



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

# THE BEEHIVE



NOVEMBER 2007  
ISSUE ONE

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



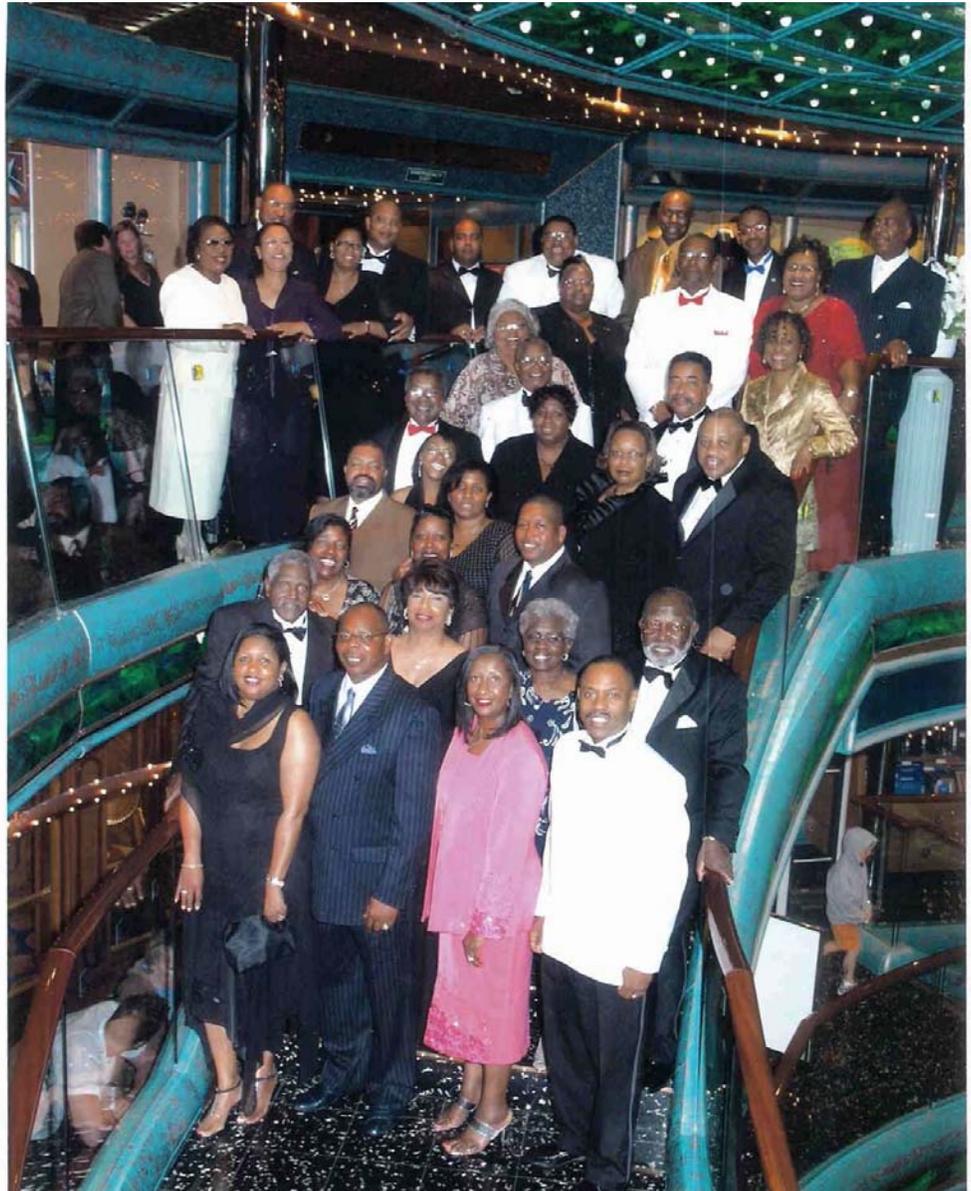
Most Worshipful Grand Master,  
Curtis S. Vaughan, Jr. #67

*"Leading by Example"*



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Grand Master Curtis S. Vaughan, Jr., #67 (front row with white jacket) and wife, along with other members of the Prince Hall Masonic Family and friends aboard the "Victory" Cruise Ship during the Scholarship/Charity Cruise to the Bahamas which raised more than \$3,600.

**Portsmouth Drug Treatment Court Recognizes Eastern Star Chapter and District**

By Curtis Gunn, DDGM, 3<sup>RD</sup> MD

**Portsmouth** – On Wednesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, in the Portsmouth City Council Chambers, the Portsmouth Drug Treatment Court held its graduation ceremony for eleven program graduates. Each attendee represented 1 to 2 years of sobriety and being drug free, following the theme “Our Past Doesn’t Determine Our Future” and is now leading very productive lives as citizens and parents. Senator L. Louise Lucas served as the keynote speaker with other City and corporate dignitaries in attendance. During the ceremony, the Portsmouth Drug Treatment Court Staff, Case Manager Mrs. Yvette Watkins-Cherry, and Mr. Vernon T. Williams, Drug Court Coordinator/Clinical Therapist, recognized and presented plaques to Brighton Light Chapter #118, Order of Eastern Star (represented by RWJGD Paige D. Cherry); in addition to the Third Masonic District Masters and Wardens Council, represented by DDGM Curtis Gunn in appreciation for their continued support of the Drug Treatment Program.

**Historical Visitation**

**Catawba Lodge No. 342, AF & AM and Mt. Zion Lodge No.18 F & AM**



Members of Mt. Zion #18 and Catawba Lodge #342 AF&AM during a visitation between the two distinguished Lodges

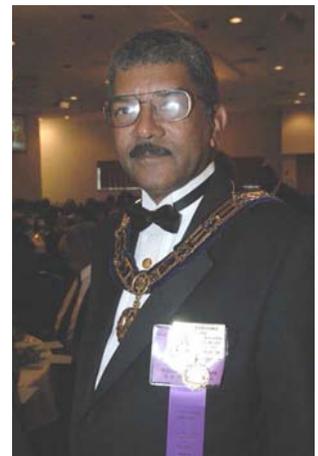
By ADDGM Edward L. Mock #18

On September 17, 2007 at 7:30 PM, a historical event took place in Botetourt County. Catawba Lodge No. 342, A.F. & A.M., of Fincastle, Va., received Mt. Zion Lodge No. 18, F. & A.M., of Staunton, Va., into the confines of its Lodge. WM Crocker of Catawba Lodge then proceeded to welcome WM Oliver Grant and the delegates traveling with him from Mt. Zion Lodge No. 18. The Prince Hall Members in attendance were as follows: RWGD Walter E. Brown, DDGM Harry Holtz, ADDGM Edward L. Mock, PDDGM James Becks, and PM Alphonso Miller. Also in attendance, from the A.F. & A.M. Grand Lodge of Virginia, were (6) Past Grand Masters, along with (2) current Grand Lodge Officers; RWDGM Edmund Cohen, and RWSGW Jeffrey Hodges, as well as other members.

ADDGM Edward L. Mock presented the Lodge with a lecture on the History of Prince Hall Freemasonry from Boston to Virginia, and the History of Mt. Zion Lodge No. 18. Following that, was a lecture on “Acceptance” presented by RWSGW Jeffrey Hodges, which commanded a standing ovation from the brethren.

The Lodge was subsequently turned over to RWDGM Edmund Cohen, who provided “Words of Wisdom” to the Craft. Subsequently, he pointed out that Past Grand Master, James Milton Scearce, Jr., who was present and served as Grand Master in 2004, signed the Compact which granted both bodies mutual recognition in Virginia.

**Past Grand Master William F. Milton, Jr. Receives Appointment**



MWPGM William F. Milton, Jr. at the 132<sup>nd</sup> Grand Lodge Session in Norfolk, VA

MWPGM William F. Milton, Jr. #58 was recently elected by the 48 Prince Hall Grand Masters from the various state jurisdictions to be the Executive Secretary of the Conference of Grand Masters. This is a first for the State of Virginia. MWPGM Milton previously served as Grand Master from 1996-1998, under the theme of “Service, above self.” He believes that the theme exemplifies his life, and he vows to bring the same spirit to the Conference. Another one of his guiding themes is, “My life you may take, my integrity never.” MWPGM Milton previously served as an elected Steering Committee member for seven years.

## FROM THE GRAND SECRETARY

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE  
 MOST WORSHIPFUL PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE  
 132<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL COMMUNICATION  
 Week of Events & Activities  
 11<sup>th</sup> through 15<sup>th</sup> September 2007



Grand Sec. Isaac S. Hughes #314

Greetings Brethren,

It is a privilege to highlight the events and activities of our 132<sup>nd</sup> Annual Communication. In my humble opinion, the session was a great success. There were a few rough spots during the session. But overall, based on a preliminary survey from some attendees, the session is currently rated an "8" (on a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 is poor and 10 is excellent). The survey form will be sent to your respective lodges for your feedback. So, please take a few minutes to review the survey form – fill it out, and return it to the Grand Lodge Office. Your feedback and input will ensure that our 133<sup>rd</sup> Session is better than the 132<sup>nd</sup>.

On Tuesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, a bowling tournament was enjoyed by a number of the brethren. Subsequently, trophies, in various categories, were awarded during the banquet on Friday night. The Board of Directors also met later that evening.

On Wednesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, the Treasurer's/Secretary's School was conducted. About 85 brothers were in attendance. The new requirement from the IRS (all lodges must file Form 990) was discussed along with other duties of the treasurers and secretaries. That evening, the Reverend Dr. Robert G. Murray, Pastor of First Baptist Church Bute Street, Norfolk, Virginia, delivered a dynamic message at our Prince Hall Day Celebration.

Thursday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, marked the official opening of the 132<sup>nd</sup> Annual Communication. Grand Master Vaughan gave his Annual Address, and recommended (2) well-deserving Grand Lodge Officers for Emeritus status (Worshipful Grand Marshal Herman W. Crenshaw #44 and Past District Deputy Grand Master John N. Daughtry #323). The other business of the day consisted of the reports coming from the Grand Lodge Officers. On Thursday evening, the first ever Gospel Concert was held, where some 700 attendees enjoyed God's praises through song.

On Friday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, the day started with a Lodge of Sorrow Program, where the local area lodges performed magnificently. The business of the day consisted of committee reports, the election of officers, and voting on items lifted from the table. After lunch, the Grand Master received representatives from Appendant and Concordant Bodies. Subsequently, that evening, the Annual Banquet was held which recognized members with (50) or more years of service in Masonry. Also, the following awards were issued:

**Secretary of Year-Harold Brown #237, Treasurer of year-George Birdsong #81, Jewel Contest-Commonwealth #81, WM of Year (SD)-Ricky A. Dews #204, Lodge of Year (SD)-Loconia #208, District of Year (SD)-13<sup>th</sup> District, DDGM of Year (SD)-Willie Seward #108-13<sup>th</sup> Dist., Master Mason of Year-Michael Davis #67, WM of Year (LD)-Kenneth L. Ragland #81, Lodge of Year (LD)-Commonwealth #81, District of Year (LD)-31<sup>st</sup> District, DDGM of Year (LD)-Clifton S. Johnson 31<sup>st</sup> MD, AADGM of Year (LD)-Leonard Johnson 31<sup>st</sup> MD, ADDGM of Year (LD)-Reginald Tolbert 31<sup>st</sup> MD, Most Improved Lodge-Providence Wing #229, Grand Master's Cup-Mrs. Bernice Vaughan (Grand Master's Mother), and Grand Master's Cup-RWDGM Larry D. Christian #253**

On Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, the day started with a special Grand Master's Breakfast. After breakfast, the session was called on and the business for the session resumed. The voting results were as follows; PM Charles A. Jones, Sr. #81 and PM Michael A. Parris #298 were elected as members of the Board of Directors, and MWPGM George H. Clemons #120 and PGD Robert Leeper #23 were elected to the Foundation Board. Since the Proposed Revised Constitution did not pass, it was laid on the table to be lifted at the 133<sup>rd</sup> Annual Session and voted on again. Also, the Grand Master received as special guests, the Knights of Pythagoras, and Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star delegations.

# 132<sup>nd</sup> Annual Communication in Pictures



Courtesy of WGP Larry Miller



Courtesy of WGP Larry Miller



Courtesy of WGP Larry Miller



Courtesy of WGP Larry Miller



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

**KNIGHTS OF PYTHAGOREAN'S LINK TO PRINCE HALL FREEMASONRY**

We believe Freemasonry has a two-fold purpose in supporting the Knights of Pythagoras movement. First of all, we should want to do all that we can at all times to encourage and help our youth.

It appears to be a part of the philosophy of Masonry. Our Order is doing for young men what Masonry is attempting to do for men. It is a character building organization, and through its ritual and ceremonies, it teaches those things that are good - **love of God, Love of Family, love of Country.**

Among other things, it teaches young men the virtue of **love of Parents** and **reverence for sacred things**. It also teaches them **brotherhood**. It teaches them to be clean in thought, word and deed. Furthermore it teaches young men to love and to serve their Country, proudly; both during times of peace as well as during times of war.

Secondly, and from a selfish point of view, why not invest a part of our income and our time in the very source of our prospects for future Masonic membership?

Masonry in most areas of our nation today is concerned about a drop in the number of new members, as well as a loss in total membership. Additionally, within the **Prince Hall Masonic Jurisdictions**, it is a violation of Masonic Law to solicit for new members.

Who are our prospects for Masonry? Only those who come to us voluntarily and are prompted to do so by having been favorably influenced by the good deeds and prestige of Masonry, and by contact with Masons. Thus, perhaps we should cultivate the young men of **The Knights of Pythagoras**.

The average Youth Knight will spend a minimum of three years serving on the Council level. That means he will be spending those three or more years in our Masonic buildings and having contact with Master Masons. As Master Masons, it affords us an opportunity to promote Masonic sponsored programs that builds character and perpetuate the philosophies of our Craft.

Let's be honest and face it, my brethren, there is a lot of competition for a young man's interest today, and Masonry is going to have to bid for his services, along with other competitors. We have the best working tools in the world, in the form of Freemasonry, to support these young men during that critical and formative period between the ages of nine (9) and twenty-one (21).

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Board of Directors Meeting**  
Place: Richmond  
Date: December 8, 2007

**Visitation to MWPHGL of DC**  
Place: Washington, DC  
Date: December 12, 2007

**St. John the Evangelist Day**  
Place: Statewide  
Date: December 16, 2007

**Operation Santa Claus**  
Place: Statewide  
Date: December 22, 2007

**Divine Service**  
Place: Statewide  
Date: December 30, 2007

**School of Instruction**  
Place: Tidewater  
Date: January 12, 2008

**MLK Day Ceremony**  
Place: Norfolk  
Date: January 13, 2008

**School of Instruction**  
Place: Richmond  
Date: January 26, 2008

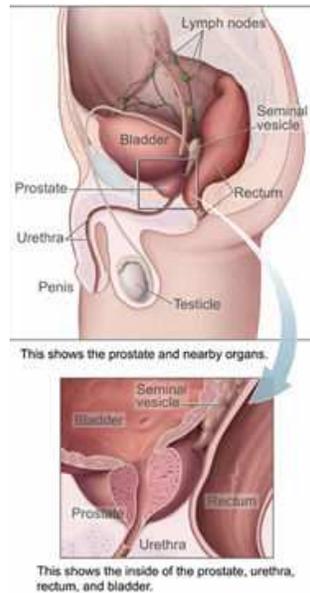
**School of Instruction**  
Place: Petersburg  
Date: February 9, 2008

**School of Instruction**  
Place: Victoria  
Date: February 23, 2008



## Health Committee

Bro. Melvin R. Johnson, MD PC



### Prostrate Cancer

The prostrate gland is organ located at the base of the urinary bladder. It surrounds the first part of the urethra. The functions of the prostrate gland are to: 1. Help control urination by pressing directly against the part of the urethra that it surrounds, and 2. Produce some of the substances that are found in normal semen. The normal prostrate gland is about the size of a walnut in young males. During the normal aging process, the gland usually grows larger-called benign prostrate hypertrophy.

Prostrate Cancer is a malignant tumor of the prostrate gland that usually grows slowly for many years. It is generally asymptomatic until the prostrate gland has enlarged or the tumor has spread beyond the gland. The signs and symptoms are mostly associated with advanced disease i.e. difficulty with urination, urinary frequency, painful urination, hematuria (bloody urine). These are symptoms found with benign prostrate hypertrophy.

Prostrate Cancer is the most common malignancy in American men and the second leading cause of deaths from cancer. Black American men have a higher risk of developing prostrate cancer than Asian or White American men. Prostrate Cancer tends to be found more commonly among men of family members with prostrate cancer. It tends to be diagnosed in the latter stages more often in black males, and with a worst outcome.

The cause of prostrate cancer is unknown, but not thought to be related to benign prostrate hypertrophy. The known risk factors include advancing age, hormonal influences, heredity, certain toxins, chemicals, and industrial products. Testosterone, the male hormone, directly stimulates the growth of both normal prostrate tissue and prostrate cancer cells. Environmental factors, such as smoking and diets high in saturated fats, seem to increase the risk for prostrate cancer. Prostrate Cancer tends to be rare under the age of 40 and most common in men older than 80. There are studies that suggest between 50 and 80 percent of men over 80 have microscopic evidence for prostrate cancer.

In the early stages, prostrate cancer often causes no symptoms for many years, going undetected. Screening tests are recommended in men at age 40 who are at high risk. These test include digital rectal examination of the prostrate gland (to detect abnormalities such as tenderness, bloody secretions, enlarged sized or nodules), and a blood test called the prostrate specific antigen (PSA). The screening tests are easily reproducible, easily performed, and highly sensitive in detecting prostrate cancer.

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With refined techniques, the urologist can confidently make the diagnosis. These include confirmatory PSA testing, prostate gland biopsy and pathologic grading. The staging of the cancer refers to a determination of the extent of the disease. Additional tests are done to assess whether the cancer has spread beyond the gland. This is accomplished with tissue biopsies, imaging tests (such as Radionuclide Bone Scans, CAT Scans, and MRI Scans), and PET Scans.

Deciding on treatment is more complicated because of the many options for treatment today that did not exist several years ago. Also some important factors pertaining to risks, treatment benefits, long-term prognosis has not been fully studied in the long-term scientific trails. At this time, the physician will explore in detail the nature of the cancer's classification and stage, and then arrive at a treatment course with the patients' consent. The standard available modalities include: hormonal therapy (orchiectomy, luteinizing hormone-releasing hormone agonists, progestin, and chemotherapy), radiation therapy (radioactive seeding), cryotherapy (tissue freezing), surgery (total prostatectomy), a combination of these treatments methods, in addition, and watchful waiting (monitoring the patient while no specific treatment is given). Each of these methods of treatment, have pros and cons, which should be well understood by the patients to achieve optimal outcomes.

In advanced or metastatic prostate cancer, palliative therapy is most practical. This usually involves some form of hormonal therapy and chemotherapy. The goal being to slow the progression of the cancer and to relieve the symptoms. Post-surgery and post-treatment problems or complications are addressed as they are manifested. These include such issues as infections of the bladder, colon, or urethra, abscess formations, hematuria (bloody urine), pain, nausea and vomiting, and impotence. Treatments of these problems are satisfactory and well tolerated by the informed patients

The treatment of prostate cancer to date has involved cutting out the prostate, radiating or freezing it in organ-confined cancer, and using hormonal or chemotherapy in advanced cases. Certainly, early diagnosis and improved treatment techniques in recent years have lead to better results. As we look to the future, there will certainly be strides to make earlier diagnosis, improved staging, classifications, and methods of treatment. The key to curing prostate cancer will ultimately come from an understanding of the genetic basis of the disease. Efforts are being made to unlock and understand the gene or genes responsible for prostate cancer. Finally, perhaps a vaccine to either prevent or treat this cancer will be developed in the future

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## MWPHGL of VA Travels to NC's 137<sup>th</sup> Annual Communication



RWDGM Larry D. Christian #253 (in front and fourth from the left) and members of the MWPHGL of VA outside of the jurisdiction of North Carolina's 137<sup>th</sup> Annual Communication

On September 28, 2007, RWDGM Larry D. Christian #253, RWSGW Harry Eggleston, Jr. #146, RWJGW Shelton Riddick #323 (not pictured), RWGL of the E.D Donald Wilson #67, and members of the Prince Hall Masonic Family traveled to the state of North Carolina for the MWPHGL of North Carolina's 137<sup>th</sup> Annual Communication. The Annual Communication was held in the city of Charlotte, NC. Over forty brothers accompanied RWDGM Larry D. Christian #253, who brought greetings on behalf of the Most Worshipful Grand Master Curtis S. Vaughan, Jr. #67.

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***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**



Greetings Brethren,

The Publication Committee would like to congratulate our Grand Master and his administration for an outstanding 2006-2007 administrative year. The Grand Lodge Session's success was indicative of good planning and committed brothers coming together with one common goal of leading our beautiful fraternity in the right direction. Each of us should be enthusiastic about the fraternity's focus on enhancing the lives of those in our community! The late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once stated, "*An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity.*" Our commitment to providing scholarships for our teens, thanksgiving baskets to the needy, and Christmas gifts to our children are wonderful examples of the humanitarian spirit of our Order. If our hearts and minds are in the right place, we can all be excited about a challenging 2007-2008 administrative year. ***Happy Holidays to you and your family!***

Fraternally yours,

PM Kenneth L. Ragland #81  
Editor  
Beehive Publication Committee

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