The Bee Hive

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

Summer 2013 **Volume 19, Number 2**

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Most Worshipful Grand Master Shelton Riddick (center) with the Knights of Pythagoras at the 48th Summer Encampment at Virginia State University

MOST WORSHIPFUL PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE OF VIRGINIA
FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS, INC.
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2012-2014

"Working Together In Unity"

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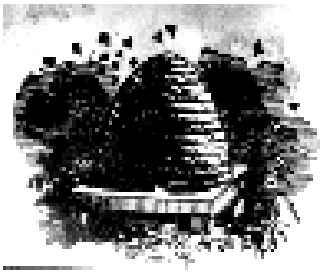

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The Bee Hive

Vol. 19 No. 2

THE PRINCIPLES FOR WHICH WE STAND

1. *Forever Loyal to our God.*
2. *Forever Devoted to our Grand Lodge.*
3. *Giving Due Respect to our Fellow Man.*
4. *Living Upright in our Community.*
5. *The Bee Hive Shall Be Non-Partisan and Non-Sectarian.*

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Mission Statement

The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia, Free and Accepted Masons, Inc. is a fraternal organization dedicated to the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man.

Our organization takes good men and develops them to be better men.

We dispense charity, promote family values and are endeavoring to significantly aid in the uplifting of humanity.

The Bee Hive, Vol. 19 Number 2, September 2013. There is no charge for pictures. Please send all articles, ads, and pictures to the Editor at 2417 Osborne Rd. Chester, Virginia 23831 or e-mail at mccoygitlo@verizon.net. The Editor reserves the right to edit pictures, news items, and ads for publication. Please submit only expendable pictures.

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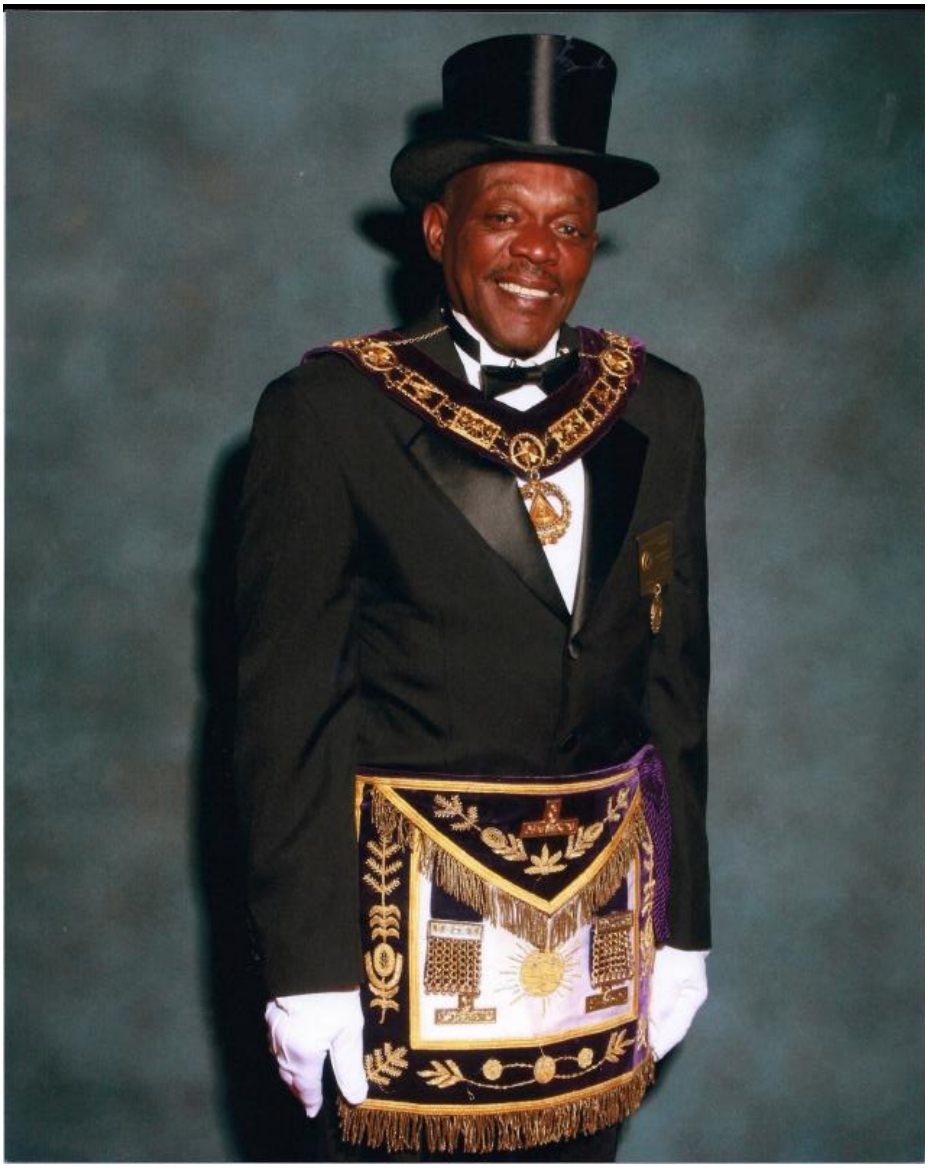
Shelton Riddick#323

The 77th Grand Master of the MW Prince Hall Grand Lodge of VA, F & AM, Inc.



I, Shelton Riddick, Most Worshipful Grand Master, bring you greetings from the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia, Free and Accepted Masons, Inc., and pray God's richest blessings upon each of you. I assure you that all is well with the Prince Hall Masonic Family in the Jurisdiction of Virginia.

In this 2013 Summer Issue of our Bee Hive we are sharing with you highlights from some of our programs and events throughout our Jurisdiction. I encourage you to continually provide news items and pictures of events and activities that are occruing in your community. I also encourage you to support each other and work together to move our Masonic organization to the next level. Always remember we are **"Working Together in Unity".**

From the Editor

L. J. McCoy, Jr. #33

In his book “Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass”, as a teenager he recalls when his Master Captain Anthony died without a will. This resulted in all the slaves, livestock, and personal possessions to be evaluated and divided among the captain’s son and daughter. As he stated his elderly grandmother who had served this master from youth to old age, “peopled his plantation with slaves”, and comforted him at death, was now of little or no value. She was thus placed in the woods where a little hut was built, privileged to support herself in loneness, virtually turning her out to die.

There was little, if any relief that could be done during those times for our senior citizens but today, as Master Masons, we express a duty to the women of the Order of Eastern Star, and especially to our widows. It’s not unusual that our widows share an important part in the hearts of our members. During the past Grand Lodge session, a special dedication was presented to the widows of our late Past Grand Masters. DDGM James Burrell #253 shared that his lodge gives their widow’s an annual financial donation; Bethlehem Star #249 gives them a breakfast and flowers; ADDGM Cedric Lawrence #10 stated his lodge visits each widow on Christmas Eve and gives them a gift; and WM Avon Miles of Shiloh Lodge #33 continues the tradition of an annual breakfast and a gift for their widows.

The integrity of any Mason is based first in his belief of a supreme being, but also in a just foundation here in life. With the structural support of his family, he is able to go forth offering faith, hope, and most importantly, charity. Expressing this love beyond one’s own family as to our widows, he demonstrates the respect we have assumed within our obligation, and throughout the community.

We cannot change the past, but we can learn from it. While it may prove difficult to individually transform this knowledge into wisdom, Working together in Unity, as in Grand Master Riddick’s theme, may be the cement needed that binds our charity, not only with our brothers, but also with our widows.

KOP Celebrates its 48th Encampment

By Asst. State Director of the East Wilktion G. Shaw #23

Ettrick – “Keeping it Real” was the theme for the 48th Encampment held July 11 – 13, 2013. Under the leadership of State Director Calvin Ingram #187 and Asst. SD Wilktion G. Shaw #23, over 150 Knights of Pythagoras, brothers, and friends participated in the activities designed for them at Virginia State University.

As one of the best conventions in the past 20 years, mentors were active with oratory, track & field, baseball, basketball, football, and educational competitions. Brother Shaw indicated that the young men were also trained how to tie ties, dress to impress, and respect all ladies. In respect for their discipline, the young men were presented awards for high achievers in their presentations.

The highlight of the encampment was the banquet where awards and medals were presented to the elementary, jr. high, and high school students.

Join the Knights of Pythagoras

Call or email

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Asst. Dir. Of the East Wilktion Shaw 804 221-1846

Asst. Dir of the West William Crew 434 579-1419

Schools of Instruction

The School in Suffolk

By PM Richard Spence #317

Suffolk – On various snow-covered roads in south eastern Virginia, the sixth School of Instruction was held at the Booker T. Washington Elementary School on Saturday January 26, 2013. MWGM Shelton Riddick, Deputy. MWGM Roger Brown, MWGL East Edward Lattimore, MWGL West Kerry Brown braved the weather in order to give the brothers updates to the Grand Lodge Constitution and procedures.

Committee of work members**,** PM James Spence II, PM Antonio Pride, and PM Thomas Jennings assisted the Grand Lecturers in the detailed degree work.

Grand Master took the opportunity to discuss the upcoming GL events, 2013 Grand Lodge sessions, and the Grand Lodge Raffle.

Seven brothers received the Certificates of Merit – Kalomo Imo #288, Woodrow Wilson #256, Byron Lawrence #317, Richard Spence #317, Terrill Eley #288, Edward Ruffin #288, and Therandal Epps #288. The lodge with the greatest number of members was Mt. Nebo Lodge #43 and the lodge with the greatest percentage of members was Ivor Grove Lodge #182.

The Capital City School

By PM L. J. McCoy #33

Richmond – Due to the passing of his mother-in-law, Most Worshipful Grand Master Shelton Riddick could only spend limited time at the School of Instruction at Hobson Lodge in Richmond. It was Brother John Travis #327 who spoke on behalf of the 16 first time school attendees. Welcoming all the first time brothers, Sr. Grand Deacon Donald Wilson #67 instructed them to use their instructive tongue and their attentive ear as they were initiated in gaining the most from today's lessons.

Prior to his departure, the Grand Master spoke on timely submission of lodge assessments, the scholarship raffle, the $49 donation, return of the $25 assessment, and proficiency in your lodge work.

Grand Lecturer Edward Lattiomre #13 then instructed Committee on Work member PM James Spence II #317 to critic the opening ceremony.

Speaking on behalf of the Grand Secretary, it was PGM Herman Eggleston who spoke briefly on the proposed changes to our constitution. While Grand Lecturer Kerry Brown #61 spoke on eliminating hazing during initiations, Masonic Landmarks and the Worshipful Master prerogatives was also a part of today's instructions.

Additional comments came from brothers Robert Leeper #23, George Winfield #25, Frank Strayhorn, Jr. #81, William White #__, Thomas Curtis #44, Keith Berkley #81, James Buffin #293, Mark Wilson #324, Royal Cousins #324, James Watkins #44, Corey Mosley #307, Leonard Hawkins #327, Michael Mangum #81, Sam Branch #81, and Darryl Hill #44.

Certificates of Merit were presented to Brothers James Daniel $307, Corey Mosley #307, Charles Shelton #307, Lance Watson, Jr. #81, Bill Johnson #81, William Franklin #28, Derrick Marlow #327, Terry Parker #327, Joseph Mallory #11, Reginald Washington #11, Wayne Whittle #264, Joseph Mallory #264, Terrance Manning #298, Ronald Jones #264, George Woodson #6, Gerard McShepard #6, Harvey Eggleston #187, Ardell Walker #187, Frank Stokes III #146, and Jerry Eberhardt #28. The lodge with the largest attendance went to Commonwealth Lodge #81 and the lodge with the largest percentage attendance was Lord Hannibal Lodge #327.

"I never thought of losing, but now that it' s happened, the only thing is to do it right. That's my obligation to all the people who believe in me. We all have to take defeats in life."
– Muhammad Ali

Joint Grand Charity Ball

By WPM Raymond A. Sutton, III #13 and L. J. McCoy, Jr. #33

Newport News, VA – They did the Cuban Shuffle, the Soul Train Line, and I think I saw District Deputy Grand Master Gunn and Grand Conductress Brown doing the Wobble at the Fourth Annual Grand Charity Ball. The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia, Free and Accepted Masons, Inc., The Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star of Virginia, Prince Hall Affiliation and The Concordant Bodies of Virginia, Prince Hall Affiliation came together at a Joint Grand Charity Ball to demonstrate their unity in charitable donations and giving back.

The Joint Grand Charity Ball was held on the evening of June 15, 2013 at the Newport News Marriott at the City Center. This Charity Ball was the venue to identify the amount of money and charitable donations provided to the needy by the Virginia Prince Hall Masonic Family throughout the year of 2012. The combined donations of this VA PH Masonic Family totaled $483,755.02. The reported breakdown for the three groups was: VA Concordant Bodies (PHA) - $36,992.00; GC, OES of VA (PHA) - $107,489.28 and MWPHGL of VA - $339,273.74

Most Worshipful Grand Master Shelton Riddick #323 appointed RWSGD Donald S. Wilson #67 to Chair the Grand Ball Committee and Grand Worthy Matron Gracie H. Drake #48 assigned Grand Conductress Robin Brown as the Ball's C0-Chair. Committee members RWDGM Roger C. Brown #327, RWGS Isaac S. Hughes #314, Grand Lecturer-E Synthia Wells, Grand Ruth Jacqueline T. Sutton, DDGM Curtis L. Gunn #3, DDGM Edward T. Henderson #23, DDGM Leonard Johnson #293, and GDDO Juneifure Vaughan worked tirelessly as a unit to produce the finest Joint Grand Charity Ball to date. RWSGD Wilson performed double duty and fluidly assumed the role of Toastmaster. His dual role provided familiarity with the inner planning of the program and enabled him to guide its production and presentation with ease.

MWGM John T. Doles of the Jurisdiction of the District of Columbia, DC's Grand Worthy Matron Barbara E. Murray and her husband MWPGM J. Raymond Murray and Grand Worthy Patron Thomas L. Coleman were guests at the head table with our MWGM Riddick. Everyone present was more than satisfied with the menu of New York Strip served as the main entre. The Good Life Band, a trio of professional musicians who are committed to quality in entertainment and sound, provided various music styles and performed each selection to the highest quality allowing us to dance the night away. The Good Life's core group featured Reginald Whitaker on trumpet and vocals, Sam Rucker on saxophones and background vocals, Hugh Williamson Jr. on keyboards and saxophone and is highlighted by the soaring yet earthy female vocals of Sylvia Whitaker.

All of the visiting dignitaries were quite pleased with our entire program and our Most Worshipful Grand Master was ecstatic as identified in his remarks. In those closing remarks MWGM Riddick quoted his theme "Working Together In Unity" and declared that the culmination of this program is the best evidence of his theme coming to life.

MW Prince Hall Grand Lodge's Annual Visitation To Hampton Veterans Administration Medical Center

By WPM Raymond A. Sutton, III #13

Hampton, VA – On Wednesday, April 17, 2013 the MWPHGL of VA's Masonic Districts of the Greater Tidewater Area (South Eastern Virginia) assembled for their annual visitation at the HVAMC to deliver some good old southern comfort to the in-patients and staff of the VA hospital.

The day was beautiful and the Great Creator had established weather that would allow an enjoyable and pleasant outing at the HVAMC picnic area and main gazebo without retreating to the indoors as had been necessary for outings in past years. Our Hampton Coordinators, DDGM Thomas L. Jefferson, Jr. #94, WPM Braxton W. Mitchell, Jr. #90, and Mrs. Judith Curtis, Chief of Recreation/Voluntary Services of the HVAMC determined that we would remain in the great outdoors on this day to pay tribute to and honor our hospitalized veterans.

At 10:00AM, the Brethren had gathered for their annual briefing from Mrs. Curtis on patient care, handling and transportation along with the necessary privacy act protections to be afforded to the patients. This was a refresher for the vast majority of the Brethren and an initial briefing for approximately five new Brethren who had never attended in past years. Recreation Therapists, Ms. Monique Harris, Ms. Kay Kerr, Ms. Linda Koceja, Special Events Ms. Danielle Westbrooks, and Program Specialist Ms. Linda Wiggs along with Recreation Therapist Assistants Mr. Glen Miller and Paul Burchak teamed with our able-bodied Brethren to off-load the food stuffs, barbeque grills, tables, chairs, etc. and began preparing for the day's cookout and picnic. Those able-bodied, stalwart Brethren then ferried the ambulatory patients from their domiciles over to our picnic area where others had already started the grilling operations and food and drink preparation. All were fed and completely satisfied. From back in the day, oldies but goodies were blasting from the DeeJay services of Herman Cook, Jr. He played it all, from the fifties, sixties, seventies, eighties and on up to the present and had us all rockin' and groovin'.

MWGM Shelton Riddick #323 was at the head of our Grand Lodge delegation with GLO's: RWSGW Paige D. Cherry #3, RWSGD Donald S. Wilson #67, RWGL-E Edward E. Lattimore, III #13, RWGD Maurice Holland #79, WGJS Ray Fisher #79, WGP Calvin Ruff #323, WGAP Larry D. Spence #67, WGAT Sunny Harris #69, MWPGM Curtis S. Vaughan, Jr. #67, DDGM Michael D. Brown #106, DDGM Curtis L. Gunn #3, DDGM John E. Amos, #167, DDGM Thomas L. Jefferson, Jr. #94, DDGM Curtis M. Holland #256, DDGM Burton A. Staples #93, ADDGM Alton Miles #196, ADDGM Erskine Dawson, ADDGM Isaac L. Curry #79, ADDGM Elbert E. Scott, Jr. #46, ADDGM Shawn A. Wilson #229, RWPGD Ronald L. Carter #92 and PDDGM Raymond A. Sutton III #13 in attendance.

Seventy-six Brethren were signed in on our roster representing Masonic Lodges #3; #4; #13; #34; #46; #48; #54; #66; #67; #69; #79; #90; #92; #93; #94; #106; #132; #136; #167; #189; #196; #197; #229; #256; #268; #288 and #323.

VA Visitation in the West

By ADDGM Walter Davis #295

Salem - The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia Western District Visits the Veterans Medical Center Salem, Virginia on April 24, 2013

With our Most Worshipful Grand Master The Honorable Shelton Riddick " Working Together in Unity"

VA Visitation at McGuire

By PM L. J. McCoy #33

Richmond – On a beautiful spring day, over 25 brothers from the 11th, 12th, and 26th Masonic Districts assembled at the McGuire Veterans Administration Hospital to show our appreciation to our men and women in uniform.

Right Worshipful Board of Director member Charles A. Jones who serves as chair of the visitation was also responsible for coordinating the event which was in its sixth year. With Most Worshipful Grand Master Shelton Riddick theme "Working Together in Unity" motivating them, the brothers grilled burgers & hot dogs, prepared baked beans & potato salad, iced soft drinks, and more for the veterans and the hospital staff.

Expressing our thanks did not stop in the capital city. Thanks was extended to Fort Belvoir where ADDGM James C. Gordon #292 coordinated the event in Northern Virginia and at the VA hospital in Hampton where DDGM Thomas Jefferson #94 carried the Grand Master's message there.

Although this was a small portion of thanks for the sacrifice these patriotic defenders of freedom received, but it was large in the hearts of the men and women we served on today.

Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia Free and Accepted Masons, Inc.
31st Masonic District
2013 Veterans Visitation
Soldiers & Families Assistance Center
Fort Belvoir, Virginia
April 17, 2013

Healthy Lifestyles - Men & Depressions

By Dr. Leon Andrew #109

The symptoms of depression can develop gradually over days or weeks. A person entering a depression may appear slow, sad, loss of appetite, tiredness, irritable and anxious. They may tend to be withdrawn, talking little, increased loss of interest and enjoyment, loss of sexual desire, sleeplessness, restlessness or agitation. Thinking, speech decision-making concentration activity rate maybe slowed. At a more serious stage, there may be feelings of helplessness, hopelessness or worthlessness coupled with intense feelings of guilt and self-denigrating ideas and may not be able to sort out things well. Most serious of all of those symptoms are thoughts of death and suicide. About 15 percent of severely depressed people may have delusions (false belies) or hallucinations (seeing, hearing, tasting, smelling or visions of things that aren't there.) These depression symptoms with delusions are termed "psychotic depression". A person with a plan of suicide represents an emergency situation and those are people who should be hospitalized and maintained under supervision until treatment reduces the risk of suicide.

Typically, depression begins in the 20's, 30's or 40's, however the incidence of depression increases with age as in older people living on their own and socially isolated and often worry about being more dependent on others, losses of friends, etc. An episode of depression generally lasts for 6 to 9 months. But in 15 to 20 percent of the people, it may last for 2 years or more. Episodes may recur multiple times over a lifetime.

We still do not understand the causes of depression. As a matter of fact, there are a number of factors that may cause a person to experience depression. Among them are external factors, for example, family heredity, medication side effects, an introverted personality, traumatic events, substance abuse, life stressors or physical diseases (e.g., hypothyroidism, rheumatoid arthritis, stokes or hepatitis.)

Women seem twice as likely as men to experience depression though the reasons aren't entirely clear. Some studies have shown that women tend to respond to adversity by withdrawing into themselves and blaming themselves. In contrast, men tend to deny adversity and throw themselves into activities e.g. work, social, mid-life crises, anger and substance abuse. Studies have shown that about 1 in 6 women seek help for depression while only 1 in 9 men seek help but, is this a true difference or maybe a result from the fact that women are more prepared to visit physicians for their depressive symptoms. We in Psychology believe that it is never better to "let sleeping dogs lie", when it comes to clinical depression. If left unaddressed, sometimes, self-defeating habits and lethargy depletes more of ones self-help energy and ultimately it will have a demoralizing effect (i.e., resorting in violence, alcohol or other expressions of discontent).

The first step in diagnosis is to rule out the possibility that a physical disorder is causing the symptoms and then submit to a mental health evaluation done by a qualified professional.

For milder forms of early on set of depressive symptoms some "self help" strategies may bring short-term relief. They include a comprehensive coping strategy of meditation, relaxation techniques, exercises, regular medical checkups, talk to a trusted friend, acupressure/massage, aromatherapy, homeopathy, creative therapies, (i.e., art, music, dance) Ayurveda (ancient method of healing from India). On the brighter side, many people suffering from depression do not require hospitalization and may make a good recovery without having to seek professional assistance. Don't suffer in silence; seek help!

Founder's Day 2013

By PM L. J. McCoy #33

Petersburg – As a downpour of rain altered the procession lineup from outdoor to indoor, over 160 brothers united to celebrate our 138th Founder's Day.

Master of Ceremonies Grand Lecturer Edward Lattimore #13 opened the services at First Baptist Church Harrison St. with the support of Grand Lecturer of the West Kerry Brown #61with scripture, ADDGM Joseph Diggs #43 with a welcome to the brothers, and Mayor Brian Moore who welcomed everyone to the historical city of Petersburg.

Grand Secretary Isaac Hughes #314 then introduced Grand Lodge officers and distinguished guests. Giving a brief history of how the Ancient York Rite Masons and the Union Grand Lodge Masons successfully arrived at a decision in December 1875 on uniting, ADDGM Cedric Lawrence #10 led the brothers into reading of the Masonic Credo.

After being introduced by PM Joe Moore #7, Rev. Dr. Leroy Evans, Jr. spoke from Luke 6:46-49 with the subject of "Let the Lord Build Your House". The speaker gave a brief history on our founder Prince Hall, before making his point. Initiating 14 African American brothers into Masonry in 1775, Brother Evans related how far we had come by serving a God that has never failed. He stated that Prince Hall looked at the blueprint of a building of a solid foundation that would not come tumbling down. In closing his lecture, Rev. Evans stated that although this foundation may be shaken, it can never be destroyed, when you have brothers working together.

Being formally introduced by DGM Roger Brown #327, Most Worshipful Grand Master Shelton Riddick first expressed sympathy in the passing of Past GC Rev. Jake Manley #80 before recognizing the young men of the Knights of Pythagoras. MWGM Riddick then led a procession to the outside monument for a formal wreath laying by Past MWGM Robert Harris, Sr. #34.

The Grand Master's Annual Golf Tournament

By PGM Larry Christian #253

Williamsburg – Blessed with dry blue skies, pleasant breezes, and manicured greens, the 2013 Grand Master's Annual Golf Tournament was fit for the kings of golf. The Kiskiack Golf Club in Williamsburg welcomed 88 players who formed 22 teams and challenged each other for prizes and fun.

MWGM Shelton Riddick was pleased to welcome RWJGW Isacce Morris, James Mosley, Fredric Norman, and PGM Jerome Dorsey from the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Delaware, as well as, Todd Ellis, Jim Robinson, Robert Hill and Ms Cheryl Hill (our first lady participant) from the MWPHGL of Massachusetts.

Challenging these seasoned players were RWJGD Butch Morgan #298, RWGL Edward Lattimore #13, PGM Billie Thompson #46, ADDGM Cedric Lawrence #10, ADDGM Ike Curry #79, DDGM Curtis Gunn #3, DDGM Edward Henderson #23, ADDGM Waverly Jones #28, DDGM Leonard Johnson #293, ADDGM Ardell Walker #187, DDGM Michael Brown #106, DDGM John Amos #167, RWGL Kerry Brown #61, GD Walter Brown #18, DDGM Thomas Jefferson #94, DDGM James Burrell #253, and GT James Watkins #44.

After an enjoyable 18 holes, prizes were awarded to the most skillful teams and players. First place went to (55) Anthony Plater/Cory Fowler/Tim Moss/Scott Griffith; Second place to (56) Cedric Lawrence/James Spence/Donald Wall/Ed Thomas, and third place to (57) Kenneth Lee/Bill Lewis/Devery Travera/Robert Epps. Ed Thomas won Hole #1 for $50.00 & a trophy, Rev. Eddie Jones won Hole #18 for $50.00 & a trophy, and PGM Billie Thompson won Closest to the Pin for $50.00 & and trophy. DGM Roger Brown #327 managed the putting contest where Devery Travers won the $200.00 cash prize. GL Edward Lattimore won the Grand Prize which was a Kindle Fire HD. To enhance the event, 30 prizes were raffled off which required $10 to participate. Cash prizes and gift cards won totaled $350.00 and visiting jurisdictions received complimentary Grand Lodge caps.

The Grand Chapter has Sunday's Best

By PM L. J. McCoy #33

Chesapeake – On Tuesday July 23, 2013, Grand Worthy Matron Gracie H. Drake and the Grand Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons Jurisdiction of Virginia, Inc. had their formal banquet to receive members, dignitaries, and the Honorable Most Worshipful Grand Master Shelton Riddick.

As committee chairperson, Grand Conductress Robin M. Brown expressed her thanks to those who inspired the idea of Sunday's Best before introducing the Grand Worthy Patron Donnell Freeman, Jr. After words from the Grand Worthy Patron and Grand Worthy Matron Drake, Grand Master Riddick related how pleased he was with the Grand Chapter Session.

Smith, Claiborne, Butts, Roberts Day

By WPM Raymond A. Sutton, III

Petersburg – Past Grand Worthy Matron Gladys Smith, Grand District Deputy Organizer Otis Claiborne, Past Grand Worthy Patron Walter Butts and Past Grand Worthy Matron Dorothy Roberts were true leaders in this Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star of Virginia, Prince Hall Affiliation. The facts are that these four people were entwined by more than one thread. True, they were all Officers in the GC, OESofVA, PHA but the thing that really pulled them together even more than that. Their love of children and dedication to the Virginia Baptist Children's Home in Petersburg, VA placed them as allies to the success of the VBCH Program. Their devotion brought them to the forefront of the Grand Chapter's movement which culminated in having this special day inscribed with their names.

The program to celebrate Smith, Claiborne, Butts, Roberts Day was on Saturday, April 27, 2013 at the Masonic Temple, 1004 Halifax Street in Petersburg, VA at 10:00AM. Mrs. Robin Brown, the Grand Conductress of the Grand Chapter, was the Mistress of Ceremonies who skillfully guided us through the day's program designed to elevate the distinction of our titled honorees. Highlights of the program were the Purpose and History of the program by Ms. Hattie Bonner, the Honorees Memorial by GDDO Cassandra Barnes, and a poem in the youth presentation, 'Why Not You' by Ms. April Moore. A delicious lunch was prepared and enjoyed by all. A presentation to the families of our departed honorees was carried out with the requisite dignity and grace.

Our Grand Worthy Matron, Mrs. Gracie H. Drake was introduced by the Grand Worthy Patron, Mr. Donnell Freeman. She commented that she was quite pleased with the program and praised Ms. April Moore for her presentation and thanked the program Committee for their excellence.

MW Grand Master Shelton Riddick and his wife, Mrs. Shirley Riddick were in attendance and in his comments he gave high praise to Ms. April Moore's recitation.

OES Joint Whit Sunday Program

By WPM Raymond A. Sutton, III, #13

Hampton – The Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star of Virginia, Prince Hall Affiliation, under the leadership of Grand Worthy Matron Gracie H. Drake #83 directed that a joint program in commemoration of Whit Sunday/Pentecost. This program was held at Zion Baptist Church, 125 W. County Street in Hampton, VA at 3:00PM on Sunday, May 19, 2013. The Grand Lecturer of the East, Mrs. Synthia Wells #66 performed as the program's Mistress of Ceremonies. Mrs. Wells's mastery of direction influenced the program's participants to step up to the next level in their individual performances. The Zion Baptist Church Male Chorus performed, as the professionals that they are, and delivered Spirituals that ministered to the souls of the congregation lifting them higher, one after another.

The key-note speaker for the Celebration, Rev. Kendra Townes #3, did not speak to us in tongues, however she delivered a message with meaning that identified to us her extensive knowledge of the Pentecost. We came to know and understand that Whit Sunday in Christianity or Ecclesiastical terms is the seventh Sunday after Easter and is observed as a feast 50 days after Easter. It is also called Pentecost, a Christian Holy Day and is a recorded in the New Testament of the Holy Bible. According to Christian texts, the Holy Spirit, often symbolized by a dove, descended upon the Apostles of Jesus Christ who received the gift of tongues. Pentecost celebrates this event. In the New Testament of the Bible, it declares how on the 50th day after Easter the Apostles were praying together and the Holy Spirit descended upon them. They received the "gift of tongues" – the ability to speak in other languages – and immediately began to preach about Jesus Christ to Jewish people from all over the world who had flocked to Jerusalem for the Feast of Shavuot. Throughout the United States, Christians share their perspectives about the meaning of Pentecost as well as how the diversity of languages and cultures can enhance their worship and fellowship, each with another. Christians see Pentecost as an expansion of God's favor and care from Judaism to all peoples. Many churches celebrate Pentecost with a mass or worship service on this day.

In her closing remarks, GWM Drake acknowledged that she was quite pleased with the program and with the membership turnout. She thanked the Program Chairperson, GDDO Mary Hamilton #3 and the Committee for their diligence and perseverance in assuring an outstanding program.

The 16th & 18th OES Districts Celebrate Whit Sunday

By PM L. J. McCoy #33

Left to right Sisters Mason, Brown, McDaniel, Rev. Hobbs, Sisters Rivers, & Robinson.

Petersburg – Adorned in his traditional white robe, Rev. Lamont Hobbs was surrounded by the beautiful flowers of the Order of the Eastern Star on their Whit Sunday May 19, 2013. The 16th and 18th Districts joined together to celebrate their annual event at Metropolitan Baptist Church in Petersburg, Virginia.

Mistress of Ceremonies, Sister Yvette Robinson who also holds the title of State Queen, welcomed program participants' sisters Ada Johnson #44, District #16 President Pearlie Brown, WM Hilda Diggs #7, WM Barbara Bell #164, WM Ethel White #44, WM Tonya Goode #33, WM Thelma Jones #130, WM Beverly Steward #110, and Grand State Youth Coordinator Saundra Mason.

Hawkins Blow Youth with Advisors.

Rev. Hobbs crafted his message from Acts and tailored his as "The Power of Pentecost". His delivery was received with great jubilation.

GDDO #16 Bernice McDaniel, Honorable PGWM Erma Brown, and AGDDO #16 Magnolia T. Rivers gave closing remarks. The sisters received everyone in fellowship at a dinner which was served at the Masonic Temple after the program.

31st MD Celebrate Easter 2013

By Julius D. Spain Sr. #58

Alexandria – Shadrack Jackson Consistory No. 156, Alexandria, Virginia extended an invitation to the 31st Masonic District to join in fellowship on March 31, 2013 at 5:30 a.m. for Easter Sunrise Service. During the service, Alexandria Chapter of the Rose Croix performed a "Ceremony of Relighting." Held at First African Methodist Episcopal Church, Manassas, VA, under the pastoral care of Rev. Ronald A. Boykin, the sunrise service and ceremony of relighting were spiritually uplifting to over 60 Master Masons and 125 church members who attended the combined events.

SGIG Michael A. Paris, Illustrious Deputy for the Orient, gained approval from Most Worshipful Grand Master, the Honorable Shelton Riddick, for the 31st Masonic District to attend this extraordinary event. Distinguished Grand Lodge Officers in attendance were: Right Worshipful Junior Grand Deacon, Beverly "Butch" Morgan, District Deputy Grand Master, Leonard C. Johnson, and Assistant District Deputy Grand Masters, James Gordon and Carl Albritton. It should be noted that SGIG Parris is also a Past Right Worshipful Grand Director.

Traditionally, Scottish Rite Masons observe Maundy Thursday on the middle day of Holy Week. The word "Maundy" stems from Latin Mandatum, a command. Traditionally, the Christian world celebrates this day using the date of Easter Sunday, which is the first Sunday after the full moon that happens on or after March 21, at the vernal equinox. As Freemasons, the Scottish Rite celebrates this day throughout the world to reaffirm their faith in the universal fraternity of mankind.

Sharing the same concept of all Masonic organizations that there is no symbolic degree higher than that of Master Mason, the work of Scottish Rite serves to extend and amplify that of Symbolic (Blue) Lodges. Thus, the Scottish Rite is an accumulation of thousands of years of Masonic experience.

12th MD helps with SOL

By PM L. J. McCoy, Jr. #33

Petersburg – "You brushed up against me, Stop looking on my paper, I'm gonna tell Mrs. Crocker on you!" In one room, 75 middle school students, and only a handful of dedicated volunteers will yield these and numerous other expressions, during the Peabody Middle School lock-in. The students had been "locked-in" since school was over. They would remain "locked-in" till 7 PM.

Along with 12th Masonic District brothers, the 21st Pride After School Program had an evening event to assist the students in preparing for the Standards of Learning. Administrative volunteers Ms. Patricia Crocker, and Ms. Lorraine Davis were the core program leaders under the guidance of Principal Dr. Yardley Farquharson. While Brothers ADDGM Joseph Diggs #43, ADDGM Cedric Lawrence #10, Height #43, Woodie #43, Rev. James Jeter #43, and Corey Lewis #43 grilled hot dogs and hamburgers in order to make the study event a lot more pleasant, they all sacrificed their Friday evening for the benefit of our children.

Even though, the school system has been under attack for low performance, the brothers believe anything they could contribute would be a blessing to improve the education of our children.

31st MD has Senior Day

By Bro. Julius Spain #**58**

On July 13th, over 50 brothers of the 31st Masonic District entertained senior citizens of Northern Virginia area at the James Lee Community Center in Falls Church. On this beautiful day, 125 seniors competed for $500.00 in bingo prizes.

This is an annual affair for the brothers of the 31st MD giving back to the elders and patrons of their communities. This year's event was directed and coordinated by WGAM Charles "C.J." James #11, and PM James Wallace Costner #292. Participating lodges were Universal Lodge#1, Lincoln Lodge#11, Acacia Lodge#32, Arlington Lodge#58, King Tyre Lodge#292, Triangle Lodge#293, Pride of Fairfax County Lodge#298, and Diversity Lodge#330.

PWM Mrs. Lavonia Lowe of Arlington Chapter # I 73. **OES**; PHA, enjoys Senior Day with her grandson and others

The 31st MD welcomed first-time attendee RWJGW Richard Townes#235, and for the second consecutive year, PMWGM Herman Eggleston#146 and his spouse. The Junior Wardens and Stewards of the district lead by JW John Collins#292 and JW John Chavis #293 were instrumental in the overall success of the program. They were directly responsible for preparation of food and assisted in transportation of the seniors from/to the venue. As the brothers of the 31st MD continue their steadfast community influence, more young males are inspiring to becoming better men and Prince Hall Masons.

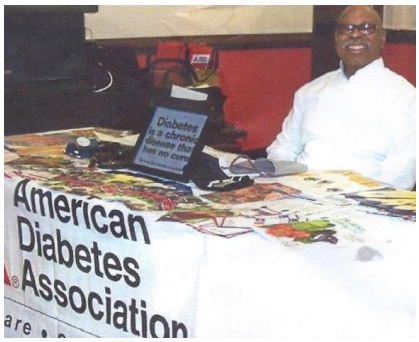
Pocahontas #7 gives to School

By PM William Steele #7

Pocahontas Lodge #7 Prince Hall Masons of the Twelfth Masonic District of Petersburg presented Zelda Lynch, principal of Walnut Hill Elementary School, a monetary donation of $300 for school supplies. The school adoption program is sponsored by Prince Hall Masons throughout Virginia. P.M. William H. Steele and P.M. Milton Montgomery, presented the donation to Principal Lynch. The total contribution from the Lodge for the school for the 2012-2013 school year is $1,000.

An Advocate for Controlling Diabetes

By PM Chester Hazelwood #327



Richmond - Past Master C. W. Hazelwood, Sr. is a member of Lord Hannibal Lodge #327 of the 26th Masonic District in Richmond, Va. PM Hazelwood serves as an Ambassador for the American Diabetes Association and was honored as the Volunteer of the Month of April 2013 by the Central Virginia American Diabetes Association in Richmond.

I always tell people that diabetes is a chronic disease that has no cure, but let us control diabetes, and not let diabetes control us.

.Buffalo Riders Invite MWGM to Ride in Local Parade in Observance of Black History Month

By DDGM C. L. Gunn #3

Portsmouth - Founded in 1997, the African-American equestrian team known as the Buffalo Riders honors and keeps alive the contribution of the Buffalo Soldiers and the Black Cowboys of the Old West. There are a number of female riders on the team as well. The team is very community oriented in working with inner city youth in teaching them all aspects of horsemanship. The riders have an annual parade of horses in February through the City of Portsmouth, VA in memory of The Buffalo Soldiers and the Black Cowboys.

This year the President of the Riders and one of its founders, Ken Wright, offered an opportunity for the MWGM and Prince Hall Masons to be participants in the annual parade on February 16th, during Black History Month. Grand Master Riddick accepted the invitation and was able to fit it into his schedule prior to attending the OES District Queens Contest Luncheon scheduled that day.

PM Kenneth Pugh, Lodge #91, serving as liaison between the riders and the DDGM, 3rd MD, along with the Grand Pursuviant, PM Calvin Ruff, coordinated arrangements and prepared the Grand Master's vehicular entry in the parade. The parade began at the I. C. Norcom High School on High Street and proceeded through the City on the 10 mile journey for its 13th Annual Buffalo Riders Parade of Horses.

PA Royal & Select Recognizes VA Masons

By PM Reginald Tolbert #328

Pennsylvania – On the 8th of June 2013 in Prussia, Pennsylvania, the Prince Hall Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters for the Jurisdiction of Pennsylvania, F & AM, had their Grand Assembly and received visitation from various Jurisdictions one of which was Virginia. During the Session there were various Awards giving out but there was one that caught two Illustrious Companions off guard.

The Right Grand Thrice Illustrious Master Hubert Braxton, ask the Past Most Worshipful Grand Master and now the Thrice Illustrious Grand Master for the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters for Pennsylvania, AF &AM, and the Past Right Grand Thrice Illustrious Master for the Prince Hall Grand Council Royal and Select Masters for the Commonwealth of Virginia, PHA, Inc., and now the General Grand Conference of Grand Councils Royal and Select Masters Jurisdiction Deputy for Virginia, Reginald V. Tolbert, 33*, to come to the altar.

Both men were then bestowed the honor of becoming an Honorary members of the Prince Hall Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters for the Jurisdiction of Pennsylvania, F & AM. Both men were surprise and overwhelm with joy and happiness. They were both so taken that neither of them could speak.

On hand for this Great event were the Jurisdictions of Maryland, Washington, DC, New Jersey, Virginia, North Carolina, along with the Most Worshipful Grand Master for the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, the Honorable Murphy J. Keller, III and the Grand Lodge Elected and Appointed Officers, and the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters for Pennsylvania, AF &AM. Indeed this was a glories day for one of our own and the Jurisdiction of Virginia

Red and White Ball

By Bro. Julius Spain #58

Alexandria - On Saturday, July 14, 2013, MWGM Shelton Riddick attended the 4th Annual Red and White Ball hosted by Most Excellent High Priest Therone B. Wesley, Sr. and the Companions of Eureka Chapter No.2, Holy Royal Arch Masons, PHA, Alexandria, Virginia. An estimated 120 people attended the event held at the Fort Belvoir Officers Club, Fort Belvoir, Virginia. Esteemed guests included Rudy A. Baker who currently serves as the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, King Cyrus Grand Chapter, Holy Royal Arch Mason of Virginia, PHA, Gracie Drake, Grand Worthy Matron, Order of the Eastern Star of Virginia, PHA and a host of other highly-regarded Grand-Level officers from surrounding jurisdictions. The event was highlighted by the awarding of college scholarships to three class of 2013 high school seniors and honoring Past High Priest Anthony B. Rahatt of Eureka Chapter #2.

Past Grand Master Robert Harris #34 on membership –

….. maybe you are familiar with one of your upstanding church members, or a fellow employee, or a relative and just ask him, "What do you think about the Masons?" And let the conversation go from there.

Arlington #58 has 2013 Annual Songfest and Scholarship Awards Program

By Bro. Julius Spain #58

Arlington - With nearly 100 people and community leaders in attendance, on Sunday May 19, 2013, members of Arlington Lodge No. 58 F&AM and The Bee Hive Club Inc. joined in celebrating the 2013 Annual Songfest and Scholarship Awards Program. The event was held at Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Arlington, Virginia where the Rev. Dr. Leonard N. Smith, Sr. currently presides. Lodge Secretary, Past Master Carlton Newton served as Chairman of this extraordinary event. The official program began with a biblical scripture reading by Rev. James Gibson, prayer by Past Master Michael A. Spann, and welcoming remarks by Brother Kent Carter. Numerous spiritual selections were provided by the Celestial Echoes Choir of Lomax AME Zion Church, the Men's Praise Team of Mt. Zion Baptist Church, the Men's Choir of St. John's Baptist Church, and Youth Spirit of Fairfax, Virginia. Worshipful Master of Arlington Lodge No. 58, Bro. Jeffrey Schons and President of The Bee Hive Club Inc., Mr. Eddie Key presented each awardee a $1000.00 college scholarship. They four awardees were: Mohamed Osman, Rafa T. Chowdhury, Julius D. Spain Jr., Hiruy Ephrem. To date, Arlington Lodge No. 58 and The Bee Hive Club Inc. have collectively given over $50,000 in scholarships to students to further their education. During the program, over $1200.00 in charitable donations was collected for the scholarship fund. All awardees have been accepted for admission to an accredited 4-year University beginning in the of Fall 2013.

OES has Dinner & Play

By PM L. J. McCoy #33

Hopewell – After preparing a full course meal at Friendship Baptist Church, Lily of the Valley #44 yielded to the actors who presented a two act play in an inspiring performance of Christian love and rewards.

Worthy Matron Ethel R. White of the chapter welcomed sisters, brothers, and guests from the surrounding area to the evening activities. During dinner, the chapter shared time with ADDGO Magnolia Rivers, State Youth Coordinator Sandra Mason, ADDGM Charles Shelton #307, and ADDG Joseph Diggs #43.

Patrons were then entertained by the play which was written by Treske Yasmine Wilson-Smith "Faith, Hope, and Charity". Serving her first term as a Petersburg Councilwoman, Ms. Wilson-Smith has written several Christian plays which have been performed at First Baptist Harrison St. in Petersburg.

The event concluded with remarks from the author, Sister Rivers, and ADDGM Diggs.

Arlington #58 Supports Basketball Classic

By Bro. Julius Spain #58

Arlington - On February 16-17, 2013, members of Arlington Lodge No. 58 and the Bee Hive Club Inc. participated in a community fundraising event. The 18th Annual 2013 Capital Classic Basketball Tournament was held this weekend at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Arlington, Virginia.

For four days beginning on Feb. 16, military basketball teams and their families from around the continental United States played at three venues: Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall (Ft. Myer & Smith Gym) and Ft. McNair Gym, District of Columbia. This was a men and women's multi-pool, double elimination tournament.

This year, a total of 22 teams – 16 men's and 6 women's squads – competed and as many as 300 patrons attended. This is the second year the Bee Hive Club Inc. was offered an opportunity to provide concessions and it was very successful.

An assortment of food included fish, fried chicken, burgers, hot dogs, and other items was made available for patrons and their families. Additional information and photos can be found by visiting Arlington Lodge #58 website at: http://arlington58.org/bee_hive_club

Capital City #107 has Church Service

By Bro. Glen Hence #107

Mechanicsville - Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. Such was the case on June 30, 2013 at the Rock Hill Baptist Church, in Mechanicsville, VA. The brothers of Capital City Lodge #107, lead by Worshipful Master Ronald L. Bolden, attended Divine Sunday services to worship with the brothers of the 26th Masonic District of VA, the Masters & Wardens Association Lodge #23, and the sisters of the Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star of VA.

The Rev. Phillip Knight, pastor of Rock Hill Baptist Church welcomed all brothers and sisters assembled and extended the invitation to return and worship anytime. Rev Knight also provided an inspirational message as well as a foot stomping rendition of "When you get to heaven, save a place for me". On behalf of the 26th Masonic District of VA, District Deputy Grand Master Edward T. Henderson presented a check to the pastor in the amount of $100.00. It was a beautiful day in the Lord and everyone in attendance seem to have enjoyed the spirit of fellowship.

Gathered at the Founder's Day monument from left to right front row PGM Harris, MWGM Riddick, DGM Brown, SGW Cherry, and GL Lattimore.

Grand Lodge Session Agenda of Events for 2013*

Monday, September 9, 2013
- 10:00 a.m. Grand Lodge Office Set-Up
- 4:00 p.m. Prepare kits

Tuesday, September 10, 2013
- 8:00 a.m. Prepare for Registration & 138th Session walk-through

Wednesday, September 11, 2013
- 10:00 a.m. Treasurers/Secretary School
- Brief discussion on items lifted from table
- 3:00 p.m. Registration & Credentials, close at 10) pm
- 7:00 p.m. **Prince Hall Day & Lodge of Sorrow**

Thursday, September 12, 2013
- 7:00 a.m. Registration & Credentials, close at 5:00 p.m.
- 7:30-8:15 a.m. Devotionals
- 8:30 a.m. Ceremony of Opening
- 10:00 a.m. Official Opening of Grand Lodge
- 11:30 a.m. Presentation of MWGM Riddick
- 12:30 p.m. Grand Lodge called off
- 1:30 p.m. Grand Lodge Called On
- 4:00 p.m. Grand Lodge Called Off
- 4:15 – 6:30 p.m. Committee meetings
- 7:00 p.m. **Grand Lodge Gospel Concert**

Friday, September 13, 2013
- 7:00 a.m. Registration & Credentials close at 8:30 a.m.
- 7:30 – 8:15 a.m. Devotionals
- 8:30 a.m. Grand Lodge Called On
- 9:25 a. m. Grand Lodge Called Off
- 9:30 a. m. Voting
- 12:30 p.m. Grand Lodge Called On
- 12:45 p.m. Reports
- 2:00 p. m. Reception of Appendant Bodies
- 4:00 p.m. Grand Lodge Called Off
- 7:00 p.m. **Grand Lodge Annual Banquet**

Saturday, September 14, 2013
- 7:30-8:15 a.m. Devotionals
- 8:30 a.m. Grand Lodge Called On
- 9:00 a.m. Results of Voting
- 9:30 a.m. Reception of Visitors from Sister Jurisdictions
- 12:00 p.m. Grand Lodge Called Off
- 12:15 p.m. Reception of the Knights of Pythagoras
- 2:00 p.m. Grand Chapter OES
- 3:30 p.m. Grand Lodge Called On
- 4:30 p.m. **Ceremony of Closing Grand Lodge**
- 7:00 p.m. **Grand Master Reception**

*** All events held at the Marriott Chesapeake Hotel & Conference Center 725 Woodlake Dr. Chesapeake, VA 23320 (888) 245-2617**

Does the hard working brother in the white dinner jacket remind you of someone? What's the event, and where was it?

A Tribute to Our Sisters of the Order of the Eastern Star

"…and I saw White spirits and Black spirits engaged in battle, and the sun was darkened – the thunder rolled in the Heavens, and blood flowed in the streams…" Herbert Aptheker, *Nat Turner's Slave Rebellion*

We encourage you to continue to furnish the ***Bee Hive*** with PERTINENT and RELEVANT information regarding your lodge and district activities. ALL INFORMATION for PUBLICATION and questions relative to the ***Bee Hive*** should be addressed to: ***Editor, Bee Hive Magazine, 2417 Osborne Rd. Chester, VA 23831 or e-mail to*** mccoygitlo@verizon.net.

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