazz brunch
- Rock City's annual bbq
- OES Palm sunday
- Ensured that our history project was completed on a timely manner through assignment and reassignments

All of these things were accomplished, with plenty more that I'm sure I'm just simply forgetting, with a leadership philosophy of transparency, accountability, service-centered leadership, and a leader that does so by example. My key areas of focus this year was to strengthen communication, support all officers, improve lodge operations, continue building partnerships and creating opportunities for future leaders. At the same time maintaining standards and expectations already set. This year taught me lessons that no leadership book, officer training, or Masonic education course could have fully prepared me for. While serving as Worshipful Master, I faced several personal challenges that tested my faith, resilience, and commitment to the responsibilities entrusted to me. Early in the year, my oldest son required hospitalization for mental health treatment. In the middle of the year, I received a diagnosis of Type 2 diabetes, requiring significant lifestyle adjustments and a renewed focus on my health. As this Masonic year draws to a close, my family now faces another challenge as my mother remains hospitalized after falling into a coma. These experiences reminded me that leadership does not occur during convenient seasons of life. Leadership is often tested during life's most difficult moments. There were days when the weight of personal responsibilities could have easily become a distraction. Yet through the grace of Almighty God, the support of my family, the encouragement of certain brethren, and the strength of the principles we profess as Masons, I was able to continue serving. More importantly, these experiences deepened my appreciation for brotherhood. They reminded me that behind every title, every office, and every accomplishment are real people facing real challenges. They reinforced the importance of compassion, patience, understanding, and service. If there is one lesson I will carry forward from this year, it is that adversity does not define us; it reveals us. Challenges will come to every man, every family, and every lodge. What matters is how we respond to them. This year strengthened my faith, sharpened my perspective, and reinforced my commitment to serving others. While I am proud of what we accomplished as a lodge, I am equally grateful for the personal growth that came through overcoming challenges that I could not have anticipated when this administration began.

## State of the lodge

This year challenged the brethren of Mt. Nebo Lodge No. 67 in many ways. Yet time and time again, we refused to allow obstacles, setbacks, or adversity to define our outcomes. Instead, we remained committed to the work before us. Whether supporting one another through personal challenges, representing the lodge throughout the district and jurisdiction, mentoring youth, serving our community, or ensuring the continued success of our programs and initiatives, the brethren consistently demonstrated determination, resilience, and perseverance. The accomplishments of this year were not the result of one officer, one committee, or one individual effort. They were the result of a brotherhood that remained committed to

its purpose and continued pushing forward regardless of circumstance. If there is one lesson this administration has taught us, it is that success is not always measured by the absence of challenges, but by the willingness to continue moving forward in spite of them. When the work needed to be done, Six7 showed up. When challenges arose, Six7 responded. And when adversity presented itself, Six7 demonstrated tenacity. I believe Mt. Nebo Lodge No. 67 currently occupies a unique position within our district and jurisdiction. We have developed a reputation as a lodge willing to work, willing to lead, and willing to serve. While we may not be the largest lodge, our impact consistently exceeds our size. Through community engagement, youth development, district participation, and our willingness to embrace innovation while respecting tradition, Six7 has established itself as a lodge whose presence is felt whenever and wherever work is required. Perhaps the greatest testament to the health and future of Mt. Nebo Lodge No. 67 is that, despite the challenges we faced, we continued the essential work of Freemasonry. During this Masonic year, we had the honor and privilege of raising four Worthy Men to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason:

- Brother Omar Ray
- Brother Kaylan Sincere Cunningham
- Brother Michael Cotton
- Brother Dion Brown

Their advancement serves as a reminder that while obstacles may slow our progress, they do not stop our purpose. As we honored the memories of those brethren who have gone before us, we also welcomed new Master Masons into our ranks who will help carry the torch forward. Their commitment to the Craft represents not only growth in membership, but an investment in the future leadership, strength, and longevity of Mt. Nebo Lodge No. 67.

### Strengths

- Strong visibility
- Community engagement
- Active leadership
- Distinct lodge culture
- Youth-focused initiatives
- Willingness to innovate

### Areas for Continued Improvement

- Attendance
- Membership engagement
- Officer development
- Succession planning
- Financial sustainability
- Greater participation from all members

### Future Outlook

Mt. Nebo Lodge No. 67 is no longer simply participating in conversations about the future of our district—we are helping shape them. The future of Mt. Nebo Lodge No. 67 is bright, but continued success will require commitment, accountability, and unity from every brother. As this administration comes to a close, it is important to recognize that the accomplishments of this year were not achieved by any one individual, but through the collective efforts of dedicated officers, committee chairmen, and brethren who answered the call to serve. Looking ahead, the continued growth and success of Six7 will rely heavily upon the contributions of our Wardens, officers, and members who will carry this work forward. By maintaining a spirit of cooperation, supporting the leadership elected to guide the lodge, and remaining committed to our shared vision of excellence, I am confident that Mt. Nebo Lodge No. 67 will continue on a harmonious path toward even greater achievements in the years to come.

## **Relationship with G-Men of Nashville**

One of the most impactful partnerships of this administration has been our continued relationship with G-Men of Nashville and the Read & Ride Program. This partnership demonstrates what happens when Masonic principles are put into action beyond the walls of the lodge and into the communities we serve. This year presented challenges that could have significantly impacted the program's success. At the beginning of the school year, two participating schools elected to step away from the program. Rather than allowing those losses to diminish our impact, G-Men quickly identified and secured two outstanding replacement schools. By the following semester, we were also able to successfully bring one of the original schools back into the program.

The results speak for themselves.

Despite those early setbacks, the program experienced approximately a 10% increase in books read compared to the previous year. Through the efforts of our volunteers, school partners, and community supporters, we distributed approximately 64 bicycles, more than 175 pizza party boxes, over 100 gift cards, and thousands of achievement medals to deserving students throughout the year. While those numbers are certainly impressive, the statistic that makes me most proud is the increase in books read. Bicycles, pizzas, gift cards, and medals are rewards; books read represent the true mission and impact of the program. Every book read represents time spent learning, growing, and developing a lifelong relationship with literacy. The 10% increase serves as tangible evidence that the program is accomplishing exactly what it was designed to do—encourage students to read more and create opportunities for academic success. Beyond the numbers, this partnership created opportunities for direct engagement with students and families throughout the school year. During Read Across America Week, we were invited to read to students across participating schools, an opportunity I was honored to participate in as one of the volunteers selected to do so. We were also asked to support school activities outside of the traditional Read & Ride framework, including grilling and serving hot dogs for one of our newest partner schools and participating in Fatherhood Friday programs designed to encourage literacy and positive male involvement among students in grades three through five. I was privileged to participate in all but two of the Fatherhood Friday reading sessions throughout the year and to represent both G-Men of Nashville and Mt. Nebo Lodge No. 67 whenever called upon to serve. These opportunities demonstrate that our impact extends beyond reading incentives and awards. The schools we serve increasingly view us not simply as a program provider, but as trusted community partners who are genuinely invested in the success and well-being of their students. Through literacy, mentorship, visibility, and service, this partnership has strengthened relationships, expanded opportunities for young people, and enhanced the public image of Prince Hall Masonry throughout our community. As we look toward the future, I believe the partnership between Mt. Nebo Lodge No. 67 and G-Men of Nashville remains one of the strongest examples of how our lodge can continue to make a lasting and measurable impact beyond the walls of the lodge room.

## Necrology

As we reflect upon this Masonic year, we pause to honor the memories of those brethren who have laid down the working tools of life and entered into eternal refreshment. This year, Mt. Nebo Lodge No. 67 mourned the loss of Brother Kenneth Greer, whom we laid to rest on September 6, 2025, and Brother James Oglesby, whom we laid to rest on May 2, 2026. Both brethren were valued members of our lodge family, and their presence, fellowship, and contributions will be deeply missed. We would also be remiss if we failed to acknowledge the passing of Past Master John Bell. Although his transition occurred prior to this reporting period, his impact upon Mt. Nebo Lodge No. 67 remains worthy of remembrance. Through his leadership, wisdom, and dedicated service, he helped shape the lodge that we are privileged to serve today. His legacy continues to live on through the brethren he influenced and the work he helped establish. While we grieve their absence, we are comforted by the lessons they taught, the examples they set, and the memories they leave behind. May we honor their lives not only in word, but through our continued commitment to the principles of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. May the Great Architect of the Universe grant eternal peace to Brother Kenneth Greer, Brother James Oglesby, Past Master John Bell, and all our departed brethren.

## Closing Reflections

Brethren, no Worshipful Master accomplishes anything alone. Every success achieved during this administration was made possible by dedicated officers, committed brethren, supportive families, community partners, and those who continuously answered the call to labor. I thank each of you for your trust, your support, and your willingness to labor alongside me. As we move forward, let us continue building upon the foundation that has been established. Let us remain committed to the principles of S.A.V.A.G.E., continue strengthening our brotherhood, and ensure that Six7 remains known not only for what we say—but for what we do.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brother Xavier Lewis  
Worshipful Master  
Mt. Nebo Lodge No. 67, F&AM, PHA