The Bee Hive

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

Winter 2014 **Volume 20, Number 1**

Our Grand Lodge Awarded More Than $77,000 in Scholarships

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Most Worshipful Grand Master Shelton Riddick #323 (on right) and DDGM Curtis Gunn #3 (on left) present scholarships to graduating students Ms. Sydney Thompson, Ms. Kaitlyn Mason, and Mr. Ryan Norman.

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2013-2014

"Working Together In Unity"

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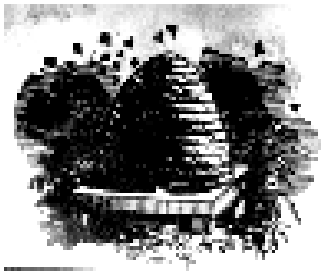

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The Bee Hive

Vol. 20 No. 1

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.

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Shelton Riddick#323

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

From The Virginia Masonic Herald–Fall 2013

Former NFL Quarterback, native of Newport News, Aaron Brooks was recognized by local Freemasons for his contributions and commitment to the city of Newport News. The awards included the 2013 Community Builders Award, presented by Bremond Lodge No. 241 and the 2013 Outstanding Community Service Award, presented by Masonic District No. 7, Prince Hall Masons.

The event was attended by over two hundred people including many special guests: Newport News Mayor McKinley Price; Congressman Scott Rigell (VA-2); Delegate Mamye BaCote (95); Delegate Michael Watson (93); Councilwoman Sharon Scott (North District); Councilman Joseph Whitaker (South District); Councilwoman Tina Vick (South District); Councilman Robert Coleman (North District); City Clerk Mabel Washington Jenkins; former Newport News Fire Chief and 2010 Community Builders Award recipient Kenneth Jones; Shelton Riddick, Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia, Free and Accepted Masons; and Louis K. Campbell, Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Virginia.

Aaron Brooks was born and raised in the City of Newport News, graduating from Ferguson High School. He attended and played football for the University of Virginia graduating in 1999. He began his NFL career with the Green Bay Packers, but really made his mark in 2000 when he took over as starting quarterback of the New Orleans Saints. Brooks set many team records with the Saints and retired from the NFL in 2007.

In his post-NFL career, Brooks became a land developer. His first project began in 2008 with Burlington Woods, an upscale subdivision located on 17 acres in James City County. In 2008, Brooks announced his plans to invest in the redevelopment of the southeast community of Newport News. Known as "Brooks Crossing," the project will be a mixed-use development consisting of residential and retail offerings. The ground-breaking is currently scheduled for fall 2013. By investing in his home community, Brooks is hoping to break the "Bad News" stigma sometimes associated with the area and showcase its positive attributes.

Aaron Brooks, with the support of his wife Tisa, has also been very active in promoting childhood literacy through the Aaron Brooks Family Foundation, which encourages children to use reading and a good education to rise above any negative circumstances. One of the major projects of the Foundation was the creation of a summer reading program called "Read to Pass," encouraging children to read at least ten books on their summer breaks.

Also, Brooks has co-authored a children's book "Aaron Brooks: Rise Above" hoping to inspire and motivate young people with his own story of overcoming adversity.

L-R: Most Worshipful Louis K. Campbell, Aaron and Tisa Brooks, Most Worshipful Grand Master Shelton Riddick, Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia

Philippians 3:13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before.
14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

From the Editor

L. J. McCoy, Jr. #33

At a recent School of Instruction, Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master Roger C. Brown #327 informed us that several brothers had experienced restricting medical conditions. He stated that W. Past Grand Marshal Aaron McAllister #162 was on oxygen; RW Past Grand Lecturer Irving Spencer #80 was restricted to a rehabilitation home; and RW Grand Director Charles A. Jones #81 would soon be having surgery. Not to disregard the ailments of others, but these are just a few that were addressed at that time and we need to contact them to let them know, we care.

There is reason to believe, that at some time we may all face a discomforting physical disability. Yet, the need to be proactive in preventing these situations, depend greatly on regular medical check-ups.

In August, I was diagnosed with adenocarcinoma perineural invasion of the prostate – prostate cancer. I was fortunate, regular physical check-ups indicated my PSA had begun to rise and after the biopsies determined that there were cancer cells, I elected to have the organ removed surgically.

Many brothers and friends have been fortunate to have their problem diagnosed in the early stage, thereby resulting in a better quality and longer life.

In Masonry, we are taught we should take eight hours for the service of God, eight hours for our usual vocations, and eight for refreshment and sleep. It is therefore our responsibility, not our spouse's, nor our children's, nor our friend's responsibility to have regular annual medical check-ups for us. President Obama's Affordable Care Act (Obama Care) has made health care more accessible for everyone, but it is up to you to make your health care a priority.

So, if we are that shining example of the Book of Light that is our rule and guide, and if we embrace the wisdom of King Solomon, and if we are the brotherhood of man whose father is God, then we must remain, not only spiritually healthy, but also physically healthy.

Martin Luther King Jr. Council # 39 KOP - Youth With a Purpose

By Carl Albritton #298

Fairfax - Martin Luther King Jr. Council # 39 is sponsored by Pride of Fairfax County Lodge #298 and supported by the lodges of the 31st Masonic District and Metropolitan Lodge #161 of the 30th Masonic District. It is the newest council in the Jurisdiction of Virginia.

The council was reactivated August 4, 2012 with 13 Youth Knights being invested and 25 Sir Knights (Master Masons) obligated. In 18 months MLK #39 has blossomed into largest and most active council in the state with a current membership of 65 (26 Youth Knights and 39 Sir Knights).

The council's primary goal is to assist our youth to build character, self-esteem, social and life skills by providing them with structured and supportive relationships with trusted adult mentors. Each youth knight is assigned a mentor. They work to build a strong relationship so that the youth is comfortable discussing his personal, educational, economic and spiritual challenges, thereby finding ways to face the problems and overcoming them. We train our youth knights in the areas of leadership, responsibility, and brotherhood.

We've held training sessions and discussion groups that focused on character traits, teamwork, honor, courage, service before self and overcoming hardships...and the importance of implementing these traits in their daily lives.

In the area of community service, we've raised funds for and participated in American Diabetes Association Step Out Walk to Stop Diabetes and helped pack and deliver Thanksgiving baskets. The council had the largest number of attendees at our 2013 summer encampment and attended the District of Columbia's Summer Encampment. Our youth also attended the MWPHGL of Virginia's Founders Day and Grand Lodge Session. We visited the National Museum of the Marine Corps and attended a Washington Wizards basketball game. We also participated in parades in Alexandria and Dale City and attended fifth Sunday's Divine Services with the 31st Masonic District.

The Council paraded in Alexandria & Fairfax

2013 Founders Day with MWGM

2013 DC Summer Encampment

Join the Knights of Pythagoras

Call or email

State Director Carl Albritton #298 carlalbritton43@aol.com

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Schools of Instruction

The Louisa School

RWJGW Townes (left) and RWSGD Wilson (far right) stood with six brothers who received their Certificates of Merit.

Buckingham – Since the Louisa earthquake did substantial damage to the lodge where previous schools were held, the first School of Instruction was held at Buckingham County Middle School. The SOI opened in traditional fashion with the introduction of Grand Lodge Appointed and Elected Officers where RW Deputy Grand Master Roger C. Brown #327 sat in for Most Worshipful Grand Master Shelton Riddick.

RWDGM Brown #18 then invited first time attendee Brother Michael Harrison #18 to the altar to speak representing first time attendees. A response was received from RW Jr. Grand Deacon Beverly W. Morgan #298. After MWPGM Herman Eggleston #146 gave an update on the revised constitutional changes at the Grand Lodge Session, Committee on Work member PM Thomas Jennings #293 delivered corrections on the opening ceremonies of the school.

RW Grand Lecturers Kerry R. Brown #61 and Edward Lattimore #13 then gave instructions on the Masonic Burial Ceremony. Addressing many issues on these public ceremonies, Brothers Mark Holman, Sr. #188, Billy Johnson #124, Melvin Johnson #13, DDGM Thomas Jefferson ##94, Linwood Cowan #240, DDGM Edward Henderson #23, DDGM Curtis Gunn #3, Wilbert Hopkins #226, Ronald Jackson #188, ADDGM Edward Mock #18, and ADDGM Elbert Scott, Jr. 46 asked the Grand Lecturers a series of questions.

After Grand Secretary Isaac Hughes #314 addressed the body on lodge assessments and modified documents, RWDGM Brown entertained reports on the Golf Tournament, the VA visitations, the Grand Master's Testimonial Banquet, a Board of Director report, and the Bee Hive.

Finally, Certificates of Merit were presented to DDGM Harvey Eggleston #187, Mark Holman, Sr. #188, Ernest Jackson #188, Ronald Jackson #188, Abraham Kimbrough #188, and PWGP Frank Stokes #146. Keystone Lodge #188 was awarded with the highest number of members present and Omar Lodge #226 had the largest percentage of members present.

Grand Secretary Hughes and Asst. GS Stevie Gray #314 discuss the largest percentage of membership before awarding the lodges.

School in King George

King George – While overcast skies threatened rain and a wind chill just above freezing persisted, over 80 brothers assembled at King George Lodge #314 for the fourth School of Instruction.

After Most Worshipful Grand Master Shelton Riddick was seated, he asked all first time attendees to stand and Brother Neville Welch #58 and LeaWayne Bushrod #314 spoke on behalf of them. RWSGW Paige Cherry #3 received the welcome where he reminded the brothers to take these lessons they have learned back to their lodges.

As chair of the Constitution Committee, MWPGM Herman Eggleston, Jr. #146 stated the committee members were pleased that the Revised Constitution and it's changes were passed at the 2013 Grand Lodge session. Committee on Work members PM Roger Redd #109 and Thomas Jennings #293 then responded to questions on the opening ceremonies. An extended discussion then took place on funerals and the Grand Master's prerogatives. Since the Grand Master was leaving early, he addressed the support of the DC Grand Lodge visitation, supporting the youths, resolving issues through DDGM's, and his testimonial banquet.

Brothers who responded to questions included Brothers Ben Jones #161, Jimmie Jukes #298, John Chavis #293, Roy Noel #293, Quincy Henderson #58, Stevon Green #142, James Brown #300, Michael Spann #58, Stanley Allen #314, Al Quintina #161, Ben Harrison #, Warren Mann #61, Jaime Flores #1, Charles James #11, Leandre Bennett #61, Julius Spain #58, Robert Austin #314, Reggie Washington #11, and Elmer Lowe #58.

Announcements from the Grand Lodge were made by Grand Secretary Isaac S. Hughes #314 on our two scholarship programs, forward Subordinate Lodge history, our Staple's partnership, the 990N tax forms, audit process, Annual Reports, Membership Rosters, and the GL Charity raffle. RWSGW Cherry introduced RW Deputy Grand Master Roger C. Brown #327 who recognized Certificate of Merit winners Neville Welch #58, Julius Spain, Sr. #58, Kent Carter #58, Cyril Charity #298, Robert Green #58, Eddie Key #58, and Larry Johnson #298. The lodge with the highest percentage of brothers was Metropolitan Lodge #161 and the lodge with the most brothers present was King George Lodge #314.

Grand Lecturer Lattimore responds to a question (right).

The Danville School

By ADDGM Walter Davis #295

Danville – On November 16, 2013, the second School of Instruction was conducted in Danville at the Coates Recreation Center, 1725 Westover Dr.

Lodges from the 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 23rd, and 32nd Masonic Districts received instructions from RW Grand Lecturers Kerry R. Brown #61 and Edward L. Lattimore #13. The School was opened at 8:30 AM with brothers from several different lodges in various stations. With brothers Alex Duncan #24 as WM, George Yarbrough #217 as SW, Curtis Hairston #217 as JW, Linwood Harris #217 as Secretary, Leroy Scott #217 as Treasurer, Broderick Jones #104 as SD, Curtis Millner #320 as JD, George Slade # 217 as Chaplain, and Arthur McKenzie #217 as Tiler, the School was opened in due form.

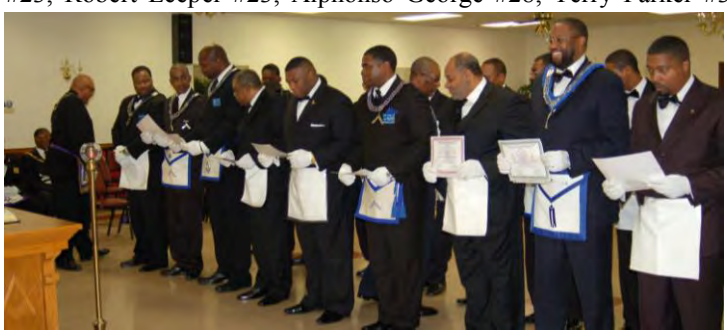
The 17th Masonic District took the lead in hosting this SOI under the direction of DDGM David L. Wilson # 104, ADDGM Walter H. Davis #295, and ADDGM Artie Lea # 179. Brothers from many districts, all over the Jurisdiction, visited this SOI and caused it to be well attended and a very successful school. Certificates of Merit were presented to Leiteef Watson #293, Darnell Pegran #203, Elgin Sherman #293, John Townes #244, Samuel Fitzgerald #163, Myles Jackson #109, Silas Chapman #109, Jerome Morgan #109, Eric Wiley #109, Bernard Johnson #109, Ardell Walker #187, and Howard Pinkard #109.

Mt. Pleasant Lodge #31 had the highest percentage of brothers and Alleghany Dunbar Lodge #109 had the most brothers present.

The 26th, 27th, and 28th MD's have School in Richmond

Richmond – On a foggy, but pleasant Saturday, January 11th, the 26th, 27th, and 28th Masonic Districts held their School of Instruction at Hobson Lodge. Most Worshipful Grand Master Shelton Riddick #323 was proud to welcome 23 first time attendees, where Brother Maurion Edwards #107 spoke on their behalf. In response, RW Sr. Grand Deacon Donald Wilson #67 greeted them with words of wisdom.

After Grand Secretary Isaac S. Hughes #314 addressed the updates on the constitution, Grand Lecturers Edward Lattimore, III #13 and Kerry R. Brown #61entertained questions on the documents. The Grand Lecturers then allowed PM Anthony Pride #43 to critique the opening ceremony. Brothers that had concerns and questions included Brothers Joe Williams #23, Frederick L. Neblitt #80, George Bowser #23, Robert Leeper #23, Alphonso George #28, Terry Parker #327, Richard Mabry #263, George Winfield #25, Tyrone Harris #81, Ricky Williams #24, Leonard Hawkins #327, Thomas Curtis #44, William Parker #23, Clyde Middlebrook #44, Jimmie Jukes #298, and Alex Duncan, Jr. #24.



GM Riddick made a presentation to Commonwealth Lodge #81 for having the most members present and to Richmond Lodge #65 for having the highest percentage of brothers present. Brothers who received Certificates of Merit included Brothers Michael Calloway #65, William Coleman #80, James Daniel #307, Jamie Dabney #81, Ray Green #65, Robert Hancock #237, Morris Hicks #6, Sterling Hill #324, Darrel Jarrell #81, Troy Lewis #1113, Terrell Moten #81, Ricky McKnight, Jr. #65, Hamilton Perkins, Jr. #81, Russell West #81, Wayne Whittle #264, and Marcel Wilson #65.

GM Riddick summed up the school by encouraging the brothers to support the Grand Lodge Raffle which makes it possible to continue awarding scholarships to graduating seniors, as well as continuing college students.

The Tidewater School

Yorktown – Managing a strict schedule to receive Most Worshipful Grand Master Shelton Riddick #323, Grand Lecturers Edward Lattimore #13 and Kerry Brown #61 conducted the proceedings of the Tidewater School at Yorktown Middle School on January 18th. After Grand Master Riddick recognized Antonio Barksdale #195 and Anthony Parker #136 as first time attendees, Jr. Grand Warden Richard Townes #235 presented remarks to all 19 brothers who were attending for the first time.

As in the earlier schools, an update of the constitutional changes was given by Past Grand Master Herman Eggleston #146. It was then Committee on Work members PM Antonio Pride #43 and PM Arthur Dean #120 who made corrections on the opening ceremony. While the majority of the instructions were on the Masonic Burial Ceremony, brothers Lawrence Downing #13, Darius Ratcliff #229, Michael Brown #106, Robert Thompson #195, Frederick L. Neblitt #80, Billy Johnson #124, Leo Gray #2, Ray Sutton III #13, Gary Lee #80, Willie Allison #4, Michael Wilson #2, Deson Walker #229, Deontay Shaw #229, Roger Bright #189, Marshall Banks #87, and Larry Williams #136 voiced questions and concerns on many issues. The Grand Lecturers also covered the Worshipful Master's prerogatives, Masonic Landmarks, and the constitution.

While there were two lodges – Providence Lodge #189 and Providence Wing Lodge #229 - with the highest percentage, the lodge with the most members was Eastern Star Lodge #13. Brothers who received the Certificate of Merit were Antonio Barksdale #195, Derek Barnes #54, James Berry, Jr. #80, Charles L. Bowman #124, William B. Coleman #80, Roy Edwards #2, Stephen Edwards #106, Clarence Elliott, Jr. #136, Mario Hudson #93, James Joyner #80, Marcus Kearney #106, Anthony Parker #136, Deontay L. Shaw, Sr. #229, Deson Walker #229, Demetrius Walters #80, Reggie Washington #11, Michael Watson #106, Jarred Wilson #132, and Michael Wilson #2.

138th Grand Lodge Session

By L. J. McCoy #33

Chesapeake – After initial instructions were given by Grand Lecturer Kerry Brown #61 on silencing phones and properly receiving the Grand Master, the Committee on Work opened the 138th Grand Lodge Session.

Displaying an unusual gathering of unity, Most Worshipful Grand Master Shelton Riddick #323 summoned his line officers and the entire body to assemble hand-in-hand around the altar for prayer.

Officially opening with the reading of the proclamation by RWSGD Donald Wilson #67, PM Floyd Brown Jr. #128 read the partial Credentials Report identifying lodges #128, #33, #3, #20, and #107 were registered to legally open the session. The Grand Master then asked first time attendees to stand. Brothers Neville Welch #58 and Deson Walker #229 spoke on behalf of the 47 brothers standing. Responding to the welcome, RWJGD Beverly W. Morgan #298 recommended that they take something back to their lodges and RWJGW Richard Townes #235 requested that they participate in the session.

Deputy Grand Master Roger Brown #327 then took the opportunity to introduce the Grand Master who delivered his address. Before delivering his address, the Grand Master stated he had visited 19 districts and plan to travel to the remaining within the next year. He spoke about Grand Lodge assessments, the GL Charity Ball where the donations exceeded $400,000, the Grand Lodge Cookouts, the Grand Lodge Raffle where 64 students received scholarships, the golf tournament, and the Schools of instruction. On a less pleasant note, he spoke of removing a District Deputy Grand Master, an Assistant DDGM, an advisor of the KOP, and severed all relations with the Supreme Council KOP. Finally, the Grand Master recommended Past GL James Williams #44 receive Grand Lecturer Emeritus and give Past DDGM's Moses Wyche #116, David Price #182, Jonnie L. Wiggins #70, and Robert Chadwick #4 District Deputy Grand Master Emeritus Status.

Lifted from the table were several constitutional items. Changes included GL voting, fees for entering a lodge, defining the Asst. DDGM duties, timeline on paying the GL Assessment, defining the VA – Golf Tournament – Charity Ball – Raffle – Cookout Committees, installation of Grand Lodge Appointed Officers, and the Grand Secretary's report to the Board of Directors.

While Grand Treasurer James Watkins' report emphasized the need to complete the proper 990 tax form, Grand Secretary Isaac Hughes targeted the decline in membership which is now at 5,244. Both the Grand Treasurer and Secretary gave a detail report on the budget. Several questions were asked including Past GM/GS Robert Harris who noticed an error in 20 members joining and only $18.00 in rejoining fees which was later explained. The BOD Report attracted many questions on the maintenance of the Grand Lodge office, as well as the Kilmarnock property. In accepting the report, brothers were concerned that they were authorizing the expenditures of additional funds on the Kilmarnock property.

The Grand Master then yielded the gavel to Past Grand Master Robert Harris who conducted the nomination of officers. The voting strength with 129 lodges, 10 Grand Lodge officers, 9 Past Grand Masters, one DDGM, and one PM votes was set at 419 (lodges get three votes). DGM Brown first nominated GM Riddick for Grand Master, and since no other nomination was made, he succeeded himself. Moving to suspend the rules for nomination, Past Grand Lecturer Irvin Spence # moved and it was properly seconded, that all line officers including the Grand Lecturers succeed themselves. Motion for adoption prevailed.

The Education committee reported that along with 64 students who received $1,000, several second, third, and fourth year students received awards.

The Grand Lodge Raffle committee reported that first winner was Roderick French of Dumfries, second was Harold Chambers of Portsmouth, third was David Copeland of Suffolk, fourth was Sheba Lodge #17, and fifth was Kevin Snyder of Brandywine.

Past Grand Robert Harris offered a Fraternal Relations Report on the 22 jurisdictions which recognized our Prince Hall Grand Lodge. The lodges included the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Brazil, British Columbia & Yukon, California, the District of Columbia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Hawaii, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Maine, the State of New York, Utah, Virginia, the United Grand Lodge of England, the National Grand Lodge AF & AM of Greece, the Grand Lodge of Newfoundland & Labrador AF & AM, the United Grand Lodges of Serbia of the AF & AM, the Grande Loja Maconica Do Estado De Sao Paulo, the Grand Lodge AF & AM of Utah, the Grand Lodge AF & AM of Virginia, the Grand Lodge AF & AM of Maryland, and the Grande Loge Nationale Togolaise.

Grand Master Riddick received visiting jurisdictions from GM Melvin Thorp of Maryland, DGM Reuben H. Meade of Massachusetts, GM Ricardo McNeil of New Jersey, PGM/CCFC Leonard Claytor of West Virginia, GM Toby Fitz of North Carolina, GM AF & AM of VA Lewis Campbell, GM Doriani Clover of New York, GM Dr. Murphy Keller of Pennsylvania, GM Dr. Donald R. Ware of California, GM Nathiel Williams of Delaware, GM Arvin Glass of Tennessee, GM DC, and GM Derrick Vaughan of Oklahoma.

Receiving the Past Grand Masters

The election results re-elected BOD Charles Jones #81 and PGM Larry Christian #253 to the board. The Grand Lodge Session closed with the installation of officers.

138th Grand Lodge Banquet and Awards Program

By L. J. McCoy #33

Chesapeake – Recognizing that the sacrifices Grand Lodge Line-Officers wives endured, Most Worshipful Grand Master Shelton Riddick extended tokens of appreciation to them first at the annual banquet. Master of Ceremonies, Right Worshipful Grand Secretary Isaac S. Hughes #314, directed the course of events with the assistance of Grand Musician Nathanial Boyd #297, Grand Marshall James Brown #300, and an invocation by Asst. Grand Chaplain Rev. Waverly E. Brown #284.

Prior to the serving of dinner, RWJGD Beverly W. Morgan, Jr. #298 gave a welcome and greeting. RWDGM Roger C. Brown #327 was diligent in introducing MWGM Shelton Riddick in order to present the Masonic Awards. The awards were presented as followed:

- Secretary of the Year — George A. Dean, Jr. #107
- Treasurer of the Year — Clarence Baker, Sr. #288
- Co-Treasurer of the Year — Chester W. Hazelwood #327
- Jewel Contest Winner — 1st Place – Triangle Lodge #293
- Jewel Contest Winner — 2nd Place – Mt. Gilead/Alpha & Omega Lodge #46
- Jewel Contest Winner — 3rd Place – Mt. Nebo Lodge #43
- Past Master of the Year — Carl Albritton #298
- Master Mason of the Year — Daquan Reinhardt #237
- District of the Year (small) — 7th Masonic District
- Co-District of the Year (small) — 2nd Masonic District
- DDGM of the Year (small) — Thomas Jefferson #94 / Asst. James H. Johnson #94
- Co-District of the Year (small) — Cecil Davis, Jr. #66 / Asst. Joe Williams #66
- District of the Year (large) — 31st Masonic District
- Co-District of the Year (large) — 3rd Masonic District
- DDGM of the Year (large) — Leonard Johnson 31st Masonic District/Asst. Carl Albritton & James Gordon
- Co-DDGM of the Year (large) — Curtis L. Gunn 3rd Masonic District / Asst. Isaac Curry & Asst. Elbert E. Scott

The Grand Master closed by thanking all the brothers that extended themselves in making this jurisdiction the best in the nation.

Joint Prince Hall Day & Memorial Service

By L. J. McCoy #33

Chesapeake – On Wednesday September 11th with over 100 brothers, sisters, and friends, Grand Lecturer Edward Lattimore, III #13 opened the Joint Prince Hall Day and Memorial Program. Contributing to the event, Grand Lecturer Kerry Brown #61, Asst. Grand Chaplain Rev. Waverly Brown #284, DDGM Curtis Gunn #3, and Sr. Grand Deacon Donald Wilson #67 carried the rhythm of the program reading scripture, offering prayer, giving the welcome, and the response respectfully.

The brothers then paid their respect in a "Lodge of Sorrow" for the brothers who had passed on, since the last Grand Lodge Session. With PM Roger Bright #189 as Worshipful Master, PM Armar Mayes #66 as Sr. Warden, and PM Ryan Freeman #66 as Jr. Warden, they preformed a flawless demonstration of the Lodge of Sorrow Ceremony. (Pictured left)

It was Brother Rev. Leroy D. Evans, Jr. #7 who then captured everyone's attention as he delivered a message entitled "This Building is Under Construction". Molding his text from Jeremiah 18, he stressed that if we are going to build a "house", all of us need to take a part. The South Carolina native who grew up in Brooklyn, New York, summed up his text stating "I know God will make a way for me."

Deputy Grand Master Roger Brown #327 introduced Most Worshipful Grand Master Shelton Riddick #323 who brought closing remarks.

$64,000 Awarded in College Bound Scholarships

By L. J. McCoy #33

Chesapeake – Escalating our contributions in educating our youth, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia, Free and Accepted Masons, Inc. presented 64 college bound and 48 continuing students' scholarships

This was done by the efforts of brothers throughout the Jurisdiction who supported the Grand Lodge Charity Raffle. Selling these raffle tickets not only funded prizes to five lucky winners, but the profits generated were given away in $1,000 scholarships to qualifying students.

The Scholarship Committee of PDDGM John Harrison #142, RWJGD Beverly W. Morgan #298, David Mosley #204, Henry Easton #249, Frederick A. Harrison #108, Keith R. Brown #128, Willie L. Wright #3, Charles D. Marlow #327, and Keith Williams #11 awarded college bound student scholarships to:

Student	Hometown	Student	Hometown
Carl A. Albritton, Jr	Fredericksburg	Romero K. Hines	Portsmouth
Matthew E. Andrews	VA Beach	Joshua B. Holoman	Orlando, FL
Michael Andrews	VA Beach	Aaliyah T. Kilpatrick	Richmond
Sydnie G. Baker	Amelia	Terence A. Lamb	Portsmouth
Jordan R. Best	Midlothian	Amber Z. Layne	Richmond
Jazimib D. Birdstone-Jones	Richmond	Lashyra D. Marrow	Newport News
David L. T. Bland	VA Beach	Alton L. Miles	Warsaw
Raven G. Bolding	Oxen Hill, MD	Chyrel B. Mitchell-Shaw	Newport News
Myonka J. Boyd	Providence Forge	Briana G. Monk	Durham, NC
Jasmine C. Brooks	Randolph	Rovia M. Moody	Midlothian
Franklin T. Brown III	Dinwiddie	Orlando P. Mullins	Washington, DC
Rashauna S. Carter	Haeathsville	Devereaux N. Nash	Winston Salem, NC
Samantha S. Chapman	Madison Heights	Kendall D. Owens	Norfolk
Adonis M. Chavis	Brodnax	Trentym R. Price	Manasses
Neal D. Clark	Chester	Bryant K. Rather	Accokeek, MD
Alant'e J. Dancy	Chesapeake	Ramel L. Reynolds	Hampton
Hasmin L. Deloatch	Chesapeake	Terrance J. Royster	Charlotte Ct. House
Jarrett A. Dickens	Blackstone	Austin M. Savage	New Kent
JaCari M. Diggs	Hopewell	Kysheria M. Smith	Reidsville
Joshua H. Diggs	Heathsville	Julius D. Spain, Jr.	Arlington
Austin A. Diggs	Heathsville	Courtney R. Spencer	Chesapeake
Doris G. Drew	Jackson Heights, NY	Jamica S. Stamps	Hampton
Ayriss M. Easton	New Castle, DE	Carmen M. Sturdifen	Chase City
Santia F. Feemster	York, PA	Teonna R. Taylor	Roanoke
Brook R. Gallion	Midlothian	Toni L. Taylor	Richmond
Kiana D. Graves	Richmond	Sydney D. Thompson	Chesapeake
DaeSean K. Hamilton	Fredericksburg	Diamond M. Walker	Guilderland, NY
Dorian O. Harris	VA Beach	Gwendolyn E. Washington	Mongomery
Courtney M. Harrison	Richmond	Kaycha-Renea E. Williams	Jarrett
Dashawn F. Harvey	Little Plymouth	AnnWarie B. Wilson	Glenn Allen
Ruvanette J. Hillard	Franklin	Antonio D. Winston	VA Beach
Jackia S. Barnes	S. Chesterfield	Kirsten N. Young	Ruther Glenn

Past Grand Master's Scholarship is Awarded

By L. J. McCoy #33

Petersburg - The presentation of a Past Grand Masters scholarship award was given at Metropolitan Baptist Church in Petersburg. Presenting the award was (from left to right) DDGM Joe Diggs, Pastor Lamont Hobbs, to Mr. Tyquantae Mason who attends Richard Bland College as a freshman.

Also pictured (from left to right) are Sister Sandra Mason OES #33 his grandmother, Brother Sam Mason his grandfather and Mrs. Tige Mason Daniel OSE #33 his mother.

The 2013 Treasurer/Secretary School

By L. J. McCoy #33

Chesapeake – Stressing that you as lodge treasurers and secretaries must ask any questions, Grand Secretary Isaac S. Hughes #314 (right bottom) and Grand Treasurer James E. Watkins #44 (right top) welcomed everyone present and asked Deputy Grand Master Roger Brown #327 to express points of interest. The Grand Secretary indicated the topics of discussion would include membership status, assessment status, membership reports, annual reports, and lodge updates.

Brother Hughes took great care in explaining the decline in membership and possible reasons. While brothers present asked if the Grand Lodge had a plan to resolve the decline, the Grand Secretary reminded the brothers we still do not solicit. Advancing on our identity as Masons, Right Worshipful Sr. Grand Deacon Donald Wilson #67 stated that GM Riddick has distributed book markers and pamphlets which tell our story.

Focusing on lodges financial obligations, the Grand Secretary sited his concern that Grand Lodge assessments by the lodges were not paid in a timely manner. While turning his attention to the Membership Activity Reports which the secretaries submit, he found that reinstatements (brothers returning to the lodge within a 12 month period after being dropped) and rejoining (brother returning to the lodge greater than 12 months after being dropped) was an issue. The attendees also were informed that any rejected candidate should be reported to the Grand Secretary in order that the individual does not falsely petition another lodge.

The Grand Treasurer addressed the body focusing on filing the 990 filing requirements. Stating that we are a 501-C8 organization, we are not sales tax exempt. Brother Watkins recommended that we should have two signatures on checks issued and the lodge audit reports should also be submitted to the Grand Lodge.

After being introduced by DGM Brown #327 (bottom left), Most Worshipful Grand Master Shelton Riddick (top left) closed the session by stressing the importance of auditing the treasurer and secretary books on an annual basic.

The Grand Lodge Administrative Assistant

In strengthening the administrative procedures of the Grand Lodge office, Grand Secretary Isaac Hughes #314 has secured the skills of Ms. Yvonne White.

Ms. White, a 40-year retired DMV accounting officer, has been contributing her services to the Grand Lodge for over three years. As a native Richmonder, she stated as a co-worker with Grand Treasurer James Watkins #44 at the DMV, she has been assisting in a variety of tasks in the Grand Lodge office.

"*If you have only one smile in you, give it to the people you love.***"**
– Maya Angelou

Masonic Lapel Pins

The Charity Golf Tournament Committee members are selling Lapel Pins
The cost is $10.00 each
The proceeds will assist our 2nd, 3rd and 4th year college students.
Contact MWPGM Larry D. Christian
At 757 566-2066 or lchristian2@verizon.net

St. John's Day in the 17th MD

By ADDGM Walter Davis #295

Danville – Under the direction of DDGM David Wilson #104, the 17th Masonic District celebrated St. John the Evangelist Day at Callands Missionary Baptist Church. The brothers received the Word from Pastor Rev. Marlin Wiggins who reminded them of their dedication to the patron saint.

Also assisting the DDGM were Assistant DDGM's Walter Davis #295 and Artie Lea #179.

St. John in the 33rd Masonic District

By GP William Moore #92

Virginia Beach – The brothers of the 33rd Masonic District celebrated St. John the Evangelist Day at the United House of Prayer for all People which are located at 4426 Princess Anne Road in Virginia Beach.

With a topic of "Strangers brought together to be Brothers as One", Apostle C.M. McClain delivered a powerful message that resonated to the brothers, the sisters, and the congregation. He used the concept of Jesus Christ bringing the disciples together as strangers to each other, and then tied that story together with Masonry. Demonstrating that no matter where you go in the world, even though we may be strangers, we know each other as brothers by certain signs and grips.

Unity Lodge #93 was the host lodge. DDGM Buddy Staples #93 brought greetings from our MWGM Shelton Riddick #323 and tied his lodge Unity #93 into the Grand Master's theme "Working Together in Unity".

With support from Eastern Star District Deputy Organizer Rosettee OES #119Cherry, DDGM Staples was pleased to receive all brothers and sisters for the celebration.

12th MD St. John the Evangelist Day

By L. J. McCoy #33

Prince George – "Got to do, what a man gota do" was Rev. William J. Spencer message from Hosa 1:2 that held the brothers attention, during the St. John's Day ceremony at Providence Baptist Church in Prince George.

Over 70 brothers and Order of Eastern Star Sisters enjoyed the services with WM Joshua Beasley #15(top center) as MC, Brothers Ronald Wyatt #15with scripture, PM Wilbert Bland #15 with prayer, ADDGM Cedric Lawrence #10 with a welcome, and Khalil Coleman #15 with a purpose.

The message delivered by Rev. Spencer resonated with the brothers, as well as, with the congregation that this fraternity has a very close relation with the brotherhood of man whose father is God. DDGM Joseph Diggs #43 closed by recognizing Masonic & Eastern Star dignitaries present and making special presentations to the church.

Maceo-Consolidated Gives

By PGM Robert Davis #124

Williamsburg - Members of Maceo Consolidated Lodge # 124 Williamsburg shared Christmas celebrations with residents of Envoy Convalescent Home and Consulate Health Care with songs and gifts during the Christmas season. Willie Mathews is Worshipful Master and Charles Bowman is the coordinator of events.

Capital City Lodge #107 Presents Awards

By Glen Hence #107

Richmond - Capital City Lodge #107 Past Masters awarded Secretary and Treasurer of the year at the 26th Masonic District Masters and Wardens Awards banquet.

On September 22, 2013, two Capital City Lodge# 107 Past Masters were recognized for their hard work and dedication by being awarded Secretary of the Year and Treasure of the Year at the 26th Masonic Districts Masters and Wardens Awards banquet.

PM George Dean, Jr. (top) and PM Johnnie Young received plagues for their outstanding work as officers in Lodge. This is an amazing accomplishment and a testament to their dedication and hard work on a consistent basis.

Coach PM Moultrie #32 Retires after 43 Years

By Julius Spain #58

In November 2013, PM Julius "Doc" Moultrie retired after serving 43 years in the Alexandria Virginia Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities sports program as a youth basketball and football coach. Coach Doc, as he is commonly known, was honored by the Recreation Department staff and the Alexandria Titans Youth Football Booster Club at the annual Alexandria Titans Youth Football Awards Ceremony on November 24, 2013. At their annual Titan Awards Program, Coach Doc was honored by past players, coaches and administrators as well as the Titan Booster Club and Recreation Department staff. Coach Doc was presented with a signed proclamation on behalf of the Mayor and City Council, a plaque from the Recreation Department and a Redskin jersey with the number 43 on it. WPM Moultrie is a former US Marine, who is also retired from the City of Alexandria as a Construction Inspector and the Virginia Department of Transportation and Environmental Services. He has been a member of the Prince Hall Masonic Order for over 18 years.

Pocahontas #7 Supports School

Petersburg - It's that time of the year again for area school children. Once again Pocahontas Lodge #7 continues to support the teachers of Walnut Hill Elementary School in Petersburg as they have in the prior years. The lodge presented a check for $300 to the new principal of Walnut Hill Elementary School, Belinda Urquhart.

Along with WM Anthony Price #7, PM William Steele #7stated, "We hope and pray that Pocahontas Lodge #7 and the 12th Masonic District Adopt A School Education Program can continue to help our teachers with even more support in educating our children."

Hobson's Back to School Drive

By L. J. McCoy #33

Richmond – The brothers of Hobson Lodge #23 opened their wallets as well as their hearts on August 31st to make scholastic opportunities available for over 65 children in the Southside Richmond area. Along with Committee Chairman Brother Cory Debro #23, the lodge held"Back to School" give-a-way.

The brothers contributed over $100 to purchase notebooks, pencils, crayons, book bags and other school supplies for students. But the lodge didn't stop there; the students and parents had pizza, chips, and drinks. In addition, young men received haircuts and everyone's spirit was lifted from the music of "J-Smooth" (Brother Jermaine Robertson #23). Although this did not resolve all the families' school needs, it made the expense for returning to school less demanding.

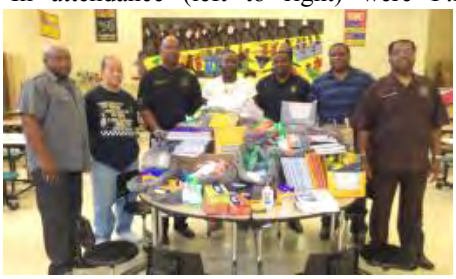
As the brothers from Hobson concluded for the day, there was little doubt the scripture "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unit" was fulfilled.

Capital City Lodge #107 Donates School Supplies

By Glen Hence #107

Richmond - On Friday August 30, 2013, the brothers of Capital City Lodge# 107 converged over to Woodville Elementary to deliver much needed school supplies for the new school year. This is an annual tradition and is always a huge success. Mrs. Taylor, the principal of Woodville Elementary stated, "This donation of school supplies will contribute significantly to our teachers and students". We want to thank all those who contributed including the Brothers, friends and family of our Lodge.

In attendance (left to right) were P.M. Antonio Anderson, Brother Charles General, Sr., Brother Glen Hence, Senior Warden Rodney Barnes, Junior Warden Tim Williams, Junior Steward Antonio Steele and Tiler Dennis Roberts.



Back to School Drive by the 3rd MD

By DDGM Curtis Gunn #3

Portsmouth - Continuing its charitable mandates and Memorandum of Understanding with the Emily N. Spong Preschool, the District completed its collection for its Annual Back-to-School Drive. The District presented to the school approximately $1,000.00 worth of school supplies and items suitable for the preschoolers in October.

Making the delivery of the supplies, placed on the stage behind them, are ADDGM Elbert Scott #46; DDGM Curtis Gunn #3; Principal Mrs. Vanessa Whichard-Harris; and ADDGM Isaac L. Curry III #79.

The 12th MD Helps Peabody Middle School

By L. J. McCoy #33

Petersburg – As the sisters of Delta Sigma Theta filled plates with hot dogs, baked beans, and chips, the brothers of the 12th Masonic District kept pace frying golden brown fish for students, faculty, and guests. The brothers under the direction of DDGM Joseph Diggs #43 and ADDGM Cedric Lawrence #10 assisted in making the Peabody Middle School Student Orientation a pleasant experience, during the last weekend of August.

Along with Assistant Principals Mr. Sinclair Harris and Ms. Janet Wright, Principal Mr. Jerome Williams welcomed everyone to the event which was held outside on the grounds of the middle school. There were informational booths, immunizations, a 6th grade orientation, and a tour of the school.

This was the second year the 12th Masonic District contributed to a major event at Peabody. While DDGM Diggs recognizes the commitment, he and the district have vowed to continue to support the students and the school.

The 3rd MD Bikes with School

By DDGM Curtis Gunn #3

Portsmouth - In October, the Third Masonic District members were asked to participate on Wednesday, October 9th, in conjunction with a National Walk/Bike to School Day that was planned. The school's suggested activity was planned for the area surrounding Emily N. Spong Preschool neighborhood. Since the weather was not favorable, the activities which included walking, parading in the halls, dancing, tricycle rides, and other games were set up inside. The staff and Master Masons present had fun all the same including the RWSGW Paige D. Cherry pictured above.

Responding to a request from the Principal of Emily N. Spong Preschool, the Lodges rallied again to help the school provide Thanksgiving boxes to various families. In 2012, the District provided 23 turkeys for the effort. This year, due to a restructuring in the school and the Head Start Program, the school requested 14 and the District delivered 15 in November.

Pride of Fairfax Steps-Out to Stop Diabetes

By Carl Albritton #298

Fairfax - Diabetes is one of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality in the United States. While the disease transcends all racial and ethnic boundaries, it has a high prevalence among minority populations, especially African Americans.

We continue to raise awareness and funds to stop diabetes. While staying true to our mission of dispensing charity, promoting family values, and significantly aiding in the uplifting of humanity to our communities. The Pride of Fairfax County Lodge #298 and Pride of Fairfax Chapter #225 put on their stepping shoes and for the 5th consecutive year and participated in the Northern Virginia Step Out: Walk to Stop Diabetes.

Each year our relationship with the American Diabetes Association (ADA) becomes stronger and stronger," said PM Carl Albritton. PWM Cathy Mullins is a vital member of the ADA Planning Committee and because of our past successes; Brother Carl Albritton was selected to speak at this year's ADA kick-off program.

On the day of the walk, despite the rain, we had about 30 members of the Pride of Fairfax Family to participate in the walk (including family members and members of Martin Luther King Jr. Council #39, Knights of Pythagoras).

Our team raised **$7,465.00**, earning the distinction as the "Top Fundraising Team in Northern Virginia." In addition, we had two members who achieved recognition as a "Champion to Stop Diabetes" by raising over $1,000.00 - Brother Larry Johnson ($2,106.00) and Brother Carl Albritton ($1,386.00).

The funds raised will help the American Diabetes Association provide community-based education programs, protect the rights of people with diabetes, and fund critical research for a cure.

They Tailgated at VSU

The 12th Masonic District let them cook for the Virginia State University 2013 Homecoming.

Roanoke Valley Drumstick Dash 2013

By Myles Jackson #109

Roanoke - It was a cold, windy Thanksgiving morning when five Brothers from Alleghany-Dunbar Lodge #109 in Roanoke donned on reflective vests and took their posts as Road Marshals on the streets of Roanoke. These Brothers volunteered to help out during the Annual Drumstick Dash 5K Run/Walk sponsored by the Roanoke Rescue Mission.

Over 15,000 runners, walkers, strollers and dogs participated in the Drumstick Dash on Thanksgiving Day 2013. Proudly wearing some type of Prince Hall Masonic gear for all to see, the Road Marshals (W.M. James Smith, P.M. Darnell Freeman, Brothers Bernard Johnson, Myles Jackson, and Eric Wiley) were responsible for ensuring the safety of participants for this event on roads in the downtown area in Roanoke. Brother Jackson also displayed a Masonic Flag on his car that was being used as a road block for all to see.

While it was very cold and windy that Thanksgiving morning, each of the Brothers said it was worth it because this was a way of helping a community service agency. This agency helps others in the Roanoke Valley which is a moral responsibility of every Prince Hall Mason. Finally, special thanks to Brother Johnson for coordinating this event with the Roanoke Rescue Mission.

50 Years for PM Griffin

Members of Mt. Nebo Lodge #43 assemble around PM Bob Griffin (in hat) for his 50th year pin celebration.

Capital City Walks for Diabetes

By Glen Hence #107

Richmond - Capital City Lodge #107 "Leading" the way at the Richmond, Virginia Step Out Diabetes Walk.

On October 12, 2013, Capital City Lodge # 107 supports the Richmond, VA Diabetes Walk. According to recent estimates, by 2025 over 300 million of the worldwide population will be affected by diabetes. For every 21 seconds, someone is diagnosed with diabetes, an estimation given by American Diabetes Association. There are 20.8 million diabetics in US at present, which is roughly estimated as 7% of US population; out of this figure about 6.2 millions are unaware of the diabetes existence in their life.

In an effort to promote awareness and raise funds for this affliction, the Brothers of Capital City Lodge #107, family and friends participated in the 2013 Richmond, VA Diabetes walk. Although it was a dreary and rainy day, the event was supported by an overwhelming number of participants. Great Job to goes out to WM Ronald Bolden, Senior Warden Rodney Barnes, Junior Warden Tim Williams, Brother Perry Hall and all family and friends who represented Capital City Lodge# 107 to support the Richmond Stop Diabetes Walk.

PM of Arlington Lodge # 58 Leads by Example

By Julius Spain #58

At the tender age of 75 years old, WPM Elmer L.H. Lowe, Sr. continues to distinguish himself with the utmost of zeal, leadership, and enthusiasm in the 31st Masonic District and more specifically Arlington, Virginia.

After serving in the US Air Force for 25years, then working as an Arlington Deputy Sheriff for 20 years, and a PM of King Tyre Lodge #292, he returned to Arlington Lodge #58. (Continued on pg. 15)

Davis Honored At Luncheon

Williamsburg – On Saturday August 17, 2013, District Council #4 Order of the Eastern Star of Virginia sponsored a luncheon to honor MWPGM Robert G. Davis, Jr. Brother Davis is a Past Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia and a Past Grand Worthy Patron of Grand Chapter Order of Eastern Star Prince Hall Affiliated. Davis also serves as the Worthy Parton of Pride of Grove Chapter #181 in Williamsburg and as the Grand Historian for the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Virginia.

The luncheon was held at the Fort Magruder Conference Center and was well attended by members of lodges and Eastern Star chapters locally and from other areas of Virginia. Mrs. Gloria J. Parker served as the Mistress of Ceremonies during this program.

Giving expressions about the Masonic work of Davis included Grand Worthy Matron Gracie H. Drake, Bro. Billy Johnson of Maceo Consolidated Lodge, and Sis. Beverly Christian of District Council #4.

Expressions from Brother Davis's church, the First Baptist Church, were given by Rev. Dr. Reginald Davis who praised his work on both the Diaconate Board and as a historian for the church.

The program continued with very entertaining and heart touching remarks from his sons, Kevin and Frank Davis and from his wife Opelene Davis. Others making remarks included three past Grand Masters, Herman Eggleston, Jr., Larry Christian and Gilbert Tyler. Speaking on behalf of the Most Worshipful Grand Master Shelton Riddick was the Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, Roger C. Brown.

Brother Davis' remarks included both scripture and a favorite poem. "Abundance", as he stated that the Lord had directed his steps. He gave thanks to God, his family, and to his many friends that he has known, and worked with for many years. Davis closed his remarks with "as I journey along through life, I found a treasure and all that it would hold. I have faith in God and I have friends."

Acacia Lodge #32 Raises $$$ for St. Jude Children's Hospital

By Julius D. Spain, Sr. #58

Alexandria - On November 23, 2013, Worshipful Master Damion Scott of Acacia Lodge #32, Alexandria, Virginia along with members and patrons gave thanks to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. This was done by participating in the annual St. Jude Give Thanks Walk at the National Mall, Washington, DC where they raised $1000.

Inspired by stories of precious kids treated at St. Jude, WM Scott has been leading a team from Acacia Lodge for the past several years in this annual event which takes place in November. St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is internationally recognized for its pioneering research and treatment of children. Ranked one of the best pediatric cancer hospitals in the country, St. Jude is the first and only National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center devoted solely to children. The mission of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is to advance cures, and means of prevention, for pediatric catastrophic diseases through research and treatment.

Consistent with the vision of St. Jude's founder Mr. Danny Thomas, no child is denied treatment based on race, religion or a family's ability to pay. Pictured in the photo above are: Left to Right, Senior Deacon Elden Hawkes, Senior Warden Brandon Brown, Worshipful Master Damion Scott, Fellow Craft Wade Petty and Junior Deacon Christian Scott.

Additionally, WM Scott and his Craft participated in a Winter Coat Drive with John Adams Elementary school in Alexandria on December 9, 2013 donating over 20 coats. They also visited John Adams Elementary School on December 4, 2013, during their Literacy Night to partake in reading to young children.

Community Service is just one way to outwardly express both compassion and understanding for all mankind. Did this by tending to the needs and necessities of others. These young brothers of the 31st Masonic District are letting their light shine so that others may see their good work.

Arlington Lodge #58 Contributes to the Homeless

By Julius D. Spain, Sr. #58

Arlington - On Saturday, January 25, 2014, members of Arlington Lodge # 58 presented A-SPAN with a cash donation of $500.00 to help the homeless. The mission of A-SPAN is to provide life-sustaining services for Arlington's street homeless population and to secure permanent housing for one of Arlington's most vulnerable populations through outreach and partnerships built on trust and respect. Pictured in photo are: WM Eddie Key, SS Tony Thompson, Bro. Luke McArthur, Mr. Terrance Toussaint, (Shelter Director), WPM Warren Jones (Marshal), and WPM Jeffrey Schons.

PM Lowe #58

(Continued from page 14) Today, you will not only find WPM Lowe steadfastly involved in many aspects of his Lodge, but more importantly, serving the community as president of the Arlington Branch of the NAACP. Notably, a new partnership between the branch and a philanthropic foundation began providing additional scholarship funding. On October 19, 2013 four college students were presented with the inaugural NAACP Arlington Branch/ Willard W. Brittain Foundation Scholarship valued at $40,000, over the next four years. Each recipient was presented with a $2,500 scholarship which is renewable each year. Moreover, this partnership will last for eight years guaranteeing at least 32 more students the opportunity to receive over $320,000 in funding if they continue to meet the criteria.

WPM Lowe's 45 years of faithful dedication to the principle tenants of the fraternity reflect great credit upon him, and are in keeping with the highest traditions of Prince Hall Freemasonry.

Operation Santa Claus & Giving

CHRISTMAS AT ALLEGANY-DUNBAR #109

By Myles Jackson #109

Roanoke - Christmas in Roanoke was very special for some little children this year, thanks to Alleghany Dunbar Lodge #109. Bring a smile to a child's face was the mission of Alleghany-Dunbar Lodge #109 this Christmas 2013.

PM Jerome Morgan asked Brothers of the Lodge to donate bicycles for needy children in the community. After receiving 15 bicycles from several lodge members, the Brothers of Lodge #109 met on Christmas Eve afternoon at the lodge. These bicycles were to be delivered to the T.A.P. Trust House (homeless shelter), Roanoke Rescue Mission (family homeless shelter), and a needy family in the community. As the Brothers (M.W. James Smith, P.M. Jerome Morgan, Brothers Bernard Johnson, Myles Jackson, Eric Wiley, Silas Chapman and Alfred Levesy) loaded the bicycles into a trailer they talked about how great it felt to be able to help some children. Little did they know how many of these children and their families would really appreciate these gifts? While at the Roanoke Rescue Mission, staff and family members stood at the front entrance as these bicycles were being carried into the building. The Brothers placed the bicycles in front of a beautiful Christmas tree while all were saying how great these gifts were. It was not until two little boys came into the room did you really sense the importance of what was being done. Their eyes lit-up like stars and they asked "who were these for?" P.M. Morgan looked down at them and said, "YOU - go pick one out." Tears of joy could be seen in the staff and parents as these two little boys picked out their bicycle and got on it. (Too be real about this moment, even the Brothers were a little coughed up about this.)

Another delivery was made to a family that had two boys and bikes were given to them. The mother of these boys was overwhelmed with the kindness of the Lodge, that she began crying. As several of the Brothers were leaving the home, it was noted that there was a little girl in the house. While this little girl was excited for her brothers, it was not known if this little girl had a bicycle. After some discussion by these Brothers (Johnson, Jackson, Wiley, Chapman), they took it upon themselves to go a nearby Wal-Mart and purchase a bicycle for this little girl. When they arrived at the house, they found out that the little girl already had one so they told the mother to share this gift of love with someone in the community.

This is what Christmas is all about! Special thanks to Lanford Brothers Construction for their monetary donation which purchased of four bicycles. We, at Allegany-Dunbar Lodge #109, are committed to fulfill the mission statement of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia Free and Accepted Masons, Inc. as "we dispense charity, promote family values, and endeavor to significantly aid in the uplifting of humanity. " Special thanks to P.M. Morgan for coordinating this event.

The 3rd MD Celebrates Operation Santa

By DDGM Curtis Gunn #3

Portsmouth - The Third Masonic District's Annual Operation Santa Claus was held on Saturday, December 14. Twenty kids from families with names selected and provided by the Social Services Departments of Portsmouth, Chesapeake, Suffolk and the District's adopted school, Emily N. Spong, gathered at the Masonic Association Building at 9:00AM for instructions on how the program was to be carried out.

Coordinating with the Manager at one of the local Wal-Mart® Stores who assigned one cashier and register dedicated for the children's purchases, each family was accompanied by a Master Mason to assist them once they arrived at the store. Each child was allowed $100.00 to purchase whatever they wanted or what their parent/guardian allowed. After about an hour of shopping and clearing the cashier, all returned to the Lodge Hall for lunch assisted by 11 members of chapters from District 6 OES PHA.

In addition, each child received a backpack and stocking filled with fruits and candy canes. Pictured below are a couple of families checking out assisted by Bro. Dale Rucker in the background and under the watchful eye of ADDGM Elbert Scott (left).

Playing Santa

From the Chesapeake Clipper
By Sandra J. Pennecke

Chesapeake – The group of children who walked into Wal-Mart on Saturday December 21st couldn't contain their glee. The 15 youngsters were participating in the Second Masonic District Annual Operation Santa Claus which allowed them the opportunity to shop for their own Christmas gifts.

Now in its approximate 17th year, Masons from the five Chesapeake lodges that form the Second Masonic District generated enough funds to provide each child with a $100 gift card. The participating families were identified by word-of-mouth as those in need.

"I enjoy doing it so much because we're trying to help the community out especially around this time of year," said Brother Roger Bright #189.

An early morning breakfast at Burger King had the children pumped up and ready to shop by the time they arrived at 8:30 a.m. at the Wal-Mart on South Battlefield Boulevard, where the event has been held for the past three years.

Brother William Blount #189 brought his wife, Marzetta and their son, Fernando Pablo, a third grader at Crossroads Elementary School in Norfolk.

Each family had a sponsor – a Mason wearing their black suit and tie with the symbolic square and compass pinned to their lapel – accompanying them during the shopping spree.

Things are a little tight for Stacey Reed's daughter; too, that's why she brought her granddaughter, Angel Harvey, 7, to Operation Santa Claus.

Angel was all smiles as she picked up a Mario game for her Nintendo DS, a Minnie Mouse scooter, truffle, and cupcake mixes for her Easy Bake oven and more.

"I appreciate the kindness of the brothers for allowing us to come and shop for the kids," said Reed, who is Bright's sister, this was just a blessing."

Operation Santa in the 12th MD

By L. J. McCoy #33

Petersburg – Unseasonably warm weather brought out over 100 children with their families, on December 12th for the 24th year of Operation Santa Claus in the 12th Masonic District.

With PM Hosza Bagley #17 hosting the event, Brothers Terry Taylor #43, Leroy Stevenson #10, ADDGM Cedric Lawrence #10, "DJ" Terry Webster #17, Travis Edmonds #7, and DDGM Joseph Diggs #43 kept the pace of the program. PM Clinton Gordon #10 then gave a brief history of the event which now services, not only Petersburg, but the surrounding Tri-City area.

After a lunch of hamburgers, hot dogs, and fixings were served, Santa (Brother Brian Rogers#10) dashed in to grant the wishes of toddlers and families alike.

Capital City #107 delivers Food Baskets

By Glen Hence #107

Richmond - Capital City Lodge #107 brothers, led by WM Ronald Bolden came together just days prior to the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays to deliver over 30 baskets of food items to Senior Citizens and low income families throughout the community.

Throughout past years, Capital City #107 has made delivering food baskets to family's s during Thanksgiving and Christmas an annual event. SW Rodney Barnes stated "our charity programs exist to aid and assist those who may need a hand up during such difficult economic times".

Many of our seniors are faced with challenges, especially during the holidays, but it is our commitment as Masons to serve as a catalyst of support to those in need. One of the recipients of a food basket stated "I am forever grateful and thankful to the Masons for your support and what you do". There were over 15 Capital City brothers who came out to support the laborious task to make each delivery a successful event.

As Masons, "above all things let us never forget that mankind constitutes one great brotherhood. We are united and associated with a lodge that promotes brotherhood not only within the lodge; but within the community."

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."
— Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

LOL from Eastern Star Lodge #13

By Curtis M. Barbour, Sr. #13

Hampton - The Worshipful Master and Brothers from Eastern Star Lodge #13 in Hampton heard the call from our adopted school and responded in kind with love. In our back to school program, thirty children were supplied with back packs, which included the supplies they would need for the beginning of the new school year.

For our Thanksgiving Basket Program, fifteen families were supplied with groceries that enabled them to enjoy a full Thanksgiving breakfast and dinner.

In our Operation Santa Claus Program, five hundred dollars was presented to a number of families, who without the support of Eastern Star Lodge #13, they would not have enjoyed Christmas Day. Eastern Star Lodge #13 wishes them all a Happy Thanksgiving, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. In addition for our Brethren around the world, we wish you peace and love.

King Tyre Lodge #292 Serves the Community

By Julius D. Spain, Sr. #58

Falls Church - After contacting several homeless shelters located in the Falls Church, Virginia area, Brothers of King Tyre Lodge #292 provided some much needed relief to members of the Patrick Henry Shelter House. The mission of Patrick Henry Shelter House is to provide crisis intervention, safe housing and supportive services to promote self-sufficiency for homeless families and victims of domestic violence in Fairfax County. Numerous members of King Tyre Lodge participated in this community service event and made financial donations. With devotion to a greater cause, members of King Tyre Lodge donated over 100 coats to the homeless shelter.

On Saturday, December 21, 2013, King Tyre Lodge No. 292 also conducted its Annual Breakfast with Santa and Toys for Tots at the James Lee Community Center. Unlike other events this was free to the entire community. The Lodge, along with women of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated-Chi Beta Omega XBΩ Chapter and the National Council of Negro Women's Northern Virginia Section, collected toys for the children of Falls Church and the community center provided a hot breakfast. They also participated in Christmas caroling and provided an opportunity for kids to take pictures with Santa Clause. Brother Marshaw of Santa Claus and Brothers of King Tyre served as Santa's helpers. Over 80 children were provided toys on this occasion.

On Saturday, December 21, 2013, the Brothers of King Tyre Lodge No. 292 celebrated the lives of their Brothers who have gone before us by honoring their widows and orphans with a wonderful and delicious Christmas Program and dinner. The Brothers of King Tyre prepared both the dinner and program, which was held at the Second Baptist Church, Falls Church, VA.

Shiloh's Gospel Program Award's Scholarships

By L. J. McCoy #33

Hopewell – As blue skies highlighted the Appomattox River on Divine Sunday in September, brothers from the 12th Masonic District assembled at First Baptist Church City Point. It was the 10th Annual Gospel Extravaganza for the lodge.

PM Larry Turner #33 directed the course of events with Rev. Dr. Rudolph Dunbar #33, Sister Edna Mason Chapter #44, and PM James Patterson #33 adding to the program. Singing "On My Way Home" and "It's Harvest Time", the City Point Men's Choir set the pace for the evening. It was then turned over to the Friendship Baptist Church and Mt. Carmel Baptist Church Men's choirs who kept everyone on their feet with "This Little Light of Mine" and "I Want to be at the Meeting".

During the program, PM Taylor Jones #33 presented scholarship awards to Nalyka J. Jones, Ebony S. Brown, Michael A. Dixon, Jr., Tyrhe McGee, Shamari Taylor, Timothy R. Hayes, Jr., William Claiborne, and Deaunte J. Wade which totaled $1,100.

The program closed with WM Avon Miles #33 introducing DDGM Joseph Diggs #43 and GDDO of the 16th District Magnolia Rivers to recognize visiting dignitaries. They were pleased to receive Grand Director Charles Jones #81 and Editor of the Bee Hive L. J. McCoy #33.

3rd MD Continuous it's Liberal Benevolence

By DDGM Curtis Gunn #3

Portsmouth - Rather than resting on its laurels following the receipt of the prestigious Award for Co-District of Year (Large District) and in-keeping with the criteria for receipt of the award at the 138th Grand Lodge Session, the 3rd Masonic District with its 9 member Lodges, began immediately to continue their charitable and community involvement.

During the 2013 Grand Session, Lodges and attendees answered MWGM Riddick's call and a number of backpacks were received as contributions. They were distributed between District Deputies of the 3rd, 2nd, 8/10th Masonic Districts for further distribution to local/adopted schools.

The Third Masonic District's adopted school, Emily N. Spong Preschool, received 26 backpacks following the Grand Session on Monday, September 16. Present for the presentation and pictured below are from, left to right: MWGM Shelton Riddick, Ms Lora Franklin (representing the Emily Spong Preschool Principal), RWSGW Paige D. Cherry, DDGM Curtis Gunn, ADDGM Ike Curry, and ADDGM Elbert Scott.

Voluntary contributions in the amount of $651.00 were collected from the craft at the Grand Session dedicated for additional backpack purchases. With the money collected, an additional 65 backpacks were purchased and made available for distribution to the remaining local Districts, namely the 1st, 6th, 7th, 4th/33rd Masonic Districts.

26TH MD has Annual Awards & Recognition Banquet

By Daquan Aku Reinhardt #237

Richmond - On Sunday September 9th, the 26th Masonic District hosted their annual Awards & Recognition Banquet catching up on three years at Richmond Lodge #65 on the Southside of Richmond. The Masters and Warden's Association hosted an outstanding program to include master of ceremony WM Javon A Turner #237, presentation of head table by WM Al George #28, welcome by president of the Masters and Wardens Association WM Dalton King #264, Response by SW Marcel Wilson #65, and introduction of Speaker by ADDGM Charles Shelton #307.

Keynote Speaker was PM Richard C. Dotson #107 who touched on brotherhood, connecting Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to the example of brotherhood that all Prince Hall Masons should exemplify. Blessing of the food was done by PM Bernard Johnson #233. Before breaking for dinner, the musical group "God's Daughters" graced the stage with beautiful rhythmic harmony and melodies.

After dinner, DDGM Edward T. Henderson #23 along with Assistant Deputies Waverly Jones #28, Charles Shelton #307, Willie Wynn #327, and Michael Mangum #81 presented the awards from the 2010-2011; 2011-2012 and 2012-2013.

Master Mason of the Year for the State of Virginia was Daquan Reinhardt #237

Also, PM George Winfield #25 received a Grand Lodge Certificate of Appreciation for serving on the Social Action Committee for over 34 years.

Out of all of the 140 blue lodges we have the Grand Lodge's Co Treasurer of the Year who was PM Chester Hazelwood #327.

Arlington Lodge #58 Celebrate 125 Years and End of Mortgage

By Julius D. Spain, Sr. #58 & Neville Welch #58

Arlington - On Saturday, November 2, 2013, members of Arlington Lodge No. 58, Free and Accepted Prince Hall Masons, gathered to celebrate both their organization's 125th anniversary and the successful effort to pay off the mortgage loan on their lodge.

"The event was historic, and it was a testament to the perseverance and commitment of all the brothers of Arlington Lodge No. 58, but especially the brothers who toiled extensively and gave all they had to purchase the building," said Worshipful Past Master Dr. Edwin Powell, who welcomed the gathering to a four-hour celebration held at Spates Hall at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall.

The event attracted Master Masons from several lodges and jurisdictions, as well as family members, friends and community leaders. Among the distinguished guests were Shelton Riddick, the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the Jurisdiction of Virginia, and his wife, Shirley. MWGM John Doles, Jurisdiction of the District of Columbia and his entourage, RWJGW Richard Townes, RWJGD Beverly "Butch Morgan", DDGM Leonard C. Johnson, ADDGM James Gordon, WGAM Jimmie "CJ" James, GDDO Cassandra Barnes and a host of other Past GLO's, Worshipful Masters, Worshipful Past Masters, Wardens, brethren, families, and friends. Gov. McDonnell sent a letter of congratulations.

"If you are depressed, you're living in the past. If you are anxious, you are living in the future. If you are at peace, you are living in the present."
-Lao Tzu

Metropolitan Lodge #161 Celebrates 100 Years

By: Julius D. Spain, Sr. #58

Leesburg - Chartered December 27, 1913, and still in the same building, men have come and gone, in fleeting generations. Recipient of the 2012 MWPHGL Small Lodge of the Year Award, Metropolitan Lodge#161 of Leesburg, Virginia decided to combine its third degree raising with its centennial celebration that took place on December 28th.

With the holiday season in full swing the event was well-attended by over 50 people. "I kept glancing at the Worshipful Master and Steward because we never had so many attendees in our lodge room, I was praying the floor wouldn't give way", said PM Mike Napper who currently serves as the Secretary. "We had been waiting months for this. Metropolitan Lodge puts on a show when they do degree work. I thought combining the two events (raising and centennial) made a lot of sense, especially with a small lodge", said Phillip Brooks, Worshipful Master of AB Smith Lodge of Research at the Masonic Temple, Alexandria Virginia.

"I thought I was finished. My wife and daughter were taking pictures and then someone said I had to go back upstairs, WOW is all I will say", said new Master Mason Tim McPhaul. Brother McPhaul's family was graciously attended to by the Stars while the brethren proceeded with the further ceremonies of the third degree.

WM Ben Jones thanked all who attended and presented a centennial coin, minted for the occasion.

In conclusion, a famous Freemason named Booker T. Washington said, "No man who continues to add something to the material, intellectual, and moral-well-being of the place which he lives long, left without proper reward." For over 100 years, the craft of Metropolitan Lodge # 161 have proven themselves and stood together through many trials and tribulations. Congratulations on your significant accomplishment.

Shiloh Christmas Tribute to our Widows

By L. J. McCoy #33

Hopewell – She wore a red rhinestone cowgirl hat with anchor boots to match, that was Sister Bennett's style to Shiloh's Widow's Breakfast on December 7th. The brothers of Shiloh Lodge #33 held their Annual Breakfast to honor their widows at the Hopewell Shoney's.

The lodge has entertained the widows for over thirty years during the Christmas Season. Chairman Brother Jerrail Brown and Co-chair PM McCoy designed the program to give them breakfast, a gift, and a monetary contribution.

WM Avon Miles, Sr. also had the widows share their most memorable experience that they had with their husband and the lodge. It was an event enjoyed by all.

Dedication to Past DDGM Leonard Cox

By L. J. McCoy #33

Sutherland – On Sunday October 6, 2013, Rocky Branch Baptist Church in Dinwiddie had their 140th Anniversary where they dedicated their fellowship hall to the late District Deputy Grand Master Leonard Cox. Pastor Lynn G. Robinson, Asst. DDGM Cedric Lawrence, GDDO Magnolia Rivers, and about 20 brothers conducted the special service during the regular church service.

A plaque was prepared with Deac. Leonard "Joe" Cox which would be displayed over the entrance to the Church's Fellowship Hall.

Brothers PM Spence, Rev. Lynn G. Robinson, PM Steele, Assoc. Minister Vodricka Epps, and Brother Hayes.

Grooming Tomorrow's Leader's, Today

By L. J. McCoy #33

Petersburg – "Can you take a little bit more off the side", said TyRon to Past ADDGM Darryl Hill #43 (above). The complimentary haircuts were just one phase of the Annual Grooming Tomorrow's Leader's Program at the 12th Masonic District program on November 17, 2013.

Sponsored by DDGM Joseph Diggs #43, the district's continued the process of developing young boys into men by lecturing and training them by the brothers of the district. Brother Pitts #43 spoke on education, Brother Campbell #43 spoke on etiquette, Brother Rodney Jones lectured on bullying, Brother Briggs #43 addressed financing, and cutting hair was Brothers Hill #43, Greg Goode #43, and PM Joshua Beasley #15.

Reaching out to address issues of concern has been a focus that the district will continue to develop in young men to be better prepared to make the tri-city area better.

Mt. Nebo Helps the Needy

By Antonio Pride #43

Petersburg - In June of 2013 the brothers of Mt. Nebo #43 of the 12th Masonic District in Petersburg, Virginia came together to assist one of their ailing members who was battling leukemia. After meeting up for breakfast, they set out to complete the duties of yard maintenance and beautification on a pleasant

Saturday afternoon. On the day these pictures were taken there were several brothers ready and willing to work: SW Terry Taylor, JW Rendell Briggs, DDGM Joseph Diggs, Sr. (Tiler), PM James A. Evans III (Secretary), and PM Antonio R. Pride (Treasurer)-not pictured, PM Michael Spencer-not pictured. The lodge continued to maintain the yard throughout the remainder of the growing season taking the opportunity to fellowship with our brother whenever possible. Unfortunately, our brother is no longer with us, but the memories shared by those who were involved will forever be remembered in their heart.

Grand Master's Agenda of Events for 2014

JANUARY 11, School of Instruction in Richmond
18, School of Instruction in Tidewater

FEBRUARY 1, School of Instruction in Keysville
1, Maggie Poindexter Youth Dept., to honor Grand Worthy Matron in its Black History Program,
8, School of Instruction in Petersburg

MARCH 30, Divine Sunday

APRIL 5, MWGM Testimonial Banquet
16, State-wide Veteran Visitation Richmond, Hampton, Northern VA,
19, Adeline Ward 197th OES Luncheon,
26, OES Smith, Claiborne, Butts, & Roberts Day Luncheon,
27, Zerubbabbel Day HRAM,

MAY 14 – 17, Conference of Grand Masters,
18, Founder's Day, Petersburg, VA
31, MWPHGL Charity Golf Tournament, Williamsburg, VA

JUNE 5-6, New York Grand Lodge Session,
8, Order of the Eastern Star Whit Sunday,
7, Grand Worthy Matron Appreciation Luncheon,
9, St. John the Baptist Day
15, Grand Lodge Charity Ball, Newport News Marriott Center City
30, Divine Worship Services

JULY 21 -24, Grand Session OES – Richmond
27, Grand Lodge Cook-out in the West
29, Divine Worship Services

AUGUST 11, Grand Lodge Cook-out in the East

SEPTEMBER
18th – 20th, 139th Grand Lodge Session – 3111 Fairview Park Dr. Falls Church, VA 22042-4550

The Grand Master's Annual Charity Golf Tournament

Saturday, May 31, 2014 at The KISKIACK Golf Club, 8104 Club Dr., Williamsburg, Virginia 23188
$320 per team or $85 per player, Registration 7 AM – Shotgun Start 8 AM
Awards for 1st, 2nd, & 3rd places, also Longest Drive, Closest to pin, $5000 for Hole in One, & a Putting Contest.
Make checks payable to **MWPHGL of VA** and mail to PGM Larry D. Christian, 241 Reflection Dr, Williamsburg, VA 23188 email Grand Secretary at rwgsmwphglva@aol.com

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Pre-Registration Deadline May 20, 2014

Does the 2003 Grand Lecturer on the far right look familiar?

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

"Twas mercy brought me from my pagan land, Taught my benighted soul to understand, That there's a God – that there's a Saviour, too: Once, I redemption neither sought nor knew." First verse of a Phillis Wheatley poem

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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