The Bee Hive

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

Summer 2019 Volume 25, Number 2

"Total Annual Award Donations Over $450,000 to Organizations and Individuals"

"Rebuilding, from Within."

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Most Worshipful Grand Master Richard Townes Averett Union Lodge #235

WORSHIPFUL PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE OF VIRGINIA, FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS, INC.

OFFICIAL DIRECTORY of

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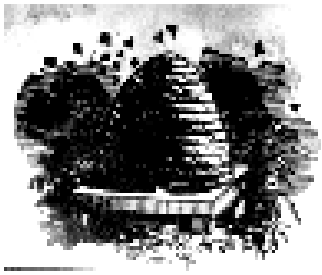
Cover photo by Worshipful Grand Photographer William E. Moore, Jr. #92



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The Bee Hive

Vol. 25 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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Most Worshipful Grand Master Richard Townes #235 with Grand Worthy Parton Curtis M. Holland his wife Roslind Holland at the OES Youth Black History Program.

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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Richard Townes #235

The 80th Most Worshipful Grand Master of the MW Prince Hall Grand Lodge of VA, F & AM, Inc

"Rebuilding from Within"

Brothers,

First giving honor and praise to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who died on Calvary Hill and gave us the tree of life, I pray God will continue to Bless this organization as we journey into this new Administration. Before entering upon any great or important undertaking we should always invoke the aid of Deity, therefore, I asked our Worshipful Grand Chaplain Reverend Waverly E. Brown Sr., #284 to take us to the throne of grace.

To Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, Donald S. Wilson, Right Worshipful Senior Grand Warden, Beverly W. Morgan Jr., Right Worshipful Junior Grand Warden, George T. Cutler, Grand Lodge Officers present and Worshipful Past Masters, Wardens, Past Masters, and Brethren, it is with great honor and humility to stand before you as your 80th Most Worshipful Grand Master. This is a monumental time in my life and I am overwhelmed to receive this esteemed honor. I would like to give special thanks to my wife, Jeanine Harris – Townes, my daughter RiSharddi L. Townes, my two sons Rasheed L. Townes, and Timothy Olando Daniel Townes for always supporting and motivating me to keep moving forward, to my Mother and Father I love you, to my mother in law Jacquelyn Harris and my sisters-in-laws I love you.

To the Most Worshipful Past Grand Master Paige D. Cherry #3, I thank you for your leadership to this Jurisdiction for the past two years. I have learned a lot during those two years under your administration.

My journey has been long and challenging. I thank God and our brethren who supported me and had confidence in me that I can stand tall and lead this esteemed organization. I pause to give special thanks to Most Worshipful Past Grand Master Herman Eggleston Jr. and Most Worshipful Past Grand Master Larry D. Christian, PDDGME Sidney Burrell and all the brethren of the 26th Masonic District for your awesome support during my request for the position RWJGD.

To Most Worshipful Past Grand Master George Clemons, I thank you for appointing me to the Constitution Committee where I began my journey.

During the past 10 years, I've met so many wonderful brethren across this Jurisdiction and we have shared great ideas that will and can elevate this organization again. To WDDGM Wilbert Jones, my friend, my brother, my mentor, and the individual who raised me from a dead level to a living perpendicular on the angle of a square. I stated to you then, that,' I will make you proud of me', Today, I delivered on my promise. I thank you for the love and support you have given me since I started this journey. (WE MADE IT!) To the members of Averette Union Lodge #235 and the brethren of the 14th & 16th Masonic Districts, You're the Best.

To the Prince Hall Family, we have many challenges that lie ahead of us, Decline in membership, Lack of public visibility across the Jurisdiction, and Poor support for the Grand Lodge Program.

There is a need to give scholarships outside of the Prince family;

Moving forward, we will focus on rebuilding our membership and enhancing our current Grand Lodge Programs.

Brethren, in achieving these goals…You will be embracing my theme;

"Rebuilding From Within".

The song for this administration is "A Change Is Gonna Come"

The colors are "Black, Purple and Gold"

The Theme "Rebuilding From Within"

I now declare all Edicts issued by previous Grand Masters of the MWPHGL of VA are NULL and VOID as of Saturday September 15**, 2018.**

From the Editor

WPM L. J McCoy, Jr. #33

After an extended battle with prostate cancer, a 52 year old African American businessman yielded to the illness on June 3, 2019. On the other hand, Colin Powell, Harry Belafonte, and former Secretary of State John Kerry are prostate cancer survivors.

During the Virginia State Conference National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Health Conference in July, these facts and directives were highlighted by several physicians/scientists and scientific researchers at the event. Facilitators discussed one in six men will develop prostate cancer, family history of prostate cancer should be considered, and African American men are 60 % at a higher risk than Caucasian men of the diagnose.

Dr. Pamela Hamilton-Stubbs, BSN, M.D. is the Health Committee Chair for the VSC NAACP and the program event organizer. Amoung her many studies, she researched for more than 14 years on the medicinal effects of foods for prostate cancer. Incorporating the additional knowledge of cardiologist Dr. Phillip Duncan MD, Dr. David Turner of the Medical University of South Carolina, Dr. Allan Thornton at the Hampton University Proton Therapy Institute, Dr. Jinsing Yu MD of Virginia Commonwealth University, Rev. Burke of the Baptist General Convention, Dr. Peter Moon of VCU, Mr. Charlie Hill of the Hampton Roads Prostate Health Forum, and Rev. Jonathan K. Stubbs Esq., she was instrumental in presenting a complete overview of the illness.

The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge has a Method of Understanding with the NAACP that recognizes the need for this manner of relationship. While many brothers share this understanding, others have expressed their personal views.

WPM Benjamin F. Harrison, Jr. (69) came into Prince Hall Masonry at Roscoe C. Cartwright Lodge #129 in Maryland. Brother Harrison demitted to Triangle Lodge #293 in 2000 and was appointed W. Grand Sr. Steward by MWPGM Curtis Vaughan. As a 30 year Marine Master Gunnery Sergeant and computer science operator, Brother Harrison found Masonry through his Grandfather's actions in opposition to white baseball officials in his hometown of Abington Virginia.

WPM James R. Tabron, Jr. (81) of Unity Lodge #93 was raised February 18, 1978. As he convinced fellow workers that he were good timber and they could make a difference. As a retired Naval officer of 24 years and civil service for 23 years, brother Tabron met on the level, acted by the plumb, and parted on the square at Unity #93.

Assigned to assist a Vietnamese two star general in the early 1960's, **Colonel Napoleon Booker** (87) of Shiloh Lodge #33 held the rank of a captain, but executed his assignment as a polished senior officer. After receiving a scholarship from the late S.C. Governor James F. Burns who had been President Truman's Secretary of State, the South Carolina high school valedictorian had ambitions of becoming a medical doctor. College opportunities from Howard to Tuskegee were not available; therefore a military career was his next option. From Ft. Sill to Ft. Banks, to Ft. Lewis, and others, as retirement neared he chose to lead the ROTC program at VSU (1968-72). Convinced by the late MWPGM B. B. Simmons #33, Brother Booker was raised in the Lodge in 1969.

After 30 years as a Correctional Officer at the James River State Farm in Goochland, WDDGM **Captain Douglas E. Gregory** (60) of Keystone Lodge #188 tried to retire. But the Buckingham County native found an opportunity at the Buckingham Sheriff department where he now does part-time assignments at his choice. Wanting to know more about Masonry from his father, he was convinced to be raised in the Keystone Lodge in 1979. He then served in all positions of his lodge and studied the ritual until he was appointed Assistance WDDGM by Past MWPGM Herman Eggleston and appointed DDGM by MWPGM Shelton Riddick.

Presenting the "I Have a Dream" speech for over five years in the Richmond metropolitan and surrounding areas, WPM **George Winfield** (71) demitted from Charity Lodge #25 to Richmond Lodge #65 to continue to share with the lodges and community. Raised in Charity which had to surrender its charter, Brother Winfield spearheaded his self-employed janitorial service for 21 years, while working for Phillip Morris for 37 years. The WPM became interested in Masonry when his Prince George Masonic friend spoke to him about Masonry.

As men and Masons, our responsibility therefore is not only to get our regular check- ups, but to remind and assist our senior brothers to get their regular check-ups also. ALL OF OUR BRETHERN NEED TO GET REGULAR CHECK-UPS.

The 2019 MWPHGL of VA Annual Charity Golf Tournament

By MWPGM Larry D. Christian #253

Williamsburg – After a little rain shower, the weather was beautiful. Eighteen teams then competed on the Kiskiack Golf Club in Williamsburg, Virginia for the Grand Master's Annual Golf Tournament.

After an extended day on the course, the list of winners included:

1st Place – Score of 56: Eric Richardson, John Wilson, Tony Thompson, Ronnie Hall

2nd Place – Score of 57: Devery Travers, Maury Walker, Nate Bonds, Clarence Yeargen

3rd Place – Score of 59: Tommy Middleton, Marshall Kennedy, Glen Carter, Borris Jones

Closest to the Pin – Hole #5 – John Wilson & Hole #10 – Ralph Brown

Longest Drive – Hole #8 – Tyler Smith & Hole #18 - Ed Coble

Realizing that profits from the tournament registrations will not cover all the continuing student scholarships; MWPGM Christian has incorporated a raffle, sales of Masonic paraphernalia, and donations to compensate the funding for our applying students. Those winners included:

Grand Prize winners were: Louis Earley & Earl Roberts – 32" TV's,

Other gifts were: Coolers, Umbrellas, Chairs, Gloves, Shoe Brushes, Eight - $25.00 Gift Cards.

Your donations are encouraged not only to participate in future tournaments, but in supporting our scholarships for continuing education.

We would like to thank the group from the MWPHGL of Delaware: MWGM Isaac Morris, Jimmy Stanto, Jerome Dorsey, and Maurice Williams; and Virginia Union University Ralph Brown, Ed Coble, Maurice Campbell and Tyrone Dickerson. Young men helping included MWGM's son Tim and MWPGM Christian's grandson Bradley Haliday Jr.(pictured above left).

Finally, on behalf of our MWGM Richard Townes, we would simply say <u>THANK YOU</u> for assisting our 2nd, 3rd, & 4th year college students.

Over $450,000 Donated to Charities by the Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33

MWGM Townes with his wife Jeanine Harris-Townes

Richmond – In the 13th Chapter of I Corinthians it states "…...but the greatest of these is charity." And therein is the foundation of both our organizations. The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia Free and Accepted Masons, Inc. and the Grand Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star of Virginia, PHA held its Joint Charity Ball on Saturday June 22, 2019.

Celebrating the donations of over $450,000 to organizations and individuals, Most Worshipful Grand Master Richard Townes and Grand Worthy Matron G. Sylvia Jackson expressed their sincere thanks for the sacrifices of the lodges and chapters throughout the 2018 season.

As Program Toastmaster, RW Sr. Grand Warden Beverly M. Morgan received support from RWDGM Donald S. Wilson #67, Grand Associate Matron Sandra Wilson, Grand Chapter Secretary Synthia Martin, and RW Grand Secretary Stevie R. Gray who gave greetings, introduced Grand Chapter, and Grand Lodge Officers respectively.

While Past Worthy Matron Tonya Goode gave the details of the donations by the Grand Chapter, WDDGM Lynwood Jones detailed the donations of the Grand Lodge and the Appendant Bodies of Virginia PHA.

Grand Worthy Patron Curtis M. Holland then introduced Grand Worthy Matron Jackson who gave her closing remarks and RWDGM Wilson welcomed MWGM Townes for his final remarks where he reminded everyone that the Grand Session Gospel Program would headline Mr. Marvin Sapp.

Our Veterans

GL's Annual Visitation To
Hampton Veterans Affairs Medical Center

By WDDGM-E Raymond A. Sutton, III # 13

Hampton - It was Wednesday, April 17th, 2019 and our MWGM Richard Townes #235 had directed that the MW Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia conduct its annual visitation to each of the facilities that provide medical services in Virginia for our military veterans. The established time was 10:00AM for the programs to start at each of the Veterans Medical Facilities across the Commonwealth. The Prince Hall Masons of the Greater Peninsula and Hampton Roads Areas would marshal their efforts to serve those veterans serviced at the Hampton Veterans Affairs Medical Center and provide some Masonic Brotherly Love and down home comfort to the in-patients and staff at HVAMC.

The sun was positively beautiful as it rose and lit the morning skies, but full spring had not established itself and a chill remained in the air. The three short weeks of April were not nearly enough to remove the wintry blasts of cold from March.

Our visit was under the immediate direction of the Chief of Volunteer Services, Mrs. Judith Curtis and her right hand, Recreational Therapist, Ms. Monique Harris, Worshipful District Deputy Grand Master Henry E. Badgett #268 of the 6th& 7thMasonic Districts, our Lead Deputy, coordinated and planned with the two of them to assure that our collected assets met the needs of the program. Together, they determined that we would once again be indoors for our cook-out, protecting our honored patients from the chill of the day. Recreation Therapist Ms. Monica Adams provided ample assistance to these planners and they assured that the plan was carried out by Volunteer Services Technicians Calvin Belcher, Linda Whitfield, Ellen A. Stewart, Curtis Livingston and Michael Taylor.

The Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star (PHA) was ably represented by Grand Worthy Patron Curtis M. Holland, Grand Associate Matron Sandra Wilson #20, Grand Conductress Jacqueline T. Sutton #150, WM Linda C. Whitfield #3, PWM Rosalind Holland #162, PWM Margaret S. King #3, PWM Ellen A. Stewart #150, and AM Stacey Hall-McAdams #3.Additional assistance was received from Mrs. Juanita Moore, and Mrs. Anna Ramrattan, visiting biological sisters of GC J. T. Sutton.

There were also twelve military volunteers who had their noses to the grindstone from the beginning. They were men and women from the US Coast Guard's, Hampton Roads Chief Petty Officers Association and the 2019 Coast Guard Chief P. O. Initiation Program. They were functioning with a sense of purpose from the initial set up until the final tear down.

These energetic groups made all of the plans come to fruition as they moved about assuring safe and timely accomplishment of each assignment.

The necessary briefings from Mrs. Curtis insured that all participants were aware of the specific privacy issues pertaining to all of the in-patients and the requisite safety measures to transport our patients from their residences to the day-room and back. Of the 65 Brethren present, approximately half of them took on the task of assuring that our non-ambulatory veterans were brought to the cookout/picnic dayroom safely. Here, the patients received the cookout foods prepared under the watchful eyes and hands of the VAVS Staff and our Masonic Family Culinary Staff of Brothers and Sisters.

A great time was enjoyed by all. Everyone was more than pleased and filled with the hot dogs, hot sausages, and hamburger sandwiches served with a full selection of condiments, baked beans, snacks and assorted soft drinks. More than three hundred patients, staff and Brethren enjoyed the delectable repast and participated in the wide range of discussions, conversations and interfacings. Our Masonic Family and the VAMC/VAMS Staff worked tirelessly to ascertain that our veterans were properly honored and received the degree of care and attention that they justly deserve. There were 64 Master Masons present that signed in and there were several that missed the roster for a total of around 70.

Grand Lodge oversight was ably provided by our Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master Donald S. Wilson #67with available advice from Right Worshipful Junior Grand Warden George T. Cutler, Jr. #80, Right Worshipful Grand Lecturer of the East Curtis B. James, Sr. #67, Most Worshipful Past Grand Master Curtis S. Vaughan, Jr. #67 and Right Worshipful Past Grand Director Maurice J. Holland #79.

Craft and action photos were taken by Worshipful Grand Photographer William E. Moore, Jr. #92 and Worshipful Grand Assistant Photographer James N. Clinton #196. All area Districts were represented by their Worshipful District Deputy Grand Masters and/or Assistants as well as the Subordinate Lodges of those Districts were represented by their Lodge Officers/members.

Worshipful Past Master Braxton W. Mitchell, Jr. #90, a Past Chairman of our Hampton VAMC Visitations, was not present due to a fall and an injury on the morning of this visitation and our stalwart recent Past Chairman, Worshipful District Deputy Grand Master –Emeritus Thomas L. Jefferson, Jr. # was absent as he provided much needed assistance to WPM Mitchell.

The VA Visitation at McGuire Hospital

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33

Richmond – Enjoying his hamburger and hot dog, James who is originally from Waverly, Virginia joined the army in 1970 and served tours in Viet Nam before his three year discharge. While tasting his barbecue and baked beans, Mr. Delaware, as he preferred to be called, was born in 1924, and joined the army in 1943, after which he went to school to be a TV repairmen.

On this sunny and warm April 17, 2019, the 12th, 26th, 27th, and 28th Masonic Districts joined together to show support for our veterans at the McGuire Hospital. The annual event which is sponsored by the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia with Chairman RW Grand Director Charles A. Jones #81is assisted by VA coordinator Ms. Tremeika Hubbard.

RW Grand Jr. Deacon Antonio Pride #43 was on hand to greet the vets along with WDDGM Lynwood Jones #27, WADDGM Ricky Williams #324, WADDGM Morris Hicks #6, WADDGM Hozsa Bagley #17, and a host of other brothers.

While many of our veterans were served in the patio area, nurses and aids delivered scores of lunches to the patients in the facility rooms.

Honoring our Veterans at the Salem Veterans Medical Center

By SW Myles Jackson #109

Salem - Brothers came from the corners of the Commonwealth to participate in our Annual Cookout for Veterans at the Salem Veterans Medical Center. They started arriving early to prepare a feast for a hungry crowd. On the menu was fried chicken, fried fish, baked beans, slaw, chips, cold drinks, cookies and a special cake made just for this momentous occasion.

Over seventy-five Brothers from sixteen different Lodges were in attendance to include our Most Worshipful Grand Master Richard Townes. MWGM Townes had the pleasure of speaking with the Director and Assistant Director of the Medical Center. Both expressed to him their great appreciation of the Grand Lodge for holding this annual event and told him that this was the best showing of Veterans to-date.

Brothers were tasked to bring in-patient Veterans from numerous clinic wards at the facility. The word spread quickly that "Masons were in the house." We were able to serve over one hundred and fifty veterans and Medical Center staff.

MWGM Townes spoke to the veterans and thanked them for their service and the sacrifices that they have made in protecting our county. He told them that the event was one way that we could say THANK YOU and it was our honor to now serve them.

Normally the Brothers would play a few games of Bingo with the Veterans, but this year because of such a large crowd from the Medical Center and the time constraints, we were unable to. At the end of this great event, Veterans came up to the Brothers and personally thanked them for coming and honoring them.

Special thanks to the 20th Masonic District's W. District Deputy Grand Master Felix "Bumper" Morgan for taking the lead on this event and making it such a great success.

MWPHGL of VA Celebrates its 144th Founders' Day

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33

Petersburg – As temperatures soared above the mid 90's, the change of venue from the faulty A/C units of First Baptist Church Harrison Street to the cool breezes and A/C comfort of Gilfield Baptist Church was easily understandable. The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia Free and Accepted Masons, Inc. celebrated its 144th Annual Founders Day on Sunday, May 19th, 2019.

As RW Grand Lecturer Roger L. Redd, Sr. #109 MC'ed the program, he received support from WM Travis Edmonds #7, WAGC Leroy Evans #7, and WADDGM Hozsa Bagley #17 who gave scripture, prayer, and welcome for the program. The City of Petersburg responded from former Petersburg mayor and respectively State Senator Rosalyn Dance.

Grand Chapter Officers were then introduced by Grand Chapter Secretary Synthia Martin and RW Grand Secretary Stevie Gray #314 introduced the Appointed and Elected Officers of the MWPHGL of VA.

The history of the MWPHGL of Virginia was detailed by the RW Eastern Grand Lecturer Curtis E. James. Finding its roots from African Lodge #459 in Boston Massachusetts which the lodge was chartered in 1787, but it was not until 1875 that the two Grand Lodges in Virginia made arrangements to unify to form the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Virginia. In the late 1950's, the name was changed to the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia Free & Accepted Masons, Incorporated.

Rev. Brother George Lyons #43 then gave a sermon from Nehemiah 4:15 in Our God Shall Fight for Us". After the Word, the ceremony of the wreath dedication was made at the church altar by Most Worshipful Grand Master Richard Townes #235 and RW Deputy Grand Master Donald S. Wilson #67.

Norfolk's KOP Celebrates Black History

By WPM William E. Moore #92

Portsmouth – On February 16, 2019, Norfolk Council No. 8 Knights of Pythagoras conducted their Second Annual Prayer Breakfast Celebrating Black History at 731 Queen Street, Portsmouth, VA. Following a song by Zion Smith, Isreal Reed introduced Dr. Patricia Turner as the guest speaker.

Master Knight Jamil Carter was pleased to have support from Council Advisor Alton Miles #196 and our Most Worshipful Grand Master Richard Townes.

Whit Sunday Observance

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33

Richmond – As an off and on rain joined an 80 degree temperature, a steamy June 9 Sunday afternoon could not compete with the air cooled comfort inside Cedar Street Baptist Church of God. The Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star of Virginia Prince Hall Affiliate celebrated one of their annual celebrations - Whit Sunday.

Traveling from all parts of the Commonwealth for the joint event, Grand Worthy Matron G. Sylvia Jackson and Grand Worthy Patron Curtis M. Holland welcomed over 500 sisters and 100 brothers to the state's capital. As Grand Associate Matron Mrs. Sandra Wilson led the program of events, Grand Chaplain Rev. Brenda Austin gave an invocation, Deaconess Carolyn Rice gave a welcome, and Grand Associate Conductress Gwendolyn Davis gave a response.

Grand Conductress Mrs. Jacqueline Sutton then gave a proclamation of the event. Since the organization begin in 1901, she reminded us that the Easter Stars have celebrated White Sunday or Whit Sunday seven Sundays after Easter. She stated that this Pentecost event celebrates the rising of Jesus Christ.

Introduced by the speaker's mother, Dr. Dolores Whitaker, Elder Gina W. Cannon prepared a text from Psalm 100 and 150 for a subject of "There is Power in Your Praise". The Assistant Pastor of Grayland Baptist Church encouraged us to continue to praise the Lord.

After introduction of Grand Chapter Officers by Grand Secretary Synthia Martin and Grand Lodge Officers by Grand Secretary Stevie R. Gray, GWM Jackson and Most Worshipful Grand Master Richard Townes gave their closing statements.

Grand Chapter OES School of Instruction

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33

Virginia Beach – On Saturday March 23, 2019, the Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star of Virginia, PHA conducted their Eastern School of Instruction. Opening the event in the E. Ray Cox, Sr. Convocation Center over 135 members assembled to receive training and instructions on properly conducting business and procedures.

Grand Lecturer of the East Demetria J. Wilson directed the opening ceremonies along with her counter-part Janie Cunningham who is the Grand Lecturer of the West. Instructions included parliamentary procedures, worthy patron information, covenant of adoption, conducting investigations, Grand Chapter voting, penal code grievances & appeals, and dress code by PM Tonya Clark, Grand Worthy Patron Curtis Holland, GL Wilson, GL Cunningham, GAM Sandra Wilson, Past GWP Robert Chadwick, and PM Brittany Williams respectively.

Including a question and answer period, the Grand Lecturers received questions and comments from Sisters Upton #19, Thomas #239, Peterson #228, Benn 'Coker #31, Howard #24, Robertson #75, and Benion #101.

The session closed with Grand Associate Matron Sandra Wilson who presided in the absence of Grand Worthy Matron G. Sylvia Jackson spoke of upcoming events, including the Grand Chapter Session July 23 – 27 in Williamsburg.

AD #109 and KOP - ES Brown #2, Play Bingo with Our Military Veterans

By SW Myles Jackson #109

Salem - On Saturday, March 16th, 2019, members from Allegheny Dunbar Lodge #109 (AD #109) along with its Knights of Pythagoras youth group, ES Brown #2, and our KOP Parent Group ventured to the Virginia Veterans Care Center in Salem Virginia to spend time with those Veterans who are there for long term medical care. We played several games of bingo, served them ice cream and cookies and provided gifts for the winners of each game. (We made sure all had at least one gift, win or lose). This is just a small token of gratitude that we can give back to our Veterans and honor those who have served us! AD#109 members taking part in this activity were Worshipful Master Bernard Johnson, Senior Warden Myles Jackson, 20th Masonic District WDDGM Felix "Bumper" Morgan, and Right Worshipful Grand Lecturer of the West Roger Redd, Sr.

OES Gives Back to Our Vets

By Grand State Youth Chair Saundra Mason

Virginia – Collecting items from across the state, the young people of the Maggie D. Poindexter State Youth Department and the sisters of the Order of Eastern State, PHA attended a spiritual donation at the state's veteran's hospitals. On April 30th, female residents at the Fort Belvoir, Hampton, Richmond McGuire, and Salem VA Hospitals received toiletries and other personal items from the organization.

Grand Worthy Matron G. Sylvia Jackson was pleased to thank the efforts of Sisters GDDO Magnolia Rivers, Yvette Robinson, Brenda Scott, Anna Gayles, Nicole Tarver, Barbara Ellis, Asst. GSYC Adrianne Moore, HPGWM Erma Harris, GDDO Grace Washington, Lynette Smith, Janell Giles, Bernice McDaniel, Myra Shelton, GDDO Patricia Cunningham, Mary Logan, and State Youth President Ariel Moore for making the event a success.

Divine Sunday in the 17th MD

By WDDGM Walter Davis #295

On Sunday, March 31th 2019, Prince Hall Free and Accepted Masons, W. District Deputy Grand Master Walter H. Davis of the 17th Masonic District and District Deputy Grand Master Michael Hairston of the 32nd Masonic District along with Order of the Eastern Star, celebrated 5th Sunday Divine Worship Service at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, Reverend Jeffrey M. Millner Pastor. The principles for which we stand: Forever Loyal to our God, Forever Devoted to our Grand Lodge, Giving Due Respect to our Fellow Man and Living Upright in our Community.

Charlotte Masonic Lodge #146 Donates

By W. Asst Grand Marshall Aaron. L. Edmondson #146

Keysville – Charlotte Masonic Lodge #146 presented a donation of $1,250 to the Carl U. Eggleston Foundation in June.

The Eggleston Foundation is a 501© tax exempt organization under the IRS that sponsors Back to School Rallies for Prince Edward County students and surrounding counties which gave out school supplies. The system also sponsors motivational speakers who encourage students to become all they can be.

During the Christmas Season, the Foundation gives toys and assists college students with donations and scholarships.

Pocahontas Lodge #7 has 151st Anniversary

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33

Petersburg – Ten years older than the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge Pocahontas Lodge #7 celebrated 151 years of existence on April 20th. The event held at the Tabernacle Community Life Center featured music, awards, and an excellent speaker.

While WPM Anthony Price, Sr. #7 served as MC, lodge members Willie L. Lee, Jr., WPM Milton Montgomery, Chaplain Bobby Claiborne, and John Epps III presented the scripture, welcome, and blessing of the food. Created in 1865 at Petersburg's First Baptist Church Harrison Street, Brother Epps indicated that although no lodge records were available from 1865 to 1886 R, B. Ramsey was their first Worshipful Master. The lodge not only boasts of its line of District Deputy Grand Masters, George M. Ellis Jr., Leonard Cox, Claybon Collins, and Larry Moody, but is also proud of winning the MWPHGL of VA Jewel Contest for 10 consecutive years.

After Worshipful Master Travis Edmonds presented awards to Brothers John Epps, Willie Lee, Anthony Price Sr., Juan Tomei, Earl Jones, Alphonso Felton, John Edwards, William H. Steele, and Lawrence Taylor, RW Jr.

Grand Deacon Antonio Pride #43 spoke on the lodge and its rich history.

In the absence of MWGM Richard Townes #235, RW Deputy Grand Master Donald S. Wilson #67 gave words of wisdom.

Divine Sunday on Sterols

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33

Petersburg – Joining together with several Masonic Districts for a Grand Divine Sunday was fulfilled on Sunday June 30, 2019. It was a desire of Most Worshipful Grand Master Richard Townes #235 even before he became Grand Master.

Over 117 brothers from the 11th, 12th, and 26th Masonic Districts assembled with the Grand Master, as well as, 90 Sisters of the Order of the Eastern Star PHA at Metropolitan Baptist Church in Petersburg, Virginia. Addressing the congregation before the preached Word, Grand Worthy Matron G. Sylvia Jackson and MWGM Townes both made financial contributions to the church.

After receiving an achievement award for church services from the Grand Master, Pastor Lamont A. Hobbs delivered the Words of wisdom from Matthew 17:14-20. Gaining his subject matter from "No Matter What, Trust God – I Got a Seed in the Ground."

Finally, MWGM Townes thanked the efforts of W. District Deputy Grand Masters Keith Brown of the 11th, Darrin Hill of the 12th, and Lynwood Jones of the 26th Masonic Districts in making the event a success.

During St. John Celebration, the 17th MD Gives Scholarships

By DDGM Walter Davis #295

Danville - On June 23, 2019, the 17th Masonic District celebrated St. John The Baptist Day at Right Touch Christian Church, 513 Worsham Street Danville, Virginia.

Rev. Tommy Crews Sr., Pastor, made the presentation to the lodges of Danville Royal #104, Murdock #163, Olympia #179, Judah #205, Almagro #217, Shockoe #244, Brandon Chapel #282, Golden Rule/Nehemiah #295 and a Brother from the 32nd Masonic District.

The 17th Masonic District also took the opportunity to present a scholarship to two Students who were on their way to college.

Charlotte Chapter #147 OES has 26th Anniversary

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33

Keysville – On April 6, 2019, Charlotte Chapter #147 OES PHA held their 26th Anniversary at the Southside Virginia Community College.

Entertaining over 150 guests for their event, Mistress of Ceremonies Ms. Latonya Allen-Adah had energy and jokes as she led the evening of events. With an invocation, welcome, and head table introduction by PWP David Dews, Associate Matron Vernelle Dews, and Past WM Brittany Williams respectively, GDDO Anna Gayles and WDDGM Wilbert Jones introduced Grand Chapter and Grand Lodge Officers.

The Charlotte Chapter Queen, Sister Monica Childs, then took her royal stroll around the banquet hall. Musical inspiration became a spiritual experience as the four women and four piece band of the Anointed Voices delivered their selections.

After dinner, the chapter continued the evening of activities with the gospel play "Glory Train" which was enjoyed by all.

The program concluded with remarks by Grand Worthy Patron Curtis Holland, Grand Worthy Matron G. Sylvia Jackson, and Most Worship Grand Master Richard Townes.

OES District #4 and the 6th & 7th MDs Support Area Schools 'Back Pack Program'

By WDDGM Henry E. Badgett #268 & WDDGM-E Raymond Sutton #13

Newport News – Students Olajuwon Smith, Alexis White, Eric Bemberry, Natiyah Lee and Jada Cooper, all graduating seniors of Heritage High School in Newport News, VA, wrote an open letter of thanks to the OES Sisters of District #4 and the Masons of the 6th and 7th Masonic Districts reflecting their gratitude for the lessons taught in compassion and willingness to help the less fortunate.

Every Thursday the Sisters and Brothers of this Masonic family demonstrate true kindness and generosity as they prepared 'care' packages for the students of 'The Back Pack Program' to assure that there was food to eat at the children's homes during the weekend. As they directed our participation over this past year, we learned dependability from their leadership and actions, in that they were always there, prepared to carry out the tasks at hand. We would joke at times that you reminded us of mailmen,

no matter what the weather, that you'd be waiting and ready with those barrels and food supplies from the big, yellow bus.

The graduating seniors of Heritage High's Work Experience Program expressed that it had been a true honor to assist the Masonic family with the preparation of the care packages for The Discovery STEM Academy. They thanked the Masonic family for the lessons that would enable them to embark on a new journey. They called it "The Real World" in which each of them hopes to find even more people who truly care. They will be in search of opportunities and people to help them advance along their journeys. They then collectively prayed for God's richest blessings on this Masonic family "even though they won't be on the big yellow bus next school year."

Divine Sunday Worship in Tidewater

By Worshipful Grand Photographer
William E. Moore Jr., #92

Virginia Beach - On June 30, 2019, Brothers of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia Free & Accepted Masons, Inc. and Sisters of the Order of the Eastern Star fellowshipped with Piney Groove Baptist Church in Virginia Beach under the leadership of Pastor D.L. Williams.

This was the vision of MWGM Richard Townes #235 to have 100 men sit in church visitation around the state of Virginia. The Tidewater Masonic Districts made Masonic history by hosting the very first one.

50 Year Pin presented to PM

By WPM Ricky McKnight, Sr. #28

Richmond – In February 2019, PM George E. Hicks was presented his 50th Year Pin by MWGM Richard Townes. The lodge was proud to present the distinguish award to him.

OES State Youth Has Black History Celebration

By WDDGME Raymond A. Sutton, III #13

Petersburg – On a cold and rainy February 23rd morning, the Maggie D. Poindexter State Youth Department of the Grand Chapter OES of VA (PHA) held its Annual State Youth Program at the Metropolitan Baptist Church in Petersburg, Virginia. The presence of Most Worshipful Grand Master Richard Townes #235, Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master Donald S. Wilson #67, Associate Grand Matron Sandra Wilson, Grand Worthy Patron Curtis M. Holland, and Grand State Youth Coordinator Saundra Mason identifies the level of importance that our youth and our youth programs have in our Prince Hall Family.

The Program's Mistress of Ceremonies, Ms. Judith Ward, called on State Youth President Ariel Moore to conduct the Welcome and the Introduction of State Youth Officers In Attendance. MC, Ms. Ward, also called on State Youth Chaplain Tyara Moss to lead us to the Throne of Grace for the Invocation. Grand Chapter Officers in attendance were recognized by Grand Chapter Secretary Synthia Martin and those Grand Lodge Officers present were introduced by WDDGM Darrin Hill #43. State Youth Vice President, Master Demond Middleton was called upon and applied an historic significance in presenting the Program's Purpose and that of Black History Month.

Ms. Ward then presented the program's stars, The Virginia State University Gospel Chorale. Each song sung by them moved the audience and reminded them of those generations who have gone on to their just rewards. Their continuous performance of the Chorale lasted approximately one hour and had the audience wanting more.

Appropriate comments and remarks were made by the Youth Department officials leading to presentations from the Maggie D. Poindexter Youth Department by the Grand State Youth Coordinator, Mrs. Saundra Mason. The recipients were our MWGM Richard Townes #235, RWDGM Donald S. Wilson, Associate Grand Matron Saundra Wilson and Grand Worthy Patron Curtis M. Holland. Mrs. Mason also made presentations to the church, the VSUGC, and to the Youth Advisors. Glowing remarks were given by GDDO Magnolia Rivers, GWP Holland and GAM Wilson representing Grand Worthy Matron G. Sylvia Jackson. Our MWGM's remarks reflected his position maintaining that as adults, we should always set the example for our youth, that we should be good role models for them to follow. MWGM Townes then called upon our Grand Associate Patron Jonathon Franklin for the Benediction and the Grace for our luncheon.

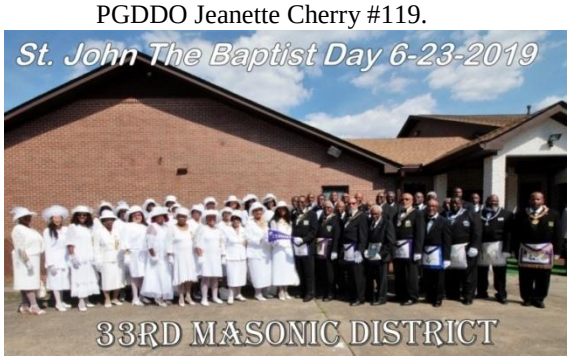
The Luncheon Banquet was held at the Petersburg Masonic Temple, just across the street from the church.

St. John's Day in the 33rd Masonic District

By W Grand Photographer William Moore #92

Virginia Beach - On June 19, 2019, Brothers of the 33rd Masonic District and Sisters of the Order of Eastern Star celebrated St. John the Baptist Day. The celebration was held at New St. John AME Church in Virginia Beach where Rev. Morris Reddon, Jr.'s sermon came out of Judges 7: 1 "Things aren't as bad as they look".

Grand Lodge Officers present included WDDGM Billy Peters #92, WGP William Moore #92, PRWPGD Ronald Carter #92, WPDDGM Buddy Staples #93, and WPADDGM Kevin Murray #69. Grand Chapter Officers present included PGWM Gracie Drake #48, GDDO Valco Peters #119, and PGDDO Jeanette Cherry #119.



MWGM Townes Visits Shiloh Lodge #33

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33

Hopewell – MWGM Townes continued his visitation of subordinate lodges to Shiloh Lodge #33 to increase their support for Grand Lodge activities. The Grand Master took the opportunity to engage his policies in moving the Grand Lodge forward.

WM Jerrail Brown supported MWGM Townes and allowed him to focus on including the lodge on the issues of importance for the Grand Lodge. After making the upcoming Grand Lodge announcements, WM Brown gave the gavel to MWGM Townes in closing in his own form.

Pride of Fairfax Celebrates Juneteenth

By Bro. Kyle L. Taylor Sr. #258

Alexandria - On June 15, 2019, Pride of Fairfax Lodge #298 celebrated with the Gum Springs Community Day for the Juneteenth Celebration. Organized by SW Kevin Wheeler Sr., it was an excellent opportunity to fellowship with community members, other organizations, and local supporters.

Pride of Fairfax sold food plates in support of the lodge's scholarship initiative and informed the community of the lodge's scholarship program. Along with Asst. Sec. Bro. Robert Fuentes, the event was a total success.

Lily of the Valley #44 OES Has Arts Appreciation Program

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33

Petersburg – Spoken Word by Ms. Jamari Blakeny, songs from Ms. Annette Arington, and music from the Petersburg Jazz Ensemble gave energy and meaning to Lily of the Valley Chapter #44 Appreciating the Arts Program. The April 20th event was designed to showcase the community talent of our youth and engage in local fellowship.

Master of Ceremonies, Associate Patron of #44 Charles Shelton, had PWM Edna Mason OES #44, PWM Shelly Hill OES #44 and Amber Mayes OES #44 to present the Welcome, Invocation, and Purpose respectively. While Brother Shelton introduced Grand Lodge Officers, Grand District Deputy Organizer Mrs. Magnolia Rivers recognized Grand Chapter Officers present. Preparing the dinner for about 70 guests without the aid of a caterer, the chapter also welcomed vendors who sold jewelry and accessories.

Closing remarks were shared by Worthy Patron Jerrail Brown, Worthy Matron Monite Jones-Carlisle, and GDDO Mrs. Magnolia Rivers.

The 11th and 12th Masonic District Celebrate St. John the Baptist

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33

Petersburg – As Master of Ceremonies, W. Asst. District Deputy Grand Master Hozsa W. Bagley, Sr. #17 opened the program of events on Sunday June 23, 2019 at the Halifax St. Masonic Temple. Brothers from the 11th and 12th Masonic Districts, Sisters from the Order of the Eastern Star, PHA and guests celebrated St. John the Baptist Day.

The WADDGM called on WM Travis Edmonds for the scriptures, WPM Carlton Brown #15 for Prayer, and WM Jeryle Jones #17 for offertory. After Grand District Deputy Organizer Magnolia Rivers introduced Grand Chapter Officers and WDDGM Darrin Hill #43 introduced Grand Lodge Officers, WM William Porter #10 gave the Purpose.

Brother Wendell Givens #317 then introduced his Pastor, Rev. Herbert Holly as the evening's speaker. Using scriptures from Mark 2:1, the Stoney Creek, Virginia minister entitled his message as "It's a Challenge, but it's worth It".

Following financial presentations to the pastor, the musician, and the Temple, WDDGM Hill #43 gave closing remarks for MWGM Richard Townes #235.

MWGM Townes is escorted into Shiloh Lodge #33 by ADDGM Hozsa Bagley #17 & PM Avon Miles #33

Brunswick Lodge #108 Supports the Community

By WM Terrence Wesson #108

Pictured: ADDGM Willie Seward Jr., PM Charlie Bruce, Bro. Kevin Jones, DDGM Willie Seward Sr., PM Terrence Wesson, Mr. Bernard Jones, Brunswick-Mayfield Recreation Center, PM Theodore Booth, PADDGM Frederick Harrison Sr., Bro. Arnie Walker and PM Lawrence Easter

Brunswick - On February 14, 2019, Brunswick Lodge No. 108 presented a monetary donation to the Brunswick-Mayfield Recreation Center in an effort to support future recreational programs for the youth in Brunswick County. Mr. Bernard Jones, Chairman, Brunswick-Mayfield Recreation Center, accepted the donation from WDDGM Willie M. Seward, 13th MD

A Call to Action

By WPM R. Sutton, III #13

Hampton - The Lord moves in mysterious ways, His wonders to perform. Those ways are not mysterious to Him, and may not be completely understood by all. Those of His believers and followers know that He uses the faithful Joe/Jane to accomplish miraculous works daily. Pride of Hampton #150's Worthy Matron, Mrs. Madeline R. Barnes was placed in the right place at the right time by The Grand Architect of the Universe to save another of His followers who was in extreme in jeopardy.

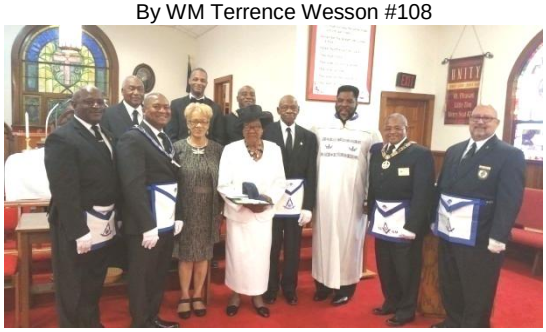
Mr. Irving Major, Mrs. Barnes' neighbor across the street from her home, had been working on his prize vintage car as he normally does, tweaking a bit here and there to assure it was as close to precision tuned as possible. Nothing out of the ordinary, just an average day.

Mrs. Barnes had just come home and was getting out of her car when she heard someone yelling, help, help, help. In turning around, she saw flames across the street and thought that a car was on fire. She ran across the street and saw that her neighbor, Mr. Major's clothes were on fire. She told him to drop and roll on the grass in an attempt to put out the flames. The flames grew stronger and now his skin was burning as his clothes continued to burn. In this instant she told him that she had to get his water hose to attempt to put the flames out as the fire grew more intense. Holding the water hose on him and attempting to extinguish the flames, she was simultaneously banging on the side of his house to alert his wife to the urgent situation. She had been preparing for a bath and when appraised of the urgency of this situation, she dialed 911 and made contact with the emergency service first responders. In almost no time at all a helicopter had landed on their little street and whisked Mr. Major off to Sentara Norfolk's Burn Unit. WM Barnes reflected afterwards, when it was all over, she was so nervous and couldn't calm herself down. The real facts were that while operating as an instrument under his guidance, direction and protection she had no fear and performed as directed by His hand.

ABOVE - Brothers assemble outside of Gilfield Baptist Church for a **Founders' Day Procession**.

Brunswick Lodge 108 Recognizes 50 Year Mason

By WM Terrence Wesson #108



Lawrenceville – Brunswick Lodge #108 recognized one of their members, Worshipful Past Master Henry Rice on achieving the distinction of serving as a Prince Hall Mason for 50 years during the regular service held at Mercy Seat R.Z.U.A. Church in Warfield, Virginia.

For half a century, WPM Rice has committed himself to the principles of the ancient and honorable institution of Prince Hall Masons W. District Deputy Grand Master Willie M. Seward Sr. 13th MD presented WPM Henry Rice with his 50th Year Masonic Pin and Certificate on behalf of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia.

WPM Rice stood proudly beside his wife and daughter as he was being pinned. The members of Brunswick Lodge #108 also presented WPM Rice with a Worshipful Past Master's Apron, gloves and baseball cap. WPM Rice's dedication and faithful service is a shining example for all Prince Hall Masons.

MWGM Townes Visits Almagro Lodge #217

By WDDGM Walter H. Davis #295

Danville - On Thursday, April 18, 2019, Most Worshipful Grand Master Richard Townes visited the 17th Masonic District at Almagro Lodge #217.

The Grand Chapter Session in Williamsburg, Virginia

Photos by Asst. Grand Photographer Ricky McKnight #28

Grand Lodge Session Agenda of Events for 2019

Monday, September 9, 2019
- 10:00 a.m. Grand Lodge Office Set-Up
- 4:00 p.m. Prepare kits

Tuesday, September 10, 2019
- 8:00 a.m. Prepare for Registration of the 144th Session

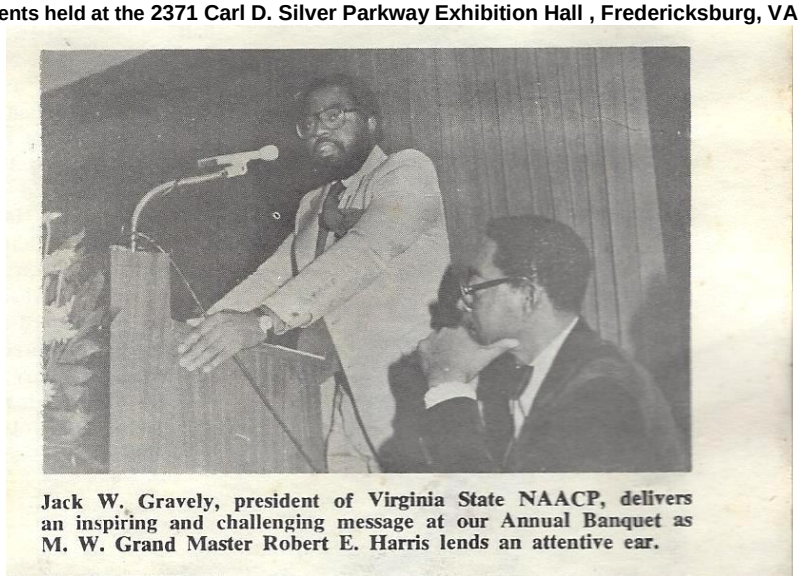
Wednesday, September 11, 2019
- 10:00 a.m. Training with Worshipful Masters, Treasurers, & Secretaries,
- 3:00 p.m. Registration & Credentials, close at 10 p.m.
- 7:00 p.m. **Prince Hall Day & Lodge of Sorrow**

Thursday, September 12, 2019
- 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 Townes
- 12:30 p.m. Grand Lodge called Off
- 1:30 p.m. Grand Lodge Called On
- 4:00 p.m. Grand Lodge Called Off
- 4:15 – 6:30 p.m. Committee meetings
- 7:00 p.m. **Grand Lodge Gospel Concert**

Friday, September 13, 2019
- 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
- 8:30 a.m. Final Credentials Report
- 9:25 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
- 4:00 p.m. Grand Lodge Called Off
- 7:00 p.m. **Grand Lodge Annual Banquet**

Saturday, September 14, 2019
- 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
- 9:45 a.m. Reception of Visitors from Sister Jurisdictions
- 10:00 a. m. Reception of Appendant Bodies
- 12:00 p.m. Reception of the Knights of Pythagoras
- 1:00 p.m. Grand Lodge Called Off
- 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 2371 Carl D. Silver Parkway Exhibition Hall , Fredericksburg, VA 22401**



Jack W. Gravely, president of Virginia State NAACP, delivers an inspiring and challenging message at our Annual Banquet as M. W. Grand Master Robert E. Harris lends an attentive ear.

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

"First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win." **Mahatma Gandhi**

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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