



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 Lecturer of the Western District Receives U.S. Governmental Award



Grand Lecturer of the Western District Butch Morgan (on left) with Secretary of Transportation, Mary E. Peters

On November 14, 2007, Secretary of Transportation, the Honorable Mary E. Peters presented Grand Lecturer of the Western District Butch Morgan with the Gold Medal Citation from the United States Department of Transportation. This award was attributed to our Lecturer’s “...teamwork and quick response to address the needs of the state of Minnesota and for giving the American people confidence in our transportation infrastructure.”

Community Service Day is Scheduled for June 3, 2008



On June 3, 2008, the Jurisdiction of Virginia will participate in a Habitat for Humanity event in honor of Community Service Day. Brothers throughout the Jurisdiction will be given the opportunity to assist with building homes in North Suffolk, VA. This event will be a blitz build, with the homes going to those families in need of services. All interested parties will be required to fill out an "Individual Application." These applications will be made available on the Grand Lodge Website, DDGM's Workshop, and at each S.O.I.

**Past Master Ronald E. Blakely, #32
A Prince Hall Mason working to strengthen
Historically Black Colleges and Universities
(HBCU)**



Past Master Ronald E. Blakely was recently appointed the Deputy Director/Chief of Staff of the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) on March 17, 2007. He is a member of Acacia Lodge #32, Alexandria, Virginia, where he served as WM in 1993. Past Master Blakely served as District Deputy Grand Master for the 31st Masonic District 2002-2006 and currently serves as Grand Illustrious Deputy Master for Royal and Select Master, Prince Hall Grand Council of Virginia Royal and Select Masters.

In his current position with the White House Initiative on HBCU, Past Master Blakely is responsible for evaluating and improving Federal programs and management systems that provide financial support to the 105 HBCU. He provides program guidance to 29 Federal departments and agencies on the requirements of the HBCU Executive Order issued by President George Bush. Past Master Blakely is a graduate of Tuskegee, Pepperdine and the University of Virginia. He is a retired Lieutenant Colonel, US Air Forces Reserves and an active member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

**RWJGD Paige Cherry
Enters Political Arena**



RWJGD Paige D. Cherry

Right Worshipful Junior Grand Deacon Paige D. Cherry #3 has announced his candidacy for a seat on the Portsmouth City Council in a nonpartisan election scheduled for May 6, 2008. Paige has spent the past 14 years serving on various boards, commissions, and committees in the City of Portsmouth. He is an active member of his church and community. He has served on several boards and committees to include: Chairman of the Portsmouth Planning Commission, Virginia Citizens Planning Association, Craney Island Study Commission, Housing Board of Adjustments and Appeals, Vice Chair of the Finance Portsmouth Democratic Committee, Founder and Past President of the Willow Breeze Community League, Finance Committee Zion Baptist Church, Chairman of Annual Giving Winston-Salem State University National Alumni Association.

PM George Cutler, Jr. #80 wins Civilian Manager Award



PM George Cutler, Jr.

The Communication and Information Award for the Headquarters Air Combat Command (ACC), First Fighter Wing (1 FW), First Communication Squadron (1 CS) for military and civilian personnel at Langley Air Force Base, Hampton, VA was presented to Mr. George Cutler, Jr. as the Civilian Manager of the Year for outstanding and dedicated service for the year of 2007. This award covers a vast number of personnel at Langley and many processes. Mr. Cutler managed one of the Air Force's top projects from a communication and information perspective which is the RAPTOR. The F-22A is the short title of the aircraft and is capable of deploying anywhere in the world. This aircraft consist of more than 1500 personnel, including 36 aircraft valued at 65 billion dollars and the infrastructure worth 270 million has been declared Fully Operational Capable (FOC) in 2007. Mr. Cutler's efforts lead to this milestone accomplishment.

FROM THE GRAND SECRETARY

IMPORTANT INFORMATION 133RD ANNUAL COMMUNICATION



Grand Sec. Isaac S. Hughes #314

PLACE OF COMMUNICATION MARRIOTT NEWPORT NEWS
AT CITY CENTER HOTEL
740 TOWN CENTER DRIVE
NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA
800-228-9290 or (757) 837-9299

DATE SEPTEMBER 18th – 20th, 2008

WORSHIPFUL MASTERS & SECRETARIES: It is very important that all information sent in the April 2008 mailing be read in open lodge and action taken, as required, in a timely manner. Please note the due dates. Please complete all required forms, sign and place seal of the lodge in its appropriate location.

ADVANCE & ON-SITE/LATE REGISTRATION: The advance registration is **\$95.00** and on-site/late registration is **\$150.00** (\$150.00 is intended be an incentive for submitting advance registration). The cut-off-date for advance registration is **14 August 2008 (advance registration must be post-marked no later than 14 August 2008)**.

GOSPEL CONCERT: The Gospel Concert will be held on Thursday evening, 18 September 2008, at 8:00 p.m. Seating will be by ticket only. One ticket is included with registration; extra tickets are \$15.00 each and must be ordered with each registration.

ANNUAL BANQUET: The Annual Banquet will be held on Friday evening, 19 September 2008, at 6:00 p.m. Seating will be by ticket only. One ticket is included with registration; extra tickets are \$40.00 each and must be ordered with each registration.

SPECIAL SPORTING EVENT: A special sporting event will be held on Tuesday, 16 September 2008. This special fun event is for your enjoyment and fellowship. All are encouraged to participate.

TREASURER & SECRETARY SCHOOL: The Annual Treasurer & Secretary School will be held on Wednesday morning, 17 September 2008, at 10:00a.m. This school will provide important information and answer your questions. All are invited, especially lodge Treasurers and Secretaries.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS -- IMPORTANT!!!! In order to be assured of room accommodations when you arrive for the 133rd ANNUAL COMMUNICATION, it is necessary that you make reservations now with the Marriott Newport News at City Center Hotel, 800-228-9290 or (757) 873-9299. The rate is \$113.00 plus tax. All reservations must be guaranteed by credit card. The cut-off-date for accepting reservations is 14 August 2008.

Isaac S. Hughes
Right Worshipful Grand Secretary

UPCOMING EVENTS

DDGM Workshop
Place: Portsmouth
Date: April 5, 2008

Founder's Day
Place: Petersburg
Date: May 18, 2008

Annual Golf Tournament
Place: Williamsburg
Date: June 20, 2008

S.O.I.
Place: King George
Date: April 12, 2008

Community Service Day
Place: North Suffolk
Date: June 3, 2008

St. John the Baptist Day
Place: Statewide
Date: June 22, 2008

VA Hospital Visitation
Place: Statewide
Date: April 23, 2008

GM's Testimonial Banquet
Place: Norfolk
Date: June 7, 2008

Armed Forces YMCA Five Star Military Family Recognition Awarded to NETWARCOM Chief (ADDGM Alton Miles) and Family



ADDGM Alton Miles #196 (2nd from right) and Family
(Photo by TriDuo.com)

On November 16, 2007, the Armed Services YMCA of Hampton Roads recognized NETWARCOM's Chief Operations Specialist Alton Miles (ADDGM), Erma, and children Alton Jr. and Alexia as the Navy's Five Star Military Family for 2007. The Miles family was recognized based on their outstanding community service.

Operation Santa Claus is a Blessing for Many

Santa comes in all shapes and sizes ... a photo essay

Whether in dress clothes, business suits or uniforms, these civic-minded elves deliver Christmas spirit. Photos by Barbara Woerner.



Vernon Long, a Mason, completes a shopping spree with Winter Christmas, L, and her mother Jacqueline. This year more than 15 children received a \$100 gift card, breakfast, a visit with Santa and a gaily bag.



Merry Masons
Santa Claus, A.K.A. Cotton Pierce, talks with King Williams, 4, after he completed his shopping spree with his mother. During the Second Masonic District's Operation-Santa Claus 2007 at Big 'N' Mart on South Military Highway. For more than 25 years, members have helped children in need shop for Christmas presents for themselves and family members.

Members of the 2nd Masonic District bring smiles to young faces during Operation Santa Claus

On Saturday, December 22, 2007, Operation Santa Claus was held throughout the Jurisdiction. During this event, tens of thousands of dollars were donated to bring smiles to the faces of many children and families in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The article above recognizing the 2nd Masonic District's participation appeared in the local newspaper.

SCHOOLS OF INSTRUCTION



MWGM Vaughan #67 poses with Merit Award recipients at the Tidewater S.O.I. (Photo Courtesy of Grand Photographer L. Miller)

On January 12, 2008, the first School of Instruction was held in Tidewater. The School was well attended, with 34 brothers in attendance for the first time. Additionally, 15 brothers received Merit Awards. Providence #189 and Morning Star #3 won highest attendance and highest percentage awards respectively.

On January 26, 2008, the School was held in Richmond, VA. During the School, 8 brothers received Certificates of Merit. Commonwealth #81 and Carey Wheaton #307 won highest attendance and highest percentage awards respectively.

On February 9, 2008, the School was held in Petersburg, VA. The Committee on Work covered the following topics: *petitions, balloting, and protocol.* 11 brothers received Merit Awards and Franklin Star #288 and Moses-Gravel Run #290 won highest attendance and highest percentage awards respectively.

On February 23, 2008, the School was held in Victoria, VA. 6 brothers received Certificates of Merit. Randolph #30 and West Lodge #290 won highest attendance and highest percentage awards respectively.

*Most Worshipful Grand Master
The Honorable Curtis S. Vaughan Jr.
Testimonial Banquet*



Greetings:

The Brethren of the First Masonic District and Sisters of District #2 Order of Eastern Star, PHA will host the testimonial banquet of our Most Worshipful Grand Master, The Honorable Curtis S. Vaughan Jr.

This spectacular event will be held on Saturday, June 7, 2008 at The Murray Center, 455 East Brambleton Avenue, Norfolk, Virginia at 6:30 PM for a donation of \$50.00 per person. The colors for this affair are black, white, and gold. *The deadline for ticket purchase is May 10, 2008.*

Housing headquarters and reservations will be at the Radisson Hotel, which is located at 700 Monticello Ave, Norfolk, Virginia. Room rates are \$99.00 plus tax, and reserved under "Prince Hall Masons." Individuals can contact the hotel directly at (75) 627-5555 or (800) 333-3333. *Deadline for reservations is May 7, 2008.*

There will be a Souvenir Journal for those wishing to express their sincere greetings in the form of an ad or names for the Patrons List. The prices are as follows: *inside left cover-\$75.00, inside right cover-\$75.00, full page-\$50.00, half page-\$40.00, quarter page-\$25.00, business cards-\$15.00, and patron list-\$1.00.* Photographs are an additional \$10.00 with full or half page ads only. *Deadline for all submissions is May 10, 2008. NO EXCEPTIONS.*

All checks should be made payable to "Campbell Lodge No. 67" and mailed to:

Donald Wilson
704 Cedar Glen Ct.
Virginia Beach, VA. 23462

Shelton Riddick
1216 Lakeview Ct.
Chesapeake, VA 23323

For further information and tickets, please contact any of the listed below:

RWDGM Larry D. Christian	(757) 566-2066
RWJGW Shelton Riddick	(757) 465-1780
RWGL (E) Donald Wilson	(757) 499-3736
ADDGM Alton Miles	(757) 333-7826
GDDO Cheryl Hicks	(757) 489-8384

VA Hospital Visitation Scheduled for April 23, 2008

The 2nd Annual VA Hospital visitation will take place on April 23, 2008 throughout the State of Virginia and Washington, DC. The visitation locations and times are as follows:

(1) VA Medical Center, 100 Emancipation Dr., Hampton, VA (assemble at 10:00 am in bldg 83) POC is PM Braxton Mitchell, Jr. (757)727-7747.

(2) VA Medical Center, 1970 Roanoke Blvd., Salem, VA. (assemble at 10:30 am) POC is DDGM James O. Borders (540) 344-3401.

(3) McGuire VA Medical Center, 1201 Broad Rock Blvd., Richmond, VA. (assemble at 10:00 am in multi purpose room) POC is RWGD Charles Jones (804) 337-1928.

(4) Washington, DC VA Medical Center, 50 Irving Street NW, Washington, DC (assemble at 1:00 pm) POC is ADDGM Reginald Tolbert (757) 406-4002.

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Why is it important for African American Men to have a Colonoscopy?

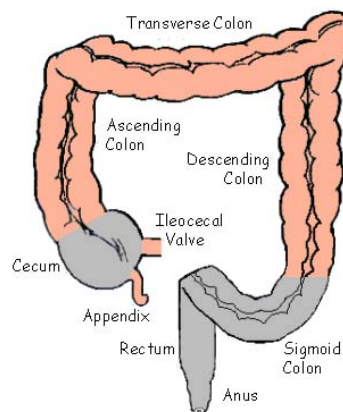
David Simmons Jr. MSN, RN, CNN

African American men have a higher incidence and death rate from all cancers combined than Caucasian Americans. Stages of diagnosis and the availability of appropriate and timely treatment influence survival rates. The number of African American men who are diagnosed with more advanced states of disease is higher than Caucasians. Factors that may contribute to the survival difference include unequal access to medical care, a higher prevalence of coexisting conditions, afraid to be screened, lack of knowledge, expense, no insurance, and tumor biology. Colon and rectum cancer are the second leading sites of cancer death for African American men and women, yet if detected early, it is curable. Unfortunately, only thirty-seven percent of colon cancers are detected at its earliest stage. Testing for fecal occult blood (FOBT) may detect some abnormalities, and a flexible sigmoidoscopic examination may find more. However, the gold standard for screening is colonoscopy, a visual examination of the entire large intestine, and it is highly effective in detecting cancer in its earliest stages of development. Therefore, it is essential that African Americans men and women have a colonoscopy.

What is a Colonoscopy?

During a colonoscopy procedure, the physician- a specialist in gastroenterology –performs a through visual examination of the large intestine using a flexible scope that is equipped with a tiny camera and light source. The tube is inserted through the rectum up into the colon, and in most cases, the gastroenterologist can see the entire colon, which is about six feet long.

The Colon (Large Intestine)



Polyp (Adenoma) Removal

If the gastroenterologist detects a polyp, he/she can deploy a tool to grasp or snare and remove it. A polyp is a mushroom-like growth on the wall of the intestine that may develop over time into cancer. The doctor passes a wire loop or forceps through the colonoscope to cut the polyp from the intestinal wall using electrical current. The polyp is sent to the laboratory for microscopic examination for signs of cancer. If the doctors see anything else abnormal, he/she can obtain a small piece of tissue through the colonoscope for biopsy.

Preparation for Colonoscopy

You will be given instructions in advance that will explain what you need to do to prepare for your colonoscopy. Colonoscopy is most often performed in the outpatient department of the digestive health Care Center of the hospital. Mild sedation is provided, and most patients are comfortable during the exam, which can take 15-30 minutes.

Your colon must be completely empty for the colonoscopy to be thorough and safe. To prepare for the procedure you will have to follow a liquid diet for 1 to 3 days beforehand. The liquid diet should be clear and not contain food colorings, and may include

- fat-free bouillon or broth
- strained fruit juice
- water
- plain coffee
- plain tea
- diet soda
- gelatin

(Continue on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

Thorough cleansing of the bowel is necessary before a colonoscopy. You will likely be asked to take a laxative the night before the procedure. In some cases you may be asked to give yourself an enema. An enema is performed by inserting a bottle with water and sometimes a mild soap in your anus to clean out the bowels. Be sure to inform your doctor of any medical conditions you have or medications you take on a regular basis such as

- aspirin
- arthritis medications
- blood thinners
- diabetes medication
- vitamins that contain iron

The medical staff will also want to know if you have heart disease, lung disease, or any medical condition that may need special attention. You must also arrange for someone to take you home afterward, because you will not be allowed to drive after being sedated.

What are Symptoms of Colon Cancer?

Inform your doctor and or health care provider if you have any of these symptoms:

- A change in bowel habits (diarrhea, constipation, stools that are narrower than usual).
- Rectal bleeding or blood in the stool (bright red or very dark in color).
- A feeling that you need to have a bowel movement that is not relieved by doing so.
- Cramping or steady abdominal pain (fullness, bloating).
- Decreased appetite.
- Constant weakness and fatigue.
- Weight loss with no known reason.

Unfortunately, colon cancer often exhibits no symptoms, so your body does not always alert you to a developing problem. This is why screening for colon cancer is vital. If your doctor or health care provider doesn't discuss screening procedures with you, bring it up during your next visit. Screening decisions must be individualized, and you can be instrumental in protecting your own health.

Who should be screened?

The American Cancer Society makes recommendations for colon cancer screening for adults over the age of 50 including:

- Annual fecal occult blood test (FOBT), plus a flexible sigmoidoscopy (FSIG) every five (5) years
- Double contrast barium enema every five (5) years or,
- Colonoscopy every 10 years

Note: A digital rectal exam (DRE) is not recommended as a stand-alone screening test for colorectal cancer. However, DRE should be performed prior to insertion of a sigmoidoscope or colonoscope.

Who is considered high risk?

If you are at higher risk for developing cancer of the colon or rectum, your doctor or health care provider will advise you concerning a more aggressive screening schedule.

High-risk individuals have:

- A close family member who has had polyps or cancer, or
- A personal history of polyps or cancer, or
- A history of Chron's disease or ulcerative colitis, or
- A history of breast cancer, or other glandular malignancies.

For more information:

American Cancer Society (ACS) : www.cancer.org : 1-800-ACS-2345

National Cancer Institute (NCI) www.cancer.gov

**Beehive Publication
Committee**

All correspondents may
be sent to:

7412 Griffin Ave.
Richmond, VA 23227

PHONE:
(804) 878-1830

E-MAIL:
kworld81@hotmail.com

Copies of this newsletter can
be obtained at:

<http://www.mwphgl-va.org>

MESSAGE FROM THE BEEHIVE EDITOR



Greetings Brethren,

First and foremost, I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you for continuing to provide the Publication Committee with newsworthy information in a timely manner. Your submissions further confirm the positive contributions Prince Hall Masons are making in the State of Virginia, and throughout the country. **Consequently, if any brother is in possession of photographs of our brethren actively fighting in the war, please submit these photos to the Publication Committee.** We intend to honor these brave and patriotic brethren in a future edition. If you're not aware, the following Publication Committee Members are graciously serving you during this administrative year: **PM Garland Jones #65, PM Raymond A. Sutton, III #13, PM Charles Woodie #65, PM Willie Wynn #327, and SW George Bowser #23 (Consultant).** At your convenience, please take a moment and thank these brothers for their dedicated service to our beautiful fraternity. Finally, let us remember to embrace one another on the strong platform of *friendship, morality, and brotherly love.*

Fraternally yours,

PM Kenneth L. Ragland #81
Editor
Beehive Publication Committee

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