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

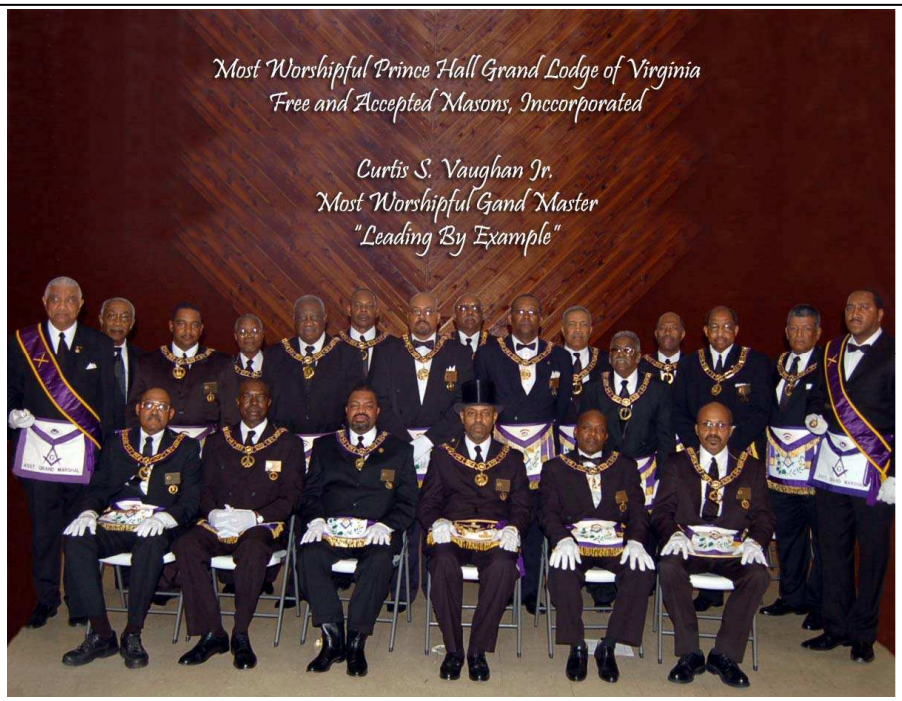
THE BEEHIVE

JANUARY 2007
ISSUE ONE

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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Words of Wisdom from the East

Greetings Brethren of the Craft:

I greet you in the precious name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. For it is by his grace, goodness, and mercy, that we live, breath, and have our being. As such, I pray the Lord's richest blessings upon each of us as we seek to *improve ourselves in Masonry*.

As a result of your support, I have assumed the gavel as this jurisdiction's 74th Most Worshipful Grand Master, and to that end, you have my endearing and sincere thanks. I shall at all times, endeavor to remain true to the trust that you have reposed in me.

As we move in a new direction, I urge your support and assistance as we embrace the theme of "*Leading by Example*". Our aims and objectives will be directed toward changing our image by getting back to the ***center of our altar***. As such, we will endeavor to:

- Modify our conduct and deportment to align it more with the Holy Bible
- Promote more family and religious-based programs
- Become more visible as a group while in public
- Put into practice more of the teachings from the Holy Bible

May GOD continue to bless us all as we show our appreciation for small matters of grace extended to us along life's journey. As such, may we endeavor to work together in peace and harmony for the enhancement of Masonry, as well as mankind.

Curtis S Vaughan, Jr.

CURTIS S. VAUGHAN, JR.
Most Worshipful Grand Master

GM Vaughan, Jr. and Entourage visit Washington, D.C. Grand Session

GM Vaughan, Jr. #67 and jurisdiction of VA being received at D.C. Grand Session.

On December 13, 2006, Grand Master Curtis S. Vaughan, Jr. #67, Grand Lodge Officers and over 135 Master Masons attended the Grand Lodge Session of the jurisdiction of Washington D.C. During the visitation, the Grand Master and his entire entourage were well received. Fraternal hospitality was extended to all of those who traveled from the jurisdiction of Virginia. Grand Master Wheeler and the jurisdiction of Washington, D.C. were extremely impressed by the magnificent demonstration of support for our Grand Master during his visitation.

Dedicated and Long-Termed District Deputy Recognized

By DDGM Curtis Gunn #3

Portsmouth – On Sunday, December 17, 2006 at the Portsmouth Scottish Rite Masonic Center, the Masters and Wardens Council of the Third Masonic District recognized the accomplishments, devotion, and dedication of long-termed Past District Deputy Grand Master John N. Daughtry with an Appreciation Banquet.

Brother Daughtry, a native of Portsmouth, Virginia is the husband of the former Doris V. Brown. They are the proud parents of six children, two of which, Marvin and Nathaniel are Master Masons.

PDDGM Daughtry of Washington Lodge #323, who has served for the last 30 years as Secretary was appointed to the position of District Deputy Grand Master for the Third Masonic District in 1980. He has served commendably for the last 26 years, and has been honored as District Deputy Grand Master of the Year on 5 different occasions during his tenure. Under his leadership, the Third Masonic District has continued to grow and prosper. Additionally, John Daughtry serves as the Worthy Patron for Brighton Light Chapter #118, Order of the Eastern Star, and has held that position for past 22 years.

Over 180 persons, including Most Worshipful Grand Master Curtis S. Vaughan, Jr., attended the banquet, in addition to Right Worshipful Junior Grand Deacon and former Assistant District Deputy to Daughtry, Paige D. Cherry (served as Master of Ceremonies), Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master Larry D. Christian, Right Worshipful Senior and Junior Grand Wardens Herman Eggleston and Shelton Riddick, Past Grand Masters Billie L. Thompson and Robert E. Harris, as well as several other appointed and elected Grand Lodge Officers, and Grand Chapter Officers of the Order of Eastern Star.

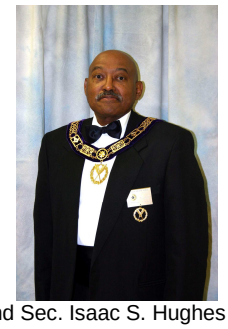
Daughtry was the recipient of several presentations made on behalf of the various groups represented. Heart-warming presentations and acknowledgements were made by his two sons, Marvin and Nathaniel, for his guidance as a father as well as a Mason who truly has been "Leading By Example" throughout his life. Most Worshipful Grand Master Vaughan in his remarks informed all present that he will recommend that PDDGM Daughtry become the jurisdiction's first District Deputy Grand Master Emeritus (elected by the body) at the 132nd Annual Grand Lodge Session in Norfolk, VA.

Operation Santa Claus

DDGM Raymond Reed, Sr. #81(on left) and WM Leonard Medley #65 of the 26th Masonic District with Operation Santa Claus recipients and Santa.

On Saturday, December 16, 2006 the jurisdiction conducted its statewide "Operation Santa Claus Program." Throughout the jurisdiction, a countless number of kids were treated with an abundance of gifts. In Richmond, DDGM Raymond E. Reed, Sr. #81 and the 26th Masonic District sponsored over 125 children, spending nearly $18,000.00 to assist needy families and children. After the Christmas shopping took place at the K-Mart on Midlothian Blvd in the city of Richmond, the children were treated to refreshments, and a visit from Santa Claus at the RAML Temple.

FROM THE GRAND SECRETARY'S DESK



Grand Sec. Isaac S. Hughes #314

The Great Architect of the Universe has blessed each of us to be here in this New Year of 2007! Please make sure that you give Him all the Glory and Honor.

As we start this New Year, my challenge to you is to become a little bit better Mason and leader by understanding and believing that **trust**, **integrity**, and **ethics** are particularly challenging goals because their attainment is determined by the ***perceptions*** of others.

Others' perceptions are their realities. Therefore, how they perceive you will affect how they interact with you, how they perform for you, and whether or not they give their support to you.

As a Master Mason, you have no choice about being a role model in your community. You are one … it comes with the job. The only choice you have is which role you'll model.

As a Master Mason and leader, you have a strong influence on the thoughts and behaviors of the people in your community – perhaps much stronger than you think. And one of your most critical leadership responsibilities is to model the behavior you expect from others. To do otherwise is hypocrisy. The fact is you must earn the right to expect people to act with integrity by being an ethics champion yourself.

PLEASE MAKE SURE TO VISIT YOUR WEBSITE: **www.mwphgl-va.org**
We are on the move and we want every member of the Prince Hall Masonic Family in the Jurisdiction of Virginia to move with us. The next phase of the move is to communicate electronically with all Lodges. Your comments are always welcome.

King Cyrus Grand Chapter of Holy Royal Arch Masons

BY Right Excellent Grand Secretary Michael Hodges

Greetings to the Brethren of the Jurisdiction of Virginia,

The Officers and Companions of King Cyrus Grand Chapter Holy Royal Arch Masons (PHA) of Virginia would like to take time and introduce us to you. King Cyrus Grand Chapter is the governing body for all Royal Arch Masons (PHA) in the jurisdiction of Virginia, which is currently composed of 17 subordinate Royal Arch Chapters and 1 Jurisdictional Past High Priesthood Council. King Cyrus Grand Chapter was instituted in 1873 and incorporated July 9, 2004. We will be hosting our 134th Grand Convocation on October 19, 2007 thru October 21, 2007 at the Sheraton Hotel Waterside, Norfolk, Va., and we take this time to cordially invite you to visit us on visitation day scheduled for October 20, 2007.

The current Most Excellent Grand High Priest is Gidwood W. Sutton Jr., and the Right Excellent Deputy Grand High Priest is Vincent A. Jones and the Right Excellent Grand Secretary is Michael Hodges, the adopt female Grand Body is Gilgal Grand Court Heroines of Jericho (PHA) of Virginia, which has 6 subordinate Heroines of Jericho Courts. They will host their 52nd Grand Court Session the same time as the Royal Arch in the same hotel. The current Most Ancient Grand Matron is Hattie D. Toran, Vice Ancient Grand Matron Catherine Allen, Worthy Grand Joshua. Both Grand Bodies will be part of the first York Rite Week Grand Convention in the jurisdiction on October 14 thru 21, 2007.

Grand Lodge Donates Check to "Meals On Wheels"

MWGM Vaughan, Jr. #67 and RWDGM Christian #253 present a $500.00 check to Vincent Abbott of Williamsburg, VA's "Meals On Wheels."

District Deputy Workshop

On December 2, 2006, the DDGM Workshop was held in Williamsburg, VA. RWDGM Larry Christian #253, who facilitated the meeting, provided the Deputies with guidelines to ensure continuity throughout the jurisdiction. *"Leading by Example"* was stressed, and the information was well received by all in attendance.

Grand Lodge Upcoming Events

School of Instruction
Place: Richmond, VA
Date: February 3, 2007

School of Instruction
Place: Keysville, VA
Date: March 3, 2007

Mid-Atlantic Conf. Of Grand Masters & Matrons
Date: March 30 & 31, 2007

School of Instruction
Place: Petersburg, VA
Date: February 17, 2007

Council of Deliberation
Date: March 16-18, 2007

Statewide VA Hospital Visitation
Free Transportation From Portsmouth
Date: April 30, 2007
POC: B. Mithell
mitchbwjr@aol.com

St. John's Day Service

On Sunday, December 17, 2006, the jurisdiction held its statewide St. John's the Evangelist Day Services. The Services were well attended throughout the state, with many districts reporting participation that far exceeded those numbers reported last year.

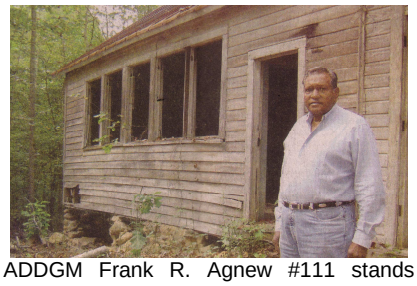
DDGM Richard. Townes #235(1st person on left, front row) and members of Mt. Sinai Lodge #203 at St. John's Day Service at Banister Hill Baptist Church in Halifax, VA.

59th Fish Bowl Classic

Top: (From L to R) I.P. #12 James Jackson, MWGM Curtis Vaughan, NSU President, Dr. Carolyn Meyer and Dep. Imp. Potentate Washington poses for photo at game. **Below**: MWGM Vaughan with Imp. Officers of the Mystic Shrine.

In October 2006, GM Curtis S. Vaughan, Jr. #67 attended the 59th Fish Bowl Classic in Norfolk, VA between Norfolk State University and NC A&T University.

Rock Run School



ADDGM Frank R. Agnew #111 stands beside remains of school, where he attended.

Former student works on restoring structure

By WM Kenneth L. Ragland #81, Editor

After decades of standing neglected and unused in the Fieldale woods, the Rock Run School, built after the Civil War is receiving a facelift. Thanks in large parts to the efforts of its owner and former attendee, ADDGM Frank R. Agnew #111 of the 32nd Masonic District; the school was added to the Virginia Landmarks Register at the September 2006 meeting of the board of the VA Dept. of Historic Resources (VDHR).

The school was recognized for its role in educating Rock Run's African-American community from the early 1880's to the mid-20th Century.

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 PGM Gilbert "Gil." Tyler #27

Greetings to the officers, members and Sir Knights of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia, F. & A.M., Inc. Certainly, we wish to thank our Most Worshipful Grand Master, Curtis Vaughan, Jr. and the Editor of the Beehive Publication, W.M. Kenneth L. Ragland #81, for allowing the Knights of Pythagoras to have a column in the Grand Lodge Official Publication.

State Director Kevin Hodges has set a very challenging agenda for 2007 and beyond. He, along with the State Board of Regents and other Sir Knights, from across the state of Virginia, are working to strengthen existing councils by encouraging implementation of Parent Clubs and Mentoring membership. All Masonic Lodges are encouraged to sponsor Youth Council and to assist with the sponsorship of a youth to attend the Annual Summer Encampment and other scheduled mentoring activities.

The reactivation of Councils, that are inactive, is another goal of the State Director. It is hoped that District Deputy Grand Masters and Assistants will assist with this process by notifying the State Director of a Council in his area that may have previously existed.

"My goal this upcoming year is to have a minimum 25 mentors and 150 Youth Knights to attend the 2007 Summer Encampment during the week of July 26 thru July 29", said S.D. Hodges. Additionally, "I also have a vision of 100 youth and adults attend the 132nd Annual Communication on Saturday, September 15, 2007.

The Supreme Council Order of the Knights of Pythagoras has twenty-three Masonic Jurisdictions in its footprint throughout the United States and abroad. The Supreme Council Order of the Knights of Pythagoras is a Youth Organization, dedicated to "The Fatherhood of God, and the Universal Brotherhood of Man. Our organization takes young boys between the ages of nine and twenty and help to develop them into young men. We promote family values, provide educational scholarships, and play a significant role in the uplifting of humanity.

It is the responsibility of the Supreme Council – K.O.P. to coordinate and oversee the activities of the Knights of Pythagoras worldwide. The Supreme Master Knight is also charged with assisting the Most Worshipful Grand Masters and State Directors of their jurisdictions with the implementation of the K.O. P. programs in their states. The Supreme Council has submitted an application for a 501 {C} {3} tax exempted status with the Internal Revenue Services. Additionally, Grand Director Walter E. Brown # 18 is the Grant Writer for the Supreme Council K.O.P. It is the desire of the Supreme Council K.O.P. to obtain grants to enable us to better focus on training our youth in leadership, responsibility and brotherhood.

These skills are very significant to our youth if they are to become the leaders of today as well as tomorrow. The boys (young men) in our program are from various backgrounds representing various cities across the United States and abroad. They learn from their Adult Advisors, which are Sir Knights (Master Masons) in the program and from each other. The youth are referred to as Youth Knights.

To start a K.O.P. Council in your Masonic Lodge or District, just contact the State Director or the Assistant State Director.

Beehive Publication Committee

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Copies of this newsletter can be obtained at:

http://www.mwphgl- va.org

MESSAGE FROM THE BEEHIVE EDITOR

Happy New Year Brethren,

I hope this newsletter finds you and your families in perfect health. As we embark upon a new year, opportunities exist for us to contribute to the upliftment of humanity and this beautiful fraternity of ours. We must remain ever vigilant in our efforts to demonstrate the Grand Master's theme of *"Leading by Example."* The Beehive Publication Committee is steadfastly committed to providing you with a quality newsletter, consisting of current and pertinent information. Despite being a "work in progress", we will make every attempt to produce this newsletter quarterly, in hopes that you'll view this publication as a source to the newsworthy events in the Grand Lodge, your respective Districts and Lodges. However, in order to make these objectives a reality, the Committee will need your assistance with providing us with information on the good works you're doing throughout the jurisdiction in a timely matter.

May peace and brotherly love prevail.

Fraternally yours,

WM Kenneth L. Ragland #81
Editor
Beehive Publication Committee

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