The Bee Hive

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

Winter 2022 Volume 29, Number 1

"Prince Hall Masons, Making a Difference"

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Most Worshipful Grand Master Donald S. Wilson #67 and his wife
Grand Worthy Matron Sandra A. Wilson

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

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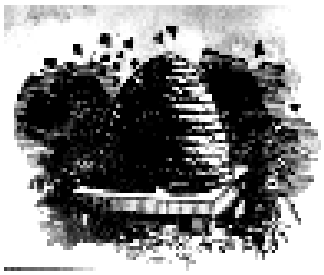

The Bee Hive

Vol. 29 No. 1

THE PRINCIPLES FOR WHICH WE STAND

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

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Most Worshipful Grand Master Donald S. Wilson #67 (left) addresses the Brothers at the first School of Instruction of 2021at the Forest Park Country Club in Martinsville with RW Grand Lecturer Larry Johnson #298 (center).

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Mission Statement

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

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

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

The Bee Hive, Vol. 29 Number 1, February 2022. 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.

Donald S. Wilson

Campbell Lodge #67

The 81st Most Worshipful Grand Master of the
Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of VA. F & AM, Inc.

Brethren, as we were engaged in a private ceremony, during our Grand Lodge Session, my family and other brothers could not be present to hear my presentation to the session. Allow me here to publicly restate by giving honor to them and especially to my sweetheart, Grand Worthy Matron Sandra A. Wilson my wife. She is my wife of 35 years of marriage and has supported me in my endeavors over the past 33 years that I have been in Masonry. With our Heavenly Father guiding me and the family behind me, there was no way that I could materially err, in my endeavors. So I would like to express my thanks to my family for putting up with me and also to you for offering me your support.

Who would have imagined that back in 1988, as I was being raised, by the strong grip of a Master Mason or the Lion's Paw, from a dead level to a living perpendicular on the angle of a square on the five points of Fellowship, by the then Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master Armistead G. Williams of Progressive Lodge #80, was also a MWPGM would have resulted in that Installation Ceremony that took place on September 18, 2021. Thanks "AG" I made it.

Back, at that time I didn't even know the definition of a Deputy Grand Master. I was scared and nervous. I was in, what was known as a "Hog Killing – there were 17 of us". And to us old guys, I received three degrees in one day which started at 8:00 AM and ended around 7:30 PM that evening – I was worn out.

MWPGM Curtis S. Vaughan, Jr. #67 took me under his wings and began to groom me on how to become a good and knowledgeable Master Mason. He and the late MWPGM Charles C. Crawford, Jr. #67 would always remind me, when I was slipping on my work that Campbell Lodge #67 does not have any inept Masons. Thanks for staying on my back and making me learn the work.

I have to thank those that I was in a clique with as well for my tutelage. My other "Masonic Daddies Clique" included WPM R. Hall #93, WPM J. Tabron #93, WPM E. Parker #139 and WPM Tucker #69. These were elderly brothers who did nothing but walk and talk Masonry all day and anytime you desired. Some have gone on to their reward, but not forgotten. Thanks "Pops" for all that you brothers have done for me.

Special thanks go out to MWPGM Billie L. Thompson, Sr. #46 who gave me my first Grand Lodge appointment to the Social Action Committee. Thanks you sir for all that you have done for me and all that you still do to support me.

Also, my very special thanks goes out to a young man, MWPGM Lionell Spruill, Sr. #189 that made my 1st dream in Masonry come to fruition, when he appointed me to the Committee on Work. An appointment I held for 13 years, before being elected to RW Grand Lecturer of the Eastern District. Thanks for all that you have done for me and still do to support me.

Another special thanks to the late WDDGM Robert L. Chadwick, Sr. #4, WPADDGM Robert Garris #80 and RWPGD Ronald Carter #92 who kept me motivated and encouraged me constantly to keep my eyes on the prize. I will forever remember you brothers.

I also humbly thank my lodge, Campbell #67, its members and my District (the 1st Masonic District) for all the support given me and for standing by me during my ascension to the Grand East.

I am fully aware that of the tremendous responsibilities and duties of the office of Grand Master. I cannot promise that this will be a golden year, but I do pledge to put forth my best effort for the welfare of this fraternity and the entire Masonic family. I will continue to uphold this organization's highest standards of which we are accustomed.

This New Year brings a new administration to the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia and we will be "Prince Hall Masons, Making A Difference" in everything we do.

Brothers I need your help, guidance and support, as we try to get back into the swing of things from this coronavirus/pandemic situation. Some of us are still hesitant in coming back to the lodges and being in large groups. We must put our trust in the Lord and He will take care of us and continue to guide us through these trying times. Neither you, nor I have any idea of what is in store for us with this Delta and Omicron Variant that is upon us. The health and safety of all members will be my constant concern now and in the future.

My deepest sympathy goes out to all who have lost love ones during these trying times and we should all be on our knees thanking our Heavenly Father for sustaining us through it all. For we know, He does not place anything upon us that we can't bear.

My Brothers, we are bound by the Constitution of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia, framed and ratified by you. This administration will follow one set of rules and regulations – the Constitution.

The Ancient Landmarks will not be infringed upon by any member of the Craft, whatever your position or title. The rule and line applies to all members of the Prince Hall Family.

Finally, allow me to express my sincere appreciation to the jurisdiction for the confidence reposed in me as Most Worshipful Grand Master. I accept the responsibility and challenge that rests upon my shoulders. From time to time, you may be called upon to serve for a specific time and I earnestly request your support and cooperation in making us "**Prince Hall Masons, Making a Difference**."

From the Editor

WPM L. J McCoy, Jr. #33

There have been momentous events in the historic evolvement in the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia Free and Accepted Masons, Inc. which include the meeting of the United Grand Lodge and the Ancient York Grand Lodge which met in 1875 in the City of Petersburg to form the combine Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Ancient York Masons now the present Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia Free and Accepted Masons, Inc.; then Richmond Chapter OES #1 met with six other chapters on November 28, 1901 in Richmond to organize the Grand Chapter of Eastern Star Prince Hall Affiliate of Virginia; and now the first husband and wife team serve as the Most Worshipful Grand Master and Grand Worthy Matron in the state of Virginia.

The historic installation of Most Worshipful Grand Master Donald Stanley Wilson Campbell Lodge #67 and his wife Sandra Arlene Wilson OES Adah Chapter #20 Prince Hall Affiliate as leaders of our Masonic bodies was truly a first as a husband and wife team serving simultaneously as leaders in the state of Virginia.

Our present Grand Master is a 1953 product of Savannah, Georgia where he attended Butler Elementary, graduated from A. E. Beach Senior High School and then attended Tidewater Community College – Fire Science. Following four years in the Naval Reserve from 1974 to 1978, he received an honorable discharge as Petty Officer 3rd Class.

In June of 1974, he joined the Civil Service as a Federal firefighter at the world's largest Naval Installation in Norfolk, Virginia. During his career he advanced to Fire Lieutenant, Fire Captain, Battalion Fire Chief and Regional Shift Commander.

During his military and employment experiences, he was influenced by Masons who were doing charitable works in the community. He then petitioned and joined Campbell Lodge #67 in Norfolk on September 10, 1988. After being appointed to the Grand Lodge Social Action Committee in 1992 by MWPGM Billie L. Thompson #46, he was next appointed to the Committee on Works in 1994 by MWPGM Lionell Spruill, Sr. #189 which he held for 13 straight years. He then ran for, and won the position of the Right Worshipful Grand Lecturer of the East.

While he and his future bride met as they were employed at the Naval Station Fire Department, their Masonic relationship developed as she realized she needed a presence in the Order of the Eastern Star for her to attend events with her Masonic husband. Sister Wilson petitioned and joined Adah Chapter #20 OES PHA in 1991. Appointed to her first position in the Grand Chapter as Grand District Deputy Organizer of District #2 overseeing 10 chapters, she was also responsible for four youth departments.

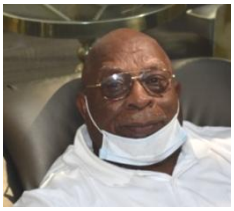
Over his course as a firefighter, our MWGM has touching memories that have compelled him to seriously recognize his responsibilities to the community. He recalls rescuing a 5-year-old child from a burning apartment building who was trapped on the second floor of the structure. Sustaining on-the job injury during the rescue, he felt blessed in preserving a future of the young child.

Addressing her most memorable OES experience, Grand Worthy Matron Wilson was pleased that she got installed on July 25, 2021 as the 60th Grand Worthy Matron for the Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star. In retrospect, MWGM Wilson most memorable Masonic experience was on September 18, 2021 when he was installed as the 81st Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia Free and Accepted Masons, Inc.

While MWGM Wilson theme is "Prince Hall Masons Making a Difference", GWM Wilson theme "Working Together for a Better Future" reflects the unity of our two orders. It therefore remains our obligation as Prince Hall Masons to make their request a reality. Working closely within the length of our cable tow, we can guarantee the blessings from the Grand Master of the Universe that we have in our Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter leadership.

We continue Our On-going Series of

Working for Perfection



Raised in Prince Hall Military Lodge #140 in Germany in 1974, WPM **Joseph A. Staton** (83) demitted to Campbell Lodge #67 in 1983. WPM Staton served 22 years in the Army after which he was employed by the US Postal Service for 17 years. He now finds time to serve on the Chesapeake Mayor's Commission on Veterans Affairs.

Earning three college degrees – two undergrad degrees from Thomas Edison University in Nuclear Engineering Technology and a master's in engineering management from George Washington University, WPM **Willie Lee Wright, Jr.** (60) was raised in 2006 in Morning Star Lodge #3. Brother Wright has served the Grand Lodge as Worthy Jr. Grand Steward under MWPGM Paige Cherry #3 and as a member and chair of the scholarship committee. He has been working for the Newport News Shipbuilding for 17 years and presently holds the title of Fleet Support Chief Testing Engineer.

WPM **Wesley W. Reed** (65) of Randolph Lodge #30 was raised in his present lodge in 1986. Having been impressed by MWPGM Herman Eggleston #146 in a burial ceremony he performed, Brother Reed wanted to be a Mason. After retiring from the Prince Edward Sheriff Department after 35 years, he now enjoys fishing and cutting fire wood.

The 145th Grand Lodge Session

Richmond – Temperature checks were required, proof of vaccinations was required, and blue wrist bands identified that you were cleared to enter the 145th Grand Lodge Session. On Thursday September 16, 202, these precautions along with face masks were required to safely participate in the session.

Dressed in freshly new aprons with "Committee on Work" embroiled smartly on the bottom border, WPM Jose R. Ortiz #34 and the other Committee on Work members opened the ceremonies. Acting as Sr. Deacon, COW member WPM Larry T. Johnson #298 properly introduced the Past & Present District Deputy Grand Masters and their Assistants; the Appointed Grand Lodge Officers; the Board of Directors; the Most Worshipful Past Grand Masters; the Elected Line Officers; and Deputy Grand Master Donald S. Wilson #67.

Under the escort of King Baldwin Grand Commandery of Virginia Knights Templar, MWGM Richard Townes #235 asked RWSGD Edward E. Lattimore III #13to extends greetings. A partial report from the Credential Committee by DDGM Emeritus Raymond A. Sutton III #13 indicated lodges #89, #323, #80, #19, and #20 verified the Grand Lodge Session could constitutionally open.

MWGM Townes then recognized 40 brothers attending their first Grand Lodge Session. After WM Lindsay McFarland #106, RWJGD Antonio R. Pride #43 extended special greetings to them and RWJGW George T. Cutler, Jr. #80 gave them the three "C's" – Caution, Consideration, and Conduct.

The Grand Master then invited MWPGM Lionell Sprull, Sr. #189 to the podium who gave instructions on facial mask wearing and vaccinations.

Following those directives Deputy Grand Master Wilson had the doors sealed in order for Grand Master Townes to present his Annual Address. Before proceeding, the Grand Master had Grand Chaplain Rev. Leroy D. Evans, Jr. #7 to pray for us. The Grand Master opened with scripture from I Corinthians 15:58 then looked at his 33 months as MWGM as the storm of a Global Pandemic affected the State of the Craft. Sending out an edicts beginning March 2020 to cease Masonic activities and easing the restrictions March 2021, after directions from the Governor and the CDC. He looked at the State of the Nation with President Joe Biden and our first African American Kamala Harris, the acute respiratory infections, and the need to get a shot. Addressing the State of the Craft, we lost 194 Brothers, suspended 163, but reinstated 53, rejoined 40, affiliated 10, demitted 15, and raised 102. And although our membership is at 4,520 the MWPHGL of Virginia will continue to aggressively implement Strategic Planning which keeps the craft strong. Our car raffle profited $18,000, the 2019-2020 Schools of Instruction were successful, the 2019 Gospel Concert with Marvin Sapp generated $12,000, the Golf Tournament chaired by MWPGM Larry D. Christian profited $13,311.37 for 2021, capital improvements continue in Kilmarnock, the Bee Hive continue to improve, and the Virginia P.H. Foundation have stalled since the pandemic. He stated that 2020 and 2021 that were cancelled included the Mid-Atlantic Conference, the Conference of Grand Masters, the VA Visitations, the Grand Lodge Cookout, the Charity Ball, KOP encampment, and Founder's Day. He congratulated the OES on their officer transition, reflected on six official acts, and made three recommendations to include bestowing Emeritus on outgoing Grand Treasurer James E. Watkins, Jr. #44, Past Grand Marshal James Brown #300 and recommend line officers serve three years. His closing remarks included thanking MWPGM Larry Christian on the scholarship

fund, travel team Ray Green #65, Ricky McKnight, Sr. #28, Frank Storks III #146, Bee Hive chair L. J. McCoy #33, his lodge Averette Union Lodge #235, and his wife.

After additional discussions on the COVID vaccinations, RW Grand Secretary Stevie R. Gray #314 and RW Grand Treasurer James E. Watkins, Jr. #44 gave their joint report. Brother Watkins will be stepping down as Grand Treasurer after 34 years. Other reports given included the Board of Directors report by Charles A. Jones, Sr. #81 and the Budget report by Ronald E. Blakely #32.

Before nomination of officers by MWPGM Billie L. Thompson, Sr. #46, the Grand Master again asked the Grand Chaplain for prayer. After a motion was made to nominate candidates for office, Deputy Grand Master Wilson, RWSGW Morgan, RWJGW Cutler, RWGS Gray, RWSGD Lattimore, and RWJGD Pride were nominated and appointed Most Worshipful Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Sr. Grand Warden, Jr. Grand Warden, and Sr. Grand Deacon respectively. Only one individual, WPM Rendell R. Briggs #43, was nominated for RW Grand Treasurer. Six individuals, Curtis B. James, Sr. #67, Alton L. Miles #196, Roger L. Redd, Sr. #109, Terry Parker #327, Julius D. Spain, Sr. #58, and Linwood Jones #27, were nominated for RW Jr. Grand Deacon. Nominations for RW Grand Lecturer of the East were Jose R. Ortiz #34 and Morris Hicks #6. Only Larry T. Johnson #298 was nominated for RW Grand Lecturer of the West. Nominations for Board of Directors included Earnest L. Prather #293, Ronald Blakely #32, and MWGM Richard Townes.

While waiting for the election results, MWGM Townes allowed the COW to make a special presentation to former COW member WPM Robert B. McDonald #233 who was now promoted to Asst. DDGM of the 26th MD.

Using a program called ELECTION RUNNER, the Chair of the Credentials committee, WPM Floyd Brown #128, sent voting emails to all delegates in selecting the RW Grand Jr. Deacon, the Grand Lecturer of the East, and the two Board Directors. The Grand Lodge new slate of officers included MWGM Donald S. Wilson #67, RWDGM Beverly W. Morgan #298, RWSGW George T. Cutler, Jr. #80, RWJGW, RW Grand Treasurer Rendell R. Briggs #43, RW Grand Secretary Stevie R. Gray #314, RWJGW Edward L. Lattimore III #13, RWSGD Antonio R. Pride #43, RWGJD Alton L. Miles #196, RW Grand Lecturer of the East Jose R. Ortiz #34, RW Grand Lecturer of the West Larry T. Johnson #298, Board Director Earnest L. Prather #293, and Board Director Richard Townes #235.

The Registration Committee made their final report that 482 advance registrations were made and 44 on site registrations were recorded.

After the Grand Master's committee gave their report by chair MWPGM Larry D. Christian, all recommendations were passed except the discussion on the Deputy of DC and the Deputy of Tennessee which met controversy in resolving.

MWPGM Christian stated that a total of 483 raffle tickets were sold for a total contribution to the student scholarships of $4,830 during this Grand Lodge Session. He also stated that the Golf Committee has contributed over $100,000 over the past 16 years.

Several brothers who were unsuccessful in their bid for elected office thanked those brothers who supported them. The MWGM then gave brothers William Moore #92, Earnest L. Prather #293, Ed Henderson #23, George Winfield #65, McArthur Myers #1, Corey Moses #307, Larry Evans #7, Roger Redd #109, Benjamin Harrison #293, Rendell R. Briggs #43, and Jermaine Johnson #67 to make expressions.

After informing the 146th Grand Lodge Session will be held at the Embassy Suite in Hampton/Newport News area, MWGM Townes handed the gravel to MWPGM Billie Thompson to conduct the installation of newly elected officers.

MWPGM Thompson formally installed newly elected MWGM Donald S. Wilson #67, RW Deputy Grand Master Beverly W. Morgan, Jr. #298, RW Sr. Grand Ward George Cutler, Jr., RW Grand Treasurer Rendell R. Briggs, RW Grand Secretary Stevie Gray, RW Sr. Grand Warden Edward Lattimore, RW Sr. Grand Deacon Antonio R. Pride, RW Jr. Grand Deacon Anton L. Miles, RW Grand Lecturer of the East Jose R. Ortiz, Grand Lecture of the West Larry T. Johnson, BOD Earnest L. Prather, and BOD Richard Townes.

After Grand Honors were bestored on MWGM Donald S. Wilson, the newly elected Grand Master gave his official address. First asking the chaplain to give express blessings, MWGM Wilson thanked his family especially his wife for their support. He thanked the late MWPGM A. G. Williams #80, MWPGM Curtis S. Vaughan, Jr. #67, the late MWPGM Charles C. Crawford, Jr. #67, the late WPM R. Hall #93, WPM Tabron #92, the late WPM E. Parker #139, and WPM Tucker #69 for their support. The Grand Master detailed his travels through the Grand Lodge and rested his foundations on his colors on "Black & White", his scriptures on Psalms 121:1-2, and his theme on **"Prince Hall Masons, Making a Difference".**

Prince Hall Day and the Lodge of Sorrow

Richmond – Hosting the 145th Grand Lodge Session's Prince Hall Day, RW Grand Lecturer of the East Curtis B. James, Sr. #67 first had RW Grand Lecturer Roger L. Redd, Sr. #109 give the history of our first Grand Master Prince Hall. Brother James then introduced the presenter of the evening, Worshipful Grand Chaplain Leroy D. Evans, Jr. #7.

Rev. Evans scripted his message from the book of Mark entitled "What a Mighty God We Serve". After his spiritual lifting words, the participants gave their attention to the voices of the Mighty Gospel Melodies (pictured right). These three ladies and a three member band delivered uplifting songs like "God Did It", "One Day in Paradise", and "One of these Mornings".

A brief intermission was then permitted while the Committee on Work set-up to perform the Lodge of Sorrow. Serving as Worshipful Master WPM Larry T. Johnson #298 (pictured top center) was supported by WPM Lawrence Harper #253 (pictured top left) as Sr. Warden, WPM Travis Edmond #7 (pictured top right) as Jr. Warden, WPM Alfred Simmons #124 as secretary, WPM Jermaine Jones #67 as treasurer, WPM Michael Carmichael # as Jr. Deacon, and WPM Jose R. Ortiz #34 as chaplain. While we observed the passing of 194 brothers, WPM Robert Barnett, WPM Robert Chadwick, and WPM David Wilson were read to symbolize these deceased brothers.

In closing, RW DGM Donald S. Wilson #67 introduced MWGM Richard Townes #235 who gave his most heart stricken expressions for our lost brothers and thanked all who attended this program.

Grand Lodge Session of Morning Devotions

Richmond – Seeking the blessings of deity, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia strongly believes that divine guidance is imperative to our success. Therefore, before the start of each day of the Grand Lodge session Worthy Grand Chaplain Leroy D. Evans, Jr. #7 prepared morning devotions with uplifting messages.

On September 16, 2021, the Grand Chaplain delivered the message from Mark 11:24 entitled "It's Been a Long Time Coming". Friday's services were conducted by WDDGM Darrin Hill #43 (pictured left) who introduced W. Asst. Grand Chaplain Arthur George #3 as the speaker with scriptures from Genesis 4 entitled "The Danger of Forsaking your Responsibility". Finally, on our last day, WPM Rev. Bobby Lane Claiborne #7 blessed us from Genesis 4 with a subject of "The Decision is Ours".

These Biblical guidelines set the stage for a most productive session which resolved administrative issues and promoted the brotherhood of this ancient Prince Hall institution.

The 145th Annual Communication Banquet

Richmond – On Friday September 17, 2021, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia held its 2021 banquet to honor the Honorable Richard Townes #235. Master of Ceremonies RWSGW Beverly W. Morgan welcomed program participants RW Grand Secretary Stevie R. Gray #314 who introduced Grand Lodge officers and dignitaries; RWJGW George T. Cutler #80 who gave a welcome; and Asst. Grand Chaplain who blessed the meal.

Prior to the Grand Master's presentations, MWPGM Billie L. Thompson, Sr. #46 made the Past Grand Masters scholarship awards to Ms. Tia Patterson and Mr. Jonathan Barnett.

MWGM Townes begin his presentations by bestowing out-going Grand Treasurer James Watkins #44 who has served this Grand Lodge for over 34 years as Grand Treasurer Emeritus. The Grand Master also took the opportunity to bestow Grand Marshal Emeritus on WPM James Brown #300.

With the assistance of the Grand Secretary the Grand Master presented:

Secretary of the Year of the Large Lodge to Miles Jackson #109
Secretary of the Year of the Small Lodge to Aaron Edmonds #46
Treasurer of the Year of the Large Lodge to Carl Albritton #298
Treasurer of the Year of the Small Lodge to Moses Williams #17
Jewel Contest 3rd (2019) Place to Commonwealth Lodge #81
Jewel Contest 2nd (2019) Place to Mt. Nebo Lodge #43
Jewel Contest 1st (2019) Place to Pride of Fairfax #298
Master Mason of the Year Dr. Gerard McShepard #6
Worshipful Master of the Year Small Lodge D. Keith Toiler, Sr. #18
Worshipful Master of the Year Large Lodge Gregory Darrisaw #23
Lodge of the Year Small Lodge Allegany-Dunbar Lodge #109
Lodge of the Year Large Lodge Hobson Lodge #23
Co-District of the Year Large #1
Co-District of the Year Large #31
District of the Year Small #4/33
Co-Most Improved District of the Year #17
Co-Most Improved District of the Year #6/7

Awards to All District Deputy Grand Masters and their Assistances of the Year

Alton L. Miles #196, Mike Wilson #2, James Arrington #196 Joe L. Williams #66, Roger Bright #66, Elbert E. Scott, Jr. #46, Marcus Douglas #3, Henry E. Badgett #268, Antonio Hinton, Sr. #13, Henry E. Badgett #268, Kalomo B. Imo #48, Lewis Thompson, Sr. #256, Keith R. Brown #128, Darrin Hill #43, Hozsa Bagley #17, James Parham #290, Willie M. Seward, Sr. #108, Willie M. Seward, Jr. #108, Wilbert Jones #235, John L. Austin #146, Clyde A. Boyd #208, Harvey Eggleston #187, Ardell J. Walker #187, Walter H. Davis #295, Danny Plummer #31, Jerome Morgan #109, David E. Simmons #20, Harry R. Holtz #18, Eddie M. Waugh #24, Richard B. Cabell, Sr. #24, Douglas Gregory #188, Raynard Moore #113, Lynwood Jones #27, Ricky Williams #324, Morris Hicks #6, Wayne Whittle #264, Nathaniel M. Boyd #297, William L. Lee #100, James Gardner #126, William Savage #75, Tony McGhee #238, Charles James #11, Marques Pitre #298, Mike Hairston # 434, and Billy C. Peters #92

Special Appreciation Award to RW Grand Secretary Stevie Gray #314
Special Appreciation Award to KOP Chair Carl A. Albritton #
Special Appreciation Award to the Grand Photographers

William Moore, Sr. #92, Walter Davis #295, Nelson Perry #11, Ricky McKnight, Sr. # , and James Clinton

Special Appreciation Award to the Bee Hive Committee

L. J. McCoy #33, Walter Davis #295, Raymond A. Sutton III #13, MWPGM Larry D. Christian #253, and William Moore, Sr. #92

Grand Master's Cup
Special Humanitarian Award to Stanley Warrior
Special Distinguished Award to James Andrews

Ray Green #65, Frank Storks III #146, Ricky McKnight, Sr. #28, and Wilbert Jones #235

Before giving closing remarks, MWGM Townes presented both Grand Lodge Office Manager Ms. Yvonne White (pictured right) and his wife (pictured left) with a bouquet of flowers.

2019

2018

The 2021 Grand Master's Fall Annual Golf Tournament

By MWPGM Larry D. Christian #253

Williamsburg – As a misty rain soaked the course as well as the players, the decision to continue play was not an option among these furious competitors. Golf Tournament committee chair, MWPGM Larry D. Christian #253 battled to make the event a success in preparing the winning trophies and the raffle ticket winners.

On Saturday October 9, 2021, the Fall 2021 Grand Master's Annual Charity Golf Tournament took place at the KISKIACK Golf Club in Williamsburg. Keeping the tradition of the previous tournament, MWPGM Christian held a raffle that would strengthen the financial support of our scholarship program for second, third, and forth year college students where 13 lucky ticket holders won various prizes.

After the raffle, trophies were presented to the competitive winners.

1st place - Edwin Smith, Clint Person, Herman Heard, Posey Young - score of 56
2nd place - Nelson Perry, Joe Ragland, Andrew Jackson, Warren Thomas - score of 59
3rd place - Walter Brown, Alexander Dolly, Junius King, Warren Ridges - score of 59
Last place - Quinton Pace, Melvin Johnson, Michael & PGM Larry Christian - score of 73 :))

Longest Drive - Hole #1 - Herman Heard
Closest to the Pin - Hole #5 - Lee Pringle

Raffle Winners

1st Grand Prize winner - $200.00 Cash - Devery Travers
2nd Prize - Fitness Tracker - Walter Brown
3rd Prize - $25.00 Gas Card - Stuart Cooke
4th Prize - $25.00 Gas Card - Edwin Smith
5th Prize - 32" TV - Mike Forrest

The event also enjoyed the challenge of two ladies of which one - Tiki Hicks - was given gifts and will be playing in our spring tournament on June 11, 2022. See you there. In response to his continued support, WPM Dr. Melvin Johnson #13 donated $500.00 to the Golf Committee for our continuous education student.

Be a Part of the Fun & SUPPORT the Annual Grand Lodge Golf Tournament

Contact PGM Larry D. Christian at 757 566-2066, or email PGM Christian at lchristian2@verizon.net

Check the back cover of this issue for more details.

The New Season of Schools of Instruction Begans

Martinsville – On the eve of returning to Standard Time, the 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 23rd, and 32nd Masonic Districts held their Joint School of Instruction at the Forest Park Country Club in Martinsville. RW Grand Lecturer of the East Jose R. Ortiz #34 and RW Grand Lecturer of the West Larry T. Johnson #298 welcomed over 100 brothers to the first School on November 6, 2021. The School was properly opened by the Committee on Work.

Seating the appointed and elected officers of the Grand Lodge first, the Grand Lecturers then properly received Most Worshipful Grand Master Donald S. Wilson #67 who was given Grand Honors.

MW Grand Master Wilson then extended an invitation to recognized nine, first time attendees and RW Deputy Grand Master Beverly "Butch" Morgan #298 expressed a warm welcome for their presence. Before the instructions from the Grand Lecturers and RW DGM Morgan presented MW Grand Master Wilson with his new Grand Master's apron.

The Grand Lecturers then began their detailed instructions on the burial ceremony. After discussing the basic issues of the passing of a brother, they received questions on cremations, performing during bad weather, military protocals, and out-of-state services. Brothers who asked for clarity on the procedures included Curtis Hairston #217, Barry Warren #295, Sean Poole #163, Harry Brooks #163, Randy Millner #320, Douglas Jackson #24, Lester Terry #205, George Glass #163, and Lawson Williams #163.

Following the roll call of lodges, RW Grand Secretary Stevie R. Gray #314 presented certificates to Judah Lodge #205 for the Most Members Present and the Highest Percentage of Members Present. Also G. P. Watkins Lodge #320 was also presented an award for the second lodge with the Highest Percentage of Members Present.

After being formally introduced by RWDGM Morgan, MWGM Wilson thanked the Lodges for their outstanding attendance at this first School and emphasized his Edits. Continuing the previous Edits, he also detailed following COVID-19 guidelines and receiving felons for initiation. MWGM Wilson closed the School in "ample" form.

The Lawrenceville School

Lawrenceville – While temperatures lingered in the upper thirties and a light frost dusted the ground, the second Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia School of Instruction took place at the Brunswick High School gymnasium. Opening promptly at 8:30 AM on November 20, 2021, the proceedings were conducted by the Committee on Work with WPM Lawrence Harper, Jr. #253 acting as Worshipful Master under the direction of both RW Grand Lecturer of the East Jose R. Ortiz #34 and RW Grand Lecturer of the West Larry T. Johnson #298.

After formally receiving Most Worshipful Grand Master Donald S. Wilson #67, eleven first time attendees were identified. First time attendee Brother Gary Walker made statements of for the brothers where RW Sr. Grand Deacon Antonio R. Pride #43 extended a welcome to them all.

MWGM Wilson then allowed an address from RW Grand Secretary Emeritus Isaac S. Hughes, Jr. #314 on the Guide to Understanding & Living the MWPHGL of VA Masonic Charges, WPM Melvin R. Johnson MD #13 on Health & Wellness, the Bee Hive, WPM Gerard McShepard #6 on the PH Foundation and RW Jr. Grand Deacon Alton L. Miles #196 on the details of the auto raffle.

Following the direction of the area District Deputy Grand Masters, RWGL Johnson prepared instructions for the 2nd Degree's Middle Chamber. After volunteering as a "candidate", Brother Chaderick Johnson #295 followed instructions by RWGL Ortiz on procedures upon entering a simulated King Solomon's Temple. Questions from Brothers James Rowe, Sr. #131, Jerome Brisco #167 and Harold Brown #124 helped everyone understand the correct procedures better.

After a roll call of lodges, RW Grand Secretary Stevie R. Gray #314 presented Certificates to Brunswick Lodge #108 for the greatest number of members present and Acme Lodge #158 with the greatest percentage of members present. MWGM Wilson was also most pleased to present a Certificate of Merit to WPM Jerome Brisco #167.

Before the Grand Master closed, WDDGM Willie M. Seward, Jr. #108 presented Past WDDGM Willie M. Seward, Sr. #108 a plaque honoring him for 22 years of service as DDGM of the 13th district.

School of Instruction in Dyllwyn

Buckingham – Just off a rain soaked Rt. 60 at the Dyllwyn Recreation Center, over 65 brothers gave their attention to Committee on Work member WPM Michael Calloway # who performed in the role of Worshipful Master to open the third School of Instruction. RW Grand Lecturer of the West Larry T. Johnson #298 welcomed Grand Lodge officers, Worshipful Masters, Wardens and Brethren to the December 11, 2021 event.

Escorted into the session under his theme song of "I'm Blessed", Most Worshipful Grand Master Donald S. Wilson #67 expressed his pleasure in greeting brothers from the 21st, 22nd, 24th and 25th Masonic Districts. The Grand Master then posed at the altar with the only first time attendee Brother Ricky Haskins #17 (pictured left). In order to refresh the brothers on the Grand Lodge perspectives, the Grand Master instructed his staff to discuss the Masonic Charges by RWGS Emeritus Isaac S. Hughes, Jr. #314, medical updates by Dr. Melvin R. Johnson #13, the Bee Hive requirements by L. J. McCoy #33, Education by Dr. Gerard McShepard #6, Historical by McArthur Myers #1 and Chair of the Car Raffle RWJGD Alton L. Miles #196.

Grand Lecturer Johnson then began instructions on properly opening a lodge, but elaborated on the Masonic Landmarks, identifying confusion in a lodge and proper etiquette in lodges. After the instructions, the Grand Lecturer responded to questions and comments from Brothers Linwood Cowan #240, Larry Haskins #188, Irvin Mosley #188, Gary Anderson #188 and Mark Holman #188.

After a roll call of lodges, RWGS Emeritus Isaac Hughes, Jr. #314 awarded Certificates to Keystone Lodge #188 (pictured left) the lodge with the most members present and Louisa Lodge #113 (pictured right) as the highest percentage of members present.

MWGM Wilson expressed he was pleased at the support the Districts gave to the Grand Lodge by buying raffle tickets that support 2nd and 3rd year college students which indicate that you promote my theme "Prince Hall Masons Making a Difference."

Schools of Instructions ***THEN***

Pictured left, Under the guidance of the late RW Grand Lecturer Daniel Hale #109 Committee on Work member (now MWGM) Donald S. Wilson #67 gives instructions to brothers at the School of Instruction at the Danville /Blair school on April 26, 2003.

Pictured right, Committee on Work Members (now MWGM) Donald S. Wilson #67 and (now RWDGM) Beverly Morgan, Jr. #298 discuss issues at the Richmond School of Instruction February 2, 2003.

Pictured left, then RW Grand Lecturer of the Eastern District (now MWGM) Donald S. Wilson #67 and then RW Grand Lecturer of the Western District (now RW Deputy Grand Master) Beverly W. "Butch" Morgan, Jr. #298 at a 2006 School of Instruction.

Community Replaces School Names from a Racist Past

By WM Aaron Drohn #32

Alexandria – On April 8, 2021, Acacia Lodge #32 was privileged to attend and support the historical renaming of a school which had a racist name. The Alexandria City School Board voted to rename the names of several schools that were intrinsically Maury Elementary School would be renamed Naomi L. Brooks Elementary School.

In a poll taken by the Alexandria School Board, the proposed school name of Naomi L. Brooks Elementary School gained exponential popularity among Alexandria, Virginia residents. It was then unanimously adopted as the official name change to take place on July 1, 2021.

An Alexandria native Naomi Lewis Brooks (April14,1934-May21,2020) was a member of the Quander and Lewis families. She earned a Masters Degree from Virginia State University in Elementary Education. She held many teaching positions in her 25 years as an educator. Naomi Brooks is the wife of RWPGD Leo Brooks, USA, Brigadier General (Retired) who served on Acacia Lodge #32, and the mother of Worshipful Past Master Vincent Brooks, USA, General (Retired) of Acacia Lodge #32.the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia's Board of Directors and Worshipful Past Master of Acacia Lodge #32.

The Second Masonic District Gives to Community

By WGP William Moore #92

Chesapeake - On August 14, 2021, the brothers of the 2nd Masonic District conducted a back to the community. They had a Back to School Drive with a neighborhood church in the City of Chesapeake.

Brothers Supporting Hoffman-Boston Elementary School

By Ronnie A. Hall, Jr. #58

Arlington - Showing their ongoing support of the elementary children, Worshipful Master Ronnie A. Hall of Arlington Lodge #58 and the Brothers of the Craft visited Hoffman-Boston Elementary School of Arlington, Virginia. As their adopted school, WM Hall and the Brothers have been supporting the school for some years now through their financial donations and benevolent actions for the elementary school.

The Maggie D. Pointdexter Youth Council has Christmas Celebration

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33

Richmond – After a delicious meal of fried chicken, spaghetti and frosted cupcakes, the youth members of the Maggie D. Pointdexter Council were excited to join in their Christmas Celebration. Grand State Youth Coordinator Adrianne Moore #164 OES and Asst. Grand State Youth Coordinator Mildred Cowart #197 OES were ecstatic to receive 40 young members to the December 19, 2021 event.

Following the dinner, the Grand Youth Director engaged the youths in line dancing, musical-chairs, corn hole tossing and a game of connect four. Eastern Star Chapters from Fannie Lewis #4, Electa #7, Hannah #26, Petersburg #33 and Lily of the Valley #44 were some of the sisters that served the food and supported the event.

The Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star established theYouth Departments at the 36th OES Session in July of 1937. Since that time, 28 departments were created. Of the 28 original Youth Departments, ten are still in operation and four have been reorganized.

Supporting the Christmas event, Grand Worthy Matron Sandra A. Wilson and Most Worshipful Grand Master Donald S. Wilson were proud that the Chapters and Lodges continue to support the young ladies and men of our youth councils.

Veteran's Day Celebration at VFW Post #1506

By WPM Leoardino M. Evelyn #330

Dale City - On November 11, 2021, Diversity Lodge #330 held its annual Veteran's Day Celebration at VFW Post 1506 in Dale City, Virginia. The Brothers of Diversity Lodge #330 have one goal in mind, when hosting this event: To honor those who have given so much to us as Veterans of the Military Services.

The event was well attended by the Brothers of the 31st Masonic District, including RWDGM Beverly W. Morgan, Jr. #298 and WDDGM C. J. James #11. Diversity Lodge #330 Annual Veteran's Day celebration has become a hallmark in Northern Virginia Masonic Events and aspires to continue to show how masonry recognizes the importance of the Veterans.

Registration Committee Preparing for the 2021 Grand Lodge Session

Richmond – The registration committee worked diligently at the Grand Lodge office in order to assemble items for the 145th Grand Lodge Session. Brothers WPM Frank Stokes, III #146, WPM Ronald Carter #92, WPM John Royster #280 and WPM prepared name tags, souvenir journals, and snacks for pre-registered brothers.

Alexandria Gum Springs Community Center's Annual Safe Night

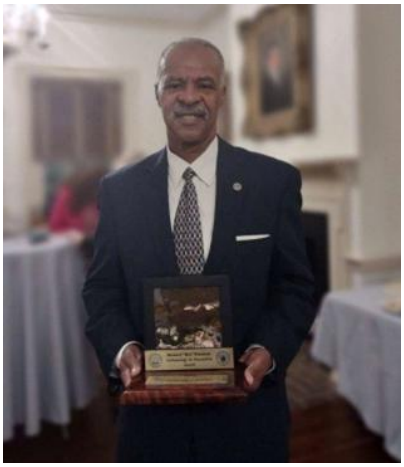
By SW Kyle Taylor #298

Fairfax - On October 29th, 2021, the Brothers of Pride of Fairfax County Lodge #298 supported the Alexandria Gum Springs Community Center's Annual Safe Night Out. The Brothers helped prepare and distribute hotdogs and bagged snacks to the children in attendance and assisted with the community center staff as needed. The Brothers of Pride of Fairfax look forward to this event each year and the opportunity to give back to the community and put a smile on a young child's face.

Our Grand Historian Continues to make History

Alexandria – On October 26, 2021, the City of Alexandria's Mayor Austin Wilson presented the African American Heritage Trail Committee of which Worshipful Grand Historian McArthur Myers #1 is a member the Bernard "Ben" Brenman Archaeology Award.

The Archaeological Commission presents this annual award to deserving individuals or groups who have given significant contributions toward revealing Alexandria's unique history.



As a member of the African American Heritage Trail Committee, Brother Myers received this award along with committee members for their research in highlighting the African American contributions to historic sites in Alexandria.

Triple River Supports their Area School

By MWPGM Larry D. Christian #253

King & Queen – On September 23, 2021, Triple River Lodge #253 donated over $2,000.00 in school supplies to King & Queen Public Schools,

This is the Lodge's adopted school which they have supported for the past several years. Pictured from left to right are WDDGME James S. Burrell #253, Assistant Principal of the middle school Preston McKellar, Assistant Principal Ashley Reynolds and WADDGM Kenneth Byrd.

St. John the Evangelist in the 12th MD

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33

Petersburg – Enjoying the first in person program in the post-pandemic period, the 12th Masonic District celebrated St. John the Evangelist Day at the Petersburg Temple on December 12, 2021. WDDGM Darrin L. Hill #43 directed JW Darius Johnson #43 as Master of Ceremonies to have the welcome, invocation and scripture performed by RW Grand Treasurer Rendell Briggs #43, Worshipful Grand Chaplain Leroy Evans #7 and WM John Dowd#17 respectively.

While Grand District Deputy Organizer Angela Sampson-Scott OES recognized the members of the Order of Eastern Star who were present, Committee on Work member WPM Travis Edmonds #7 recognized the Grand Lodge officers and dignitaries in attendance.

Explaining the primary purpose of commemorating St. John the Evangelist as to remind Masons of their obligations to weed evil out of their lives and to nurture and cultivate their finest strains, Brother Edmonds concluded by stating Freemasons around the world could do no better in their choice of a Patron Saint and model for living than they have in St. John the Evangelist.

RWGSD Antonio Pride #43 was then proud to introduce the speaker of the evening who was the Sr. Pastor of New Hope Baptist Church in Waverly, Virginia. Rev. Jameson McLaughlin. He delivered his message from scriptures on Revelations 2:2 with a subject of "Let's Get Back to What Matters Most." His message along with music from Brother Wendal Givens #317 guided everyone to the true reason for the Season.

Sharing Brotherly Love in the Community

By M Payton R. Dade Sr. #11

Alexandria - On September 10, 2021, WM Payton Dade and the Brothers of Lincoln Lodge #11 supported the children at Naomi Brooks Elementary School by dropping off donations of School Supplies for the students. The Brothers continue to support our youth through events like these and many others.

Annual Scholarship Initiative

By WM Allen Jones, Jr. #293

Triangle - WM Jones and the Brothers of the Craft were able to complete the tenets of Masonry by presenting scholarships to two deserving members of our community. Mr. Ahmad Rattley received $500, and Ms. Ashlyn Jones received $250 from the craft to support their educational endeavors.

The Triangle Lodge #293 Scholarship Initiative is an ongoing program to support the youth of our community and provide a charity donation to support the educational goals of well deserving young adults. The scholarship Initiative is one of the examples of the Brothers of Triangle Lodge #293 engage the community as Masons in supporting our community. On August 3, 2021, WM Jones and the Brothers of the Craft were able to complete the tenets of Masonry by presenting the two scholarships to deserving students.

The Triangle Lodge #293 Scholarship Initiative is an ongoing program to support the youth of our community and provide a charity donation to support the educational goals of well deserving young adults. The scholarship Initiative is one of the examples wherein the Brothers of Triangle Lodge #293 engaging the community as Masons in support of our community.

The PH Family Donates to the Petersburg Library

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33

Petersburg – Acting in his capacity as a Petersburg City Councilman, WDDGM Darrin Hill #43 spoke at the City Library to library staff and the public as to the purpose behind the December 8, 2021 celebrated donations. The Prince Hall Masonic Family purchased nine oversized bricks in support of the city and community.

Library Board Member Wayne Crocker opened the mid-day program at the 201 Washington Street library by thanking the participating organizations for their generous contributions. Welcoming members from Electa Chapter #7 OES, Hilaal Court #218, Hilaal Temple #229, Keystone #4 Holy Royal Arch Masons, Leonard Cox Council #6 Royal & Select Masters, Lily of the Valley #44 OES, Petersburg Consistory #144, Sheba Lodge #17 and St. Marks Commandery #3 Knights Templar, he invited Brian Pettiford, Craig Scribner, John Dowd, Jacquelyn Black, Dale Wright, Sr., Larry Matthews, Oliver West, Jr. and Rosalind Blakes to comment on their organization.

Finally, everyone was led outside to witness the placing of each brick in the sidewalk outside the library's front entrance.

Brother - Serving with Distinction

By WM Aaron Drohn #32

District of Columbia - Brother Keith Atkins of Acacia Lodge #32 is a long time Mason with the distinction of also being a National Capital Police Officer.

On December 10, 2021, Brother Atkins had the honor and privilege of participating in the Joint Services for late US Senator Robert Dole from Kansas. Brother Atkins, who is a member of the Capitol Police Honor Guard/Ceremonial Detail, spent the long hours overnight as a part of his unit's detail, ensuring the proceedings were carried out properly, as the Former Senator Robert Dole lie in state in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda.

Lincoln Lodge Serves Thanksgiving

By WM Payton Dade #11

Alexandria — Recognizing their obligation, WM Payton Dade and the Brothers of Lincoln Lodge #11 were thrilled to donate twenty-five (25) Thanksgiving Baskets on November 20, 2021. The baskets included turkey and all the fixings for a full Thanksgiving meal which were given to their surrounding neighbors and community for the holiday. This ensured Brotherly Love continued to spread.

Thanksgiving Basket Charity

WM Meddie Knox #1

Alexandria - The Brothers of Universal Lodge #1 had the pleasure of taking part in their traditional Thanksgiving Basket Charity event on November 20, 2021. Worshipful Master Meddie Knox and the Brothers of the Craft distributed traditional grocery store items, gift cards and hampers full of Thanksgiving foods to several deserving families in their surrounding neighborhood.

The event would not have been successful had it not been for the generosity of the volunteers, donors, sponsors and other contributors. As always, the Prince Hall Masons continue to serve their community despite the pandemic during these trying times.

MWPHGL Develops the Kilmarnock Site

By Contributions by RWGD's Charles A. Jones, Sr. #81, RWGD Walter E. Brown #18, & MWPGM Larry D. Christian #253

The family of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia and the surrounding community are familiar with the MWPHGL administration offices on Thompson Street in Richmond, but there has been little emphasis on the capital developments on the Kilmarnock properties.

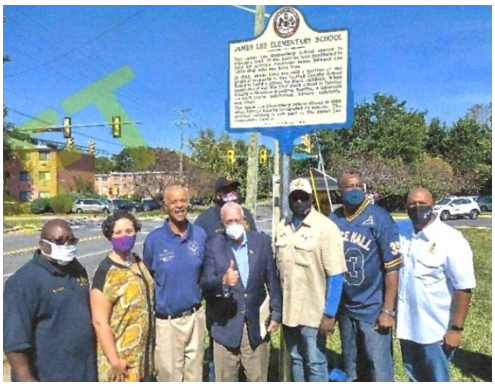
The site located on 32 acres near the Rappahannock River is an ideal resort area. Preventing a financial loss of property in 2008, the Grand Lodge stepped in to help the lodge members to financial secure the property and every lodge member donated $49.00.

Since that time the Grand Lodge Board of Directors has initiated converting the site as a resort property for not only our Grand Lodge Training Facility, hosting GL Cookouts, and will utilize the area as a retreat for our Knights of Pythagoras.

Cabin construction is underway, one cabin is nearly complete and others will begin in the near future. The Board of Directors is open to any suggestions that our membership may have in the development of this site.

The James Lee Elementary School Lays Historical Marker

WPM Eric Lawson #292



Falls Church - Oct 2, 2021 Members of King Tyre Lodge #292 were invited to support the unveiling of the Historical Marker for the James Lee Elementary School (February 1948 - June 1966). One of the last segregated schools to close in Fairfax County, VA, it closed the school doors in June 1966.

The school was, attended by black students in the Falls Church community which was originally built on land donated by Mr. James Lee, a free born black man. The event was hosted by the James Lee Community Center and the Mistress of Ceremonies was Providence District Supervisor Dalia Palchik. There were a host of notable dignitaries in attendance including U.S. House of Representatives Gerry Connolly. The most special attendees were the first and last class members of the Lee Elementary School, some who still live less than five minutes away.

WM Jacques Thomas and the Brothers of King Tyre Lodge #292 were blessed to have W Grand Historian MacArthur Myers of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Virginia in attendance as well.

Triangle Men visit Star of Bethlehem Baptist Church

Triangle - For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them. Matthew 18:20. On Sunday, August 29th Worshipful Master Jones and several of our Brothers were able to rekindle a past relationship and foster Brotherly Love when they visited our neighboring Church The Star of Bethlehem Baptist Church of Triangle, Va.

Triangle Lodge #293 and the Star of Bethlehem Church have had a beautiful relationship over the years, as we share common ground around the are of the lodge and church. It was indeed an opportunity to worship together and embrace the community.

Dumfries Slave Cemetery Cleanup

Dumfries - On Saturday, June 14, and August 14, 2021, the Brothers of the Craft continued our ongoing labor of love by supporting The Friends of Dumfries Slave Cemetery. Many of our Brothers showed up from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM at the Dumfries Slave Cemetery, behind the Dumfries Elementary School at 3990 Cameron St. Dumfries Va. 22026. This effort has allowed the Brothers to continue our partnership with the Prince William County Chapter of the NAACP. These cleanup efforts were very special ones, as they focused on the work previously accomplished at the gravesite. The general focus of the Craft is the upkeep of our ancestral grounds. Thank you for your continued support of this event. It has paid off dividends over the years to providing continued support for a forgotten and historical place in Dumfries history. Brothers keep up the good work.

Capital City Donates School Supplies to Woodville Elementary School

By WPM Glen Hence #107

Richmond - Proverbs 22:6, King James Version says "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Can we all agree that part of that 'training a child' consists of what is being taught in the classroom? I hope that you will also agree, that in order to teach, both teachers and students must have adequate resources to support the teaching and learning process.

The Brothers of Capital City Lodge #107 have been instrumental in providing some of those necessary resources to the Woodville Elementary School located on North 28th Street for many years. Thus, was the occasion on September 13, 2021, when many of the Woodville teachers were assembled to happily assist the Brethren to off load a trailer of school supplies. The trailer was loaded with book bags, pencils, notepads and many other supplies that would be needed for the entire school year for students in the grades one through five. In addition to the donated supplies, WM Anthony Streeter presented a check from CC #107 Lodge to Ms. Rickeita Jones, the Interim principal who stated "We truly appreciate your continued partnership and support to our school.

" The Brethren of Capital City Lodge #107 were elated once again, to support the students, teachers and families with their back to school resources.

Capital City Supports Families During Operation Santa Clause

By WPM Glen Hence #107

Richmond - As we are living in different times caused by this pandemic to say the least, we are still among those whose needs are the same as with any occasion.

The Brothers of Capital City Lodge #107 would not be deterred by a pandemic, in providing support to three families during the Christmas Holiday Season. On December, 11th, the brethren of Capital City #107, under the leadership of Worshipful Master Anthony Streeter converged on a local Walmart to provide Christmas gifts to families who requested assistance during the holidays. As the brothers patiently pushed carts with the kids leading the way; first down the toy aisle, then to the clothing section, and perhaps back to the toys again, we all could see the joy and excitement of what this occasion meant to all of them. SW Clarence Craddock was instrumental in communicating and coordinating the efforts of the brethren to set the conditions for another successful event.

Thank you to all the brethren who continue to seek opportunities to dispense charity, and aid in the uplifting of humanity.

Capital City Presents Plaque to the Jones Family

By WPM Glen Hence #107

Richmond - The Brothers of Capital City Lodge #107 presented a plaque to Mr. and Mrs. Norman Jones for their outstanding support to the Lodge for over twenty-five years. WPM Norman Jones #107 and his wife, Rev. Dr. Margaret L. Jones who is a PWM of Nannie Jones Perkins #161 OES allowed members of Capital City Lodge #107 to conduct monthly cabinet meetings at their home. These meetings were generated in an effort to allow the Principle Officers to collaborate prior to the scheduled lodge meetings.

As time passed, all brothers of Capital City #107 were invited to attend to provide input, be informed of future events and set the conditions for a more effective formal meeting. WPM Jones stated, "Opening his home to the brothers was an exhilarating experience, and a special occasion that he looked forward to every month". Dr. Jones added that it was such a beautiful experience.

Capital City Donates Gift Cards for Thanksgiving

By WPM Glen Hence #107

Richmond - The brothers of Capital Lodge #107 continue to provide support to families in need throughout the City of Richmond during Thanksgiving. The long-standing tradition of providing baskets of food to families in need during this time could not be performed due to supply issues and the pandemic. Under the leadership of WM Anthony Streeter, and the direction of SW Clarence Craddock, Capital City Lodge #107 took a non-traditional route to provide gift cards to four families to purchase the food items needed for Thanksgiving.

Even during a pandemic, we wanted those families who requested assistance to know that we really care about their circumstances and would do everything possible to support them.

Capital City fellowship over breakfast

By WPM Glen Hence #107

Richmond - Behold how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. The brethren of Capital City Lodge #107 came together to fellowship and enjoy a hearty breakfast at the Golden Corral Restaurant in South Richmond, VA.

After weeks of separation due to the pandemic, WM Anthony Streeter extended the invitation to the brothers to come together and wish each other well. It was also a special moment for all who attended to see Brother Lamar Williams, who had been away from the Lodge for some time due to illness. WM Streeter thanked everyone for coming out.

1st Masonic District Food Bank Back-to-School Drive

By WPM Jermaine J. Jones #67

On August 21st, 2021 the 1st Masonic District, led by DDGM Alton Miles, partnered with the Tidewater Food Bank to provide over 200 families in need with food in support of a community wide charitable event. In conjunction with the distribution of food, the district also sponsored a Back-to-School Drive in which they provided over 170 backpacks to young students located in the Tidewater area. Mother nature attempted to thwart the event with a few showers, but the Brothers of the 1st Masonic District persevered and pressed on to ensure that all were taken care of. The district was pleased to have the hardworking assistance of our RWDGM Donald S. Wilson #67, RWJGW George T. Cutler, Jr. #80, PGL Curtis B. James, Sr. #67 and MWPGM Curtis S. Vaughan, Jr. #67, supporting the effort.

We continue Our On-going Series of

Working for Perfection

Growing up in Kenston, North Carolina, WDDGM **Lynwood E. Jones** (60) family moved to Richmond at an early age. When Brother Jones saw his Masonic grandfather and uncle at public lodge events, he was convinced to be a part of this organization. Retiring from Phillip Morris in 2010 after 17 years of employment, Brother Jones now dedicates time in community service and coaching little league football. WDDGM Jones was appointed W Sr. Grand Steward by MWPGM Gilbert Tyler, appointed Asst. DDGM by MWPGM Roger Brown, and appointed WDDGM by MWPGM Paige Cherry.

WPM **Jerome Morgan** (69) was raised in Allegany-Dunbar Lodge #109 in 1981. Influenced by his father-in-law who was a member of Keystone Lodge #188 he embraced the fellowship they displayed. As a retired Roanoke City Deputy Sherriff and of the Department of Corrections for 30 years, Brother Morgan now works for the Salem Health & Rehab Department. During his time with his lodge, he has served in all the stations. He was also appointed Assistant Grand Marshall by MWPGM Shelton Riddick, MWPGM Eggleston, and MWPGM Paige Cherry. MWPGM Roger Brown appointed him as Assistant WDDGM and MWGM Richard Townes appointed him as WDDGM.

Impressed at an early age at a Masonic funeral, WPM **Robert L. Garris** (74) of Progressive Lodge #80 decided to join. Although WPM Willie Williams gave him an application at 24 years old, he hesitated to submit it. When he saw some of his other friends joining the lodge he tried to submit his application, but Brother Williams made him wait two years. Brother Garris along with the late Grand Lecturer Irvin Spencer were raised in 1977. As a retired US Postal Service and government employee of 31 years, he is also proud of the 22 years he served in the National Guard as an aviation technician. Presently enjoying retirement, he won the Worshipful Master of the Year in 1984 and served as Assistant WDDGM under the late MWPGM William F. Milton, Jr.

After 40 years of service, WPM **William H. "Willie" Bates** is hanging up his Amtrak conductor's cap for the last time. Raised in September 1990 in East End Lodge #233, Brother Bates was so much more than just a conductor, he was a trailblazer in the union for blacks, an advocate for safety – both in the union and nationally, a mentor and friend.

Brother Bates began his railroading career in 1981 when he hired out as a conductor at the Richmond, Fredericksburg & Potomac Railroad (now a part of CSX). In 1986, he made the decision to transfer to Amtrak as a conductor, working the rest of his career on the Richmond, Va. to Washington, D.C., route.

A member of Local 1933 out of Richmond, Va., he served his local as delegate, legislative representative, vice president, president and local chairperson. In March 1992, he became the inaugural local president of his local. In March 2008, Bates made UTU history when he was elected as the first black state legislative director in the history of our union and predecessor unions.

From 2005 to 2007, Bates served Amtrak as their safety engineer. In 2011, Bates was awarded the Governor's Transportation Safety Award for rail transportation by the governor of Virginia. Under the Obama Administration, Bates served as a member of the 20-person Transit Rail Advisory Committee for Safety (TRACS).

Past WDDGM **Willie M. Seward, Sr.** (71) of Brunswick Lodge #108 was raised in the lodge in August 1983. Brother Seward remembers observing his wife's uncle, the late James B. Harrison #108, laboring in service to his community and wanted to be a part of the Masons. Retiring from Vulcan Materials after 32 years as a heavy equipment operator, he now works part-time for Brown's Funeral Home in Lawrenceville. WPM Seward was first appointed District Deputy Grand Master by MWPGM Billie L. Thompson, Sr. #46 and served the position for 23 years before seeing his son, WPM Willie M. Seward, Jr., appointed to the position by MWGM Donald S. Wilson #67.

Sunset January 2021 – January 2022

WPM Rev. Dr. **William Nelson Bland, Jr.** of Sheba Lodge #17 passed on 10/14/2021
Brother **Evan H. Bolling** of C. V. Wilson Lodge #317 passed in October 2021
WPM **Harry Charity Jr.** of Lincoln Lodge #11 passed on 01/31/2020
Brother **Darrell Clayton** of King of Tyre Lodge #292 passed on 11/6/2020
WPM **John Cole** of Moses/Gravel Run Lodge #290 passed in November 2021
WPM **William E. Costner** of King Tyre Lodge #292 passed on 02/25/2021
Brother **Idof T. Glover** of Pocahontas Lodge #7 passed on 08/02/2021
WPM **James Harold Latimer** of Richmond Lodge #65 passed on 10/23/2021
Brother **Ernest Hayes, Sr.** passed on 12/20/2021
WPM **Anderson S. Hendon** of Caledonia Lodge #240 passed on 01/01/2022
Bro. **Lawrence Johns** (from the Richmond Times Dispatch)
Bro. **Gregory Monk** of Acacia Lodge #32 passed on 07/3/ 2021
Bro. **Rayfield Motley** of Danville Royal #104 passed on 10/08/2021
WPM **Henry Phillips** of King David Lodge #28 passed on 01/08/2022
Brother **Dennis Roberts** of Capital City Lodge #107 passed in December 2021
WPM **Josh Robinson, Jr.** of King David Lodge #28 passed on 12/20/2021
Past WDDGM **Charles E. Shelton** of Carey Wheaton Lodge #307 passed on 08/29/2021
Brother **Clifton Smith, Sr.** of Edward Jones Lodge #327 passed on 08/02/2021
WPM **Ernugh Spencer** of Acacia Lodge #32 passed on 04/25/ 2021
WPM **Milton Wilborn III** of Triangle Lodge #293 passed on 09/26/2020

Grand Master's Agenda of Events for 2022

JANUARY 8, School of Instruction in Northern VA (rescheduled to April)
22, School of Instruction in Richmond (rescheduled to March)
30, Divine Sunday

FEBRUARY 5, School of Instruction in Tidewater
19, School of Instruction in Petersburg

MARCH 5, School of Instruction Richmond
12, BOD meeting,
31, Divine Sunday,

APRIL 2, School of Instruction Northern Virginia
20, State-Wide Veteran Visitation,

MAY 15, Founder's Day, Petersburg, VA
29, Divine Sunday

JUNE 5, Grand Chapter OES Whit Sunday
11, Grand Master's Annual Golf Tournament
12, St. John the Baptist Day,
25, Grand Lodge Charity Ball

JULY 15-17, KOP Summer Encampment
26 -28, Grand Chapter Session OES –
31, Divine Sunday

AUGUST 6, Grand Lodge Cook-Out in Richmond

SEPTEMBER 15th – 17th, 146th Grand Lodge Session at the Embassy Suites Hampton/Newport News,

As the Honorable Robert E. Harris., Most Worshipful Grandmaster of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of **Virginia, holds the ribbon, Past Grandmaster Thomas E. Minor cuts it** prior to unveiling **the monument which commemorates the birthplace** of **the MWPHGL** of **Virginia** some **106 years** ago.

The unveiling ceremony **took** place **at historical First Baptist Church on Harrison Street in downtown Petersburg** Sunday and **was performed in** a **most impressive manner** by **Grandmaster Harris** and other Grand **Lodge Officers.**

Looking on is George M. **Ellis .Ir .. District Deputy Grandmaster of Prince Hall Masons in the 12th Masonic District. Ellis** served as **Chairperson for a 10-man group known** as **Petersburg Project 2** Committee. Past **Grandmaster Minor initiated the project during his administration** as **MWGM** and **Grandmaster Harris carried the project through to completion.**

High School Graduate Scholarship Applications

Available for High School Seniors for the Class of 2022 & 2nd, 3rd, & 4th Year College Students
Contact Your Lodge
If your father or grandfather is in good standing or was in good standing when he passed or if you are an active member of the Knights of Pythagoras
YOU ARE ELIGIBLE!
Deadline for submission is April 1, 2022 Follow the instructions on the application then send to:
Office of Grand Secretary MWPHGL of VA
P. O. Box 14646, Richmond, VA 23221-0646

The Annual Grand Master's Golf Tournament

Saturday, June 11, 2022 at The KISKIACK Golf Club, 8104 Club Dr., Williamsburg, Virginia 23188
$400 per team or $110 per player, Registration 7 AM – Shotgun Start 8 AM
Awards for 1st, 2nd, & 3rd places, also Longest Drive, Closest To Pin, & Hole In One & Non-player lunch $20.
Make checks payable to **MWPHGL of VA** and mail to PGM Larry D. Christian, 241 Reflection Dr, Williamsburg, VA 23188 or
757 566-2066, or email PGM Christian at lchristian2@verizon.net

Contact Brothers

Leonard Hawkins	John Amos	Curtis Gunn	Edward Lattimore III	Leonard Johnson	Devery Travers
804 271-7136	757 605-8513	757 593-4913	757 236-9099	703 856-3188	703 906-7682

Pre-Registration Deadline June 4, 2022

A Tribute to Our Sisters of the Order of Eastern Star

"….even when people call your truth a lie, tell it anyway." Rev. Katie G. Cannon, the first African American woman to be ordained in the U. S. Presbyterian Church

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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