



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

THE BEEHIVE



SEPTEMBER 2010
ISSUE 13



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

MASONS SUPPORT 1 MILLION MENTORS TOUR



Richmond, VA-Brothers from the 12th & 26th Masonic Districts and youth from K.O.P. Councils W.L. Ransome #1 and Prince Hall #26 pose for photo with Radio Personality Michael Baisden during the One Million Mentors Campaign in Richmond, VA

On May 6, 2010, Prince Hall Masons of the 12th and 26th Masonic Districts and members of the Order of the Eastern Star from the same locale, gathered to support the Order of the Knights of Pythagoras at Michael Baisden's One Million Mentors campaign which took place at Trinity Life Center in Richmond, VA. Over 1,200 people were present. The program was well organized and hosted by 105.7/99.3 Radio One personalities Miss Community Clovia Lawrence and Dee Dee Renee. In attendance was the city of Richmond Mayor Dwight Jones #23 who was in attendance and presented Michael Baisden with a proclamation for all the work he has put into creating a venue that allows those desiring to become mentors, to sign up, connect and network with other mentoring agencies.

Governor Bob McDonnell was present and brought greetings on behalf of the State to the many Prince Hall Masons, OES members, and KOP members in attendance.

The Order of the Knights Of Pythagoras is a mentoring program which provides training to its male youth as Youth Knights to learn proper respect for their mothers, sisters and all females with whom they may come into contact. This training prepares them and they may eventually become Adult Sir Knights and/or Prince Hall Masons. This intense and wholesome program offers paternal friendship and stewardship with the goal of making sure that our youth and young men will acquire essential tools to assist them in navigating through the real world.

To learn more about the Knights of Pythagoras Program and Councils in your District, or for information to assist in starting a council in your District, please contact the State Education Officer Daquan-Aku Reinhardt @ aku.kop@gmail.com or by phone @ 240-353-9996.

GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE



Greetings Prince Hall Family,

Two years ago, the mantle of leadership to be the Conservator of Prince Hall Masonry in the Jurisdiction of Virginia was placed upon my shoulders. The Theme selected for this administration, "Letting Our Light Shine" speaks volumes for itself and may lead us in many directions. One direction is that we should not be complacent or satisfied with the status quo and make earnest efforts to improve every thought, consideration, deed or action. In doing so, we demonstrate our sincerity to our vocation as Master Masons and understand that the ritualistic words that we speak have greater meaning to us than to the profane or Godless person. The three obligations taken by every Master Mason were vows taken by him to The Grand Architect of the Universe. These vows should be written on our hearts that we would feel a twinge or pain when violating the same. What does a vow mean to you? Is your word, your bond? This is what we were taught, did it change?

During this past two years, I have visited **all 33 Districts** of our Jurisdiction and over 140 Masonic Lodges. I have visited over 50 Eastern Star Chapters to assure the Order access to the Office of the MWGM. A radiant highlight of my many travels has been the pleasure of meeting Master Masons who are 90+ years old. How have they managed to "Stay on the Wall"? Their vows are still strong in their hearts and minds.

My most staunch advisors are the Most Worshipful Past Grand Masters. I thank you sirs, all, for your timely advice and ideas. I continue to seek your guidance, even at the end of my tenure as Grand Master. The Jurisdiction's District Deputy Grand Masters and Assistant District Deputy Grand Masters are to be commended for their performance in their myriad of duties. They are very important links in our Masonic Chain and I thank each of them for allowing me to push and pull.

Our Foundation for Financial Stability was established by letter on May 12, 2009. We asked each member to donate \$49.00 to fund the FFS Initiatives. These four projects have significantly increased the value of our Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge at this present time and will prove to be even greater assets in our future. I thank you for your support of these initiatives and this program.

We have implemented a computerized web-base maintenance management system for the Grand Lodge. A major element of this system is the Content Management System (CMS) which will greatly assist local Lodge Secretaries in the performance of their duties. A training course will soon be available for all to familiarize themselves with the program's benefits.

This year forty-five+ students have received Scholarships or Scholarship Aid in excess of \$60,000.00. The program is to attempt to give our kids the needed assistance to assure their education without hardship throughout their college years.

I extend my heartiest thanks to those members who serve in our Armed Forces, for they provide the blanket of protection that allows each of us to enjoy the freedoms that we have. We salute your dedication to our nation.

Lastly, it has been my extreme pleasure to serve as the 75th Most Worshipful Grand Master of Prince Hall Masons In and For the Jurisdiction of Virginia and its Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge.

"Brothers, let no motive therefore, make you swerve from your duty, violate your vows, or betray your trust, be true and faithful, and imitate the examples of that celebrated artist whom we represent."

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

**MOST WORSHIPFUL PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE
OF VIRGINIA**

FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS, INCORPORATED

Herman Eggleston, Jr. #146
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 Shelton Riddick #323
R.W. Senior Grand Warden
 Roger C. Brown #327
R.W. Junior Grand Warden
 Gilbert Tyler #27
M.W.P.G.M. - C.C.F.C.



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R.W. Grand Treasurer
 Isaac S. Hughes #314
R.W. Grand Secretary
 Paige D. Cherry #3
R.W. Senior Grand Deacon
 Richard Townes #235
R.W. Junior Grand Deacon

LARRY D. CHRISTIAN #253
 Most Worshipful Grand Master
"Letting Our Light Shine"

GRAND MASTER'S EDICT
NO.22-09-10

To: All Owing Allegiance to the MOST WORSHIPFUL PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE of Virginia, F. & A. M., INC.

Know ye by all presents; by virtue of the authority vested in the office of the Most Worshipful Grand Master, I Larry D. Christian, Most Worshipful Grand Master of Prince Hall Masons in the Jurisdiction of Virginia, do hereby declare that **Edict 12-10-09** that severed the relationship between the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia, F. & A. M., Inc. and the Ancient Egyption Arabic Order Nobles Mystic Shrine of North and South America and its Jurisdiction, Inc. is hereby **declared null and void**. Therefore all actions resulting from Edict 12-10-09 are also declared null and void.

Historically, seemingly by agreement, the Ancient Egyption Arabic Order Nobles Mystic Shrine of North and South America and its Jurisdiction, Inc. was openly recognized by the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia, F. & A. M., Inc. as a concordant Masonic body. However, the Ancient Egyption Arabic Order Nobles Mystic Shrine of North and South America and its Jurisdiction, Inc. has stated publicly, on the record, in the course of pending litigation, that it does not consider itself concordant with the MWPHGL. As a result of that declaration, the Ancient Egyption Arabic Order Nobles Mystic Shrine of North and South America and its Jurisdiction, Inc. will here after be considered a non-concordant fraternal organization and not entitled to masonic fraternal recognition as practiced in this jurisdiction.

This Edict has been issued under my hand and seal on the 1st day of September 2010. Take due notice and govern yourselves accordingly.

Larry D. Christian

Larry D. Christian
 Most Worshipful Grand Master

Attest:

Isaac S. Hughes

Isaac S. Hughes
 Right Worshipful Grand Secretary

21 YEARS AND STILL HITTING THEM IN THE FAIRWAYS



Pictured 2nd on the second row right to left is MWPGM/RWGD Billie Thompson #46, PM Alton Hatten #34, and on the end DDGM Curtis Gunn #3 & 3rd MD. Standing second from right, ADDGM Ike Curry #79 & 3rd MD, along with some of the student golfers and instructors of the Tidewater Youth Golf Association.

By C. L. Gunn, DDGM

Back in the day, when Tiger Woods was 14 years old and doing his thing as an amateur, two Master Masons had already begun to plant the idea in the City of Portsmouth about encouraging young boys and girls to take an interest in a sport which they themselves loved and in which they considered they were really quite good and had bragging rights.

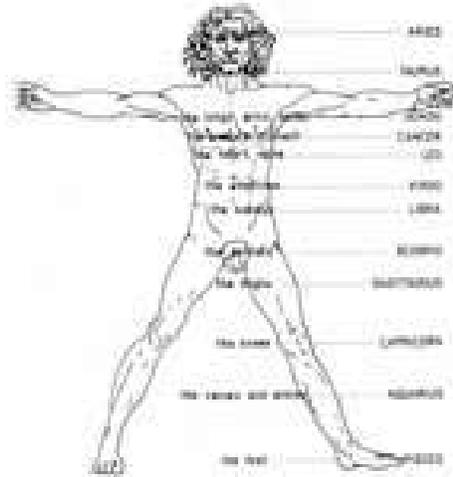
A retiring and first Black Captain in the Portsmouth City Fire Department and a retired U.S. Army First Sergeant, along with some other interested souls, got together to create an opportunity for young boys and girls, black or white, to be mentored, nurtured, and instructed in the game of golf.

Supported in its early beginnings by the W. H. Harrison American Legion Post 190 and Doric Lodge #98 as sponsors, the two, MWPGM Billie Thompson and PM Alton Hatten, took off running with the idea and established the Tidewater Youth Golf Association in 1989. The Association had as many as 80 plus young boys and girls during its summer program, which is now held over 11 weeks. The youths are instructed for two hours, twice a week beginning in June, culminating in a tournament based upon observed skill levels at the end of the session. This is followed by a banquet and distribution of trophies. Every participant is considered a winner.

Aided by a cadre of dedicated instructors and parents, the Association has been successful during the past 21 years. Since many corporate sponsorships, affected by the economy have dwindled, the Third Masonic District Masters and Wardens Council co-sponsor's this youth program. In addition, the program also receives support through monetary donations and equipment donations to include golf clubs, golf balls, and bags. The all-important donation of the personal devotion of time from the instructors, parents, local Master Masons and Sisters of the OES, and the dedication of the original organizers, MWPGM Thompson and PM Hatten..

Enjoyment of the game and learning proper techniques are certainly the goals (not to mention making contact with the ball), but more importantly the program and instructors are there to provide an outlet for these youngsters during the summer months, while nurturing and mentoring them as well during their hours of practice.

HEALTH COMMITTEE



Male Breast Cancer

Harold D. Jones III, MD PM #114

Breast cancer is most commonly thought of as a disease of women, but cancer also develops in the breast of men. Over one thousand cases of breast cancer are diagnosed each year. Breast cancer in men is most common in ages 60 -70, but may occur at any age. Diagnosis in the early stages, usually have a good chance for cure. Still, many men delay seeing the doctor when a lump or mass of tissue presents itself and the cancer is more advanced when the diagnosis is made. It is not clear what causes male breast cancer. Everyone is born with a small amount of breast tissue and as the body develops, males and females are at risk for developing cancer of the breast.

The breast cancer may present itself as a painless lump or thickening in the breast tissue, there may be changes to the nipple, such as redness or scaling, and there maybe drainage. There may be changes to skin covering the breast such as dimpling or puckering. This may even look like the skin of an orange referred to as "peau d'orange".

If one finds something abnormal to the breast tissue, prompt follow up with the doctor is needed. Something as small as a garden pea may be felt and this could be the first sign of cancer. All lumps, nodules and breast enlargement does not mean cancer. There are **breast tumors** that are benign or not cancerous. The key point for the benign tumor is there is no spread of abnormal cells outside of the breast. Both breasts maybe enlarged and this may be **gynecomastia**. Breast tissue is affected by hormones such as estrogen. The enlargement of breast tissue is commonly seen with hormonal changes, especially in teenagers where hormonal imbalances arise. Individuals who are obese and having liver disease may also have breast enlargement secondary to estrogen.

The testing for male breast cancer begins with a thorough exam by the physician. Further testing may include mammogram, ultrasound, needle biopsy of the tissue, and sampling of any drainage or discharge from the breast.

Questions that should be asked include type of cancer, spread to other tissue beyond the breast, treatment options, side affects of treatment, length of treatment.

This is an overview, for more information read the following:

www.cancer.org/cancer/breastcancerinmen

www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/malebreastcancer.html

www.mayoclinic.com/health



Pictured are (far left) P.M. Bryant Mallory, (2nd from left) P.M. Marvin Jackson, (middle) Bro. John Covin, and (right) S.W. Dale Davis.

Pride of Hanover Lodge #264

“Spruce up Gandy Elementary School Day”

Pride of Hanover Lodge #264 in Ashland VA participated in a clean up project at Grandy Elementary School under the direction of W.M. Arnold McWilliams. Pride of Hanover has formed a partnership with Gandy E.S. to help with various projects such as the school clean up and the Lunch Buddy Program, where Lodge members serve as mentors to young boys.

90+ Year Old Master Masons (Living Legends)

Our MWGM Larry D. Christian has stated that some of the most rewarding events during his administration were making the acquaintance with several of the 90+ year old members of this Jurisdiction and listening to their wise counsel. This listing of forty names brings to light our Brethren who have, for decades, “Stayed On The Wall”. As their years have surpassed the reach of their octogenarian Brethren, they still maintain their obligations strong in their hearts as they “Stay On The Wall” holding fast to their vows and their word. For many, many decades, these Brethren have remained dedicated to this honorable Institution. Their sacrifices and dedication to the principles of Masonry have preserved our Institution for us to share, partake and enjoy. They are to be honored and respected by all who have “knelt where Hiram knelt”. If you have met and/or know one of these Brethren listed here, stop and give him a call or a visit to personally thank him for his service to Prince Hall Masonry in VA. If you are not fortunate enough to have one of them as a member of your Lodge or nearby, contact his Lodge to send a card of thanks. Their names are published here to honor these Master Masons who have continued to “Stay On The Wall”, that all may have the opportunity to contact them, make their acquaintance and benefit from the personal contact with living legends. Just think, as of this writing, there may be even more of them who have gone unsung and not reported. It is our misfortune.

AGE NAME LODGE NAME & #/Yrs. Svc.

- 99 – Obadiah Baker; Holland, #256/74
- 99 – Jack Thomas; C.V. Wilson, #317
- 95 – Edward Diggs; Silver Leaf, #177/70
- 94 – Roger Perry; St. Stephens, #247
- 94 – Oscar Woods, Sr; Charlotte, #146/55
- 94 – Elwood Norman; Brighton Rock, #79/65
- 93 – Sensie R. Johnson; Shiloh, #33
- 93 – Booker T. Hall; Truxton/Doric/Ionic, #91
- 92 – Williams Mercer; Prince Hall, #61/57
- 92 – Allen M. Pugh; Eastern Star, #13
- 92 – James C. Pennick; Easter Star, #13
- 92 – Junius Edwards; Commonwealth, #81/58
- 92 – Edward Jefferson; Hobson, #23
- 92 – Willie Gallop, Sr.; Truxton/Doric/Ionic, #91
- 92 – Tracy Spencer; 14/16 MD
- 92 – Hirby H. Payton; Silver Leaf, #177/65
- 91 – Leroy Haynes; Ruth, #92/65
- 91 – Joseph Grimstead; Oceana, #69/65
- 91 – Robert D. Lucas; Prince Hall, #61/64
- 91 – Elmo Wynn; Blooming Oliver, #94/52
- 91 – Lee Roy Steele; Lincoln, #11/60
- 91 – Milton Ruff; Silver Leaf, #177/64
- 91 – Louie Smith; Mecklenburg, #280/51
- 91 – Walter Lowe; Welcome, #125/68
- 90 – Edward D. McCreary; Silver Trowel, #267
- 90 – Joe A. Dixon; Golden Rule/Nehemiah, #295

AGE NAME LODGE NAME & #/Yrs. Svc.

- 90 – John A. Morris; Campbell, #67
- 90 – Houston Collins; Commonwealth, #81
- 90 – Roscoe Thomas; Shiloh, #33
- 90 – Floyd Bates; Welcome, #125/57
- 90 – Reginald Beverly; Welcome, #125
- 90 – William Fortune; Welcome, #125/51
- 90 – Robert Taylor; Prince Hall, #61/57
- 90 – William E. Bradley; Hobson, #23
- 90 – Richard Banks; Hobson, #23
- 90 – Thomas Adams, Sr.; Arlington, #58/59
- 90 – David L. Boyd; Triple River, #253/61
- 90 – Henry J. Jones; Capitol City, #107
- 90 – James A. Worsley; Union Light, #268
- 90 – George Sizemore; Averette Union, #235/42

12th Masonic District's "Grooming Tomorrow's Leaders" Event

Conrad Bradley Shares Tips on Shoe Shining



Bro. Conrad Bradley shares shoe shining tips with youth during Grooming Tomorrow's Leaders Event

Grooming!



Brothers from the 12th Masonic District give youths grooming tips and provided them with haircuts

By PM John Edwards

Petersburg, VA-On Sunday, March 28, 2010 between 2:00 pm and 6:00 pm, the brothers from the 12th Masonic District conducted their first Grooming Tomorrow's Leaders Event. This event was designed to expose and provide young boys with *free haircuts, proper hygiene and grooming tips, dressing for success, mentoring opportunities, and information on the Knights of Pythagoras.* Our MWGM Larry D. Christian was present and shared greetings and words of wisdom and guidance from our Grand Lodge. The event was attended by Petersburg's Mayor Annie Mickens and Fire Chief T.C. Hairston who inspired and addressed the young boys. This event was headed by ADDGM Darrin Hill, who is a certified barber by trade. All of the boys in attendance left the event equipped with the fundamental skills needed to make a good first impression. *Congrats to the 12th Masonic District for reaching out to our youth!*



2010-2011 Elected and Appointed Officers of Carey Wheaton Lodge #307

Grand Master Larry D. Christian Install Lodge Officers

On June 8, 2010 Carey Wheaton Lodge #307 was honored to have MWGM Larry D. Christian #253 visit the Lodge and install the newly elected and appointed officers. The following officers were installed: WM Cornell L. Turner, Jr. SW James E. Daniel, JW Alvin L. Jones, Jr., Treasurer PM Ronald R. Lee, Asst. Treasurer PM Aubrey E. Hopson, Jr., Secretary PM Learmon Moore, Asst. Secretary ADDGM Charles E. Shelton, Jr., SD Doran K. Burroughs, JD Michael I. Farley, SS Quentin Gatling, JS Woodrow Lundy, Marshal Cardell S. Mosley, Chaplain James Dandridge, and Tiler Steven Appouh-Hester. Carey Wheaton Lodge#307 will have five Fellowcraft who will be a part of the historic 135th Annual Communication Raising Class.

RIVERCATS BASEBALL TEAM
Sponsored by Abram Lodge #10
Twelfth Masonic District



By PM John Edwards

Petersburg, VA-It is with great joy, and feelings of commitment and dedication, that Abram Lodge #10 of the 12th Masonic District would like to announce another great year of sponsorship and coaching of their little league baseball team, "The Rivercats". A couple of years back, Abram #10 extended the length of their cable tow, and reached out to the Petersburg Recreation Dept. and volunteered to sponsor a little league baseball team. Through the commitment and sacrifice of a few, two members of this Lodge volunteered and served as coaches for this team.

With the closing of this season, the team was excited at all that had been accomplished through team building, fellowship and competitive play. A banquet with awards and certificates was held for the team and their families, and all were truly happy and looking forward to the next year.

City Re-names Street After Prince Hall Mason

By
DDGM Raymond A. Sutton, III

The tireless community work of a Hampton resident was rewarded (while he can still smell the roses) on Wednesday, August 11, 2010 at Hampton's City Council meeting when the street that he has lived on for the past thirty-eight years was named after him.

WPM Albert E. Simpson was forced into political activism since first moving to 204 Heffelfinger Street in The Old North Hampton Community in 1972. When backing out of his new driveway, he would back onto a dirt street and thus began his involvement with the City of Hampton. He served as President of the prestigious Old North Hampton Community Organization for nine years until he became ill in 2005. He previously served as its Vice-President for many, many years.

The Old North Hampton Community Organization submitted a request to City Hall to change the name of a section of Heffelfinger Street (from I-64, north to Rowe Street) to Albert E. Simpson Street, honoring WPM Albert E. Simpson. "Mr. Simpson is a lifelong Hampton resident who has been very dedicated. He has been an advocate and role model for the community, this is a way to honor him," Mayor Molly Joseph Ward said Tuesday. "Mr. Simpson has worked for more than 20 years with the Old North Hampton Community Organization to improve his local community", said Hugh Bassette, President of the Old North Hampton Community Organization. Bassette had made the request at a previous City Council meeting when he said Heffelfinger Street was named after a figure that provided timber to rebuild Hampton after it burned down during Civil War times.

WPM Albert E. Simpson is a forty-two year Mason and a member of Eastern Star Lodge, #13 in Hampton, VA. He earned the distinction of being nicknamed "E. F. Hutton" (when he speaks, we listen) for his extensive knowledge of the Bible and Masonry. He previously served as an Assistant to the Worshipful Grand Tiler and continually serves as a mentor and advisor to PDDGM Willie R. Brooks, PDDGM Ralph A. Heath, III and DDGM Raymond A. Sutton, III.

Blooming Light Lodge #132 Held Back to School Drive for Kids



Recently, the brothers of Blooming Light Lodge #132 and the sisters of Blooming Light Chapter #111 reached their goal of obtaining 300 book bags for their Back to School Event. In fact, they obtained 305. The book bags were part of an annual community event that focused on providing book bags to kids in need. It was a beautiful event and all of the brothers and sisters who participated had a great time giving to the community. There was such excitement that some kids came to the event in pajamas to receive a book bag. The book bags were filled with school supplies as well. The kids in attendance also received clothing, shoes, and refreshments. This year marked the fifth year of the event, however this year was the largest and most successful.

*Beehive Publication
Committee*

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be obtained at:

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

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! As the Editor of the Beehive for four years, I've been afforded the opportunity to meet so many upstanding men and Masons throughout our Jurisdiction. Despite the obstacles we encounter in our Masonic walk, we must continue to demonstrate friendship, morality, and brotherly love. Furthermore, many of us are searching for ways to improve our fraternity and secure our future, however in order for our order to truly achieve success each of us must look in the mirror and ask, the question, "What can I do to help?" The answer to the question lies in each of us!

Finally, the Publication Committee looks forward to seeing you at the upcoming 135TH Annual 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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