



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

# THE BEEHIVE



JUNE 2010  
ISSUE ELEVEN

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



Most Worshipful Grand Master,  
Larry D. Christian # 253

*"Letting Our Light Shine"*



#### Inside this Issue

- 2 Grand Master's Message
- 3 Councilman Paige Cherry
- 4 From the Grand Secretary
- 5 Health Committee
- 6 VA Hospital Visitations
- 6 Pride of Fairfax #298
- 7 Upcoming Events
- 8 GM visits Ruth #92
- 9 Tidewater Lodge #106
- 9 Diversity Lodge #330
- 10 House Resolution #354
- 11 Urban League Banquet

## M.W.P.H.G.L. of VA Receives Recognition from the Virginia House of Delegates



Left to Right: ADDGM John F. Gardner #237, RWJGW Roger C. Brown #327 Delegate Rosalyn R. Dance #33 (Virginia's 63rd District), MWGM Larry D. Christian #253, DDGM Edward T. Henderson #23, DDGM James S. Burrell, Sr. #253, and WSGS Leonard Hawkins #327

On February 25, 2010 Delegate Rosalyn R. Dance, Delegate of Virginia's 63rd District offered up House Joint Resolution No. 354 recognizing Past Grand Master Prince Hall the, "Founding Father & First Grand Master of Black Free and Accepted Masons" and The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the Jurisdiction of Virginia for our community service and our donations to different national, state and local organizations as a whole. Del. Dance is also a member of Petersburg Chapter #33, OES. PHA. located in Petersburg, VA. The House Joint Resolution #354. Please visit: <http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?101+ful+HJ354ER> to see the house bill as it was passed.

*(See page 10 to read entire House Joint Resolution)*

# **GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE**



MWGM Larry Christian #253

Greetings to All Members of the Prince Hall Family,

If in the circle of your acquaintances, you find a person desirous of becoming a Master Mason, be particularly careful only to recommend him if you are convinced that he will conform to our rules so that the honor, glory, and reputation of the Institution may continue to be firmly established, and the world at large convinced of its good effects.

Our laws and regulations are to be strenuously supported; and be always ready to assist in seeing them duly executed. Let no motive therefore, make you swerve from your duty, violate your vows, or betray your trust, but be true and faithful.

## **What is a Vow?**

Synonymous with duty, obligation, and covenant, the solemn promise made by a Mason of his admission into any degree is technically called his vow, obligation, or covenant. The Latin word means Tying (Obligato) binding. The vow, obligation or covenant is that which binds man to do some act, the doing of which thus becomes his duty. By his obligation or covenant, a Mason is bound or tied to his Order. The Masonic obligation is a moral one which, although it cannot be enforced by courts of law, is binding on the party who makes it, in conscience and according to moral justice.

In my travels across the Jurisdiction, I've met several 90+ year old Master Masons, who have stayed on the wall:

- PM Obediah Golden Baker - Holland Lodge #256, 73 years of service; 98 years old
- PM Leroy Haynes – Ruth Lodge #92 , 65+ years of service; 91 years old
- PM Roger Perry – St. Stephens Lodge #247, 65+ years of service; 94 years old
- PM Joseph Grimstead – Oceana Lodge #62, 65+ years of service; 91 years old

As 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

## RWSGD PAIGE D. CHERRY SUCCESSFUL IN PORTSMOUTH COUNCIL ELECTION



Councilman-elect and RWSGD Paige D. Cherry, Morning Star #3

*By Curtis. L. Gunn, DDGM*

In January, Right Worshipful Senior Grand Deacon Paige D. Cherry, Morning Star Lodge #3, in the Third Masonic District, who has served Portsmouth, Virginia as chairman of the City Planning Commission, member of the Crane Island Study Commission, member of the Municipal Community Foundation, considered his 17 years of public service enough to reaffirm his belief and desire for a bright future for the city, and again “threw his hat into the political ring”. Paige, who lost by a mere 79 votes on his first candidacy in 2008, for a seat on the Portsmouth City Council continued to firmly believe in the desire of Portsmouth’s citizens for a change and for someone who will listen to the whole community and not just one community as evidenced by those numbers and analyzing the 2008 results. Knowing that Portsmouth citizens come from different races, cultures, religions and backgrounds, he felt that we must then capitalize on that diversity and use it as a unifying force for the future growth and development of the City.

With orchestration of his campaign through his Campaign Manager, DDGM Curtis Gunn, his campaign, promoting a platform that we “must energize our local economy through Economic Development and job creation; capitalize on our many strengths and make good land use decisions”; and, that our children must grow up in a caring and nurturing environment”, he successfully defeated an incumbent, among two other incumbents vying for re-election on May 4<sup>th</sup>, and is now Council-Elect Paige D. Cherry.

# MOST WORSHIPFUL PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE OF VIRGINIA



RWGS Isaac Hughes #314



**TREASURER & SECRETARY SCHOOL  
WEDNESDAY,**

**SEPTEMBER 15, 2010, 10:00 A.M.**

**Sheraton Hotel – 6624 West Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23230**

## **All are invited to Attend**

**The discussion topics for this school are:**

- ✓ Who has paid/has not paid the \$49 donation
- ✓ Electronic membership rosters
- ✓ Electronic lodge financial status
- ✓ RWGT and RWGS Annual Financial Report
- ✓ Grand Secretary's Annual Report

---

**Before the 135<sup>th</sup> Annual Communication of MWPHGL of VA**

**RWGT James E. Watkins, Jr. #44 – RWGS Isaac S. Hughes, #314**

---

# HEALTH COMMITTEE

## Osteoporosis



*Harold D. Jones III, MD WM Berea # 114*

Osteoporosis is a silent disease of the bones that makes them weak and prone to fracture. It is a common bone disease that affects both men and women, usually as they grow older. Fortunately, one can take steps to reduce the risks of developing osteoporosis and avoid the debilitating bone fractures.

Bone is living tissue that is in a constant state of regeneration. Throughout life, bone is renewed through a two-part process called remodeling. This process consists of resorption and formation. During resorption, special cells break down and remove old bone tissue. During formation, new bone tissue is laid down to replace the old. Think of bone as a bank account, where one deposits and withdraws bone tissue. During childhood and the teenage years, new bone is being added to the skeleton faster than old bone is removed. As a result, bones become larger, heavier, and more dense. After age 20, bone withdrawals exceed deposit and bone structure becomes weaker and osteoporosis develops.

Who is at risk for developing osteoporosis? Review the following questions:

- 1) Have you ever broken a bone after the age of 45?
- 2) Did your mother or father ever break a hip?
- 3) Have you ever had breast cancer, prostate cancer, lupus, sickle cell anemia, kidney disease, or diabetes?
- 4) Have you ever taken medicine to control asthma, seizures, or a thyroid condition?
- 5) Do you exercise less than 3 to 5 days per week?
- 6) Do you have a small or thin body frame?
- 7) Do you smoke?
- 8) Do you drink more than 1 or 2 alcoholic beverages per day?

Osteoporosis is diagnosed via a simple test that measures bone mineral density at different parts of the body such as the hips and spine. The test is similar to having an x-ray and is called dual energy x-ray absorptiometry (DXA).

Osteoporosis is treated via calcium supplementation, adequate vitamin D intake, and regular exercise. There is a list of medications that you may take daily, weekly, or monthly.

## VETERAN HOSPITAL VISITATIONS



Veteran and Brother William Bodrick (in wheelchair) posed for photo with brothers at McGuire's Veterans Hospital in Richmond, VA

*By RWGBD Charles A. Jones, Sr. #81*

Hampton, VA. – Over 70 brothers from the Hampton Roads area provided the veterans and staff with a cookout. Music was provided by “Karaoke with a Flair”, who did an absolutely fantastic job. The patients as well as the Staff performed as if they were on American Idol.

Washington, DC visit - The brothers from northern Virginia visited the residents, and met some Masonic brothers from various jurisdictions in Virginia, DC and Oklahoma. The highlight was the fellowship with a lady 102 years old. She told jokes of her past years in the military. A good time was enjoyed by all.

Salem, VA. - The brothers from the west had a cookout and played games with the veterans. The veterans enjoyed the fellowship. The masons received a thank you letter from the staff.

Richmond, VA. - The brothers assisted residents to the cookout. They also received canteen coupon books and phone cards. The highlight of our visit was visiting with Brother William Bodrick and his wife Rosa. Brother Bodrick shared stories about his Masonic and military years. His photo is displayed.

***Special thanks to all the Brothers across the state for supporting this project. We donated approximately \$2,000. to our veterans.***



Photo of Pride of Fairfax County #298 "Adopt-A-Highway" Sign

### Pride of Fairfax County #298 "Adopt-A-Highway"

*DDGM Clifton S. Johnson #298  
31st Masonic District*

Pride of Fairfax County Lodge #298, under the leadership of Worshipful Master Kevin Bland recently was awarded a stretch of highway by Fairfax County Department of Transportation to participate in the Adopt-A-Highway program. WM Bland said that this is a “collaborative effort by several members of the Lodge.” The Lodge has been trying for several years to sponsor a section of highway and was recently approved. As a gesture of goodwill by the county, the Lodge was given a favorable section that is very close to the Lodge. WM Bland said, “This is all in an effort to make Prince Hall Masonry visible in the area in which we serve.”

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**St John the Baptist Day**

Place: Statewide  
Date: June 13, 2010

**G.L. Annual Golf Tournament**

Place: Williamsburg  
Date: June 18, 2010

**Joint Charity Ball**

Place: Newport News  
Date: June 19, 2010

**Trip to Washington Nat'l Game**

Place: Washington, DC  
Date: July 10, 2010

**Family Day Cookout**

Place: Kilmarnock  
Date: Aug. 7, 2010

**G.L. Gospel Concert**

Place: Hampton  
Date: Aug. 28, 2010

**135<sup>th</sup> Grand Session**

Place: Richmond  
Date: Sept. 15-18, 2010

"YEARS OF WISDOM FORMS A BOND FOR A SMALL LODGE'S SUCCESS - BEHOLD HOW GOOD AND HOW PLEASANT IT IS FOR BRETHERN TO DWELL TOGETHER IN UNITY"



Bottom left to right::

PM Roger Perry, PM Charles Finney, WM Clarence Williams, PM Charlie Brown, PM James Hayes, PM Charman Hayes

Top left to right:

DDGM Larry Moody, PM Herbert Bland, PM Linwood Harris, MWGM Larry D. Christian, PM, Beamon Hayes, Bro. James Richardson, RWSGW Shelton Riddick

*DDGM Larry Moody, 12th Masonic District*

On May 10, 2010, MWGM Larry D. Christian accompanied DDGM Larry Moody as he made his Official Visit to Dinwiddie County's St. Stephens Lodge #247 to conduct their 2010 election of officers. The MWGM's entourage included RWSGW Shelton Riddick, WGP Ed Lattimore, ADDGM Joseph Diggs, ADDGM Darrin Hill and Past Master Antonio Pride, presently a Member of the Committee on Work. St. Stephens Lodge #247 was founded in 1922. Past Master Clarence Williams is the seven term Worshipful Master of St. Stephens #247. During this visitation, the MWGM expressed his gratitude and excitement for its membership and its support of the MWPHGL of Virginia. He particularly thanked the brothers for all that they do and HIGHLIGHTED their support of the \$49.00 Special Donation request, understanding its benefit and submitting their full payment of the same for each of its members. MWGM Christian was excited at the average age of this small Lodge's membership. There were four brethren who totaled over 200 plus years of service (50 years continual service) to their Lodge. They currently serve in several stations and places such as: JW, PM Charlie Brown, 85 y/o, Chaplain, PM Roger Perry, 94 y/o, SD, PM, Charmon Hayes, 80 y/o and JD, PM James Hayes 83 y/o. MWGM Christian pointed out that as a member of the 12th Masonic District, St. Stephens #247 has not filed any complaints or had any difficulties, which may have disrupted the peace and harmony within the District. MWGM, Christian challenged the membership to stay on the wall as Nehemiah did and continue to bear that fruit within the District that serves as a ROLE MODEL for younger Masons.

## MWGM Larry D. Christian Visited Ruth #92 of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Masonic District, Virginia Beach, VA.



MWGM Larry Christian (standing with hat) recognizes PM Leroy Haynes (seated) who is the eldest Past Master in Ruth #92 and has over 65 years as a Prince Hall Mason



SS Clint Samuel and JS Craig McCullough of Ruth #92 present MWGM Larry Christian with a plaque and photo

### *WM Earl S. Willie Ruth Lodge #92*

On February 18, 2010, Worshipful Master Earl S. Willie, Wardens and Brethren of Ruth Lodge #92 welcomed MWGM Larry D. Christian, his cabinet and several appointed Grand Lodge Officers to their 2<sup>nd</sup> Regular Communication for the month of February. MWGM Christian and attending Grand Officers were received under the careful observation of RWGL of the Eastern District, PM George Cutler and the Committee on Work, in conjunction with Ruth Lodge's participation in the 2010 Jewel Contest.

This was a very special evening for Ruth Lodge #92 and its members, as they, with authorization from the MWGM, performed a rare healing ceremony which welcomed Brother Marquez Adams into the Prince Hall Masonic family. Under the watchful eye of the RWGL and the Committee on Work, Brother Adams, conducted by the SD, was given the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> degrees in due and ancient form from the JW, SW and WM, respectively. Upon completion of the ritualistic work, the MWGM extended an enthusiastic welcome to Bro. Adams and congratulated the WM and his officers for their "outstanding work."

Another highlight of the evening was the presentation of a plaque and lodge photo to MWGM Christian on behalf of the WM and members of Ruth #92. The plaque and photo were presented by the lodge's Stewards, SS Clint Samuel and JS Craig McCullough, to whom the MWGM had presented MM Certificates during the Tidewater Area School of Instruction in January 2010. This special plaque recognized the MWGM for his, "contemplative, prudent and unyielding leadership."

Before closing, MWGM Larry D. Christian surprised PM Leroy Haynes, 91 years old, the eldest member of Ruth #92, by presenting him with a certificate which recognized his more than 65 years of service as a Prince Hall Mason within the Jurisdiction of Virginia. The MWGM presented PM Haynes with other tokens of esteem to include a MWPHGL insulated mug and an embroidered ball cap.

The evening concluded with a light repast in the dining hall where fraternal fellowship was enjoyed by all.

## TIDEWATER LODGE #106 COMMUNITY CLEAN UP



Tidewater Lodge #106, lead by WM Robert Gilliam, conducted their quarterly street clean up as part of Masonry's continued effort to foster community involvement. Tidewater Lodge #106 is an active member of the Norfolk's Adopt-a-Street Program and participates regularly in Norfolk's "Night Out Campaign". Pictured in photo are WM Robert Gilliam (center), SW Gary Armstrong, PM Khalid Ali, Bro. Hiran Carrero, Bro. George Thompson, several Fellow Crafts, and volunteer (Mr. Armstrong).

## Diversity Lodge No. 330 held its 14<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet



Diversity Lodge No. 330 held its 14<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet on March 27<sup>th</sup> 2010 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Crystal City. It was a Black Tie affair with a plated dinner, awards ceremony, and charity presentation. Diversity presented a check for \$500.00 to the Fredericksburg HIV/AIDS Support Services (FHASS). FHASS provides coordination for access to primary medical care and support services for those infected with and affected by HIV and AIDS in the Northern and Central Virginia region. The guest speaker was Mr. Sam Ford, reporter for WJLA / ABC-7. Mr. Ford delivered a speech on Tracing Your Roots that gave the audience an account of his efforts to trace his roots back to Africa using DNA testing.

Worshipful Master Reginald V. Tolbert presented Outstanding Service Awards to the Lodge Secretary, and to the Lodge Treasurer. He also presented one Master Mason of the Year Award, two Outstanding Service and Support Awards to two individuals who have supported the Lodge in its endeavors to support the community.

The banquet was well attended and considered an overall success. Proceeds from the event will fund Diversity's Annual Scholarship Program. The winner of this year's scholarship is Mr. Embry Davis, Jr. who will be attending Morgan State University in the fall of 2010. He will receive a check from Diversity in the amount of \$1,500.00 to help defer his education expenses.

WM Reginald Tolbert (Front row, 2<sup>nd</sup> from left) and brothers of Diversity Lodge #330 at Anniversary Banquet

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 354

### *Commending the Prince Hall Masons of Virginia.*

**Agreed to by the House of Delegates, March 5, 2010**  
**Agreed to by the Senate, March 10, 2010**

WHEREAS, Black Freemasonry was established in the United States with the induction of "Prince Hall and fourteen other free Black men into Lodge No. 441, Irish Constitution, attached to the 38th Regiment of Foot, British Army Garrisoned at Castle William (now Fort Independence) Boston Harbor on March 6, 1775"; and

WHEREAS, upon the departure of the British from Boston, Prince Hall, the recognized Father of Black Freemasonry, and other Black men with whom he was inducted into masonry were granted permission to meet as African Lodge #1 and enjoy limited privileges as Masons; and

WHEREAS, Black Freemasonry in America has grown from 33 Masons on the rolls of African Lodge #1 on January 14, 1779, to over 300,000 Masons in 4,500 lodges worldwide, consisting of 45 independent jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, members of Virginia's Black Freemasonry have contributed to the political, cultural, and economic life of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, bonded by fraternal loyalty and mutual support, Prince Hall Masons of Virginia demonstrate a sense of civic duty and participation in many charitable activities and organizations, among them Adopt-A-School, Operation Thanksgiving, Operation Christmas Child, Veterans Day visitation, Food Bank donations, Meals On Wheels, American Diabetes Association Walk-A-Thon, and Avalon, a center for women and children; and

WHEREAS, the generosity of Prince Hall Masons of Virginia has benefited the American Heart Association, Camp Holiday Trails, the Virginia NAACP State Conference, the Baptist Children's Home, the Knights of Pythagoras youth organization, sickle cell anemia and prostate cancer research, and many other local and statewide community organizations and benevolent endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and appropriate to recognize and commend the Prince Hall Masons of Virginia for their outstanding work and service to the community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, that the General Assembly hereby commend the Prince Hall Masons of Virginia; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Larry D. Christian, Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Prince Hall Masons of Virginia, as an expression of the General Assembly's respect and appreciation for their contributions and service to the Commonwealth.

## 26<sup>th</sup> Masonic District and the Urban League of Greater Richmond



PM Mark Wilson (1<sup>st</sup> person on left), Richmond Mayor Bro. Dwight Jones #23 (5<sup>th</sup> from left), DDGM Edward Henderson Jr. #23 (6<sup>th</sup> from left), and the brothers of the 26<sup>th</sup> Masonic District at the Urban League of Greater Richmond's 96<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet

On Friday, March 19, 2010, Brothers from the 26<sup>th</sup> Masonic District and under the leadership of DDGM Edward Henderson, Jr. #23 served as ushers for the Urban League of Greater Richmond's 96<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet & Scholarship Benefit. The black tie/gala event was attended by many Richmond area elected officials and dignitaries. The brothers from the 26<sup>th</sup> Masonic District did an outstanding job ushering and escorting the award recipients to the podium. The crowd of over 400 people witnessed the professionalism, camaraderie, and brotherly love exhibited by all Masons in attendance. Richmond Mayor Dwight Jones #23 welcomed all those in attendance to the Capital City. During the banquet, several prominent women including our very own, Sister Kimberly Kyle of East End #79 OES was recognized for her dedicated community service.

*Beehive Publication  
Committee*

All correspondence can  
be sent to:

808 Saddlebred Drive  
Richmond, VA 23223

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 Prince Hall Masonic Family,

First and foremost, the Publication Committee would like to once again sincerely thank all of the brothers throughout the Jurisdiction of Virginia who continue to submit articles of the good works being done daily. Often times, despite our lack of recognition, you continue to day in and day out demonstrate those positive characteristics, which every Mason and human being should live by if they believe in a Supreme Being. As we make progress in many areas, there is still work to be done, if we are to be the fraternity all well recommended men aspire to be a part of! Our communities are in desperate need of men like YOU and me to lead from the front on issues that impact our communities.

As always, may peace and brotherly love prevail from now, henceforth, and evermore!

Fraternally yours,



PM Kenneth L. Ragland #81  
Editor  
Beehive Publication Committee

**MWPHGL OF VA**  
P.O. Box 14646  
Richmond, VA 23221

