

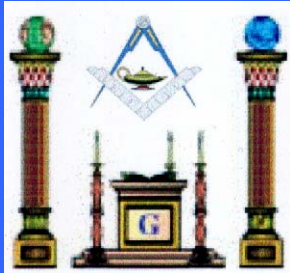


M.W. Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia, F&AM, Inc.

THE BEEHIVE



SEPTEMBER 2009
ISSUE NINE



Most Worshipful Grand Master,
Larry D. Christian # 253

"Letting Our Light Shine"



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



Grand Master Larry D. Christian #253 and First Lady Beverly Christian at the Charity Ball, held in Richmond, VA on June 20, 2009.
(Photo courtesy of Bro. W. Porter)

See story on page 3

GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE



Greetings to All Members of the Prince Hall Family,

*As we come to the conclusion of this Masonic year, we have visited **all** 33 Districts and 68 Masonic Lodges. We attended the Conference of Grand Masters & Grand Matrons on May 13-17. We had record numbers of 300 to participate in the Founders' Day on May 24, 2009 as well as 350 at Whit Sunday in Chase City.*

On June 19, we had a very successful Grand Masters' Golf Tournament followed by the Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter Charity Ball.

On July 11, we had the KOP Youth Day at the Norfolk Tides baseball game. On July 29, we visited the Grand Chapter OES session with 125 Brothers in attendance.

On August 1, we held our first annual Grand Lodge cookout at our newly acquired building. We supported the Prince Hall Memorial in Massachusetts by donating \$1,000. On August 20, we witnessed our first non 21 year old raised as a Master Mason, Brother Craig Walton, Jr. Lastly, we held our Annual Gospel Concert on August 22.

The Grand Lodge has contributed \$25,000 in scholarships to our youth. Currently we are participating in Back to School Programs across the Jurisdiction.

It is unfortunate that 49 members of our family—31 Brothers from MWPHGL and 18 Sisters from OES—have banded together to file suit against the MWPHGL of Virginia and the Grand Chapter Order of Eastern Star. Now that the suit is proceeding, we must let the judicial system work; however, as Grand Master, I will continue to uphold the Constitution of the MWPHGL of Virginia.

Furthermore, I would like to thank our District Deputy Grand Masters and Assistants for their hard work and vigilance during this administration.

“Brothers...let no motive therefore, make you swerve from your duty, violate your vows, or betray your trust, but be true and faithful, and imitate the examples of that celebrated artist whom we represent.” As the Most Worshipful Grand Master, I ask that you “Stay on the Wall” and let your light shine that men may see your good works and glorify God in Heaven.

*Larry D. Christian
Most Worshipful Grand Master*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual Session

Place: Richmond
Date: Sept. 17-19, 2009

York Rite Week

Place: Newport News
Date: Oct. 7-10, 2009

G.L. Penna. Visitation

Place: Statewide
Date: Oct. 12-14, 2009

Founders Day

Place: Petersburg
Date: Nov. 14, 2009

Operation Thanksgiving

Place: Statewide
Date: Nov. 21, 2009

Devine Sunday

Place: Statewide
Date: Nov. 30, 2009

Superior Team Workshop

Place: TBA
Date: Dec. 5, 2009

St. John Evangelist Day

Place: Statewide
Date: Dec. 13, 2009

Operation Santa Claus

Place: Statewide
Date: Dec. 19, 2009

Charity Ball A Huge Success!



From left to right: RWSGW Shelton Riddick #323, MWGM Larry Christian #253, and RWJGW Roger Brown #327 at the Charity Ball

On Saturday, June 20, 2009, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia and the Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star of Virginia held its Joint Charity Ball at the Sheraton Hotel in Richmond, VA. The Ball was a first class black tie affair, with a sit down dinner and live band. During the gala affair, Grand Worthy Matron Cecelia R. Irby and Grand Master Larry D. Christian thanked the sell out crowd for their support. Consequently, Grand Master Larry Christian informed those in attendance that the OES Chapter has donated \$33,093.15 this year, while the Masonic Lodges have donated \$125,088.33, for a grand total of \$158,181.48.

Jurisdiction of Virginia Raises First Master Mason Under 21 Years Old



Brother Craig Walton, Jr. #23

Submitted by RWJGW Roger C. Brown #327

Brother Craig Walton, Jr. was raised on Monday, Aug 17, 2009 at Hobson Lodge #23. He is the first Prince Hall Mason in Virginia to be initiated, passed and raised under the new edict issued by MWGM Larry Christian, which allows membership at the age of 18. Craig Walton, Jr. is the son of P.M. Craig Walton, Sr., State Director – KOP. He is currently 20 years old and is a student at Averett University in Danville, VA. W.M. James 'Sonny' Simmons opened the lodge to receive MWGM Larry D. Christian, along with several of the other elected and appointed Grand Lodge Officers. W.M. Simmons conducted the 1st section of the 3rd Degree. The 2nd section was conducted by P.M. George Bowser, along with RWGD Robert Leeper, Jr. leading the way as 1st Craftsman. P.M. James Thomas gave the Historical Lecture and P.M. Steve Austin gave the Charge. MWGM Christian welcomed Brother Craig Walton, Jr. into the craft and informed him that he has made history in Virginia and that this event will be documented in our history books. MWGM Christian presented Brother Walton with several gifts, but informed him that the most important gift was the Holy Bible, which he should study and use as his guide through life.

Masons being Masons

When Liberty High School put out a call for help, Prince Hall Masons responded!

By DDGM John C. Harrison #142

Liberty High School (Bealeton, Virginia) wanted to improve their stadium by adding an entrance and ticket complex. A "stadium committee" was formed and the planning began. Fundraising and donations of time and money from the community were part of the discussions. During one of their earlier meetings, DDGM John C. Harrison mentioned that he had some fraternity brothers that might be able to lay a "brick or two."

After the work began, the company hired to do the brick work could only work on weekends. This caused Coach Buzzo some concern because he wanted the work completed before the first home game. As a result, Activity Director Mark Holmes contacted Harrison, who called his ADDGM Dennis Gordon, a brick and masonry contractor. Gordon was able to recruit Past Masters Carl Yates, Chester F. Yates, Chester L. Yates, and Louis Yates all of Midland Lodge #238 of Catlett, VA. Additionally, Past Masters Raymond Brown and John C. Harrison of Viewtree Lodge #142 of Warrenton, VA helped with the project.

Masons being Masons got the job done for Liberty High School!

FROM THE GRAND SECRETARY



RWGS Isaac Hughes #314

Dear Brothers,

We are very proud, grateful and humble that the Almighty has allowed us to complete the development and preparation of the first course in the curriculum for the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia Internal College (MVIC). This first course, Superior Teams -- What are they and How to develop them was taught to the prototype team on August 14-15, 2009, at the MWPHGL of Virginia Conference and Training Center. After this first presentation, a process and schedule will be provided so that all brothers and sisters will have an opportunity to take this course.

The following is the course outline:

The Superior Team Course Outline

Introduction

MWPHGL of VA Mission
 MVIC's Aim/Purpose
 MVIC's Foundation Stones

The Bible - Nehemiah
 The Orchestra Vision
 The Team Dysfunctions

Understanding Perceptions
 Understanding Change
 Understanding Superior Teams

Feelings

Inclusion
 Commitment
 Loyalty
 Pride
 Trust

Processes

Communicating & Contracting
 Responding & Adapting
 Influencing & Accessing
 Appreciating & Celebrating

Results

Maximum use of Human Res.
 Customer Satisfaction
 Superior Outputs
 Continuous Improvement

Leadership

Initiator
 Model
 Coach

Bring It Together

Improved Performance
 Quality in Services/Products
 Gaining a Competitive Edge
 Best Chance to be Fulfilled

Examination



HEALTH COMMITTEE

Bell's Palsy



*Harold D. Jones III, M.D.
Berea # 114*

Bell's Palsy is a form of temporary facial paralysis from or trauma to one or two facial nerves. The paralysis causes distortion of facial features and interferes with the normal facial function, such as closing the eyes, chewing and eating. The paralysis is caused by the swelling and inflammation of the facial nerve. The onset is sudden and most people think they have suffered a stroke. Milder symptoms include tingling around the lips or dry eyes and this may progress quickly to paralysis.

Causes of Bell's Palsy include viral infections such as common cold sore herpes simplex, influenza or flu, mononucleosis, bacterial infections (especially middle ear infections), facial trauma, a brain tumor, and a neurological condition caused by a chronic disease such as diabetes.

Treatment with antiviral agents such as acyclovir may be helpful. Steroidal preparations such as prednisone in combination with the antiviral agents appear to be more effective. The role of steroids is to reduce the inflammation and swelling. Many individuals may be referred for physical therapy and utilize a technique called facial retraining. Complications include loss of taste, chronic facial spasm, and infections to the eye secondary to dryness. Recovery ranges from three weeks to months and some people suffer with permanent paralysis.

Visit: www.ninds.gov/disorders/bells/bells.htm



MWGM Larry Christian and RWJGW Roger Brown and the Knights of Pythagoras at the 45th Summer Encampment held at Hampton University (photo courtesy of PM Joe Williams #23)

Knights of Pythagoras Summer Encampment

By

WM Nate Watts, President Prince Hall Council #26, Silver Trowel #267

On July 23-25, 2009, the Knights of Pythagoras held their 45th Summer Encampment at Hampton University. The event was kicked off with a bang by State Director Craig Walton Sr. of Ransom #1 Council (Hobson #23) during the opening ceremony. The Summer Encampment consisted of an Inspirational Speaker, Behavior Sessions and a day of fun at Buckroe Beach. The Annual Banquet was attended by MWGM Larry D. Christian and some of his cabinet.

Great fun was had by all!! A special thanks to State Educational Coordinator SK Wilkiton Shaw of Ransom #1 (Hobson #23), WM Quawwam Muhaimin, Bethlehem Star #249, and thanks to all Senior Advisors, Sr. Knights, and Parents.
See you next year!

MWPHGL OF VIRGINIA ANNUAL GOSPEL CONCERT 2009

The 2009 Annual Gospel Concert was held on Saturday, August 22, 2009 @ 6:00 pm at Queen Street North Worship Center, located at 98 N. Armistead Ave, Hampton, VA. All those in attendance received a welcome from *DDGM Thomas L. Jefferson, Jr.*, scripture recitation by *DDGM Raymond A. Sutton, III*. The Masters of Ceremonies were AM Gospel DJs, *Donald L Eason-WPCE 1400 and Lonnie Perry-WCPK 1600*. The featured groups for the Gospel Fest were: *Bernard Thompson, The Gospel Sensation, Soul Seekers of Mechanicsville, and The Gospel Harmonizers of Ivor*. All of the featured groups did a fantastic job and received enthusiastic applause. The event was well supported, with over 500 tickets sold. The Introduction of the Grand Master was rendered by *RWDGM Herman Eggleston*, and words of thanks were provided by *MWGM, The Honorable Larry D. Christian*. Kudos to *DDGM Thomas Jefferson, Jr.* and *PADDGM Robert Garris* for chairing this successful event!

Sixth Masonic District's Saint John the Baptist Celebration



MWGM Christian allows the 3 new Masters to wear their Crowns for photo recording of Sixth Masonic District's Saint John's Celebration at Colossian Baptist Church in Newport News, VA.

By
DDGM R. Sutton #13 & WM H. Jackson #13

MWGM Larry D. Christian, #253 was in attendance at the Festival of Saint John the Baptist Program observed by the Sixth Masonic District on Sunday, June 14, 2009. The service was held at Colossian Baptist Church in Newport News, VA with Providence Wing Lodge, #229 as the lead Lodge. The keynote speaker, WPM Nathaniel Hill, #229 brought an informative message of "The Baptist" which shed light on his pre-ordained assignment as well as our motives in choosing him as a Patron Saint. The three Lodges of the Sixth Masonic District were on hand to present their Worshipful Masters for the ensuing year 2009-2010. WM Howard J. Jackson, Eastern Star #13; WM Theodore A. Williamson, York Star-Zedekiah #167 and WM Shawn A. Wilson, Providence Wing #229 were presented to the public and introduced as the head of their respective Crafts.

The Celebration of St John was well attended by our Brethren and Sisters of the OES. Many families and friends were also in attendance. After feasting on the message delivered by WPM Hill, all were treated to a true feast and repast prepared and served by the Brothers of Providence Wing Lodge. Professional photography services were supplied by Mr. Phillip Lee and photos may be obtained by calling (757) 874-4866. A DVD was made of the entire program and may be obtained from Colossian Baptist Church, 856 Fort Eustis Boulevard, Newport News, VA 23602.

72 Year Certificate Presented to One of Virginia's Oldest Masons



PM Obediah Golden Baker #256 displays his certificate, representing 72 years in Masonry



Grand Master Larry Christian #253 places a pin on PM Obediah Golden Baker #256

By
DDGM Curtis M. Holland (8th District)

On March 26th, Holland Lodge #256 gathered at Mt. Sinai Baptist Church, Suffolk, Virginia, under the direction of our MWGM, Larry D. Christian, Triple River Lodge # 253 with members of his cabinet to honor PM Obediah Golden Baker with a Certificate of Membership for 72 years of service to the Prince Hall Family.

He served as Master of Holland Lodge #256 from 1939 to 1941 and again in 1960-1962. Since that time, he has served in whatever capacity needed during work and instruction. Many changes have been witnessed by this Master Mason, family man, and man of God.

As a pillar in his church, he has held many leadership positions; Chairman of the Board of Deacons, Charter member of the Male Chorus, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, and superintendent of the Sunday School. He was married to the late Thora B. Baker, a member of Holland Chapter #162 OES, PHA, and together they raised four children.

In his own words, he said "Masonry is beautiful, a pleasure to learn and once you talk the talk, you will walk the walk. My father was a mason and he quizzed me constantly. Once you learn, you will always have something to talk about".

Our MWGM is "letting his light shine" by presenting awards to our members across the jurisdiction with longevity. He paid PM Baker's yearly assessments and special assessments, along with presenting him a baseball cap with the inscription "Mason for Life" which his daughter says he wears everywhere.

MWPHGL OF VIRGINIA COOK-OUT



(L to R) Sisters of Antioch Franklin Southampton # 72: Sis. Terrie Myrick, Sis. Laytoya Joyner, Worthy Matron Arleathia Peck, and Sis. Joan Chambliss at the Cookout

On Saturday, August 1, 2009 at 10:00 am, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia held a family cookout at Palestine Lodge #100 in Kilmarnock, VA. This is the location of the property that was purchased by the Grand Lodge. The cookout was well attended and fun was had by all! However, rumors are circulating that we must find the photo of our Grand Master working hard at the snow cone machine (smile). As of this publication, we're unable to locate this photograph!

Commonwealth Lodge #81 and Grand Lodge of VA Support Police Athletic League (PAL)



(Clockwise) Former NBA Star Johnny Newman, PM Ken Ragland #81, WM Keith Berkeley #81, and Former WNBA Player Jessie Hicks posed for photo at the Johnny Newman Basketball Camp



PM Ken Ragland #81 (on far left, 3rd row), coaches, staff, and basketball camp participants pose for photo at the 3rd Annual Johnny Newman / Henrico PAL Basketball Camp

During the month of August 2009, Commonwealth Lodge #81 served as the official sponsor of the 3rd Annual Johnny Newman / Henrico Police Athletic League Basketball Camp, which was held August 17-20 at Highland Springs High School in Henrico County, VA. The camp was attended by over 75 youths from 6 to 15 years old. As the official sponsor of the camp, all of the participants wore shirts with "Commonwealth Lodge #81, Prince Hall Masons of VA" printed on the back. On Wednesday, August 19, 2009, WM Keith Berkeley #81 visited the camp and was greeted by PM Kenneth Ragland #81 (Founder/Executive Director) of Henrico PAL, Former NBA Star Johnny Newman, and Former WNBA Player Jessie Hicks. During his visit, Johnny Newman extended his sincere thanks to Commonwealth Lodge #81 and all Prince Hall Masons.

The Henrico PAL Program is a youth crime prevention program that utilizes education, athletic, and recreational activities to create trust between police officers and youths. The Henrico PAL Program was founded by PM (Sgt.) Kenneth Ragland #81, who serves as Executive Director. Since its establishment in 2007, over 1400 youths have participated in Henrico PAL sponsored programs and events. This summer over 165 youths participated in an 8 week summer camp. Some of the other programs offered by Henrico PAL are: *After School Program, Youth Leadership Council, 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament, Drop Everything and Read Program, Soccer Clinic, Baseball/Softball Clinic, Basketball Team, and the Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway.* This fall, the Henrico PAL Program will expand its After School Program to a second location that will provide tutoring, recreational, and athletic activities to over 200 youths.

Since the Henrico Police Athletic League, Inc. is a 501 (c) 3 non profit organization, it relies on donations, grants, registration fees, and sponsorships to provide quality and safe programs. Some of the many Corporate Sponsors of the Henrico PAL Program are: *VA Dominion Power, Carmax, Peoples Bank, Richmond International Raceway, First Market Bank, Doubletree Hotel, Chick-Fil-A, Richmond Ford Lincoln Mercury, Mulholland Group, Inc. Door to Door Solutions, Hutton & Williams Law Firm, Allen, Allen, Allen & Allen Law Firm, Kroger, Foodlion, Wal-Mart, Mason Moving & Storage (PM Rodman Mason #81-owner), and Satisfactory Janitorial Service, Inc. (Bro. Al George #28-owner)* Some of the other Fraternal and Civic Sponsors are: *Most Worshipful Prince Grand Lodge of VA, Capital City Lodge #107, King David Lodge #28, Majestic Lodge #263, West Richmond Rotary Club, and the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE)-Central VA Chapter.*

Due to the tremendous success of the program and its community impact, on Thursday, August 6, 2009, PM Kenneth Ragland #81 was invited to serve as the keynote speaker at the Dinner and Lodge Meeting of Westhampton Lodge #302, AF & AM. As a result, Westhampton Lodge #302, AF & AM will serve as mentors and volunteers in the Henrico PAL After School Program. For more information on Henrico PAL, please visit www.henricopal.org

PM MICHAEL HODGES #42 AND PAST MATRON CYNTHIA HODGES #42 OES WELCOME HOME THEIR SON FROM IRAQ



Brother (Capt.) Dewayne G. Hodges with Vice President Joe Biden



Brother (Capt.) Dewayne G. Hodges with Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton

By

PM Michael Hodges #42

First giving all Honor to our Lord and Savior, we would like to thank the Craft for all their prayers and calls during my illness.

Now we would like to share with the Craft our current happiness. Our Lord and Savior has blessed us again by returning our son, Captain Dewayne G. Hodges to us safe and sound from his second tour in Iraq. Capt. Hodges returned in June; he is also a member of Dover Lodge (MWPHGL of Delaware) in Dover, Delaware. Capt. Hodges had the responsibility of planning all the travel plans of Diplomats when they entered the country; his most noted Diplomats were Vice President Biden and Secretary of State Clinton. Thank God for his safe return.

Veterans Hospital Visitation Day



ADDGMs Waverly Jones and Willie Wynn of the 26th Masonic District prepare to serve refreshments at McGuire Hospital in Richmond



MWGM Larry D. Christian #253 hard at work on the grill at McGuire Hospital in Richmond

On April 22, 2009, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of VA participated in the 3rd Annual VA Hospital Visitation Day. Throughout the Jurisdiction of Virginia, Masons visited the Veteran Hospitals in Virginia and Washington, DC, providing veterans with toiletries and cookouts. This event has become a yearly demonstration of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of VA's appreciation of the sacrifices made by our Armed Forces.

**Beehive Publication
Committee**

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MESSAGE FROM THE BEEHIVE EDITOR



Greetings Prince Hall Masonic Family,

As always, it's been my sincere pleasure to serve as Editor of the Beehive for this Administration and most importantly.....YOU! Based on my responsibilities, over the past three years, I've witnessed first hand the outstanding work rendered by our Order in the areas of scholarships, donations, and community service. Regardless of one's personal views or ideology, the Jurisdiction of Virginia's humanitarian spirit and generosity can't rationally be disputed. *We are positively impacting all mankind!* Furthermore, I would like to publicly thank all Publication Committee Members and you for your efforts and contributions toward making the Beehive an informative publication this year.

Finally, the Publication Committee looks forward to seeing you at the upcoming Grand Lodge Session.

May peace and brotherly love prevail from now, henceforth, and evermore!

Fraternally yours,

PM Kenneth L. Ragland #81
Editor
Beehive Publication Committee

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