



M.W. Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia, F&AM, Inc.

THE BEEHIVE



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*The Official Publication of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand
Lodge of Virginia, Free and Accepted Masons, Incorporated*



Most Worshipful Grand Master,
Curtis S. Vaughan, Jr. #67

"Leading by Example"



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Grand Master Curtis S. Vaughan, Jr. #67 proudly dressed in full military uniform

Most Worshipful Grand Master Curtis S. Vaughan, Jr. #67 has been called to active military duty in support of "Operation Iraqi Freedom."

Morning Star Lodge #3, Gives Recognition and Thanks to its Past Masters

By Curtis Gunn, DDGM, 3RD MD



Portsmouth – At its May Regular Communication, Morning Star Lodge #3 located in Portsmouth provided for a Past Masters Appreciation Night with acknowledgements, presentation of certificates and a repast for 17 of the 19 Past Masters on the rolls, and its long-serving Chaplain Bro. Charles J. Banks. Pictured on the left are Past Masters of Morning Star Lodge and its Chaplain representing over 518 years of Masonry. Bro. Banks, pictured second from right, entered Masonry in 1947 and has been a dedicated member of Morning Star Lodge for 60 years. Incidentally, several of these Past Masters are past the age of 70 years old and reflect some combined age of over 850 years.

Their presence and perseverance gives credence to the quote that, “the earliest and oldest and longest has still the mastery of us”—Dictionary of American Proverbs Pictured seated, left to right, are PM’s George Weston, Willie Nelson, Charles Cherry, Pearlie Moore, James Andrews, Robert Shropshire, Bro. Charles Banks, and PM Percy Wiggins. Standing, left to right, are PM’s Robert Brown, Archie (Mac) Wardrick, James Rogers, Millard Lee, Sr., Curtis Gunn, Paige D. Cherry, Raymond Nelson, Alphonzo Higgs and Ronald Boykins.

Prince Hall Masons of Virginia Visit Veteran Hospitals



Deputy Grand Master Larry D. Christian #253 (behind podium) and other Grand Lodge Officers at the Hunter Holmes-McGuire VA Medical Center in Richmond

On April 30, 2007, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia, Free and Accepted Masons, Incorporated, under the direction and leadership of Most Worshipful Grand Master, Curtis S. Vaughan, Jr. #67, visited four Veteran Hospitals, throughout the State of Virginia and the District of Columbia to give honor and lift the spirits of our veterans. Prince Hall Masons, in great numbers visited the VA Medical Center in Hampton, Virginia; the VA Medical Center in Salem, Virginia; Hunter Holmes-McGuire VA Medical Center in Richmond, Virginia; and the Washington, D. C. VA Center Home in the District of Columbia. At some locations, the veterans were given much needed toiletries and phone cards.

St. John's Day Service



Asst. DDGMs' G. Jones #65, J. Gardner #237, and DDGM R. Reed, Sr. #81 make a presentation to a scholarship recipient

*By DDGM Raymond E. Reed, Sr.
26th Masonic District*

On June 10, 2007, the 26th Masonic District celebrated their St. John's Day Service at Mt. Carmel Baptist Church in the City of Richmond. The program was well attended by the brethren. The pastor of the church, Dr. Stephen Howard, rendered the message. KOP Chapters #26 and #1 served as ushers and gave remarks. The 26th District Male Chorus rendered the music; and OES Districts 5 and 35 were present and gave remarks. DDGM Raymond Reed #81 presented five high school graduates with a \$200.00 scholarship check each. The presentation was made on behalf of the 26th District to help further their education. After the service, all were treated to light refreshments in the Fellowship Hall.

FROM THE GRAND SECRETARY



We are very proud of these Grand Lodge accomplishments to date:

- ✓ Veteran Administration Hospital Visitations, highly successful
 - Tide Water Area
 - Richmond Area
 - Roanoke Area
 - Washington D. C. Area
- ✓ Visitation to the Virginia's National Baptist Conference, outstanding participation RWGS. Isaac S. Hughes #314
- ✓ Financial Donation to the Virginia Tech Ryan Christopher Clark Memorial Fund (\$1,000.00)
- ✓ Very successful Scholarship Fund Raiser (Raffle \$23,831.00)
 - First Prize - \$5,000.00 – Justin Ruffin
 - Second Prize - \$2,500.00 – McLean Fenty
 - Third Prize - \$1,250.00 – Edith W. Hayes
- ✓ Significant Donations to the Scholarship Fund (\$4,820.00)
- ✓ Continued Strategic Planning Implementation
 - Conducted two successful DDGM/ADDGM Training Programs
 - Conducted several workshops on how to re-establish and improve the levels of Trust and Confidence within our Grand Lodge

It is only a few weeks before the gavel falls to begin our 132nd Annual Communication. Please note and fully participate in the following events and activities:

GOSPEL CONCERT: The Gospel Concert will be held on Thursday evening, 13 September 2007, at 8:00p.m. Seating will be by ticket only. One ticket is included with registration; extra tickets (maximum of 5) are \$10.00 each.

ANNUAL BANQUET: The Annual Banquet will be held on Friday evening, 14 September 2007, at 6:00p.m. Seating will be by ticket only. One ticket is included with registration; extra tickets (maximum of 5) are \$35.00 each.

SPECIAL SPORTING EVENT: A special sporting event will be held on Tuesday, 11 September 2007. This special fun event is for your enjoyment and fellowship. Bring your bowling balls and golf clubs.

BREAKFAST WITH GRAND MASTER: A special breakfast (cost \$15.00) will be held on Saturday morning, 15 September 2007, at 7:30a.m. This special event is an opportunity for our Grand Master to share some thoughts with the Prince Hall Masonic family. All are encouraged to attend.

TREASURERS & SECRETARIES SCHOOL: The annual treasurers & secretaries school will be held on Wednesday morning, 12 September 2007, starting 10:00a.m. This school will provide important information and answer your questions. All are invited, especially lodge treasurers and secretaries.

ARLINGTON LODGE #58 AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

By PM Carlton W. Newton #58

In May 2007, Arlington Lodge #58 held their Annual Songfest and Scholarship Awards Program. The program featured the Men's Chorus' from several local churches in Arlington. They also awarded four local students with awards in the amount of \$1,000.00 each. The recipients were, Nadia Harper, Felicia Smith, Danielle Baker and Charles Bynum. Three of the recipients were grandchildren of Master Masons of Arlington Lodge.

Arlington Lodge along with the Bee Hive Club have sponsored this program for ten years now awarded over \$30,000.00 to high school students looking to further their education. The Worship Leader, Rev. Dr. Leonard N. Smith, is a member of Arlington Lodge and looks forward to assisting the lodge each year with this program. The attendance was low, but the fellowship and music was second to none. What a sight it was to see and hear nearly one hundred men singing and performing for a good cause!

2007 Prince Hall Annual Golf Tournament Winners

On June 22, 2007, on a beautiful 80-degree day in Williamsburg, VA, members of the fraternity, family, and friends participated in the 4th Annual Prince Hall Golf Tournament at the Kiskiack Golf Club. After fun and friendly competition, the participants enjoyed lunch together. Subsequently, when the scores were totaled up, the top winners of the tournament were presented trophies and received countless congratulations.

The winners of the tournament were:

1st Place: (59) **Pete Harper, Howard Blackwell, Carl Mathews, Freddie Middleton**; 2nd Place (63) **Bill Amado, Daniel Spruill, Derick Mackey, Newt Smith**; 3rd Place (64) **Herman Chandler, Nat Wilson, Jeff Jefferson, Ron Jones**;

Closest to the Pin – **George Wilson**

Longest Drive – **George Wilson**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Prince Hall Day

Place: Norfolk, VA
Date: Sept. 12, 2007

Grand Lodge Session

Place: Norfolk, VA
Date: Sept. 12-15, 2007

York Rite Masonic Week

Place: Norfolk
Date: Oct. 14-20, 2007

Gospel Concert

Place: Norfolk, VA
Date: Sept. 13, 2007

Charity/Scholarship Cruise

Date: Oct. 7-13, 2007

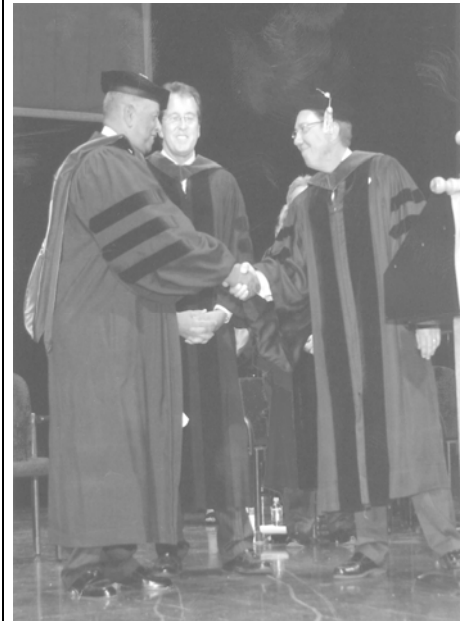
Order of the Eastern Star (OES) Held their 106th Annual Session



MWPHGL of VA in attendance at OES 106th Annual Session

On Wednesday, July 25, 2007, over 150 Master Masons visited the OES 106th Annual Session, held at the Sheraton in Norfolk, VA. Grand Worthy Matron Velma Goffigan and Grand Worthy Patron Reynold Potts welcomed the delegation and invited RWDGM Larry D. Christian #253 to the East. While in the East, greetings were brought on behalf of MWGM Curtis S. Vaughan, Jr. #67.

Right Worshipful Grand Director Leo A. Brooks #32 Receives Doctor of Law Degree



RWGD Leo Brooks, of Acacia Lodge #32, was honored with the LLD Degree, at the May 2007 Commencement of the New England School of Law in Boston, MA. "...For his exemplary and patriotic contributions to our Nation as an Army General Officer and as City Manager of Philadelphia, PA. He also shares with his two sons the distinction of being the only African-American family in the history of America's armed services to become Military Generals." One of his sons is Past Master Vincent K. Brooks, also of Acacia Lodge #32 in Alexandria.

Organized May 8, 1951

Denver, Colorado



THE SUPREME COUNCIL

Order of the Knights of Pythagoras

Sponsored by Prince Hall Masons

GILBERT "GIL" TYLER
Supreme Master Knight

"YOUNG MEN.....SHARING THE VISION"
For The Future Of Prince Hall Masons

MELVIN L. SMITH, Jr.
Supreme Knight Recorder

By MWPGM Gilbert "Gil" Tyler, #27

2007 Annual Summer Encampment

There was more at stake at this Summer Encampment than shooting baskets and running track. The Youth Knights, in their black slacks, white shirts with neck ties are the golf and tennis players, future engineers and honor-roll students, defying familiar statistics that place them on street corners and "wanted" list.

They're college-bound at a time when across America, black males battle grim rates of joblessness, poverty and unintended fatherhood.

State Director Kevin Hodges, along with the State Board of Regents and other Sir Knights have challenged those statistics. They have arranged career forums for the teens, giving them a glimpse of futures beyond sports and music.

Most important, S.D. Hodges and his staff have offered genuine concern for their future. Youth Knights (young men) and Sir Knights from across the State of Virginia will participate in a Summer Encampment during the week of July 26 thru July 29, 2007 at the Historical Black Campus of Virginia State University in Petersburg. By week's end, they will emerge as upright, goal-oriented black young men – the kind Supreme Master Knight Gilbert "Gil" Tyler hopes will lead a glowing tomorrow. The Supreme Council – Order of the Knights of Pythagoras has spent over 55 years hosting similar encampments across the United States. This is an increasingly popular tradition spotlighting the achievements of males as young as nine (9) years old.

A lot of people are just fed up with the way that black men and young teenagers are portrayed in the media. Those portrayals include burglars, robbers and drug dealers, roughneck friends and the like.

The Summer Encampments create an environment of planned activities, such as, a formal Ritualistic Opening Ceremony, swimming, basketball games, and track and field events. Moreover, talent and oratorical competitions are governed by strict criteria. The Annual Summer Encampment culminates with an Encampment Banquet. At the banquet, parents, friends and relatives are afforded the opportunity to highlight the positive accomplishments of the Youth Knights.

The primary goal of the Annual Summer Encampment is to reward the Youth Knights for positive behavior, while providing them with mentoring which teaches them how to become good men and citizens.

Sometimes the Sir Knights stand nearby, like a father watching with pride. One by one, each Sir Knight offers the Youth Knight words of encouragement. But what does a father say to prepare his son for a society he worries will see his skin color more than his achievements? "I love you", and hugs the newfound man.

2008 School of Instruction (SOI) Dates

Place: Tidewater
Date: January 12, 2008

Place: Richmond
Date: January 26, 2008

Place: Petersburg
Date: February 9, 2008

Place: Victoria
Date: February 23, 2008

Place: Roanoke
Date: March 8, 2008

Place: Louisa
Date: March 29, 2008

Place: Bealton
Date: April 12, 2008

HEALTH COMMITTEE

By WM Harold Jones, MD #114

Are You At Risk For Developing Glaucoma?

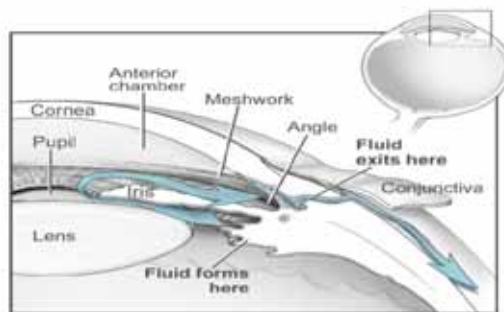


Glaucoma is a group of eye diseases that gradually steal sight without warning. It has been referred to as the “Silent Thief”. Currently there is no cure for glaucoma. With early detection, treatment may slow the progression of the disease. The intent of this article is to enhance your knowledge regarding the leading cause of blindness in African Americans.

Objectives:

1. Understand how glaucoma causes blindness
2. Define high-risk groups
3. List types of glaucoma
4. List treatment options

Think of the eye as a camera with many integral parts. The eye receives images through the pupil, later focuses the image via the lens. The retina acts as film and receives the image from the lens. The eye contains fluid called aqueous humor that nourishes the different parts. The retina relays the image to the brain via the optic nerve. The optic nerve is the object of our attention. The optic nerve is a bundle of microfilaments. The optic nerve is like the electrical cable or telephone wire in your home. Damage to the optic nerve by increased pressure causes irreversible damage leading to blindness. For example, consider the eye as a sink in which the faucet is continuously running and the drain is always open. The sink becomes clogged, but the fluid (aqueous humor) does not overflow. The system is a closed compartment and fluid backs up producing increased pressure.



Think of the compartment as a balloon. As the air increases in the balloon, the balloon expands until it bursts. The eye cannot burst, but the pressure impairs flow of nutrients and oxygen to the vital parts of the eye, particularly the optic nerve that results in cell death.

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The high-risk groups include:

- 1) **African Americans**
- 2) **Individuals with Diabetes Mellitus**
- 3) **Family history of glaucoma**
- 4) Long term use of steroids
- 5) Previous eye injury
- 6) People over 60
- 7) Hispanics have higher risk than Caucasian but less than African American

Glaucoma is differentiated into open angle, angle closure, congenital, normal tension, and secondary causes such as trauma, inflammatory reactions to the eye. A majority of the cases fall into open angle or **primary open-angle glaucoma**. Open-angle glaucoma coincides with the example of the sink. The pressure in the eye also called **intraocular pressure (IOP)** is produced by the fluid (aqueous fluid) and is normally **12-20**. In normal tension glaucoma, the pressure is normal but damage still occurs and there is no explanation for such. Congenital causes develop at birth.

The treatment modalities include medications, surgical interventions, and life style modifications. The medications consist of six different groups. Their action reduces the amount of fluid produced and/or promotes drainage. Life-style modifications include limiting caffeine intake, and forty minutes of exercise 3-4 times a week. It is essential that everyone have an eye examination by an eye doctor (ophthalmologist –MD or optometrist –OD) by age 40 and every two years thereafter. If your initial eye exam is by an optometrist and you have extensive changes to the eye (s), you will be referred to an ophthalmologist.

In review, glaucoma is the leading cause of blindness in African Americans, there is no cure for glaucoma, everyone is at risk for glaucoma, and there are no symptoms to warn you of glaucoma.

For more information visit:

www.glaucoma.org

www.glaucomafoundation.org

www.nihseniorhealth.gov

www.nei.nih.gov

www.polakoff-foundation.org

Submitted by Health Committee –Harold Jones MD Berea #114, consultant M. Johnson, MD, Eastern Star#13, D. Simmons, MSN, RN, CNN Jefferson #20. Questions may directed to Harold Jones MD Berea #114 hjonesiii@msn.com
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MWPHGL of VA Visitation to Maryland Jurisdiction



RWDGM Larry D. Christian #253 and VA delegation standing before the Altar at the Maryland Grand Lodge Session



Pictured from L to R: WG Asst. Marshal Christian #65, RWDGM Christian #253, RWSGW Eggleston #146, RWJGW Riddick #323, RWSGD Brown # 327, and WG Asst. Marshal Edmendsen #146 at the Maryland Grand Lodge Session

On Saturday, August 4, 2007, a delegation of 58 brothers from the MWPHGL of VA traveled with RWDGM Larry D. Christian #253 to the jurisdiction of Maryland for their 160th Annual Grand Lodge Session. The delegation was received by MWGM Shelton Redding of Maryland, who invited RWDGM Larry Christian to the East. Subsequently, RWDGM Christian extended an invitation to the Maryland jurisdiction to visit our 132nd Annual Grand Lodge Session in September 2007. During the visitation, MWGM Redding made MWGM Curtis S. Vaughan, Jr. #67 an honorary member of the jurisdiction of Maryland.

**Beehive Publication
Committee**

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MESSAGE FROM THE BEEHIVE EDITOR



Greetings Brethren,

As we approach the end of this administrative year, I would be remiss if I failed to sincerely thank each of you for your patience, support, and encouragement during the restructuring of the Beehive. It is our hope that you've found this publication to be informational and satisfactory. The Publication Committee is totally dedicated to enhancing the quality and informational content of your Beehive Publication. Our overall goal is to produce a publication that all of us can be proud to call our own. During this administration, we were successful in providing you with three editions of the Beehive. Consequently, you can anticipate receiving four editions during the next fiscal year. As always, the Publication Committee is receptive to any positive or constructive feedback from you! In closing, it has been my pleasure as the Editor of the Beehive to serve you this year, and I look forward to seeing and greeting you at our 132nd Annual Communication.

May peace and brotherly love prevail.

Fraternally yours,

PM Kenneth L. Ragland #81
Editor
Beehive Publication Committee

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