The Bee Hive

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

Summer 2015 **Volume 21, Number 2**

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Most Worshipful Grand Master Roger C. Brown and Grand Worthy Matron Robin M. Brown recognize the charitable donations from the Subordinate Lodges and Chapters.

On the web at MWPHGL-VA.ORG

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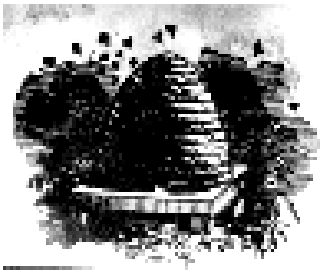

The Bee Hive

Vol. 21 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.

Most Worshipful Grand Master Brown and
RWDGM Cherry at the Founders Day Celebration

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The 78th Grand Master of the MW Prince Hall Grand Lodge of VA, F & AM, Inc.

I, Roger C. Brown, Most Worshipful Grand Master, bring you greetings from the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia, Free and Accepted Masons, Inc. I will continue to pray for 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 2015 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 occur in your community. I also encourage you to support each other and work together. That's how we are "**Living the Purpose.**"

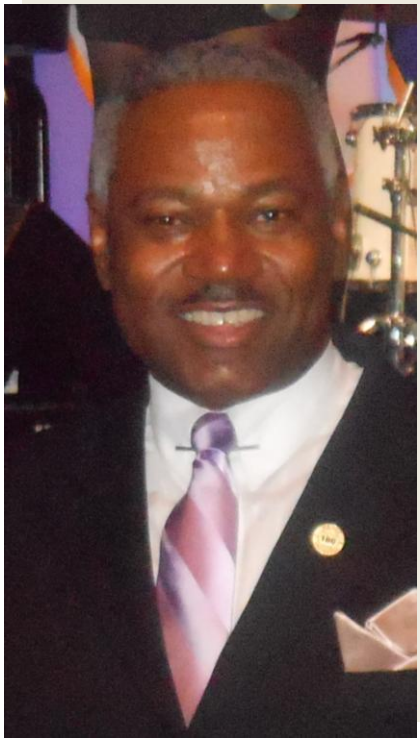
PDDGM Sutton, wife, & MWGM

MWGM, Sister Mason, Mrs. Brown, & daughters

MWGM at McGuire VA Hospital

MWGM escorted in by Mrs. Henderson

From the Editor



L. J. McCoy, Jr. #33

Recently, I had the opportunity to attend the Grand Lodge Cook-Out in the western district. The Chase City event hosted over 400 individuals and there was plenty of fried chicken, fish, drinks, and fun for everyone including the surrounding community.

In a gesture to show Masonic community relations, Most Worshipful Grand Master Roger Brown insisted that we invite the friends, relatives, and the community to our annual event.

Cook-outs have always been a centerpiece to bringing family, relatives, and neighborhoods together. On August 4th, neighborhoods around the country celebrated National Night Out with grilling burgers and hot dogs in local areas to get to know neighbors and friends better. Traveling far and close, we've all contributed to our family reunions in some form or other by sharing activity updates, upcoming family events, and memories. Only a couple of months ago in north side Richmond, two young ladies organized a civil rights affair in their neighborhood. Giving away food and drinks, they brought attention to restoring voting rights and registering to vote for the upcoming election. These cookouts even remind me of that Guy that fed all those people with two little fish and five loaves of bread.

Socializing at these outdoor events strengthens our relationship with each other and cements a bond that creates a stronger moral and spiritual growth. It should be obvious, whenever we invest in our community, the profits result in more open communications with family and friends.

The Grand Lodge has found a jewel in community relations by sharing its benevolence with all people. Now, it's up to each of us to extend this fellowship and support by bringing our friends and relatives to the Western and/or Eastern Grand Lodge Cookout.

Let's continue to show how Masons love one another, and our fellow man and woman.

Our 140th Founders' Day Celebration

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33

Petersburg – As a light shower began before the opening procession, Worshipful Grand Marshal James Brown #300 positioned his Assistants for the advance escort of our MW Grand Master Roger C. Brown #327 and his entourage of Brethren into the church. The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia held its 140th Founders' Day on Sunday May 17, 2015.

Presiding over the program at First Baptist Church Harrison Street, RWGL Edward E. Lattimore III #13 found program support from WPDDGM Claybon Collins #7, WPMs Adrian Varner #10, Robert Diggs #43, and Antonio Pride #43. Councilmen PADDGM Darrin Hill #43 and John Hart #15 gave the welcome from the City of Petersburg.

While RW Grand Secretary Isaac S. Hughes #314 recognized the Grand Lodge Officers and Dignitaries in attendance, Rev. George Lyons #43 gave a brief history of our Grand Lodge's development. He reminded us of how the Union Grand Lodge and the Ancient York Masons Grand Lodge had met at this very site in December of 1875 to form into one Grand Lodge of Prince Hall Masons.

When introduced by Rev. PM Leroy Evans #7, Rev. Dr. Gregory Howard of First Baptist Church East End in Newport News, VA delivered the Word. Crafting his presentation from Ruth 4:9, he stated that there are far too many brothers and sisters that need assistance in this life. He let us know, God has made us to make a difference. And if we see someone in this field of life that we can help, we need to reach out to them.

RW Deputy Grand Master Paige D. Cherry #3 then properly introduced the Most Worshipful Grand Master. Giving an expression of love to everyone present, MWGM Brown was delighted that over 180 brothers and sisters were celebrating our Founder's Day. At the end of the program, MWGM Brown led a procession outside to the Masonic monument on the church grounds where he laid a commemorative wreath.

Schools of Instruction

The 8th, 10th, 11th, and 12th MD School of Instruction

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33

Petersburg – Under the direction of RW Grand Lecturer of the East Edward E. Lattimore, III #13 and the RW Grand Lecturer of the West Kerry R. Brown #61, the third School of Instruction was held on February 7th at the Petersburg Masonic Temple. MW Grand Master Roger C. Brown #327 was properly received at 9 AM and expressed to the Craft that if we leave only learning one thing, the Schools purpose has been accomplished.

Asking that all first time attendees to assembly at the altar, the Grand Master had Brother Rev. Dr. George Lyons #43 to speak on behalf of the other 17 first time attendees where RWSGW Richard Townes #235 responded. In addition, the Grand Master identified WPM Julius Harris #15 (85), and Brother Antonio Pride, Jr. #43 (25) as the oldest and youngest members in attendance by presenting them a 140th year medallion.

MW Grand Master Brown then gave the gavel to the Grand Lecturers who in turn instructed Committee on Work member WPM Thomas J. Jennings, Jr. #293 to conduct the training. After he demonstrated how to receive various level officers into the Subordinate Lodges, Brothers Roy Noel #293, Charles James #11, Dennis Gordon #238, Archie Elderidge #292, Al George #28, George Shears #201, Tony Hines #43, Curtis Holland #256, Ricky Williams #324, Travis Evans #7, and Willie Wynn #327 asked for clarity on some issues.

As the SOI continued on the first floor, RW Grand Secretary Isaac S. Hughes #314 and RW Grand Treasurer James E. Watkins, Jr. #44 explained some vital issues to the secretaries and treasurers. Brothers James King #70, Edward Patrick #290, RWJGW Donald Wilson #67, Terry Webster #17, and George Pierce #201 had concerns on the activity forms, lodge membership, Demits, and the importance of filing IRS Forms 990.

Prior to RW Deputy Grand Master Paige D. Cherry #3 introduction of MWGM Brown, MWPGM Billie L. Thompson #46 encouraged everyone to contact their doctor for an annual check-up. MWGM Brown then presented Certificates of Merit to Brothers Damian Bell #13, Samuel Chandler #15, John Covin, Jr. #264, Travis Edmonds #7, Gregory Goode #43, Chester Hazelwood, Sr. #327, Anthony Price, Sr. #7, Kennis Robinson #43, and Lewis Thompson, Sr. #256. Before closing the session he awarded certificates to Eureka Lodge #15 as the lodge with the most members (18) and the highest percentage to Mt. Nebo Lodge #43.

School of Instruction in Bealeton

The school in Bealeton was re-scheduled to May 16th. Certificates of Merit were presented to the brothers top left and the greatest membership was present to top right. Special thanks to PM Julius Spain #58 for the pictures.

Louisa hosts School of Instruction

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33

Cuckoo - Representing MWGM Roger C. Brown #327, RW Jr. Grand Deacon George T. Cutler, Jr. #80was escorted into the session and officially opened the fourth School of Instruction in Louisa. The RWJGD first received Brother Justin Banks #226 as a spokesperson for the other eight first time attendees. Not only did Brother Cutler present them with FTA Certificates, he also gave them three words of encouragement which were "Go" (tell about your experiences today), "Grow" (use them to be better Masons), and "Glow" (show others about Masonry). He also made presentations to Brother Anderson Harrington #240 as the oldest brother present and Brother Daion Pope #142 as the youngest brother present.

While RW Grand Lecturer of the West, Kerry R. Brown #61, took the opportunity to receive any observations on the opening of the school, RW Grand Lecturer of the East Edward E. Lattimore III #13explained the proper qualifications required to enter a Prince Hall Lodge meeting. Comments and questions were addressed by Brothers Oliver Grant #18, William David #113, Edward Mock #18, Eugene Highe #54, Ricky Williams #324, Sherman White #240, James Brown #300, Israel Sanchez #330, and Edward Henderson #23.

Finally, Certificates of Merit were presented to Brothers Aaron Edmendson #146, Israel Sanchez #330, and Frank E. Stokes #146. The lodge with the most members was awarded and the lodge with the greatest percentage was also awarded.

We should emphasize not Negro History, but the Negro in history. What we need is not a history of selected races or nations, but the history of the world void of national bias, race hate, and religious prejudice. – **Carter G. Woodson**

The Roanoke and Surrounding Area School

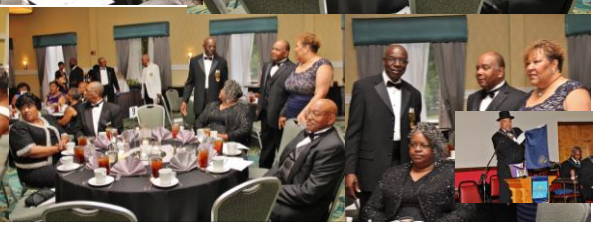
By WPM L. J. McCoy #33

Evington – The Committee on Work handed the gavel to WM Curtis James #67 to open the fourth School of Instruction at the Chapel Grove Fellowship Center. After giving housekeeping instructions, RW Grand Lecturer Kerry R. Brown #61invited the spokesperson of the first time attendees to address the body. Brother Charlie Hightower of Danville Royal #104 gave a sparkling expression on being present today. RWGJD Beverly W. Morgan, Jr. #298 was the response to him and the other three brothers.

RWJGD George T. Cutler, Jr. #80 acting on behalf of our MWGM Roger C. Brown #327, was impressive as he allowed the Grand Lecturers to present their agenda. Responding to Brother Myles Jackson #109 question on the proceedings, RW Grand Lecturer Edward E. Lattimore, III #13 detailed instructions on the issue.

After an intense session, Certificates of Merit were presented to several brothers.

Pictured top left MWPGM's Eggleston, Christian, and Harris at Petersburg School. Center photo line officers third from left JGD Cutler, SGD Morgan, SGW Townes, GS Hughes, GT Watkins, & JGW Wilson. Photos far right top treasurer/secretary training at SOI, (middle) Committee on Work prepares to open the SOI, & (bottom) SOI opening.



Joint Grand Charity Ball

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

Chesterfield – An entrée of roasted chicken and grilled steak, chased with strawberry cheesecake almost made you forget you were contributing to a charitable event. On June 13th, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia along with the Grand Chapter, Order of Eastern Star of Virginia identified their contributions at the Annual Joint Charity Ball.

While Grand Worthy Matron Robin M. Brown was escorted in to the rhythm of "Ain't No Stopping Us Now", Most Worshipful Grand Master Roger C. Brown and Mrs. Brenda Brown smoothly glided in to MAZE's "Before I Let Go". The program was then opened by presiding officers Sister LaThornia Murph and RW Sr. Grand Warden Richard Townes #235who invited Grand Chaplain Rev. John Vaughan #324, Sister Brenda Scott GDDO #35, and Sister Tonya Goode – Grand CCFC to share prayer, welcome, and a letter from the Chesterfield Board of Supervisors respectively. Introducing the Grand Chapter officers present was Grand Chapter Secretary Sister Erma A. Harris and RW Grand Secretary Isaac S. Hughes identified the past and present Grand Lodge officers in attendance.

After singing happy birthday to MWGM Brown, Past Worthy Matron Betty Odom was joined by RW Grand Secretary Hughes at the podium to inform everyone that the Subordinate Chapters & Lodges, Grand Chapter, and Grand Lodge had donated over $400, 000 to charity and charitable organizations. Making final comments, MWGM Brown encouraged everyone to find it in their hearts to continue giving and participating in these programs of need. And, if we continue this progress, we may cross the half million mark in donations, next year.

Grand Lodge 2015 Charity Golf Tournament

Williamsburg – Looking gingerly at the little pink dimpled ball Sister Jenean Wright Chapter #132 said, "I'll give you one more chance, then I'm gonna pick you up and throw you down the fairway."The 2015 Grand Master's Annual Charity Golf Tournament was held at the Kiskiack Golf Course on Saturday May 30th. Twenty-two teams competed, including a women's team.

Our Grand Lodge has dedicated all proceeds raised from its Annual Charity Golf Tournament to scholarships for our 2nd, 3rd, and 4th year college students in our Scholarship Program. MWPGM Larry D. Christian #253 is the coordinator for this event. As the time approaches for students to return to colleges and universities, the tournament is a "God Sent" to help off-set the expenses of a higher education. These scholarships are also funded by WDDGM James S. Burrell #253 and PDDGM Thomas L. Jefferson, Jr. #94 who attended all the SOI's selling our Grand Lodge Lapel Pins, Shirts, Jackets, and Caps which also assist college students.

The ladies participating included Neva Mensia - OES, Jenean Wright - OES, Peggy Howard - Newport News Sheriff's Dept., and Nita Mensia Joseph-Deputy City Manager - City of Portsmouth. While RWSGD Beverly Morgan, Jr. #298 represented the Line Officers, RWGD Leonard Johnson #293, RWGL Edward Lattimore, Jr. #13 RWGL Kerry Brown, MWPGM Larry Christian #253, MWPGM Billie Thompson #46, WDDGM Edward Henderson #23, WDDGM James Burrell #253,WDDGM John Amos #167, ADDGM Ardell Walker #187, ADDGM Ike Curry #79,and DDGM Curtis Gunn #3 joined in on the fun.

Winners included:

- 1st Place with a score of 55 were George Bowser, Ed Hayes, Cliff Thomas, Herb Cousin (right);
- 2nd place with a score of 55 were Nelson Perry, Butch Morgan, Andrew Jackson, Phil Bryant;
- 3rd Place - Robert Greene, Tony Thompson, Leonard Johnson, Eddie Key:
- Longest Drive was by Michael Christian on Hole #18 and won a $25.00 gift card & trophy; and
- Grand Prize was a RCA 32" HD TV won by Thomas Middleton;

Although no one won the 2015 Chevy Cruz for a hole-in-one, a total of 30 prizes were raffled off. Making a brief appearance, MWGM Roger Brown had to leave on business before lunch was served.

In its thirteenth year, the tournament has increased from three teams to twenty-three and is still honored to have the support of Brothers Leonard Hawkins, Michael Brown, John Amos and PGM Christian. Finally, please consider donating to this worthwhile charity program by contacting PGM Larry Christian at 757 566-2066

The Wild, Wild West Grand Lodge Cookout

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33

Chase City – Hot fish, hamburgers, crispy fried chicken, hot dogs, and wholesome hospitality were thoroughly enjoyed on the recreation grounds next to the Electrical Coop of Chase City.

Under the direction of RW Sr. Grand Deacon Beverly Morgan, Jr. #298, DDGM Wilbert Jones #235, WADDGM John L. Austin #146, WDDGM David L. Wilson #104, WADDGM Walter H. Davis #295, WADDGM Ardell J. Walker #187, and the 14th/16th Masonic Districts welcomed over 500 individuals to enjoy food, fun, and fellowship at the Annual Grand Lodge Cookout in the west. Along with the baked beans and potato salad, over 800 hot dogs, 600 hamburgers, 20 slabs of fish, 96 boxes of chicken, and 1,000 drinks & water were consumed.

Playing an abbreviated game of basketball was enjoyed by the older kids; the younger ones preferred the air inflated moonwalk. And the senior kids played spades and Bid Whist. In a show of support, brothers from the 12th, 20th, 23rd, 29th, and 31st Districts participated.

Most Worshipful Grand Master Roger C. Brown #327 joined in on the fun by telling snappy jokes and congratulating the brothers on their hard work in making the event a success.

The 31ST Masonic District Statewide Veterans Visitation

By WPM Julius D. Spain, Sr. #58

Ft. Belvoir - For the third consecutive year and under the current leadership of Worshipful District Deputy Grand Master James Gordon #292, brothers from the 31st Masonic District (31st MD) participated in the MWPHGL of Virginia Statewide Veterans Visitation.

On Wednesday, April 15, 2015 between 10:00 a.m. - 2: 00 p.m., the 31st MD visited with Wounded Warriors, service members (Active & Retired) and support personnel assigned to the Army Community Service's Soldier and Family Assistance Center (SFAC) aboard military installation Fort Belvoir, Virginia. Located next to the Warrior Transition Barracks in Bldg. 1263, near the hospital, the SFAC provides access in a central location for numerous service members and families in need. The 31st MD provided a luncheon for over 200 patrons consisting of hamburgers, hot dogs, green beans, baked beans, potato salad and fried fish (whiting).

Of note, the SFAC provides critical information and referral services; entitlements and benefits counseling; emergency financial assistance; child care; substance abuse counseling; lodging resources; family services; social services assistance; crisis intervention; stress management; and legal assistance.

This year, junior wardens of the 31st MD led by JW Ronnie R. Williams#293 were in-charge and did an outstanding job and Bro. Thompson (USMC, Ret.) provided the blazing grill. Everyone pitched in and the event was a huge success! The leadership of SFAC and countless attendees appreciated Prince Hall Freemasons shedding their beneficial light upon mankind.

For the Vets of McGuire

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33

Richmond – Even though a cloud of smoke seemed to screen you away, the sizzling aroma of hot dogs and hamburgers pulled you closer to the outdoor patio area at McGuire Veterans Hospital on April 15th. Over 30 brothers from the 11th, 12th, and 26th Masonic Districts donated their time and money to demonstrate to our vets, we care.

Most Worshipful Grand Master Roger C. Brown #327 was on hand and pulled off his collar and served our wounded soldiers also. Along with the MW Grand Master, WDDGM Joseph E. Diggs #43, WDDGM Edward T. Henderson, Jr. #23, and RW Grand Director Charles A. Jones, Chairman of the Grand Lodge VA Visitation Progran directed the brothers in preparing the meal and serving everyone.

In his ninth year with the program, RWGD Jones worked with Ms. Danielle Orr who is a physical therapist at the VA to coordinate the event. Sisters Deborah Brooks of Henrico #78 and Gloria Henderson of Elizabeth Harris #86 were also present to assist the brothers in making the event a success.

Grand Chapter, OES of Virginia Celebrates Their Past Leaders

Pictured left to right Floyd Brown, Jr., Sue Wilson, Clarence Williams, Ivery Knight, Donald Wilson, Robin Brown, Charles Shelton, Jr., Joseph Diggs, April Moore, Yvette Robinson, and Magnolia Rivers.

Petersburg – As the harmonizing voices of the Jerusalem Baptist Church Male Chorus sung "Jesus, He will fix it", the program MC Yvette Robinson kept a lively rhythm in celebrating the Smith-Claiborne-Butts-Roberts-Cox Day. The luncheon which was hosted by the Grand Chapter Order of Eastern Star of Virginia PHA is led by Grand Worthy Matron Robin M. Brown.

Organizing the April 25th event, chairperson of the program, GDDO Magnolia Rivers, was able to encourage surviving Family members from four of the five honorees to attend. Ms. Kysha Langhorn (PGWM Dorothy Roberts), Flora Claiborne Clarke (PGDDDO Otis Claiborne), Ms. Tara Bonner (PGDDO Shelia Cox), and Ms. Lula Smith (PGWM Gladys Smith) spoke on behalf of their relatives.

Special thanks were extended by Grand State Youth Director Saundra L. Mason and PWM Myra Shelton to the featured youth praise dancer, Miss April Moore and to Mr. Charles Shelton, Jr. who did the opening and closing prayers.

The Right Worshipful Jr. Grand Warden Donald Wilson represented Most Worshipful Grand Master Roger C. Brown #327 and brought closing remarks.

Whit Sunday in the 26th District of the OES

By WPM Julius D. Spain, Sr. #58

Alexandria – On Sunday May 24th the 26th District of the Grand Chapter Order of Eastern Star of Virginia, Prince Hall Affiliation, held its Whit Sunday Celebration at Mt. Jezreel Baptist Church in Alexandria Virginia. Worship Leader Tonya Clark #239 directed PM Josephine Ford #23, WM Regina Tanner #242, PWM Rashida Barbee #173, and Sister Aquita Biddie through the program proceedings.

Prior to PWM Barbara Britton-Williams #23 introduction of the speaker, GDDO Cassandra Barnes #225 explained the purpose of Whit Sunday. Pastor Anthony Oliver of the church then led a powerful message for the public's need of continued influence from the Eastern Stars and the Prince Hall Masons.

Closing remarks were given by GDDO Cassandra Barnes and WDDGM James Gordon #292.

Whit Sunday in the 16th, 17th, & 18th Districts

Disputanta - During a magnificent Memorial Day weekend, the Grand Chapter Order of Eastern Star of Virginia, Prince Hall Affiliation, celebrated their Annual Whit Sunday. The event was hosted by the sisters of the 16th, 17th, and 18th Eastern Star Districts which comprises of Chapters from Dinwiddie, Disputanta, Hopewell, Petersburg, Wakefield, and Waverly.

Joining Grand Worthy Matron Robin M. Brown at First Baptist Church in Disputanta from the Grand Chapter were Grand District Deputy Organizers Mrs. Magnolia Rivers #16, Mrs. Sandra Turner #17, Ms. Bernice McDaniel #18, and Mr. Clarence Williams as Asst. Grand Worthy Patron.

Ms. Yvonne Williams of Chapter #123 gave a brief history of Whit Sunday. As one of three Christian holidays along with Christmas and Easter, Whit Sunday or Pentecost, as it is sometimes called, came about in the first century. Celebrated 49 days after Easter, Whit Sunday has significance to the death and resurrection of Christ.

While Sister Turner recognized the various Chapters and Officers present, Sister Rivers introduced Grand Chapter Officers GWM Brown, AGWP Williams, PGWM Carlene Wooden, Honorary PGWM Erma Brown of Chapter #110, PGWP Floyd M. Brown, Sr., PGWP Johnnie Wiggins, PGWP Floyd M. Brown, Jr., Grand Sentinel Sam Rivers, AGDDO Yvette Robinson, and Grand State Youth Coordinator Saundra Mason.

Past GWP Floyd Brown, Sr. then introduced the pastor of First Baptist Church Rev. Dr. J. Alfred Reid as the speaker. Developing his text from Acts 17th Chapter, his subject was "To the Unknown God." After emphasizing that a common purpose unites us, he concluded by stating we have been empowered by God who will give us the right words to speak the truth.

After being introduced by Asst. GWP Williams, GWM Brown thanked everyone for attending and encouraged them to continue to support the sisters and brothers of this organization.

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Celebration of 69 years

By PM William Wood #179

From left to right front row
Board of directors member (OES) Claudette Eggleston, MWPGM Herman Eggleston, WDDGM David L. WILSON SR (honoree) Lois Wilson (wife) Back row Janie Cunningham DDO of 20th &33rd district, PGWM Nettie Burrell-Warner and PWM Rose Wood.

Danville - WDDGM David L. Wilson, Sr #104 was given a surprise birthday dinner. Over 100 people were present including family, friends, Masonic family and the OES family. He is the WDDGM of the 17th Masonic District. With plenty of food, fun and fellowship the celebration was enjoyed by all. Words of encouragement were given and old memories we relived. This is a great example of Masonry at work by a young man of 69 years who is a pillar of strength and wisdom in his community and surrounding areas.

Just to see PGM Herman Eggleston #146 and his wife there really shows how he has spread the cement of brotherly love.

Arlington Lodge #58 & the Bee Hive Club, Inc. Provide $5,300 in College Scholarships

By: WPM Julius D. Spain, Sr. #58

Arlington - Again in 2015, Arlington Lodge # 58 and the Bee Hive Club sponsored an evening of music and scholarships on Sunday, April 26, 2015 at Mount Zion Baptist Church, Arlington, VA. Songs from several choirs and performers filled the air as the event featured the presentation of $5,300 in college scholarship awards. "The recipients are indeed a special group of people," said Bro. Neville Welch, president of the Bee Hive Club, and Junior Warden of the lodge. "The reason for this event is for us to live out one of our fundamental purposes, which is to be charitable," Bro. Welch said.

"There is a huge difference between being generous and being charitable – the requisite for being charitable is love." The brothers of Arlington Lodge and The Bee Hive Club, Inc. worked tirelessly throughout the 2014-2015 Masonic year to ensure funds were raised as a total of 31 students vied for scholarships this year.

Awards were presented by Worshipful Master Julius D. Spain, Sr. and Senior Warden Robert H. Greene, Jr. to Wendy Berrios, Lyric Hatcher and Karl Green of Wakefield High School; Celeste Meadows of Yorktown High School; and Amanda Hayes of H-B Woodlawn Secondary Program. In addition, $100 stipends and certificates of achievement were presented to Nora O'Leary of Washington-Lee High School; Nicolette Thomas of T.C. Williams High School; and Tenaja Jennings of Dr. Henry A. Wise High School in Upper Marlboro, Md. "Their hard work and dedication has merited this honor," said Bro. Antonio Adams, vice president of the Bee Hive Club and Senior Deacon of the Lodge.

The 26th MD Car Show

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33

Richmond – Over 20 antique and classic automobiles were displayed in the Second Baptist Church parking lot on July 25th. The 26th Masonic District sponsored the Car Show to raise scholarship funds and to fellowship with the community.

Standing beside his candy apple red 1967 Chevelle, WPM Ray Green #65(pictured top) indicated that the 454 cubic inch engine required a $14,000 investment and 18 months to restore. Even with his restored 1977 Corvette and two other '66 Chevelles, Brother Green admitted that none were for sale. Brother Clarence Roney #65 was also proud to display his pearl black 1966 Chevy Caprice.

Committed to manning the concession stand, Past WADDGM Garland Jones' antique auto "Miss Daisy" was missing in action today.

Triple River #253 has Light Shining Donations

By MWPGM Larry D. Christian #253

West Point - Through the leadership of WM Ronald V. Harvey #253, Triple River Lodge #253 continues to Let their Light Shine through their charitable contributions. They have made the following contributions: $200.00 to First United Baptist Church for a Play Ground; and fourteen widows received $25.00 each for Christmas gifts.

The lodge also gave $2,000.00 in scholarships which were awarded to Kinna Smith, Tia Byrd, Brittany Burrell and Camille Haliday. In addition to those donations, $500.00 was donated to King & Queen High School to purchase uniforms for the track team; a 2nd grade class from King William County requested a pencil sharpener, lastly through the Adopt A School program the Lodge donated school supplies to King & Queen High School to include five computers. An Essay Contest was held in which students had to write an essay and the top five received a computer.

"Letting Our Light Shine"

The 3rd MD during St. John

Pride of Fairfax Lodge #298 Ribbon Cutting & Rededication Ceremony

By WM A. Marques Pitre #298 & WPM Julius D. Spain, Sr. #58

Alexandria, VA - The Lodge Hall in which Pride of Fairfax County Lodge #298 has met since its Charter was granted on November 8th, 1947, has been located at 7809 Fordson Road in the historic Gum Springs Community. Throughout the years, the Lodge structure began to weaken to a point where Brothers didn't know if they would able to remain at the only location known as home. Over the years, membership made several remedial efforts to maintain functionality of the lodge building. Nevertheless, it became evident the building was in dire need of major renovations. After tough deliberations on whether to sell the property and move to a newer and less expensive location, or raise dues and rebuild their existing home, the Brothers of Pride decided the best path forward would be to remain in place. After working diligently with a local contractor for over 12 months the process was completed. On Saturday, August 3, 2015, Worshipful Master A. Marque Pitre and Worthy Matron Nicole Tarver along with our Most Worshipful Grand Master, The Honorable Roger C. Brown#327 cut the symbolic blue ribbon on Pride of Fairfax and Grace Chapter No. 225 newly renovated building. The event was attended by many brothers and leaders from the 31st Masonic District and Order of Eastern Star. On this memorable day, Pride of Fairfax County Lodge #298 and Pride of Fairfax Chapter No. 225, O.E.S. began a revitalized era in Prince Hall Freemasonry. Both organizations are dedicated with a similar purpose of promoting solid family values and significantly aiding in the uplifting of humanity, while helping good men and women become better.

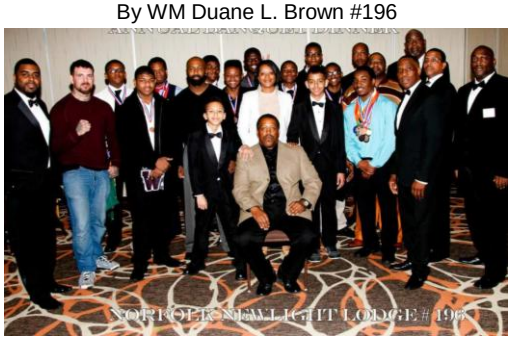
Brother Jones Receives 50th Year Pin at Holland #256

By WM Byron Lawrence #256

Suffolk - Holland Lodge #256 presented Brother Haywood Jones his 50 year pin during the morning service at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church which is his home church.

Norfolk New Light Lodge #196 Together with Booker T. Washington Wresting Program

By WM Duane L. Brown #196



Norfolk - "Raise up a child in the way they should go, and they will never depart" Proverbs 22:6. The brothers of Norfolk New Light Lodge #196 have stood in the gap for the community of Norfolk. For the past 4 years the lodge has taken on the responsibility of sponsoring an annual sports banquet for the team, after learning they never had an opportunity to have one. The Lodge has also partnered with the team to support their local shoe drive and fundraisers to raise money for water, travel expenses, and equipment.

For the past two years the annual sports banquet has been held at the Norfolk Airport Doubletree by Hilton, where the hotel has worked diligently with the Lodge to plan and prepare the occasion so these young men and their families can enjoy a memorable experience full of the year's accomplishments. This is an example of what Prince Hall Masons are doing in the 1st Masonic District within the Jurisdiction of Virginia. Each one teaches one, raises one to save one is the pledge that these brothers have taken. So we can continue to represent Prince Hall Masonry, the 1st Masonic District, and this Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge with respect and dignity for the world to see!

Masons Act to "Feed our Future"

On Saturday April 18, 2015, the George H. Dabney #201 Prince Hall Masons presented backpacks, clothing and a generous donation of $250 to Ann Marie Nelin, Surry Elementary School Principal and one of the local school representatives for the program "Feed Our Future". The Worshipful Master, Joseph H. Shears, along with: R.H. Savedge III, George S. Pierce, Travis C. Pierce, Robin Parham, Anthony Parson, Marcellus Williams and Brandon J. Jefferson met in front of the Surry Elementary School to present the donated items and a check. This act supports the mission statement of the Prince Hall Masons' "dispensing charity, promoting family values and endeavoring to significantly aid in the uplifting of humanity."

Olympia Donates to God's Pit Crew

By WPM William Wood #179

Keeling - On May 7th, 2015 Olympia Lodge #179 made monetary donation to this non-profit organization. Many people suffer from several different disasters in a lifetime. But God's Pit Crew travels near and far to help bring relief to areas hit by disasters. They rebuild homes serve hot meals deliver water and toys for the little ones. It filled our hearts with joy to be a part of this. Shown on picture is

WPM William T. Wood, Sr.(l) and Business Manger of God's Pit Crew Tim Case (r). This is just one of the many ways Olympia Lodge #179 gives back to the community.

Holland Adopts a Street

By WM Byron Lawrence #256

Holland Lodge #256 participated in the 2015 Global Youth Service. This event is a nationwide event where organizations will work on projects to enhance the community. It mobilized young people to improve their communities through service. Holland Lodge 256 took several youth to clean their adopted spot and the grounds of the Lodge in Suffolk VA. It was a successful event and they are looking forward to next year.

Past ADDGM Appointed to City Council

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33

Petersburg – He traveled with WDDGM Joseph Diggs #43 to lodges in the Tri-City area; he spearheaded "Grooming Tomorrow's Leaders; and he pursued a degree in Divinity at Virginia Union University. Now Past WADDGM Darrin L. Hill #44 has been elevated to a seat on the Petersburg City Council.

Brother Hill was appointed to the un-expired seat of Ward 2 vacated by the passing of Vice Mayor Carl "Mike" Ross.

As owner of his own business, "Personal Touch Beauty & Barber Salon", in Old Towne, Brother Hill was selected to join the council amid seven other candidates. Deciding to run in the special election in November, he is still forming a platform to address issues that affect the city.

While the stalwart expression of our fraternity is to make good men better, Brother Hill's appointment would now indicate that we do make good people better.

WPM Spain Appointed to Arlington Commission

Arlington - On January 27, 2015, the Arlington County Board appointed Brother Julius Spain, Sr. #58 to the Civil Service Commission for a term ending January 31, 2019. The commission is composed of five (5) persons who are qualified voters in the county, who have had broad experience in management or public affairs, and who are in full agreement with the application of merit principles in public employment.

A few of the commission's duties are to represent the public interest in the improvement of personnel administration in the county service and advise the county board, the county manager and the director of personnel in the formulation of policies concerning personnel administration in the competitive service.

Brothers throughout Virginia join in to congratulate WPM Spain.

Chapter and Lodge hold Joint Anniversary

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33

Petersburg – On a spring-like evening, family and friends came to the Petersburg Masonic Temple to celebrate the anniversaries of Lily of the Valley #44 OES and Shiloh Lodge #33. The March 21st event hosted by Worthy Matron Rosalind Blake and Worshipful Master Michael Kidd #33 even drew the appearance of Most Worshipful Grand Master Roger C. Brown #327.

The evening guests were not only blessed by program participants WPM Larry Turner #33, WPM Edward Odell Williams #33, and Sister Edna Mason #44 OES, but they were serenaded by Saxophonist Rick Elliott and Soloist Mrs. Carol Waller #16 OES.

In recognition of those members who had passed, WPM Turner #33 invited Sister Antionette Rogers #44 OES to light a candle in their remembrance. WPM Avon Miles #33 then presented a power point presentation of Shiloh from 1876 to the present and Sister Shanta Bowman #44 OES give the chapter's history.

After an introduction by WADDGM Cedric Lawrence #10, MWGM Brown congratulated the Chapter on celebrating 98 years and the Lodge on its 139 years and wished them both another 98 and 139 more years.

While presentations were made by the chapter to all their officers and Past Matrons, WM Kidd #33 made presentations to all of the Lodge's Past Masters.

Trinity has Community Fellowship

By WM Dwight Hagans #44

Richmond - On Saturday, June 27, 2015 Trinity Lodge #44 went to Safe Haven, Transition Home on 29th and Hull Street, Richmond, VA. The home is a shelter for the homeless. Although this is the first time we've done this, we had a great day feeding and fellowshipping with the Brothers and Sisters.

This is what Trinity Lodge enjoys doing.

Holland Lodge #256 at Pioneer Elementary on Field Day

By WM Byron Lawrence #256

Suffolk - Every year during SOL time. Holland Lodge #256 cooks for the students at Pioneer Elementary School which is their adopted school. During this time the children are participating in Field Day activities. Bro Nathan Collins, WDDGM Curtis Holland #256, WM Byron Lawrence, Bro Jimmie Lee Goodman, WPM Emanuel Faulcon, WPM Douglas Wiggins took active roles in assisting the children this year.

PM Knight receives 50 Yr. Pin

By WM Byron Lawrence #26

Holland Lodge #256 presented WPM Bobby Knight his 50 year pin during the morning service at Pulaski Baptist Church.

The 12th MD on St. John's Day

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33

Petersburg – Over 40 brothers from the 12th Masonic District joined ADDGM Cedric Lawrence #10 and ADDGM Antonio Pride #43 at Tabernacle Baptist Church in Petersburg for the 2015 St. John's Day. The district was sharing the service with the church's Men's Day Program.

Prior to the precession into the church, the ADDGM's had three brothers recommit everyone. Brothers Anthony Hargraves #15, PM James Parham #247, and WM Joshua Beasley #15 gave the first, second, and third degree obligations respectively.

John the Baptist was the son of Zachary, a priest of the Temple in Jerusalem, and Elizabeth, a kinswoman of Mary who visited her. He was probably born at Ain-Karim southwest of Jerusalem after the Angel Gabriel had told Zachary that his wife would bear a child even though she was an old woman. He lived as a hermit in the desert of Judea until about A.D. 27. When he was thirty, he began to preach on the banks of the Jordan against the evils of the times and called men to penance and baptism "for the Kingdom of Heaven is close at hand".

By history, custom, tradition and ritualistic requirements, the Craft holds in veneration the Festival Days of St. John the Baptist on June 24th. He was a stern and just man, intolerant of sham, of pretense, of weakness. A character at once heroic and of rugged nobility, the Greatest of Teachers said of the Baptist: "Among them that are born of woman, there hath not arisen a greater than John the Baptist."

Under the direction of WDDGM Joseph Diggs #43 and all good and true Masons, the brothers were proud to continue the tradition and the faith we have in the Patriot Saints.

"The First and Oldest" Universal Lodge #1 Receives Proclamation

By: WPM Julius D. Spain, Sr. #58
Additional Credits: Alexandria Gazette Newspaper

Alexandria - On February 8, 2015, Universal Lodge #1 celebrated 170 years of Prince Hall Masonry in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Attaining their charter on February 5, 1845, Universal Lodge #1 of Alexandria, Virginia continues to carry the title as the oldest active Prince Hall Lodge in our jurisdiction.

Another first for the Lodge was during the 2014-2015 Masonic year when the first Latino/Puerto Rican Worshipful Master, Bro. Jaime H. Flores, was elected (pictured fourth from left).

Norfolk New Light Lodge #196

Norfolk – Norfolk New Light Lodge #196 is making a difference. During the 2014 -15 school season they first prepared 80 book bags for a back to school drive; they were also involved in a breast cancer walk, and a night walk for leukemia.

As they continued during the holiday season, they sent 15 Thanksgiving baskets to shelters, 50 holiday bags for the homeless. $300 for the Annual Heartbeat Gala, and sponsored the 4th Annual Booker T. Washington Wresting Team.

During the last Grand Session, they placed third in the Jewel Contest, 2014-15 Lodge of the Year, 2014-15 Worshipful Master of the Year, the 2014-15 Master Mason of the Year, and the 2014-15 Worshipful Past Master of the Year.

The lodge also received the Presidential Award for Charity from President Barak Obama.

Arlington #58 Receives Historic Designation

by Scott McCaffrey, Staff Writer Northern VA Media Services

"We have certainly come a long, long way from our inception in 1888," said Junior Warden Neville Welch at the ceremony, held at the organization's headquarters on Shirlington Road in Nauck.

The effort to commemorate the lodge took nearly a year of work between its leadership and county historic-preservation staff. Worshipful Master Julius Spain Sr. called it "a great achievement," and said the historic placard "will forever mark the spot for generations that will come."

"Now it can't be said people don't know what you do," said Most Worshipful Grand Master Roger Brown,

The Fraternity dates to the 18th century and a Boston freeman, Prince Hall. The first Lodge was established in Virginia in 1845; the Arlington lodge was chartered in October 1888, with Henry Holmes as its first Worshipful Master. Holmes, who also served as Arlington's Commissioner of Revenue in the late 1880s – no small feat for a black man of the era – was "a great leader, a leader by example," said Brother William Brown, the historian of Arlington Lodge #58. With the exception of World War II, the local lodge has been in operation continuously since its founding. The cornerstone for the current building was laid in 1994, and the mortgage was paid off in 2013.

Worshipful Past Master Earl Valentine Jr., who joined Lodge #58 in 1975, recalled a lot of "hard work, sweat and tears" to get the building constructed. Fund-raising efforts ranged from dinners and raffles to delivering phone books.

Dr. Alfred Taylor Sr., longtime head of the Nauck Civic Association and one who has worked to preserve the history of the community, said such efforts are one part of a broader initiative to record the past before that knowledge is lost.

Decrying the "dearth of published history" of Arlington's African-American communities, Taylor urged the audience to ensure tales of the past and present are recorded for posterity.

"No one can tell your story like you can," he said. "Don't let your history be an afterthought."

Commonwealth #81 Celebrates

By WPM Frank B. Strayton, Jr.

Richmond – On April 25th, Commonwealth Lodge held its Past Masters, Widows, and Wives Banquet and celebrated its 118th Anniversary. Lodge Historian WPM Gary Murphy #81 gave the history and RWGD Charles A. Jones, Sr. #81 delivered the message entitled "It Had to Happen".

After presenting MWGM Roger C. Brown with a Certificate of Honorary Membership into Commonwealth #81, WM William Johnson gave remarks and made presentations of gratitude, respect, and honor to the honorees of the affair.

Finally, Past WM Lillian Galloway of #79 OES PHA, widow of Waymond T. Galloway, gave WM Johnson a generous donation for the Lodge. WPM Robert H. Washington at 91 was also in attendance.

Grand Lodge Session Agenda of Events for 2015*

Monday, September 14, 2015
- 10:00 a.m. Grand Lodge Office Set-Up
- 4:00 p.m. Prepare kits

Tuesday, September 15, 2015
- 8:00 a.m. Prepare for Registration of the 139th Session

Wednesday, September 16, 2015
- 10:00 a.m. District Deputy Grand Master's Workshop & Discussion
- 3:00 p.m. Registration & Credentials, close at 10 p.m.
- 7:00 p.m. **Prince Hall Day & Lodge of Sorrow**

Thursday, September 17, 2015
- 7:00 a.m. Registration & Credentials, close at 5:00 p.m.
- 7:30 Devotionals
- 8:30 a.m. Ceremony of Opening
- 10:00 a.m. Official Opening of Grand Lodge
- 11:30 a.m. Presentation of MWGM Brown
- 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 18, 2015
- 7:00 a.m. Registration & Credentials close at 8:30 a.m.
- 7:30 a.m. Devotionals
- 8:30 a.m. Grand Lodge Called On
- 10:10 a.m. Final Credentials Report
- 10:30 a.m. Grand Lodge called Off
- 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 a.m. Voting & Lunch
- 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 19, 2015
- 7:30 a.m. Devotionals
- 8:30 a.m. Grand Lodge Called On
- 9:00 a.m. Results of Voting
- 9:15 a.m. Unfinished Business
- 10:00 a.m. Reception of Visitors from Sister Jurisdictions
- 12:00 p.m. Grand Lodge Called Off
- 1:00 p.m. Reception of the Knights of Pythagoras
- 1:45 p.m. Grand Chapter OES
- 3:45 p.m Grand Lodge Called On & Installation of Officers
- 4:30 p.m. **Ceremony of Closing Grand Lodge**
- 7:00 p.m. **Grand Master Post Board Dinner Meeting**

*** All events held at the Hampton Convention Center next door to Embassy Suites 1700 Coliseum Dr. Hampton, VA 23666 757 827-8200**

At the 1970 D.C. Annual Communication, back row left to right Brothers Louis Robinson, Jr., WG Sr. Steward, PGM R. A. Taylor, Sr., Wm. O. Powell, J. K. Banian, & T. J. J. Jackson – front row left to right C. H. Harris, PGM J. Henry Evans, Jr., MWGM Hendeshott, MWGM of VA B. B. Simmons, and PGM of NY Johnstone. (From the archives of the late PGM B. B. Simmons)

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

"Each of us has lived through some devastation, some loneliness, some weather superstorm or spiritual superstorm. When we look at each other we must say, I understand. I understand how you feel because I have been there myself. We must support each other because each of us is more alike than we are unalike." **— Maya Angelou**

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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