The Bee Hive

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

Summer 2020 **Volume 26, Number 2**

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

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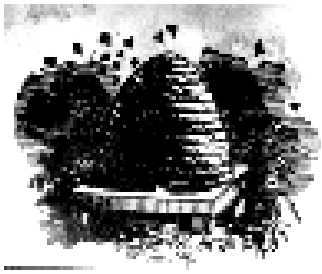

The Bee Hive

Vol. 26 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 assistance from Asst. Grand Marshall William H. Christian #65 presents Metropolitan Baptist Church of Petersburg Pastor Lamont A. Hobbs an Appreciation Award.

Mission Statement

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

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

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

The Bee Hive, Vol. 26 Number 2, July 2020. There is no charge for pictures. Please send all articles, ads, and pictures to the Editor at 2417 Osborne Rd. Chester, Virginia 23831 or e-mail at mccoygitlo@verizon.net. The Editor reserves the right to edit pictures, news items, and ads for publication. Please submit only expendable pictures. Deadline for news items for the Winter Issue is January 30th and July 30th for the Summer issue.
If you are not receiving the Bee Hive, contact the Secretary of YOUR LODGE. You can also download and copy your Bee Hive Magazine on-line from our Grand Lodge website at www.mwphglva.org.
The Bee Hive is the official publication of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia, Free & Accepted Masons, Inc. Mailing address: P.O. Box 14646, Richmond, Virginia 23221-4646 or call at (804) 359-1111 or fax (804) 359-8123.

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 forward in this Administration.

As Most Worshipful Grand Master (MWGM) of this Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia (MWPHGLVA), I want to thank each of you for your diligence in staying safe and healthy in the wake of the Coronavirus pandemic. As stated in the letter dated June 9, 2020, the safety of the Craft is and always will be a priority for this MWPHGL. You were also notified that the 2020 Grand Lodge Communication has been cancelled and because of the cancellation of the 2020 Communication, the Grand Lodge Officers shall retain their current positions until the next Grand Lodge Communication. The Subordinate Lodge Officers shall retain their current positions until the election cycle in 2021. You were further advised that the 2020 Golf tournaments originally scheduled for June and October 2020 were also cancelled.

Although the Governor has stated that Virginia is moving into Phase Three (3) of Opening on July 1, 2020, there are still restrictions that must be followed. The MWPHGL of Virginia is also reopening for **Masonic work on July 1, 2020** in conjunction with the mandates of the State of Virginia. I, MWGM Richard Townes urge the Craft to continue to wear masks, wash your hands frequently and remain physically (6 feet) apart from others. This virus has not changed or gone anywhere, and we can see that in the numbers. Since Virginia is slated to begin Phase three (3) of reopening on July 1, 2020, I as Most Worshipful Grand Master send you an optimistic and caustic warning. If there is a surge in COVID-19 cases we will go back to Phase 2 or even Phase 1 if necessary. I also want to advise all members of the Craft that if you do not feel that going to a meeting is in your best interest, you should notify the leaders of your particular Lodge that you do not feel safe and will not be attending. If you think that you are sick and do not need to be around other members, it is your duty to stay at home.

I continue to pray that you and your families stay safe and healthy as we continue to navigate these difficult times. No matter what circumstances you encounter, GOD is faithful, GOD is good, GOD will keep you, and GOD will bless you and work all things for your good in his GLORY.

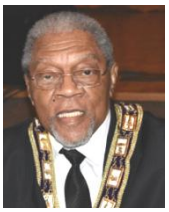
Initiating Safely, During the Pandemic

From the Editor

WPM L. J McCoy, Jr. #33

In this infinite body of the Universe, we find ourselves as travelers who have taken a rest on that heavenly body we call Earth. Here we eat, we drink, we explore our surroundings, and we become comfortable, until we discover we must continue our journey to that unknown land from which no man or woman returns.

The recent COVID-19 pandemic has added a reawakening to the vulnerability of mankind. While the Black Lives Matter movement reinstates MLK's "How long?", it reminds us of the need of the Supreme Architect of the Universe. In an effort to bring our fraternity, and the world closer together, it is only fitting and proper to highlight more brothers of this venerable institution.



Being impressed by seeing a St. John's Day Procession of Master Masons in his church, **Robert L. Chadwick, Sr**. (73) knew he had to join our Fraternity and was raised in Eastern Light Lodge #4 in 1981. MWPGM Billie L. Thompson, Sr. saw his potential and appointed him DDGM in 1992 and he served in that capacity for 20 years and was appointed WDDGM Emeritus by PGM Roger C. Brown #327 in 2016. He was elected Grand Worthy Patron in our Grand Chapter (2013-2015). Chad excelled in the Ritualistic Work of both OES and our Grand Lodge. WDDGM Chadwick passed on July 31, 2020.

WPM Richard P. Williams (84) Universal Lodge #1was raised in June 1968. After encouragement from the OES youths and a school teacher, Brother Williams decided to join the craft. Even after retiring 32 years with the Post Office, he then drove school buses for 14 years. Working with the Grand Lodge Social Action Committee under the late MWPGM Taylor, he still finds time to coach and travel with younger brothers to Grand Lodge Sessions.

Encouraged by his father, WPM **John C. Harrison** (78) decided to join the Prince Hall family and was raised in Viewtree Lodge #142 in Warrenton in 1979. He was appointed by MWPGM George H. Clemons #120 as DDGM in 2002. Brother Harrison had been an Assistance Principal and was the first Principal of Liberty High School in Warrenton for 28 years. Dedicating 39 years to educating, he decided to retire. After chairing the Grand Lodge Credentials and Education Committees, he was elevated to WDDGM Emeritus by MWPGM Roger C. Brown #327.

Sitting in the hot seat for the fourth time, **WPM William Thompson** (73) was raised in Henrico Lodge #41 in 1998. The South Richmond native, graduated from Maggie Walker High School then started working on high-rise buildings in the city and continues to work on them today. Although his father was a Mason, it was a close friend who convinced him to join the Craft.

WPM **Willie J. Brown** (88) served as the Grand Pursuivant for the late MWPGM Massenburg. Working at Steward Luggage in Petersburg for 43 years, he managed great accomplishments in the city. He worked with Brother Norman D. Conley #7 to build the temple on Halifax St. and established a relationship with a New York Lodge for an annual visitation which is in its 40th year. Raised in Pocahontas Lodge #7 in 1972, he looks forward to receiving his 50th year pin soon.

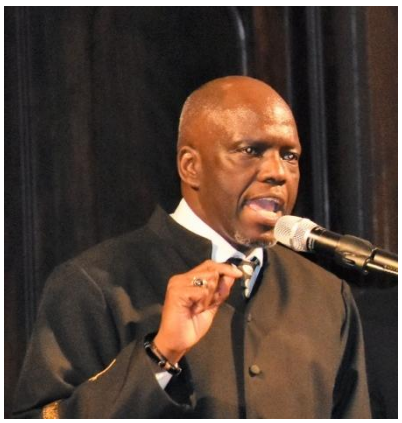
Raised in Commonwealth Lodge #81 in November 1975, WDDGM Emeritus **Raymond E. Reed, Sr.** (77) admired his Masonic friends who encouraged him to join. WPM Reed first served as Asst. WDDGM in 1992 under MWGM Willie E. Massenburg, appointed WDDGM in 1995 by MWGM Billie L. Thompson, Sr., and served on the Credentials Committee. After 37 years at WesVaCo, WPM Reed continued to serve God as a member of St. Paul Baptist Church in Henrico, Virginia.

WPM **Darryl Scott** (68) King George Lodge #314 joined Masonry 41 years ago. As a friend of W. Past DDGM George Jackson, he was convinced that this was something he wanted to be a part of. Working with Advance Auto, Brother Scott found time to work with his church, Little Arch Baptist, as an usher, as well as his lodge.

Although you would think seeing him driving MWGM Townes around the state in his 2019 GMC truck, his restored 1967 Chevelle is his favorite vehicle. WPM **Ray Green** (65) of Richmond Lodge #65 has driven MWGM Townes to over 100 lodges in the Jurisdiction of Virginia. The W. Grand Sr. Steward under MWGM Townes has a skill in converting antique cars into classics. Retired from Phillip Morris after 31 years, he found a love for Masonry from friends and their community giving.

Experiencing the trials and tribulations we live as African Americans in 2020, these Prince Hall brothers and many more give us a light at the end of the tunnel. As Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. related about reaching the Promise Land, that he may not get there with you, but all God's children will get to the Promise Land. Therefore, continuing a greater knowledge of ourselves makes this a stronger Prince Hall family and in this world of a coronavirus pandemic and racial tensions, let us embrace the lessons from Colin Kaepernick's kneeling to George Floyd's 8 minutes and 46 seconds, we can also make a difference.

"Good Trouble" – Check your Voter Registration status, and VOTE on November 3, 2020!



COVID -19 and Its Effects

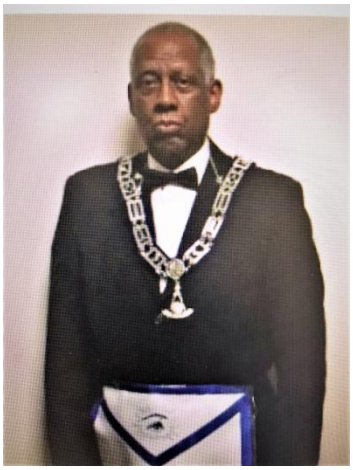
The following Prayer is sent on behalf of our Worshipful Grand Chaplain Rev. Leroy D. Evans Jr. #7

Gracious God,
We know that your love is infinite and that you care about all areas of our life.
In this time of economic insecurity, help us to trust that all of our security is in you.
Keep us mindful that you always have and always will provide for our needs.
Apart from you we can do nothing. God keep us in your will. Watch over our Most Worshipful Grand Master and the Prince Hall Family as we look towards the hills from whence cometh all of our help. Amen.

Philippians 4:6-7 Reminds us;
*"Be anxious **for** nothing, but **in** everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

What You Need To Know, Concerning the COVID-19 Pandemic

By WPM (Major General Retired) Melvin R Johnson, MD #13



Introduction:

At this time, most of you are already familiar with and know someone who has been directly affected by the Novel COVID-19 virus pandemic. There may be some who have experienced the tragedy of losing a family member, friend or co-worker to this disease. There has been a lot of information disseminated to the public by broadcasters, politicians, and healthcare experts. It is important to have a data-based working knowledge of how you should conduct and protect yourself and family during this time of health crisis.

Background:

The human coronaviruses have been around for tens of thousands of years. They tend to reside in birds, mammals such as pigs, bats, and pangolins (a scaly anteater found in China), and some primates. They were first identified in the mid-1960s and we have had recurrent outbreaks since then. Most recognized has been MERS-CoV—Middle East Respiratory Syndrome and SARS-CoV—Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, and now Novel COVID-19.

All types of coronaviruses cause respiratory symptoms. Most illnesses are relatively harmless. In fact, about one third of the common colds in children are caused by coronaviruses. The viruses continue to circulate throughout the global human population causing low level and sporadic infections in both adults and in children. So far, three appear to be more deadly and causes large widespread outbreaks; MERS, SARS, and now COVID-19.

Coronavirus COVID-19

The current pandemic from SARS-CoV-2, known as COVID-19, is believed to have originated in the city of Wuhan China, spreading throughout the Hubel Province, and then to the rest of the world. It's host animals appear to have been bats and pangolins. The jump to humans is thought to be through the purchasing of live animals in the city's "wet markets". The transmission from person-to-person has been through close contact, respiratory droplets such as sneezing and coughing; inanimate objects such as utensils, door knobs, packages, clothings, etc. The virus resides in the upper airways (nose, mouth, and throat) during which time the asymptomatic person can spread the virus to others before he or she becomes symptomatic themselves. However, the infected person is most contagious when they are the sickest. Because of its small size, the virus particles can penetrate all but the most enhanced protective barriers.

As with any viral infection, the person who has come into contact with virus may be asymptomatic up to 14 days. During this time spreading the virus to others, the typical, but not specific, symptoms tend to be a dry cough, fever, shortness of breath, fatigue, and /or muscle aches. Clinically, we have to rule out other common viruses first. Certainly, travel to areas of known outbreaks and contact with individuals who are known to be infected have to be considered.

From a diagnostic standpoint, testing for COVID-19 has been done when the common viruses have been ruled out and the noted risk factors are apparent. It is hoped that in the near future, in the USA, we will be in a better position to do widespread testing to more accurately assess the viral load within the American population.

In terms of prevention, it is highly recommended that you restrict travel from your residence at this time to a necessary minimal unless required to report for essential jobs, clean and sanitize everything you can around your home, restrict all outside visitors (to include packages, products, mail), self-isolate if you have been in contact with infected persons (that means secluded to a room from your family for 2 weeks using disposable items), wearing face masks and gloves when outside among others, avoiding mass gatherings (that means beaches, malls, churches, funerals), frequent hand washings and using sanitizers. These measures should be practiced until the healthcare experts and civil authorities have deemed that the public risk has passed or the likelihood of future infections is controlled.

As with any viral infection, co-morbid conditions such as advanced age, chronic health problems (such as obesity, hypertension, heart diseases, chronic lung diseases, drug abuse, and diabetes mellitus), and other conditions and diseases which challenges the immune system will affect the severity of the infection and recovery of those infected. There are no specific drugs to treat these viruses nor curative therapy at

this time. Many therapeutic regimens are being tried in the current pandemic (HIV drugs, anti-malarial drugs, antibiotics, and corticosteroids) but all of these carry significant side effects, and have not been proven to consistently work. The usual treatment regimen includes rest, hydration, anti-fever medications, control of co-morbid conditions, and .respiratory support (to include ventilators). The goal is to protect and support the person's immune defense systems in fighting off the virus, its damage, and recovering.

This particular virus will likely be with us into the future. How we respond now will determine how many people will be infected and how many will die. As we look to an uncertain future, we will need to have some protective measures in place to secure our safety such as social conduct, screening of certain workers, contact tracking, vaccinations, and "immune serums". This virus will definitely impact and change our lives going forward.

As with all great challenges, journeys and undertakings, remember who is the great "I AM". When you can do no more, you must PRAY. Peace be with all.

The Coronavirus Pandemic and the Pandemic of Racism

By Bro. Dr. (LTC Retired) Leon E. Andrews is also a retired clinical psychologist and a member of Capitol City Lodge #107

The Coronavirus Pandemic and the century's old pandemic of racial injustice are having an increased negative impact on global societies in ways that compound an already existing challenge, especially, dealing with mental health.

Daily activities of most Americans and the rest of the world have been interrupted and for our own safety, we have been mandated to shelter in place for an indefinite period of time. During this time we may begin to experience isolation, loneliness, depression, anxiety, fears about the loss of a job, food shortage or other collateral affects caused by extended isolation and restrictions. Therefore, this may be a good time to explore remaining options i.e., new hobbies and personal wellness activities or connect with family and friends or other supportive people using the various forms of social media or a simple phone call.

There is no doubt, that these current situations will cause our lives to be severely transformed in so many ways. Historically, for some portions of the nation's population, these events will disproportionately widen the gaps of disparity between the privileged, the poor, the disenfranchised, and the powerless. People of color are already experiencing racial discrimination, poverty, pre-existing physical or mental health risks. Therefore, they are more likely to be impacted at exponential rates in comparison to others nationally and internationally.

"We the people" must be reminded that we are in the struggle together for the soul of the nation and therefore must refrain from racial, cultural and tribal conflicts. An important question for all mankind at this critical point is how can we make this right and demonstrate a willingness to commit to a win-win outcome?

To the Membership of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia F. & A. Masons, Inc.

By WDDGM Lynwood E. Jones #27

In times like these (the global coronavirus infection or COVID-19), we all need words of comfort and certainty. What a joy it is to know there is a resting place within each of us, it is the Holy Spirit. After the crucifixion of Jesus and before He returned to our Father in Glory, Jesus left a comforter with us. In the book of John 14:16, Jesus revealed to us that He will ask the (our) Father, and He will give you (us) another advocate, to be with you (us) forever; that advocate is the Holy Spirit.

In our world today, there is much uncertainty about the future. Fears often trigger our emotions, including despair and anger. Much is played out on social media. In truth, there is much fear in our lives, and in our world. The unknown can seem dark and filled with danger, as the future is uncertain. We wonder if we can handle it. We wonder how we can endure. From our children's health to paying for college; from job security to who runs the country – No. 45; from prayers unanswered (yet, I continue to pray) for relationships under strain; we worry about what could happen and what we will do when it does. Psalm 27 is a song and a prayer of trusting God in the face of fears. We learn from this Psalm that our confidence is based on God's unending protection. The Lord is my light and my salvation – whom should I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life – of whom shall I be afraid?

My Brothers of the Craft, whatever you fear this day, go before the throne of grace in confidence because Christ has made the way for you. Cry out to God to give him your fears, worries, and cares. Ask for salvation and rescue and deliverance. Instead of despairing over what could or might happen, run to the One who holds the world in the palm of His hands.

Find your peace in the Knowledge that He is the Alpha and Omega, the One who knows the beginning and the end. Nothing in the future will surprise your God because it is all under His sovereign rule and care. And because you are His, all things will work toward your ultimate good (Romans 8:28). Brothers I hope these words can and will help you along the way during these times. I'm praying that God will keep his arms and protection around all of us. May God bless you and your family.

Addressing the 2020 Collegiate Sports Effects of COVID-19 (Quotes from the Richmond Times Dispatch Sports pages)

- **Karen Weaver** an associate clinical professor in Drexel's sports management program, "For us to look at (student-athletes) only as an economic opportunity is failing in the mission of higher education."
- Bowie State's **Clyde Doughty, Jr.** "It's almost as if the coronavirus itself is making the decisions right now – in sports and other realms."
- **Peggy Davis,** Virginia State University's associate vice president for intercollegiate athletics, "We make adjustments, I was telling our coaches. You guys, you go in and you think that you're going to play a man defense and then the opponent does something else and now you have to switch to a zone defense. So we're accustomed to making adjustments."

Our Tidewater School

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33

Hampton – It was a cold, but beautiful day in the Hampton neighborhood on February 8 for the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia School of Instruction.

Standing in for the traveling Most Worshipful Grand Master Richard Townes #235, Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master Donald S. Wilson #67 greeted 21 first time attendees. Active Naval Instructor Brother Rondell Minor #106 spoke for them where RW Sr. Grand Deacon Edward Lattimore, III #13 gave expressions of unity.

RW Deputy Grand Master Wilson then instructed RW Grand Lecturer-West Roger L. Redd, Sr. #109 and RW Grand Lecturer – East Curtis B. James, Sr. #67 to present the Committee on Work's floor demonstrations on the degree work. Acting as Worshipful Masters in the designated works, committee members WPM Jose Ortiz #34, WPM Travis Edmonds #7, and WPM Robert McDonald #233 conducted the proceedings.

After the demonstrations where Brother David Blount #48 played the role of a candidate, Brothers Jesse Evans #288, Robert Malory #94, and Calvin Wilds #13 observed matters of concern.

Following the roll call of lodges by RW Grand Secretary Stevie Gray #314, MWGM Townes presented Blooming Olive Lodge #94 for the lodge with the most members present and Raphael Lodge #162 with an award for the highest percentage of members present.

The 11th and 12th Masonic Districts' School

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33

Petersburg – At a chilling 20 degrees, traces of the mid-week snow lingered around the Halifax St. Masonic Temple's parking lot where the 11th and 12th Masonic Districts held their School of Instruction.

The February 20th School opened with Most Worshipful Grand Master Richard Townes #235 receiving greetings from over 130 brothers. After first time attendee Brother Mason Marshall #17 spoke, RW Jr. Grand Deacon Antonio Pride #43 was asked by the Grand Master to welcome all eight brothers.

Demonstrating the correct methods of Initiation with "candidate" Brother Ty Taylor #43, the Committee on Work members were led by WPM Travis Edmonds #7 and WPM Jose Ortiz #34 in the roles of Worshipful Master. After WPM Robert McDonald #233 assumed the role Sr. Deacon, Brothers Tony Hines #43, Gerald Jones #17, Gregory Goode #43, Carroll Mickens #7, Willie Lee #7, and Darrin Hill #43gained more understanding of the procedures.

Following the roll call of lodges present by RW Grand Secretary Stevie R. Gray #314, MWGM Townes awarded St. Stephens Lodge #247 with Highest Percentage of members present and Mt. Nebo Lodge #43 with the lodge with the Most Members present.

King George Lodge #314 Hosts the Last School

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33

King George – Opening the last School of Instruction of the 2019-20 Masonic Season, RW Grand Lecturer-W Roger L. Redd, Sr. #109 and RW Grand Lecturer-E Curtis B. James, Sr. #67appointed Committee on Work member WPM Larry Johnson #298 to open the session.

After formally receiving Most Worshipful Grand Master Richard Townes #235, twenty-four first time attendees stood before the altar as Brother Charles Baldwin #293 spoke for them and RW Sr. Grand Deacon Edward E. Lattimore, III #13 responded.

The Committee on Work then began their floor demonstrations with WPM's Larry Johnson #298, Jose Ortiz #34, and Michael Callaway #65 acting in the role of the Worshipful Master. Following the instructions of COW member Lawrence Harper #293, Brothers Steven Goode #298, George Chavis #293, Leandro Bennett #61, Eddie Key #58, James Manning #61, Israel Sanchez #330, Jaja O'Neil #161, and Dol Moore #298 enquired about the updates.

The roll call of lodges revealed that Triangle Lodge #293 received the award for the Most Members Present and Arlington Lodge #58 (pictured below) had the lodge with the Largest Percentage of members present.

Father & Son join MWGM Richard Townes at the Roanoke SOI

James E. Harrison, Sr. & Jr. of Danville Royal Lodge #104

Darian James & son Rickie James

Thank You

They did high blood pressure screening at the Hampton School of Instruction

Prince Hall Masonry – From Massachusetts to Virginia

By Bro. Jermaine J. Jones #67 – Originally written in 2004

Prince Hall Masonry has its origins in the town of Boston, Massachusetts. There, on March 6th of the year 1775 a man by the name of Prince Hall and 14 free African-American men were initiated into this ancient and honorable institution by Master John Batt of Military Lodge No. 441 which was attached to the 38th Foot Regiment of the British Army, who at the time were working under the authority of the Grand Lodge of Ireland. The British Army departed Boston on March 17th 1775 and upon leaving Brother Batt issued a permit to the fifteen brethren to meet as a lodge, bury their dead and to go into procession on St. John's Day; it was under this permit that African Lodge No. 1 was formed on July 3rd 1776 composed of Brother Prince Hall and the fourteen other brethren. These brothers worked faithfully under this permit until June 30th 1784 when Bro. Prince Hall petitioned the Grand Lodge of England (Moderns) for a charter. This request for a charter was granted on September 29th 1784, but due to the many conditions going on in the world at that time the charter was not received until April 29th 1787 and thus on May 6th 1787 African Lodge No. 459 was formally organized.

In 1797 African Lodge No. 459 began to exercise powers of a Grand Lodge by warranting lodges in other states namely Pennsylvania and Rhode Island. Now one might ask, "How is it that a regular lodge can start issuing warrants for the establishment of other lodges?" The answer is that by today's standards it can't be done, but at that time it was perfectly normal. Let us consider the case of Fredericksburg Lodge in Virginia, which warranted two lodges, one in Falmouth and another in Gloucester, which helped in the formation of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, A.F. & A.M.

In the year of 1813 the two rival Grand Lodges in England (Moderns and the Ancients) amalgamated into what is now known as the United Grand Lodge of England. It was during this merger that African Lodge No. 459, which had been renumbered to 370 in the 1790's, was erased from the rolls of England along with many other American lodges located in the states that were carried on the registries of both the Ancients and the Moderns Grand Lodges.

On June 26th 1827 African Lodge published in a newspaper its declaration of independence stating that "…we are, and ought by rights to be, free and independent of other lodges. We do, therefore, with this belief, publicly declare ourselves free and independent of any Lodge from this day, and that we will not be tributary, or be governed by any Lodge but our own." It is from this Grand Lodge, which is now known as the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, F & A.M. that all regular Prince Hall Grand Lodges can trace their lineage to more especially the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia.

The first lodge of African-Americans organized in the Commonwealth of Virginia was Universal Lodge No. 10 located in the city of Alexandria, which was originally chartered by the Hiram Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania in the year of 1845. This lodge later aided in the formation of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of D.C. in the year of 1848 and was No. 2 on their rolls. The second lodge organized in Virginia was Rising Sun No. 8 in the city Norfolk, followed by Morning Star No. 11 of Portsmouth and Eastern Light No. 12 also in Norfolk. These three lodges were all chartered in the year of 1865 by the Most Worshipful Union Grand Lodge of Maryland, which operated under the authority of the National Grand Lodge. These four lodges operated peacefully in Virginia under different jurisdictions until October 29th 1865 when a meeting was held amongst them to discuss the organization of a Grand Lodge within the state of Virginia. After petitioning the National Grand Lodge the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the State of Virginia, later known as the Union Grand Lodge, was erected on February 20th 1866, with Anthony A. Portlock as its first Grand Master and with the following subordinate lodges Universal No. 1, Rising Sun No. 2, Morning Star No. 3 and Eastern Light No. 4.

Not long after the formation of the first Grand Lodge of Prince Hall Masons in Virginia there was yet another Grand Lodge formed after a committee from Pennsylvania hailing from the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania traveled to the city of Petersburg, made seventy-two men Masons and divided them into three lodges of twenty four members each. These three lodges were J.B. Trusty No.1, Virginia Lodge No.2 and Abraham No.3. On October 14th 1867 these three lodges out of Petersburg organized the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient York Masons of Virginia with James H. Jones as its first Grand Master. Lincoln Lodge No.4, which was located in the city of Alexandria, operating under a warrant issued by the First Colored Grand Lodge of Maryland in 1865, later joined this Grand Lodge.

These two grand lodges met on December 16th 1875 in the city of Petersburg and consolidated into what is now known as the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia, F. & A.M., Inc. with a total of thirty-five lodges (Union GL numbering 18 subordinate lodges and the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge with 17) and with Bro. James E. Fuller, who was a former slave and quarter-master in the First United States Colored Cavalry during the Civil War and also Norfolk's first black councilman during Reconstruction, as its first Grand Master.

Their have been several mainstream Freemasons who have aided Prince Hall Masonry in Virginia namely Bro. John Dove who served many years as the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, A.F. & A.M and author of the famous Dove's Textbook which was used by the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia as their guide in the 1800's. Another avid supporter of Prince Hall Masonry was Bro. Allen E. Roberts, the famed Masonic author and historian, who was also a member of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, A.F. & A.M and the namesake of its Library and Museum.

For over 100 years there has existed in Virginia two regular grand lodges who though they recognized the existence of each other there was never any type of formal recognition exchanged until just recently. In November of 2001 the MWGL of Virginia, A.F. & A.M at its 223rd

Session voted in favor of extending Limited Recognition to the MWPHGL of Virginia, F. & A.M., Inc. It was after this that on June 12th 2002 the United Grand Lodge of England formally recognized the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia. Though there was mutual recognition between the two Grand Lodges there was still no visitation allowed until 2003 when a "visitation compact" was drawn up by committees from both Grand Lodges and the granting of Full Recognition was voted on by them at their annual sessions. Needless to say both parties voted in favor of Full Recognition and on the 11th of January 2004 MWGM Franklin D.R. Lyons, Sr. of the MWPHGL of Virginia and MWGM James Milton Scearce, Jr. of the MWGL of Virginia signed and ratified the Visitation Compact between both Grand Lodges.

In Allen E. Roberts lecture entitled "Who are these Prince Hall Masons?" he closes with the question…We claim that there is universality in Freemasonry – but is there? I can honestly say with much pride that in the great state of Virginia there is!

References: Black Square & Compass by Joseph A. Walkes, Jr., A History of Freemasonry Among Negroes in America by Harry E. Davis, Prince Hall Life and Legacy by Charles H. Wesley, Harris Masonic Textbook for Virginia Masons by Dr. H.L. Harris, Norfolk Highlights 1584-1881 by George H. Tucker, Masonic Trivia and Facts by Allen E. Roberts, Who Are These Prince Hall Masons? By Allen E. Roberts, Proceeding from PHGL of Pennsylvania 1866 – 1868, Proceedings from PHGL of Virginia 1870 -1877, 1996 – 2002, and Proceeding from GL of Virginia 2001

Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia, F. & A.M., Inc.
Est. December 16th, 1875 Past Grand Masters

List compiled by WPM Jermaine J. Jones, #67

Year Served	Name	City
1875 – 1876	James E. Fuller #2	Norfolk
1876 – 1878	James H. Jones #8	Petersburg
1878 – 1879	Thomas G. Gladman #12	Lynchburg
1879 – 1881	W.H. Hughes #23	Richmond
1881 – 1882	Lewis H. Carter #27	Richmond
1882 – 1884	Thomas Cayton #20	Charlottesville
1884 – 1886	George H. Dabney #17	Petersburg
1886 – 1888	James H. Johnston #6	Richmond
1888 – 1889	Samuel Kelly #2	Norfolk
1889 – 1891	James H. Hayes #28	Richmond
1891 – 1893	A.B. Campbell #2	Norfolk
1893 – 1894	John B. Montgomery #11	Alexandria
1894 – 1896	Benjamin A. Graves #28	Richmond
1896 – 1898	Americus M. Jones #4	Norfolk
1898 – 1900	Robert E. Jones #44	Richmond
1900 – 1902	Peter B. Ramsey #7	Petersburg
1902 – 1904	J.B. Evans #24	Lynchburg
1904 – 1906	William H. Gaskins #62	Puntogeague
1906 – 1908	Harris Barrett #84	Hampton
1908 – 1910	George Ramsey #67	Norfolk
1910 – 1912	J. Cornelius Carter #59	South Boston
1912 – 1913	P.F. Morris #77	Lynchburg
1913 – 1915	J.W. Barnes #34	Portsmouth
1915 – 1917	L.L. Downing #193	Roanoke
1917 – 1919	Wilson F. Foreman #2	Norfolk
1919 – 1921	William F. Grasty #26	Danville
1921 – 1923	C. Bernard Gilpin #107	Richmond
1923 – 1925	J.C. Robertson #41	Richmond
1925 – 1927	S.S. Morris #34	Portsmouth
1927 – 1929	Hamlin Nelson #84	Hampton
1929 – 1931	Irvin W. Taylor #26	Danville
1931 – 1932	C.S. Bassett #84	Hampton
1932 – 1934	L.L. Berry #102	Portsmouth
1934 – 1936	W.W. Lee #61	Fredericksburg
1936 – 1938	J.E. Filford #66	Norfolk
1938 – 1940	J.H. Blackwell Jr. #23	Richmond
1940 – 1942	W. C. Dudley #120	Salem
1942 – 1944	T. K. Anderson #13	Hampton
1944 – 1946	A. J. Smith #90	Newport News
1946 – 1948	E. A. Norrell #267	Richmond
1948 – 1950	David Alston #87	Norfolk
1950 – 1951	I. J. McGuffin #59	South Boston
1951 – 1954	David Muckle #102	Portsmouth
1953 – 1956	W. L. Ransome #23	Richmond
1956 – 1958	Howard Z. Plummer #271	Portsmouth
1958 – 1960	H. G. Hairston #46	Portsmouth
1960 – 1962	William W. Pierce #284	Chase City
1962 – 1964	E.S. Brown #193	Roanoke
1964 – 1966	Roswell A. Taylor, Sr. #32	Alexandria
1966 – 1968	L. Carey #25	Lynchburg
1968 – 1970	J. Henry Evans #101	Emporia
1970 – 1972	Bossie B. Simmons #33	Hopewell
1972 – 1974	J. Luvelle Taylor #193	Roanoke
1974 – 1976	Landon H. White #107	Richmond
1976 – 1978	James V. Washington #80	Norfolk
1978 – 1980	Thomas E. Minor #44	Richmond
1980 – 1982	Robert E. Harris, Sr. #26	Richmond
1982 – 1984	Robert G. Davis #305	Clifton Forge
1984 – 1986	Pittman C. Rock, Sr. #125	Bowling Green
1986 – 1988	Charles C. Crawford, Jr. #67	Norfolk
1988 – 1990	Armistead G. Williams #80	Norfolk
1990 – 1992	Willie E. Massenburg #15	Petersburg
1992 – 1994	Billie L. Thompson, Sr. #46	Portsmouth
1994 – 1996	Lionell Spruill, Sr. #189	Chesapeake
1996 – 1998	William F. Milton, Jr. #58	Arlington
1998 – 2000	Gilbert Tyler #27	Richmond
2000 – 2002	George H. Clemons #120	Salem
2002 – 2004	Franklin D.R. Lyons, Sr. #324	Richmond
2004 – 2006	Kenneth Hill #284	Chase City
2006 – 2008	Curtis S. Vaughan, Jr. #67	Norfolk
2008 – 2010	Larry D. Christian #253	West Point
2010 – 2012	Herman Eggleston, Jr. #146	Keysville
2012 – 2014	Shelton Riddick #323	Portsmouth
2014 - 2016	Roger C. Brown #327	Richmond
2016 – 2018	Paige D. Cherry #3	Portsmouth
2018 to present	Richard Townes #235	Clarksville

Note: Several of these lodges have surrendered their charters. These lodges include J. B. Trusty #8, Covenant #12, Henry #59, Roman Eagle #77, Hampton Royal #84, and John W. Barnes #305. Dunbar #193 is now Alleghany-Dunbar Lodge #109.

Most Worshipful Past Grand Master Robert E. Harris #34 on Membership –
….. maybe you are familiar with one of your upstanding church members, or a fellow employee, or a relative and just ask him, "What do you think about the Masons?" And let the conversation go from there.

Over $223,000 in Scholarships for 2020

By RW Grand Secretary Stevie R. Gray #314

For a record high, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia awarded 298 scholarships to students advancing their education. Most Worshipful Grand Master Richard Townes #235 stated this is the largest distribution of scholarships in the history of this Grand Lodge.

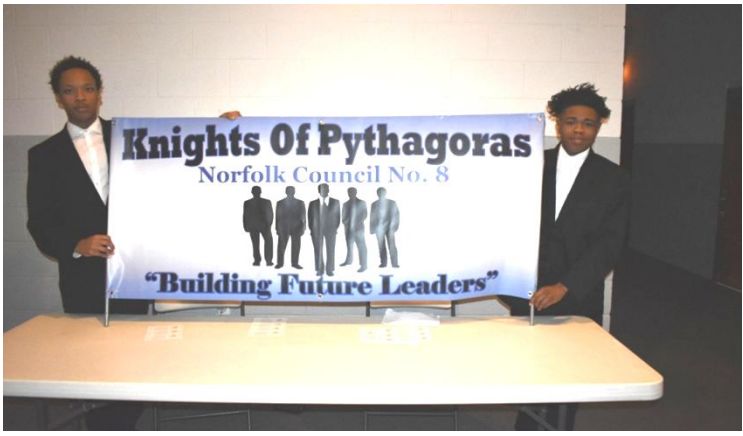
77 Masonic graduating seniors received $1000.00 each, 83 continuing college students received $280.00 each, and 137 public students received $900.00 each.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has brought the original scholarship programs to a stand-still, MWGM Townes has employed a strategic plan to fund higher education. Depending on lodge membership, assessments were submitted from each lodge to generate scholarship distributions. This plan resulted in overwhelming funds to support the students.

Totaling over $223,540, MWGM Townes encouraged the students to be more productive in order to achieve excellence in this challenging society where educated lives matter.

Our Youth, Our Future – Their Lives Matter!

The KOP at the Hampton School



Hampton – Sir Knights Cornelius Johnson and Thomas Harris of Norfolk Council #8 came to the Tidewater School of Instruction in Hampton in support of their Knights of Pythagoras Council #8.

The Sir Knights were soliciting donations and selling tickets for their 2020 Black History Prayer Breakfast for their London Blvd. Masonic Hall event in Portsmouth.

Brothers and Sisters are encouraged to give their support to all of our youth events.

KOP supports the OES Hawkins Blowe Anniversary

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33

Petersburg – Sr. Knight Advisor Joel Mitchell #300 Oklahoma Holding Lodge, Asst. Knight Advisor Milton Montgomery #7, and Asst. Knight Advisor Lawrence Taylor #7 encouraged the Luke N. Robinson Council #9 Knights of Pythagoras to support the Hawkins Blow Youth Department's Anniversary Banquet.

Meeting 11 AM on the 2nd Saturday of each month at the Halifax Temple in Petersburg, the Adult Advisors were pleased that over 10 young men attended the event.

The KOP State Director

On October 26, 2013, Most Worshipful Past Grand Master, the Honorable Shelton Riddick appointed Worshipful Past Master Carl Albritton (#298) as State Director, Knights of Pythagoras (KOP). I'm humbled by this appointment and I pledge to you that I shall do my best to live up to what I know are your high expectations.

Today, the challenges facing our young men are greater than ever. Harsh realities such as gang violence, substance abuse and teenage pregnancies compound the most critical time in a young man's life.

Consider some of these facts and stats: Young Black men (across the board) score below their counterparts in other racial and ethnic groups when it comes to graduation rates, literacy rates and college preparedness. African American and Latino children are three and a half times more likely to grow up in poverty than white children with far less access to quality teachers, schools with high levels of academic achievement, after-school programs and safe spaces to learn and play. 80 percent of black fourth graders are reading below reading level and 56 percent are functionally illiterate. Nationally, African American male students in grades K-12 were nearly 2½ times as likely to be suspended from school in 2000 as white students. Only 14% of African American eighth graders score at or above the proficient level. 54% of African Americans graduate from high school, compared to more than three quarters of white and Asian students. These results reveal that many of our young men cannot understand or evaluate text, provide relevant details, or support inferences about the written documents they read.

These statistics underscore a crisis; however, there is hope. According to a recent survey, mentoring works. Ninety-eight percent of the youngsters who were mentored did not drop out of school, 95 percent did not join gangs and 98 percent of boys did not become parents while they were teenagers. Our KOP program can be a difference maker in a young man's life and every young man deserves to have a mentor to help them weigh the consequences of their actions, review their options and make sound choices.

My brothers; behind every fact is a face; behind every statistic is a story; and behind every catch phrase is a young man whose future will be lost if something is not done immediately to change his reality.

We talk a lot about supporting our youth, but now is the time for ACTION not just words!!! I'm going to ask you to dig down deep in your pockets to help fund our programs, training, trips, t-shirts, and whatever else is needed to take care of our youth. I need you to carve out some time in your busy schedules to spend some quality time with our youth knights, to mentor, guide, and be that positive role model that they need at this critical stage in their lives. Our program cannot achieve success without the support of each and every Prince Hall Mason in the Jurisdiction of Virginia.

I have chosen the theme **Inspiring Excellence - Changing A Life** and Donald Lawrence's **There is a King in You** as our song. I truly look forward to working with you to inspire our youth and awaken the King in each of them.

Eastern Star Youth Have Anniversary Dinner

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33 & Asst. GDDO Yvette Robinson OES

Petersburg – On March 1, 2020, the Hawkins Blowe Youth Department #115 had their Anniversary Dinner with the theme "Celebrating Our Youth Past, Present, and Future".

While H. B. Youth Advisor Sister Myra Shelton coordinated the event, the program was conducted by MC Mrs. Julia Riddick with assistance from Miss TyNasia Taylor, Master Demond Middleton, Miss Taliyah Steele, Miss Kimora Taylor, and Miss Kamiyah Artis in supporting roles.

The H. B. Youth Department is an Order of the Eastern Star group of young women and men ages 4 – 16 which meets at 7 PM on the second Friday of each month to discuss programs and learn issues on the Eastern Stars and Masons. Organized in 1995 by Sisters Bland Peterson, Ada Howard, and Yvette Robinson OES, they continue to guide our youth to higher standards.

After the introduction of Grand Chapter and Grand Lodge Officers to include the Grand Worthy Matron G. Sylvia Jackson and Most Worshipful Grand Master Richard Townes #235, the Petersburg High School Gig Band under the direction of Music Director Mr. Clyde Boswell with Ms. Arlanda Howard and Ms. Donna Lundy assisting rendered the entertainment.

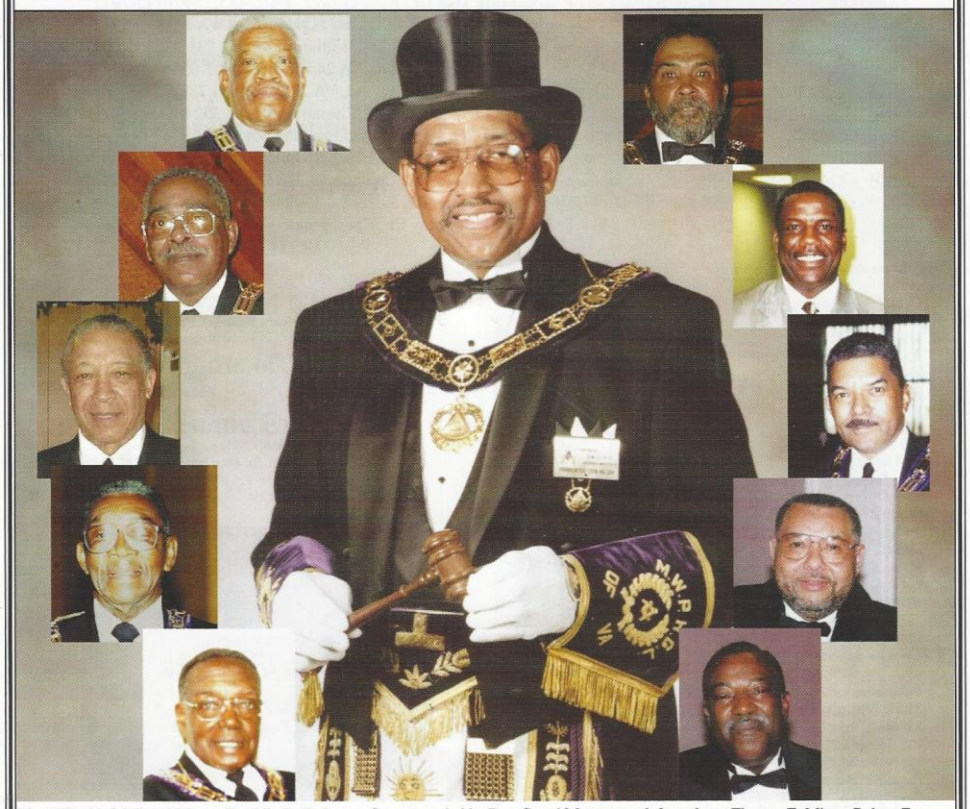
Closing remarks by MWGM Townes gave praise to the Hawkins Blowe Youth and the Advisors for an outstanding program that encouraged them to continue to promote our youth.

From Our Archives

The Bee Hive

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

Spring 2003 Volume 12, Number 1



Most Worshipful Grand Master Franklin D. R. Lyons, Sr. surrounded by Past Grand Masters top left on down Thomas E. Minor, Robert E. Harris, Sr., Robert G. Davis, Charles C. Crawford, Jr., Willie E. Massenburg and top right on down Billie L. Thompson, Sr., Lionell Spruill, Sr., William F. Milton, Jr., Gilbert "Gil" Tyler, and George H. Clemons.

1st Masonic Bowl Football Classic
Virginia Union University vs. Sheppard College at Hovey Field
Saturday, September 13, 2003 in Richmond, VA

A Thought for Consideration

From our Grand Secretary Isaac S. Hughes

It's hard to earn and easy to lose. Where it exists, it can work magic in mobilizing people to achieve goals. More important than strategies and tactics, more critical than policies, procedures, and processes, it is the most essential, and yet fragile, element for success in any organization.

This fragile element is TRUST.

Every organization deals with challenges, encounters the unexpected and faces setbacks. It's exactly at times like these that trust becomes most important – when the values of an organization are tested; when people must struggle to keep the faith.

Trust only exists in organizations when leaders are trustworthy. But how do they become worthy of trust? By demonstrating a few imperatives.

Tell the truth. When something negative happens, explain the reasons for it. People have a right to know the bad news as well as the good news.

Explain the decision making process. Often people don't understand why decisions are made. Leaders have an obligation to carefully explain how, and not just why, a certain action has been taken.

Answer questions. Give people the opportunity – in Lodge meetings, Schools of Instruction, Annual Communications, Master and Warden Councils, work sessions – to ask the leaders of the organization – including all elected and appointed team members – why they acted the way they did. This is the only real way to squash rumors and set the record straight.

Reinforce the values of the organization. Candor, openness, and clarity serve to reinforce the organization's core values and principles.

By entrusting people with information, practicing disclosure, and showing honesty, leaders can actually make themselves more trustworthy in their organizations. In return, people will respond with dedication, commitment, and renewed belief in their organization.

MWGM Townes Makes 112th Lodge Visit

By Asst. Grand Photographer Ricky McKnight #26

Middleburg - MWGM Richard Townes made a record breaking visit to Metropolitan Lodge #161. In fulfilling an obligation to the brothers, the Grand Master made his 112th Subordinate Lodge Visitation on February 18th .

This visit breaks a Grand Master's record set by MWPGM Larry D. Christian's #253 Visitation Record.

W. District Deputy Grand Master Emeritus Brown

By WPM Glen Motley #128

Disputanta – Blessed in reaching four score and ten years of age, Worshipful District Deputy Grand Master Floyd M. Brown, Sr. #128 found the steps of St. James Lodge #128 had a brotherly comfort and was raised there in 1955.

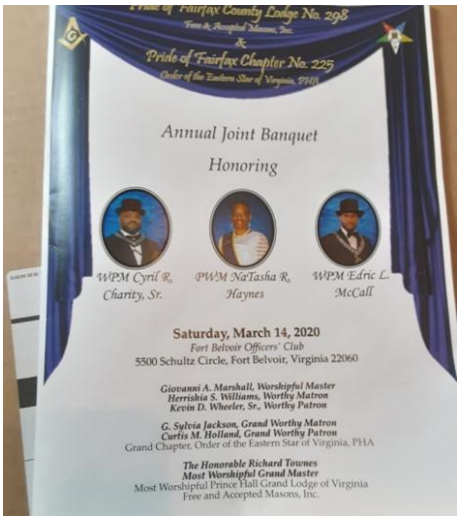
During the administration of the late MWPGM Pittman C. Rock, Sr. (1984 to 1986), Brother Brown was appointed W. District Deputy Grand Master of the 11th Masonic District.

On February 6, 2020, Most Worshipful Grand Master Richard Townes #235 journeyed to St. James and decided it was most fitting and proper to bestow the title of W. District Deputy Grand Master Emeritus upon him during their regular lodge meeting.

WDDGM Emeritus Brown was elated when the Grand Master then elevated his son Asst. DDGM Keith R. Brown to the position of W. District Deputy Grand Master of the 11th Masonic District.

MWGM Townes at Pride of Fairfax Banquet

By W Asst. Grand Photographer Ricky McKnight, Sr. #28



Fairfax – On Saturday March 14, 2020, Pride of Fairfax Lodge #298 and Pride of Fairfax Chapter #225 OES held their Annual Joint Banquet.

During the event, Worshipful Master Giovanni A. Marshall #298, WM Herrishia S. Williams, Kevin D. Wheeler, Sr., and the lodge honored WPM Cyril R. Charity, Sr. #298, WPM Edric L. McCall #298, and PWM NaTasha R. Haynes. Personalized shadow box awards were presented to the three recipients.

The lodge and chapter were pleased to receive Most Worshipful Grand Master Richard Townes #2235, Grand Worthy Matron G. Sylvia Jackson, and Grand Worthy Patron Curtis M. Holland to the event also.

Joint Black History Program of Hilaal Temple and Court

Chesterfield – Hilaal Court #218 and Hilaal Temple #229 had their first African American Celebration at the VFW Post 2239 on February 23, 2020.The Daughters of the Hilaal Court joined with the volunteers of the Hilaal Temple to deliver a historic program for the local community to have a better understanding of the accomplishments of the Chesterfield NAACP and other civil rights organizations.

While Daughter Robin Perry of Court #218 and Illustrious Potentate Derrick Nesbitt of Hilaal Temple #229 recognized the importance of the African American Program, they employed the support of the local community activist to motivate the local community.

Serving a dinner of Virginia ham, fried chicken, creamed corn, pasta salad, and potato salad, the program of events continued with spoken word by Toney Cobb, dance by Shames Todd & Adrienne Jones, and music by Rodney Fowides.

After introduction of the speaker by Daughter Tonya Campbell, WPM L. J. McCoy #33 spoke on Dr. Carter G. Woodson's "Mis-education of the Negro". He cited how we were taught subjects that were not relevant to developing our creative abilities and that we should pursue our goals as skilled and creative individuals.

He concluded that we must always include the Almighty in our plans.

Grand Lodge Session for 2021 Agenda of Events

Monday, September 13, 2021
- 10:00 a.m. Grand Lodge Office Set-Up
- 4:00 p.m. Prepare kits

Tuesday, September 14, 2021
- 8:00 a.m. Prepare for Registration of the 144th Session

Wednesday, September 15, 2021
- 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 16, 2021
- 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 17, 2021
- 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 18, 2021
- 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 scheduled to be held at the Double Tree Hilton Richmond Midlothian 1021 Koger Center Richmond, VA 23235**

September 1985 – The candidate for Lt. Governor L. Douglas Wilder spoke at the Grand Lodge Session in Roanoke. The late RW Grand Secretary Charles Harris on left and the late MWGM Pittman C. Rock, Sr. on right.

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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