



The Bee Hive



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

Summer 2024

Volume 31, Number 2

“A Commitment to Leadership, Fellowship and Scholarship”



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Grand Worthy Matron Jacqueline Sutton and Most Worshipful Grand Master Beverly W. “Butch” Morgan, Jr. #298

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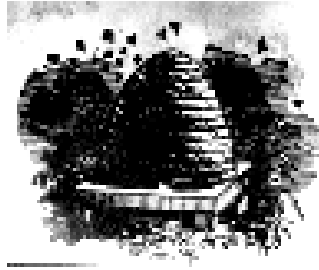
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Most Worshipful Grand Master Beverly W. "Butch" Morgan, Jr. poses with Senior Brothers WPM Ernest Jackson #188 and WDDGM Emeritus Morris W. Nelson #113

The Bee Hive

Vol. 31 No. 2

THE PRINCIPLES FOR WHICH WE STAND

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

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Mission Statement

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

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

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

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Beverly W. "Butch" Morgan, Jr. #298

The 82nd Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of VA F & AM, Inc.

I am eternally grateful to have this opportunity to compose a statement in our magnificent publication styled the Bee Hive. On September 16, 2023, you elected me to lead this grand Jurisdiction. I considered this to be an honor and privilege that you elected me to serve this MWPHGL of Virginia.

Thanks to your tireless effort, the MWPHGL of Virginia is on the move again. Together, we have made significant progress.

When asked to write an article for the Bee Hive with emphasis on expanding on my theme "**Commitment to Leadership, Fellowship, Scholarship**", I initially thought this might be a heavy lift. After a lot of thinking and a great deal of prayer, this theme is a culmination of my life experiences. My childhood, my education, my parental guidance to include my grandparents who always encouraged me to remember the "Golden Rule" and never forgetting the United States Marine Corps Motto, "Do or Die".

Leadership has been a part of my life as far as I can recall. My Dad instilled in me, and my brothers, "be your own man, think for yourself, never allow others to think for you and **Always Keep the Good Lord First.**" With those encouraging beliefs, I always start the day with positive energy and thoughts. Together we will continue to raise the standards of our Grand Lodge and continue to project our progress advancing.

When I assumed the position as the 82nd MWGM, I asked myself several questions. What are my short-term goals, my mid-term and my long-term goals and how do I go about accomplishing them. With the understanding the one thing all Grand Masters have in common, none have never been a Grand Master before. With that said, I reached back on my past and current leadership experiences... **Leadership.** Leadership is a process of self-development. No one can teach you how to lead; you need to be willing and able to learn how to lead. Mostly, we learn from our experiences and facing adversity. Stepping outside of the spaces where we feel safe — is a powerful teacher."

Here are several qualities I view for successful Leadership.

1. **Authenticity:** Being genuine and true to who you are, is fundamental to success in any role. You must embody your best self — the version that's not only highly effective but also capable of motivating and inspiring those around you. Your competence is not enough; people need to trust your character and connect with you, otherwise they will not be willing to take risks with you.
2. **Curiosity:** It's about looking around the corner, exploring uncharted territories, and trying to understand the art of the possible. Great leaders have an "outside-in" perspective of their organizations and teams. This means they have an ability to look at situations and issues from the standpoint of external stakeholders, such as customers or competitors. This helps me make more informed decisions because they consider the broader context, beyond just internal organizational dynamics.
3. **Analytical prowess:** Leadership requires the ability to break down complex problems, identify their root causes, and come up with fresh solutions. Trusting your gut will not suffice. Instead, you need to develop your analytical skills by focusing on cause-and-effect relationships and being attentive to patterns and trends.
4. **Adaptability:** The world is changing faster than it used to in part because of emerging technology and artificial intelligence. As a result, participant expectations are evolving faster and you, as a leader, need to be able to adjust to these ever-shifting demands... **Fellowship.**
5. **Creativity:** Any idea that is new and useful to the organization is creativity. "Some of those ideas are incremental and others are breakthroughs." The most innovative ideas often emerge from the "adjacent possible," or the range of possibilities immediately within reach. Diversity of thought is the driving force behind true innovation, as each of us brings our own unique perspective and "slice of genius" to the table. So, encourage and promote diverse perspectives in your lodge and embrace the concept of learning from failure... **Scholarship.**
6. **Resilience:** Charging ahead with unwavering vision can spell trouble in today's dynamic and competitive business environment. Successful leaders recognize the fluid nature of situations and strive to understand the cultural context within which they operate. Most important, they exhibit the resilience to recalibrate if they're veering off course. You need to know how to regroup and get input from others by asking, "Is there another path, how to build your resilience." Taking on an assignment without a clear definition of success is unsettling... **Scholarship.**
7. **Empathy:** Understanding and connecting with others on an emotional level is a key trait of strong leadership. Leaders must foster relationships, build trust, and actively engage with their team members. You need to be able to step into the shoes of your team members, understand what matters to them, what their priorities are, and identify common ground. Developing your emotional intelligence gives you a deeper appreciation of the complex challenges others are working through, and helps you foster a more supportive and nurturing environment.

Understand, if you accept the call to leadership, you must be willing to be misunderstood, criticized, opposed, accused, and even rejected.

November 5, 2024 is Election Day in the United States. This is the annual day for general elections of federal public officials. It is statutorily set by the U.S. government as the Tuesday next after the first Monday in November, the Tuesday that occurs within November 2 to November 8.

It was not until the 15th Amendment was passed in 1869 that black men were allowed to vote. But even so, many would-be voters faced artificial hurdles like poll taxes, literacy tests, and other measures meant to discourage them from exercising their voting right. This would continue until the 24th Amendment in 1964, which eliminated the poll tax, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which ended Jim Crow laws. Women were denied the right to vote until 1920, when the long efforts of the women's suffrage movement resulted in the 19th Amendment.

With these amendments removing the previous barriers to voting (particularly sex and race), theoretically all-American citizens over the age of 21 could vote by the mid-1960s. Later, in 1971, the American voting age was lowered to 18, building on the idea that if a person was old enough to serve their country in the military, they should be allowed to vote. With these constitutional amendments and legislation like the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the struggle for widespread voting rights evolved from the Founding Fathers' era to the late 20th century.

Why YOUR Vote Matters: If you ever think that just one vote in a sea of millions cannot make much of a difference, consider some of the closest elections in U.S. history.

In 2000, Al Gore narrowly lost the Electoral College vote to George W. Bush. The election came down to a recount in Florida, where Bush had won the popular vote by such a small margin that it triggered an automatic recount and a Supreme Court case (*Bush v. Gore*). In the end, Bush won Florida by 0.009 percent of the votes cast in the state, or 537 votes. Had 600 more pro-Gore voters gone to the polls in Florida that November, there may have been an entirely different president from 2000–2008.

More recently, Donald Trump defeated Hillary Clinton in 2016 by securing a close Electoral College win. Although the election did not come down to a handful of votes in one state, Trump's votes in the Electoral College decided a tight race. Clinton had won the national popular vote by nearly three million votes, but the concentration of Trump voters in key districts in "swing" states like Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, and Michigan helped seal enough electoral votes to win the presidency.

Your vote may not directly elect the president, but if your vote joins enough others in your voting district or county, your vote undoubtedly matters when it comes to electoral results. Most states have a "winner take all" system where the popular vote winner gets the state's electoral votes. There are also local and state elections

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4) to consider. While presidential or other national elections usually get a significant voter turnout, local elections are typically decided by a much smaller group of voters.

How You Can Make Your Voice Be Heard: Be informed! Read up on political issues (both local and national) and figure out where you stand. **Get out and talk to people. —JUST GO VOTE!**

In summary, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt thanks to the entire Prince Hall Virginia Family for the steadfast commitment to achieving our goals... getting your assessments in on time, Lodges shaken the pandemic mode and reengaging in Masonic actives, by raising Masons and re-establishing your community projects. Your hard work and dedication truly keep the momentum going. Your professionalism, dedication, and positive attitude bring an extraordinary value to the Jurisdiction of Virginia. Together we will continue to raise the standards of our Grand Lodge and continue to project our advancing progress. Thank you for your invaluable contributions each day. Your actions are reflective of **“A COMMITMENT TO LEADERSHIP FELLOWSHIP SCHOLARSHIP”**

From the Editor

WPM L. J McCoy, Jr. #33



On December 9, 1872, Lieutenant Governor Pinckney Benton Stewart Pinchback of Louisiana was appointed as the first African American governor of a state in the United States of America. P. B. S. Pinchback replaced Governor Henry C. Warmoth who was impeached as governor of Louisiana.

Voting proved the difference, in the election of an African American to this distinguished position.

At the 2024 Dillwyn School of Instruction, Most Worshipful Grand Master Beverly W. —Butch” Morgan, Jr. #298 stated to the brothers that he had seen a CNN news broadcast the previous morning of an African American female from South Carolina who expressed displeasure of the economy and believed African Americans should not vote in the 2024 November Presidential Elections. Recognizing how a former NFL player had —~~stl~~ himself as a puppet senatorial candidate”, he pointed out the importance that Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. struggled and died for these voting rights for a better America for everyone.

As a former NAACP branch president for over nine years and as a voting rights advocate for over 25 years, I fought for voter registration, as well as for restoration of individual voting rights. I recall a voter registration event in Richmond where I literally ran out of restoration of voter rights forms. That is the situation of our disenfranchised African Americans, even today. Let us not be mis-educated in believing that our communities are not interested in participating in being a part of this great democratic process.

Neither Governor Pinchback nor the first elected Governor L. Douglas Wilder would have been elevated to the office of a United States governor, if we had not been active participants in these election procedures. People, we must do our part to not only GET OUT AND VOTE, but we also need to encourage others, to do the same.

Our need to execute this right to vote should not be minimized in order to promote this great country where our ancestors have come treading in the path through the blood of the slaughtered. We are strong in believing the God of our weary years, of our silent tears continue to lead us into the light. Let us prosper on their strength in order that we may forever stand TRUE to our GOD and TRUE to our Native Land.

Get Out and Vote in 2024.

We continue Our On-going Series of Working for Perfection



WPM **Ernest Jackson** (91) has been a member of Keystone Lodge #188 since 1972. After hearing his church members at Spreading Oak Baptist Church speak so highly of Masons, he asked a deacon about becoming one. Brother Jackson had been employed at Uniroyal in Scottsville before retiring after 28 years. He now works around his home as he contributes to his church and lodge.

Brother **Shelton Thomas Johnson** (70) was raised in Keystone Lodge #188 in 1977. Learning from Brother Thomas Hudson and other brothers, he believed he could make a difference in the community. Managing his own business as a mechanic, he has been a state inspector since 1979. Brother Johnson also ran a successful trucking company supporting Tyson Chicken from 1975 till he sold the business in 2019.



WPM **Melvin Johnson** (75) of Keystone Lodge #188 found light in the lodge in 1993. Brother Johnson was inspired by his father, Brother Hayes M. Johnson #188 who passed away at 102, to become a Mason. WPM Johnson retired from the state of Virginia in 2013 in finance after 34years. Having passed out of all the higher houses of Masonry, he now occupies his time with golfing, vacationing and church.

Asst. Grand Marshall WPM **Demare Gill** (62) was raised in Alleghany-Dunbar Lodge #109 in 2000. Brother Gill was introduced to Masonry by the late WDDGM Donnell Freeman #109. After 12 years with the military, he told Brother Freeman he was ready. Brother Gill began college at East Carolina, but finished at Virginia Western with a degree in industrial engineering. Appointed by MWPGM Richard Townes as WAGM, he now runs his own business of Mechanical Presentation Services and remains active there.



School of Instruction in Buckingham



Dillwyn – Blessed with spring-like weather on Saturday February 3, 2024, RW Grand Lecturer of the West Larry T. Johnson #298 congratulated Keystone Lodge #188 Brothers Larry Haskins, Gary Henderson and Freddie Watson who opened the school as Worshipful Master, Sr. Warden and Jr. Warden respectfully along with members from Caledonia Lodge #240.

After W. Grand Marshal Reginald B. Clark #292 with his assistants escorted in Most Worshipful Grand Master Beverly W. –Butch” Morgan, Jr. #298, the Grand Master immediately asked for prayers for WPM Dr. Johnson #13 for the lost of his daughter and recognized senior members Ernest Jackson #188 and W, DDGM Emeritus Morris Nelson #113 for attending the session. The Grand Master then presented Brother Dr. Larry Rowley #20 with a certificate as a first time attendee.

RW Grand Lecturer of the East Jose R. Ortiz #34 and RWGL Johnson began their instructions on the passing of a brother of an honorable death, financially active and the family’s desires. Brothers who requested more knowledge included Brothers Linwood Cowan #240, Keith Toliver #18, Warren Paul #293, John Brown #18, Roland Jackson #188, Jerry Johnson #240, Jerome Glover #240, Morris Russ #132, Vonzell Parrish #20 and Wesley Mays #318.

MWGM Morgan then had RW Grand Director Charles A. Jones, Sr. #81 who spoke on the April 17th Veterans Day event and the August 10th Masonic Family Day at Kings Dominion. RWGD Earnest L. Prather #293 who gave details on the Grand View computer program which will assist the lodges, RW Grand Jr. Deacon Curtis James #67 who gave updates on the Car Raffle and the RW Grand Secretary Stevie R. Gray #314 who reminded the brothers of the April 4th deadline for submitting scholarship applications.

Following the morning break, the Grand Master presented Brother Valentino Hopkins #229 with a Certificate of Merit, Keystone Lodge #188 was presented the Certificate with the most members present and Mt. Zion Lodge #18 was presented a Certificate for the lodge with the highest percentage of members present.



Northern Virginia School of Instruction

By WPM Steven Goodson #293 & L. J. McCoy #33

King George – Challenged with weather predictions of freezing rain and snow on February 17th, Most Worshipful Grand Master Beverly W. —Btch” Morgan, Jr. #298 issued a two hour delay of the start of the school. Under the direction of RW Grand Lecturer of the East Jose R. Ortiz #34 and RW Grand Lecturer of the West Larry T. Johnson #298, the school was then opened officially by Brothers acting as WM Lydell Fortune #125, SW Tyson D. Bland #314 and JW Joshua Cary #125.

Grand Master Morgan was then pleased to welcome 16 first-time attendees (pictured right) where Brother Ronald Davis #298 spoke on their behalf. Performing under a condensed schedule, the Grand Master assured everyone that the



Grand Lecturers would not neglect any questions or instructions during the course of the day. The lessons of the day by the Grand Lecturers gave detail understandings of Masonic burials and procedures. While issues of concerned were addressed, Brothers Carroll Alexander #330, Harold Brown #124, Payton Dare #1, Claude Pite #293, Jallal Bahsoon #293, Earl Valentine #258, Billy Johnson #124, Carl Albritton #298, Shelly Bothwell #293, Gerald Lowery #298, George Smith #61, Tolbert #330, Ricodo Alfaro #32, Carlton Newton #58, Chris Lewis #32 and Steven Harding #161 were satisfied at the answers.

RW Grand Directors Charles A. Jones, Sr. #81 and Earnest L. Prather #293 then took the opportunity to update the brothers on Veterans Day,

Kings Dominion’s Family Day and Grand-View which is the computer program to assist lodges in Grand Lodge updates and records.

Following the roll call of lodges by W. Asst. Grand Secretary Devery Travers #11, MWGM Morgan was proud to present the lodge with the highest percentage of members present to Piedmont Lodge #75 and the greatest member of members present to his own lodge Pride of Fairfax #298. The Grand Master was also



pleased to award Brothers Ronna Hall #58, Eugene Porter #293, Jacques Thomas #292, Michael Garnes #292, Gerald Lowery #298, Lydell Fortune #125 and Joshua Cary #125 with Certificates of Merit.

Before wishing everyone safe travels to their respective homes, Grand Master Morgan emphasized the importance of voting in the 2024 November elections.



The Final 2023-24 School of Instruction



Petersburg – On a soaking rainy morning March 2, 2024, RW Grand Lecturer of the East Jose R. Ortiz #34 and RW Grand Lecturer of the West Larry T. Johnson #298 entertained the last School of Instruction for the 2023-24 Season at the Halifax St. Temple in Petersburg. The Grand Lecturers were instrumental in following the opening of the session by Sheba Lodge’s WM Larry Mathews #17, SW Tyrone Marshall #17 and JW Brian Pettiford #17

Changing the school’s agenda, Most Worshipful Grand Master allowed RW Sr. Grand Deacon Alton L. Miles #196 to give updates on the Grand Lodge Car Raffle since he had to leave early for the drawing at the Grand Lodge offices at 12 noon. MWGM Morgan then took the opportunity to welcome 12 first-time attendees to the school and heard remarks from Brother Lynwood Jefferson #15.

Lessons began as Committee on Work member Terrence Payton #80 read questions to which the Grand Lecturers gave response and received questions from the body. Brothers who had questions and comments included Tyrone Marshall #17, Anton Johnson #13, Harold Brown #124, Derek Price #17, Terrance Wilkerson #7, Rev. George Lyons #43, Tony Hines #43, Terrell Morgan #247, Cornelious Harper #290, Darrin Hill #43, Juan C. Tomei #7, James Parham #290, Joseph Newton #16, Larry Mathews #17 and Billy Johnson #124.

After the roll call of lodges, the Grand Master was proud to award the lodge with the greatest number of members to Sheba Lodge #17 and the greatest percentage of members to Moses-Gravel Run #290. Finally, he presented Certificates of Merit to Tyquan Taylor #43, Kenneth Brown #80, Tony Hines #43, Ronald Johnson #7, George Lyons #43 and James Spencer #146.



Growing - Beautiful

Contributions from MWPGM Larry D. Christian #253



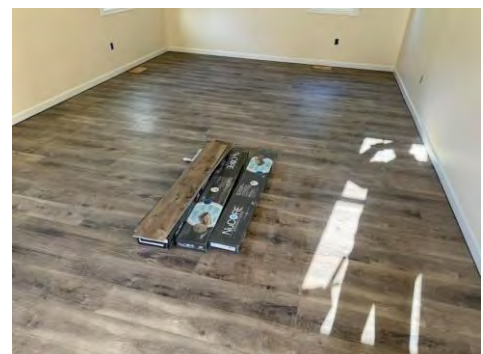
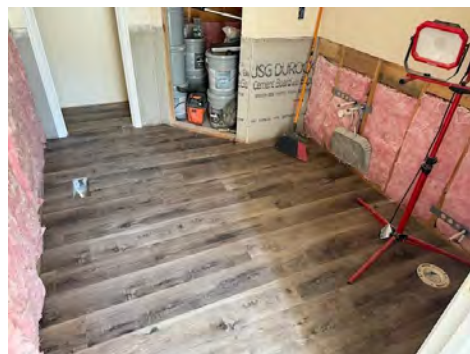
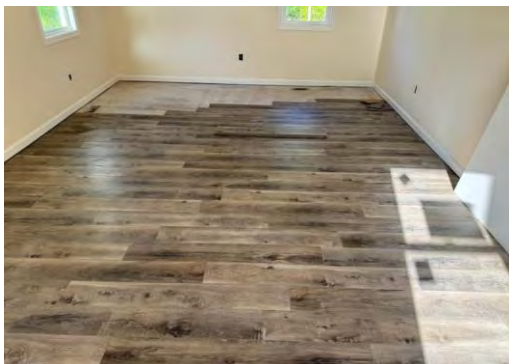
Kilmarnock – The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia continues our most intense real estate investment development. Completing the exterior of the fourth and fifth cabin on the property, Project Manager MWPGM Larry D. Christian #253 found time to pursue and relay detail construction with the contractors.

As you recall, the Kilmarnock Project began when WPM William L. Lee of Palestine Lodge #100 approached the Grand Lodge through MWPGM Christian for help in savaging their Lodge on two acres in Lancaster County. Brother Christian who was Grand Master at the time promised WPM Lee that the Grand Lodge Board of Directors would work with Palestine Lodge #100 to save the property. After making financial arrangements with the bank, the Grand Lodge assumed the loan which is now paid off. The bottom floor of the Lodge is rented to out for weddings, Church affairs and other similar events. MWPGM Christian instituted a program that cost each member of the Grand Lodge \$49.00, which prevented the Grand Lodge from having to borrow the funds and each member of the Grand Lodge is now a share holder in the Investment of the property.

Recognizing the opportunity to expand the Kilmarnock investment, the Grand Lodge purchased an additional 30 acres from Mrs. Brenda Campbell in 2010. After the Grand Lodge delegates approved the Grand Directors plan to develop the property, the construction of the first cabin began.

In May of 2024, both Most Worshipful Grand Master Beverly W. –Butch” Morgan, Jr. #298 and the committee were briefed on the progress by the contractors.

In 2024, we expect to complete our project. Our project manager and the Grand Lodge Board of Directors will continue to keep the Grand Master and the brothers informed of the progress and welcome your input at the Grand Lodge Session. At your leisure, find the opportunity to visit the site.



Our RW Grand Lecturer of the East, Jose R. Ortiz

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33



Heads turned, eyebrows raised and jaws dropped as then Committee on Work member WPM Jose Ortiz made an opening announcement at the 143rd Grand Lodge Session when he introduced then MWGM Paige D. Cherry #3 in fluent Spanish on November 29, 2018.



Raised in Lebanon Lodge #34 which is the lodge of Most Worshipful Past Grand Master Robert E. Harris, Sr., Brother Ortiz was raised in 1992. As a native of Brooklyn, New Yorker, he attended and graduated from James H. Groves High School in Wilmington, Delaware.

Following his graduation, he focused on a career in the United States Marine Corps. After serving eight years with the Marines which included a tour

in Iraq, he has been employed with the Newport News Juvenile Service for 17 years where he now serves as a Program Supervisor. Brother Ortiz also studied as a student in criminal justice at St. Leo University in St. Leo, Florida.



In the course of service for our country, he inquired

about Freemasonry and was later introduced by then Command Master Chief Ronald L. Carter #92 who inspired him to pursue his travels to the East. Brother Ortiz also credits his challenge to be more

ritualistically sound to RW Sr. Grand Warden Edward E. Lattimore, III #13, RW Jr. Grand Deacon Curtis B. James, Sr. #67 and of course MWPGM Harris.

Finally, RW Grand Lecturer of the East Jose R. Ortiz would hope that Brothers who attended the Schools of Instruction under his tenure would have become more proficient in the ritualistic work and sincerely hope that he served this Jurisdiction with distinction as Grand Lecturer of Prince Hall Masons in Virginia.



Our RW Grand Lecturer of the West, Larry T. Johnson

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33

As the sole Grand Lecturer at the December 11, 2021 School of Instruction in Buckingham, the Grand Lecturer impressed the young and senior brothers while responding to Masonic questions and procedures.

The present Right Worthy Grand Lecturer of the West, WPM Larry T. Johnson, was born and raised in the Empire State capital city of Albany. Determined early in life on becoming a model citizen, as a youth he first delivered newspapers, then while in high school he found work at the Memorial Hospital where he worked in food services. Attending and graduating from Albany High School, he then enrolled in Hudson Valley Community College.

Joining the military in 1984, he served in both the United States bases and overseas until he retired in September 30, 2014.

While his first Masonic experience was a bittersweet but pleasant one, it evolved at the passing of his grandfather, Brother Thomas Allen. This discovery of finding out he was a Mason was special inspiration as he looked back on how he lived his life which was not displayed by the emblem he wore, but the life which emanated from within him.

Influenced by Brothers Harva Allen and Roscoe Brazile in becoming a member of Pride of Fairfax Lodge #298, he was then raised in March 24, 2012 where he is still their product. Following his years with the Committee on Work, he decided to run and was elected RW Grand Lecturer of the West in 2021 at the 145th Grand Lodge Session.

In closing, he reflected on a conversation with a particular brother that involved these Latin phrases, "Memento Vivere and Memento Mori", which translates to, "remember to live, and remember also that we must die". As he further remembered, this discussion reminded him that all the lessons found within Free Masonry reminds him of how precious life is, and should inspire us to live our lives to the fullest without regret, and by blessing all mankind with that charity that extends beyond this earthly realm.



21st Annual Spring Grand Master Golf Tournament



Williamsburg – As temperatures soared into the mid 90's, eleven teams challenged each other on the greens at Kiskiack Golf Club to compete for prizes and awards on June 22, 2024. Golf Committee Chair Most Worshipful Past Grand Master Larry D. Christian #253 and his committee even offered breakfast biscuits before tee-off, as well as lunch during the course of the day.

Through the years of selling Masonic paraphernalia, raffle ticket sales and of course registering golf teams, PGM Christian was proud to announce over \$175,000 has been donated for scholarships to second, third and fourth year college students. Following a prayer by Pastor Todd Davison of First Baptist Church Hampton, players boarded the carts for the greens.

After several hours of play, scores were tabulated and winners included:



1st place - **Edwin Smith, Todd Davidson, Herman Heard, Tyler Smith** - Score – 55 (top left)

2nd place - **Garry Jones, Tikki Hicks, Greg Holloway** - Score – 58 (middle)

3rd place - **Devery Travers, Nate Bonds, Eric Richardson, John Wilson** - Score – 59 (top right)

Last place - **John Amos, MWGM Butch Morgan, Chris Goodson** - Score - 73

Longest Drive - #1 - **James Forrest** (bottom left)

Longest Drive - #16 - **Tikki Hicks** (2nd from left)

Closest to the - Pin #5 - **Tim Burton** (3rd from left)

Closest to the - Pin #11 - **Robert Mabry** (right pictured)



Following the raffle presentations, RW Jr. Grand Warden Antonio R. Pride #43 introduced Most Worshipful Grand Master Beverly W. –Butch” Morgan, Jr. #298 who gave closing remarks.

Sponsoring Holes at the Grand Master's Golf Tournament



While the Golf Committee receives support from the participating teams and the raffle for our students, additional support is obtained from sponsors of the 18 holes on the course.

Sponsoring holes included MWPHGL of VA, MWGM Butch Morgan, Grand Chapter OES, GWM Jackie Sutton, RWDGM George Cutler, GWP Ruffin & GAP Harrison, Golf Committee, MEGHP Gunn, MWPHGL BOD's, RWSGW Edward Lattimore, WDDGM Curtis Gunn, Wilson's - Donald & Sandra, Morning Star, YorkStar-Zedekiah Lodge #167, RWJGW Antonio Pride, 31st Masonic District, WPM Herman Chandler, Mt. Zion #18, WPSGS Leonard Hawkins (Hawk), Cyrus Grand Chapter HRAM - Gunn, WG#5 - RWSGD Alton Miles, King P William E. Moore Jr. #92, RWGD Walter Brown, WDDGM Lynwood Jones, RWJGD Curtis James, PGWP Floyd Brown Jr., PGWM/PP COGM&GP Robin Brown, IMO David Wilson, IMO Floyd Brown, Sr. & Curtis Holland WDDGM Parker/WADDGM Manning, 6th/7th Masonic District, Capital City Lodge #107, WPM Nathaniel Henry, Pocahontas Lodge #7, Eureka Chapter #2, REDMOND'S PLUMBING & ELECTRICAL, INC., QUALITY HEALTH CARE, INC, Wilbert Hopkins - IMO MSGT Tonjua M. Stewart, Campbell Lodge #67, A Logo for You, RWGD Earnest L. Prather, WADDGM Hosza Bagley, Devery & Shonae Travers, K9Motorcycle Club - Brad, WPM George Dean, 13th Masonic District - WDDGM Seward, Bee Hive Committee, 27th Masonic District, MWPGM's, Dr. Harold Jones - WPM, Erique & Attira Group (Nelson Perry), 11th MD & WDDGM Keith Brown, RWGL E- Jose Ortiz, RWGL W- Larry T. Johnson, WPM Ron Steel, King George Lodge #314, 12th Masonic District, RWGD Charles Jones, Progressive Lodge #80, WPADDGM Carl Albritton, Easter Star Lodge #13, Palestine Lodge #100, IMO Calvin Evans, WDDGM-E Raymond Sutton, Social Lodge #6 & Dr. Barnett, 26th Masonic District, RWGTE James Watkins, RWGS Stevie Gray, RWGT Rendell R. Briggs, Committee On Work, Wilbert Hopkins - IMO MSGT Tonjua M. Stewart, WPGD Leonard Johnson, Triangle Lodge #293, Welcome Lodge #125, WDDGM Eddie Waugh, WDDGM Billy Peters & PDDGM Buddy Staples, 14th / 16th MD, Mt. Gilead-Alpha/Omega Lodge #46, WPDDGM John Harrison, Mt. Moriah #1, Mt. Nebo #43, Sheba Lodge #17, Lord Hannibal Lodge #327, WADDGM Hosza Bagley, Willie/Jenean Wright, Moses-Gravel Run Lodge #290, Eureka Lodge #15, Maceo Consolidated Lodge #124, Matthew McGuffey, 3rd Masonic District MWC, Michael -House" Broadhead and Triple River #253 & United #169 Lodge #253.

We thank you for your support.



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

Contact MWPGM Larry D. Christian at 757 746-6770, or email him at lchristian2@verizon.net

Check the back cover of this issue for more details.

Veterans Day in Hampton Roads

By WGP William E. Moore, Jr. #92 & WM Johnson #13



Hampton – Alternating on the grill as Pitt Masters, WDDGM Antonio Hinton #13 and WADDGM Jerome Brisco #167 served up more than fellowship and fun at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Hampton, Virginia. Brothers from the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 6th, 7th, and 33rd Masonic Districts were present on the April 13, 2024 Veterans Day where they entertained over 30 veterans.

While serving a menu of hot dogs, hamburgers, baked beans, chips and beverages, over 40 brothers joined in to assist. Lodges actively participating included Rising Sun #2, Eastern Star #13, Lebanon #34, Ruth #92, Blooming Olive #94, Tidewater #106, Maceo Consolidated #124, Yorkstar-Zedekiah #167, Norfolk New Light 196 and Washington #323. In addition to Worthy Matron Kimbe Watson and the Sisters from Pride of Hampton Chapter #150, members of the Omicron Nu Xi Military Sorority, Inc. – Veronica Johnson, Klon Ann Derosin and Aisha Moore – were also in attendance.

Making it a challenging day, the brothers and sisters played bingo for prizes and a basketball free throw shoot-out along with a game of HORSE which amazed the vets.

After the VA Administrator spoke on the importance of the Masonic partnership with the VA, RW Deputy Grand Master George T. Cutler, Jr. #80 addressed the body on the need for giving back to the community and supporting our veterans.



The Grand Lodge Celebrates Our Veterans in Central Virginia

By RWGD Charles A. Jones, Sr. #81 & photos by W. Asst. GP Ricky McKnight #28



Richmond – On April 17, 2024, over 100 brothers were present at the Richmond Vet Center at 4902 Fitzhugh Ave. to honor our veterans. Under the direction of W. Grand Sr. Steward Morris #6, WPM Vernon Claiborne, and RWGD Charles A. Jones, Sr. #81, they entertained over 75 vets.

Our war heroes were served hot dogs, hamburgers, baked beans, green beans, southern fried chicken, potato salad, beverages and cakes donated from a local business. Brothers from the 11th, 12th and 26th Masonic Districts assisted in making the event a day of social celebration.

Following a DJ musically inspired line dance competition, WDDGM Lynwood Jones #27 expressed a special thanks and appreciation to our vets and everyone in attendance.



Western Virginia Veterans Honored

By WDDGM Felix Morgan #109



Salem – Under the direction of RWGD Walter E. Brown #18 and WDDGM Jerome Morgan #109, Veterans at the Salem Veterans Hospital were recognized by the brothers of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia Free and Accepted Mason, Inc.

Serving over 280 vets on April 17, 2024, everyone enjoyed servings of hot dogs, baked beans, soft drinks and desserts at the center.

While lodges from Danville, Martinsville, Harrisburg, Lynchburg, Martinsville and Staunton participated, WDDGM Walter H. Davis #295, along with Most Worshipful Past Grand Master George H. Clemons #120, were also in attendance.



Brother Ervin Hutchings, Sr. - His POW Story



Martinsville - One may find him chatting with friends at the Exxon gas station at the intersection of Rt. 58 and Robin Rd. or a brother may find him on the second Saturday night at Sandy Level Lodge #274 or dining on a seafood dinner with his wife, Wilmath, at Captain Tom's Seafood in Martinsville, but you won't find him rocking in a chair at home. The semi retired truck driver, grandfather and community activist finds little time to sit idle.

Although Brother Ervin G. Hutchings, Sr. #274 is now thousands of miles away from the rice fields of Viet Nam where his active military career came to an abrupt halt, he continues as a community standout. Recalling the events of that humid day in 1969 in the South Asian country, Brother Hutchings does not shy away from speaking about the details.

Growing up as the sixth child in a family of four boys and four girls, he believed in finding his future, if one worked hard. While he tried employment at the Dan River Cotton Mill, then at Smith & Douglas Fertilizer, he found his calling when he was drafted into the Army in 1969. Gaining his basic training, he then went on to Fort Benning and began airborne training. As a proven paratrooper and tactical weapons personnel, his desires to be stationed in



Germany changed when he was assigned as a door gunner on a helicopter in Viet Nam.

During a less than routine mission to which he was assigned, the helicopter he was on was hit and lost the rear tail propeller and the chopper spun uncontrollably to the ground. As identified when survivors are shot down behind enemy lines, they are classified as MIA's and POW's. United States recovery forces were able to locate him and his fellow crew members, and shuffled them back to the nearest United States installation. He was then transferred to a military facility in Oakland, California for a full recovery. Receiving a Purple Heart for his actions and injuries, he was offered an opportunity for an honorable discharge – he accepted.

Following his discharge, Brother Hutchings gained his CDL and began a career as a long distant truck driver and raised his family of four children with seven grandchildren and one great child and one great on the way. Brother Hutchings extends a positive outlook on life as he continues to support his church, his Veterans Post and his lodge in order that other individuals may be as prosperous as he has been.



History of Shiloh Lodge

By the late MWPGM Bossie B. Simmons #33 & WPM L. J. McCoy, Jr. #33



Located in the Historic City Point District at the intersection of Prince Henry and Maplewood Streets, Shiloh Lodge overlooks the scenic Appomattox River. The lodge has had an interesting and colorful history in the annals of Prince Hall Freemasonry in Virginia since it was chartered in 1876 with the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia Free & Accepted Masons, Inc. Celebrating 147 years in 2024; the lodge is only one year younger than the MWPHGL of VA.

The present building in which we held meetings has timber and other artifacts within its walls that date back some 276 years. The historical records show Shiloh Lodge hall was at one time the headquarters for the Federal Quartermaster General of the United States Army, during the Civil War.

The organization made at least one attempt to find a proper building location prior to settling on the current site. Minutes from a meeting in January 1877 indicate that the lodge brought a lot from a Mr. Palmer for \$50.00 with a \$25.00 down payment. After finding out that the lodge could not be built on this location, they sold it to Mr. William Green who paid the Temperance Lodge back the \$25.00 down payment and arranged payments to Mr. Palmer for the lot.

Minutes from a later meeting which are still on file in the archives of the lodge hall, show that our present building's history goes back to the date of October 22,

1877. Members of the lodge entered into an agreement to purchase the property and building from Brother A. Donan, a member and trustee of Shiloh Lodge. With a committee composed of brothers E. D. Bland, Edward Ellis, W. H. Harrison, Rev. Henry Jones, and Rev. William M. Moody, they were empowered to represent the lodge in negotiating for the purchase of the land and property, consisting of one (1) house and several lots, for a total sum of \$1,000.00. A down payment was made in cash of \$250.00 and a balance of \$750.00 was paid over a two year period. The minutes of that meeting reflected that the total sum of \$1,000.00 was paid in full on January 1, 1878. In October of 1976, the Hopewell City Point Heritage Festival designated Shiloh Lodge as —“The City Point House” and made it a part of the historical heritage of the nation.

Some of Virginia's outstanding and illustrious Prince Hall Masons have served as members of this historical lodge. They have made outstanding contributions during their years of service. They have also contributed in many fields of endeavors. In recognizing a few, Brother **E. D. Bland** where a district in the county of Prince George was named after his family members, Brother **George Gilliam** was the first African American boat captain to operate a ship plying its trade up and down the James River, Brother **Arthur Jackson, Sr.** was an outstanding business, civil, and religious leader, Brother **J. H. Lamb** was one of our nation's outstanding African American educators in the early 1920's and late 1930's and one time principal of the African American school in Hopewell, Brother **James W. Spencer** was a surveyor, engineer for highway construction, crane operator, a steam and electrical engineer for E. I. DuPont in Hopewell during World War I located at Firestone, one of the chief engineers for the construction of interstate highways in New York, Ohio, and Pennsylvania and retired from the Youngstown Ohio steel mills, Brother **Bernard Epps, Sr.**, was an outstanding educator in the Hopewell school system in the 1960's and 70's, Brother **Ray C. Edmonds** (pictured left was raised in 1954, still supports the lodge today) was the first African American Hopewell councilman and first African American vice mayor, the late WPM **Rev. Dr. Curtis Harris, Sr.** (pictured right was the first African American mayor of Hopewell and nationally noted civil rights activist and Brother **Bossie B. Simmons** (pictured upper right) is the only Shiloh member in the lodge's history to have held the honor of serving in the position of Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Master of Virginia from 1970 to 1972.



Due to a decline in membership and financial support, the lodge members elected to sell the lodge building in 2019 to the City of Hopewell. The City then partnered, in October 2023, with the National Park Service for a grant application to restore the building to its original status. According to a May 1, 2024 press release, the City of Hopewell received a



\$750,000 grant from the National Park Service for the preservation of Shiloh Lodge as a historical structure.

Shiloh Lodge #33 now meets at the Petersburg Masonic Temple, along with the other 12th Masonic District lodges.

In closing, we want you to know that the members of Shiloh Lodge #33 are children of GOD, traveling on the pathway of time, through a life that leads to eternity. Like all children of the KING, we are striving to teach by precepts and examples, that you should labor for a better world and in order to do this, we stress for you the concepts of brotherhood, sisterhood, Christianity, and love for all mankind.

The 149th MWPHGL of Virginia Founders Day

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33



Petersburg – Pristine blue skies and comfortably warm breezes were fittingly received as the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia Free & Accepted Masons, Inc. held its Saturday morning 149th Founders Day.

On June 8, 2024, over 400 Sisters, Brothers and quest gathered at First Baptist Church Harrison Street to celebrate the union of the two African American Grand Lodges 149 years ago.

Most Worshipful Grand Master Beverly W. –Butch” Morgan, Jr. #298 knew the change from a Sunday evening service to a Saturday morning service would be a dramatic event shift for everyone. Following wise counsel from Past Grand Masters, Senior Brothers and prayer, he decided it would be beneficial for everyone.



As the program opened with RW Grand Lecturer of the West Larry T. Johnson as Master of Ceremonies, Brothers RW Grand Lecturer of the East Jose R. Ortiz #34, WPM Clarence Williams #247, WADDGM Hosza Bagley, Sr. #17, Grand Chapter Secretary Synthia Martin and Grand Lodge Secretary Stevie R. Gray #314 gave the scripture, invocation, welcome, introduction of Grand Chapter Officers and introduction of Grand Lodge Officers respectively. Following an offertory prayer by WADDGM James Parham #290, RWJGW Antonio R. Pride #43 gave the history of the MWPHGL of Virginia and RWSGW Edward E. Lattimore, III read the Credo.

Leaving the keyboards to the podium, Brother Wendell Givens #317 introduced his pastor, Rev. Herbert Holley, as the morning speaker. Pastor Holley took scripture from Mark 2 and entitled his message, —Et’s take it to another Level”.

After Grand Worthy Patron Albert Ruffin introduced Grand Worthy Matron Jacquelyn Sutton for her remarks, RW Deputy Grand Master George E. Cutler, Jr. #80 formally introduced MWGM Beverly W. Morgan, Jr. #298. The Grand Master expressed his pleasure in seeing the full house and welcomed everyone to join him and MWPGM Billie L. Thompson, Sr. #46 in lying a Masonic wreath outside at the MWPHGL of Virginia monument.



Grand Chapter Western School of Instruction

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33



Farmville – Meeting in the Barbara Rose John Auditorium in the former historic R. R. Morton High School now Prince Edward County High School, Grand Lecturer of the West Sasha Johnson and Grand Lecturer of the East Demetrius Fowlkes properly opened the first Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star School of Instruction for 2024.

After an invocation by MWPGM Herman Eggleston, scripture by Grand Esther Brittany Williams, a welcome by Grand District Deputy Organizer Anna Gayles and a roll call of chapters by Grand Secretary Synthia Martin, Grand Worthy Patron Albert Ruffin formally introduced Grand Worthy Matron Jacqueline T. Sutton. The Grand Worthy Matron encouraged everyone to ask questions and make comments on any issue of concern.

The Committee on Work Sisters Ann Beverly, Makea Burton, Tanita Cox, Danielle Fitchett-Mann, Sonya Freeman, Sandra Wilson and Kierra Wood then demonstrated the proper

opening and closing of a chapter. The lecturers followed with instructions on positions the men could hold in the chapter, various dress codes, memberships, demits, chapter visits, initiations, landmarks and elections.

Following questions and discussions, the Grand Lecturers invited all to take the Proficiency Exam. Certificates of STARdom were then presented to Lana Randolph #241, Leonard Johnson #239, Timothy Otey #217, Thelma Jones #147, Collette Wilson #101 and Mitchell Huggurid #109.

As Past Patron Tyrone Wood was invited up to humor us before leaving, GWP Ruffin, again, introduced GWM who gave final comments and was presented a birthday cake which she would celebrate on Sunday March 17, 2024.



Grand Chapter School of Instruction in the East

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33

Numbers following names indicate Chapter

Richmond – Extending a welcome to over 190 sisters and brothers, Grand Lecturer in the East Demetrius Fowlkes opened the April 20, 2024 School of Instruction session in the grand ballroom of Hobson Lodge #23.

After an invocation by Grand District Deputy Organizer #5 Billie Winzor, a welcome by GDDO #35 Emily Nash and a roll call of Grand Officers and Chapters by Grand Secretary Synthia Martin, Grand Worthy Patron Albert Ruffin introduced Grand Worthy Matron Jacqueline Sutton who addressed the body.

The Grand Lecturers then began instructions on properly opening a chapter. In order that everyone observed proper procedures, she challenged everyone to detect the six defects they purposely included in the ceremony. Acting in the capacity of chapter officers, –Worthy Matron” Sheryl Hicks #20, –Assoc. Matron” Danille Fitchett-Mann #50, –Conductress” Ann Beverly #197, –Assoc. Conductress” Sonya Freeman #79 and others opened the demonstration.

After a brief break, the Grand Lecturers entertained questions and answers on constitutional matters. Issues included dress codes by Sister Sonya Freeman, Election Runner procedures by PGWM Robin Brown and Floyd Brown, demits by PGWM Sandra Wilson and balloting and initiations by Grand Lecturer in the West Sasha Johnson.

Following the test results for Certificates of STARDON, awards were presented to Brittney Brown-Price, Marion Allen #228, Tabatha Arnold #288, Sandra Rice #79, Shirley Ross #23, Kim Hinton #3, Robin Wiggins #118, Clyde Lindsay #110, Contessa Lindsay #110, Danille Sheppard #225, Tracy Davis #225 and Alyse Jones #82.

As the session proceeded to close, remarks were given by the Grand Lecturers, GWP Ruffin, GWM Sutton and in the absence of Most Worthy Grand Master Beverly W. Morgan, Jr. by RW Grand Jr. Warden Antonio R. Pride who expressed his pleasure in a successful school.



OES Statewide Whit Sunday Observance

Numbers after names indicate chapter

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33



Richmond – Fresh from a busy week at the Conference of Grand Masters in North Carolina, Grand Worthy Matron Jacqueline Sutton greeted everyone with smiles and blessings. Seating over 300 sisters, brothers and guest in the main sanctuary of Richmond’s Second Baptist Church, the Grand Chapter was well prepared to celebrate its May 19th Whit Sunday.

While Past Worthy Matron Machel J. Eppes #201 served as the program preside, PWM Zenebia Walker #7, Grand District Deputy Organizer Billie Winzor #4, PWM Shoanae Travers #242 and Grand Conductress LaThornia C. D. Murph #204 gave the invocation, welcome and Whit Sunday Proclamation respectfully. Grand Chapter Secretary Synthia D. Martin #66 then introduced the Grand Chapter Officers present and Grand Lodge Secretary Stevie R. Gray introduced the Grand Lodge Officers present.

Past Grand Ester Tanya Tyler #213 then introduced Surry/Newport News native Grand Chaplain Rev. Brenda Austin #3 as the evening’s speaker. Building her address from Acts 1:8 and Acts 2:1, Sister Austin used the theme of –Wait - Something Good is About to Happen”.



Closing remarks were made by Grand Associate Conductress Gracie P. Johnson #223 and Grand Worthy Patron Albert Ruffin #204 who formally introduced Grand Worthy Matron Jacqueline Sutton. Finally, Most Worshipful Grand Master Beverly W. Morgan, Jr. made statements supporting the program and was pleased to see the attendance of the Hawkins Blow Youth Council.



Charlotte Chapter #147 OES, PHA has Annual Banquet



Meherrin – Celebrating their 27th Annual Banquet, Charlotte Chapter #147 OES, PHA held their –Stars Springing Forward” at the Meherrin Fire Department’s Community Hall. On Saturday April 6, 2024, Worthy Matron Donna Davis welcomed over 80 sisters, brothers and friends to enjoy the fellowship and awards program.

Acting as program Mistress of Ceremonies, Grand Lecturer of the West Sasha Johnson received an invocation from Worthy Patron Charlie Davis, scripture from PWP David Dews and a welcome from WM Donna Davis. While GLW Sasha Johnson introduced the head

table, Grand District Deputy Organizer Anna Gayles introduced the Grand Chapter Officers and W. District Deputy Clyde Boyd introduced the Grand Lodge Officers.

Following several selections from the Springfield Travelers, awards were presented by WM Donna Davis to Sisters Claudette Eggleston, Thelma Jones, Brittany Williams and Anna Gayles.

In closing, remarks were made by banquet Chairperson Brittany Williams, GDDO Anna Gayles in the absence of Grand Worthy Matron Jacqueline Sutton and Most Worshipful Grand Master Beverly W. –Butch” Morgan, Jr.

Electa Chapter #7 has Paint & Eat

Petersburg – Wearing bib aprons to guard against splatters of paint stains to their clothing, over 70 individuals sat before canvases on table-top easels to began their creative abilities. The want-to-be artist participated in Electa Chapter #7 Paint & Eat on March 16, 2024.

Along with her committee, Associate Matron Sheryl Davis enlisted the talents of artist and graphic designer Ben Brown who assembled the materials for the masterpieces. The participants were first served a hardy lunch of meatballs, chicken tenders, baked beans and assorted desserts to inspire their imaginations.

After 30 minutes of experimenting and creating, everyone enjoyed their painting experience and the fellowship with the sisters of Electa Chapter #7, the Masonic Brothers and the presence of Most Worshipful Grand Master Beverly W. –Butch” Morgan, Jr. #298.



Elizabeth Harris Chapter Celebrates 100th Anniversary

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33



Richmond – In May of 1923 at the south side Richmond home of Elizabeth Harris, 20 ladies gathered and decided to form an Order of the Eastern Star Chapter. Receiving special permission from the Grand Chapter, the Sisters designated Sister A. Dean as the first Worthy Matron and Brother George Thompson as the first Worthy Patron to form Elizabeth Harris Chapter #86.

The chapter hosted over 100 friends and guests in the Hobson Lodge banquet hall on Sunday March 17, 2024. As Toast Mistress Robin Perry opened the program of events,

Rev. Ralph S. Hodge, Sister Jennifer Harper, Sister Joshera and Sister Roberta Watson gave an invocation, welcome, chapter history and blessing of the food respectively.

Following a video presentation of the history of the chapter, expressions were given by Past Grand Worthy Matron G. Sylvia Jackson, Past Grand District Deputy Organizer Brenda Scott, Past Worthy Matron Jane Allen Bowles and Mr. Howard D. Brooks. Final remarks were given by Worthy Patron Jermaine Robertson, Worthy Matron Cheryl Davis, GDDO Emily Nash, Grand Worthy Patron Albert Ruffin on behalf of Grand Worthy Matron Jacqueline Sutton and Most Worshipful Grand Master Beverly W. –Butch” Morgan, Jr.



The 16th and 18th OES Districts have Prayer Breakfast

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33



Petersburg – As the soaking rain challenged the attendance of the 16th and 18th Order of the Eastern Star Districts Prayer Breakfast, the food filled the body, but the spiritual message was even more filling for the spirit.

Grand District Deputy Organizer Angela Sampson-Scott District held their Prayer Breakfast of shrimp & grits over fluffy waffles, scrambled eggs, hash browns and bacon at the Petersburg Masonic Temple. Serenaded by the musical sax sounds of Mr. Rick Elliot, Mistress of Ceremony Adrienne Moore received program support

from De Angela Newsome #130 and Edna Mason #44 who gave the welcome and invocation.

After introduction of Grand Chapter Officers by GDDO Angela Sampson-Scott, introduction of Grand Lodge Officers by District Deputy Grand Master Darrin Hill and breakfast, Worthy Matron Robin Ellis #33 introduced the morning speaker. Electrifying the room with her –Journey of Faith”, the Stoney Creek Interim Pastor Rev. Roletta Banks found the foundation of her text from Exodus 3:10. She challenged us all to continue our journey of faith in this Christian life.

In the absence of Most Worshipful Grand Master Beverly W. Morgan, Jr. #298, RW Jr. Grand Deacon Curtis B. James, Sr. #67 gave encouraging remarks.



Hawkins-Blow has Sneaker Valentine Ball

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33



Richmond – They played musical chairs, they danced to the music when it played and froze when it stopped and they clowned in the 360 photo booth. And they had fun!

Toying with decorative balloons and inflated sneaker blow-ups, the Maggie D Poindexter State Youth Department had their first Sneaker Valentine Ball on Saturday February 11, 2024. Held at King David Lodge, over 25 young and a number of sponsors attended the festive event. The Maggie D Poindexter State Youth Department of the Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star of Virginia, PHA accepts young ladies and men between the ages of four and 17 to join and learn more about being productive citizens.

Youth State Director Adrienne Moore OES #14 received support from Asst. State Director Mildred Coward OES #197, Treasurer Myra Shelton OES #44 and Program Coordinator Zakiya Smith OES #79. Even Brother Jermaine Robertson of Hopson Lodge #23 joined into the fun.

Encouraging the kids to –Ham it up” in her 360 photo booth, Grand District Deputy Organizer Daphne Taylor-Nelms of the 17th & 19th Districts gave anyone an opportunity to become a Super Star. After posing for photos in front of the ornamental backdrop, everyone was treated to a lunch of chicken tenders, pizza and mac & cheese.



Acacia Lodge #32 Bus Trip

By SW Curtis Dixon #32



Alexandria – On Saturday, March 30, 2024, the brothers of Acacia Lodge #32 organized a chartered bus trip to Lancaster, Pennsylvania to visit the Sight and Sound Theatre to watch the live stage play "Daniel and the Lion's Den." The trip was a great success with a sold-out bus and a strong sense of fellowship among our guests. Attendees arrived at the theatre and enjoyed the sold-out 11 am show. This was followed by dinner at a local restaurant. The event raised over \$500 where all proceeds will go toward our charity cause which supports our local adopted elementary school and provides school supplies for the less fortunate students. Acacia is committed to continuing its support for this cause.

The Grand Lodge Car Raffle to Support our Scholarship Fund

Richmond –

They were raising funds for our 2nd, 3rd and 4th year college students when they



received a call from the Grand Lodge office. Ticket number 0196, **–YOU'RE THE WINNER!–**

Worshipful Past Master Michael Christian #253 was the recipient of the winning ticket for the Grand Lodge Car Raffle.

Designed to increase scholarship awards for graduating high school seniors, the 2024 Grand Lodge Car Raffle profits would be divided among the students applying for the 2024 scholarships. These scholarships will be awarded by the Grand

Lodge Scholarship committee chaired by WPM Willie L. Wright, Jr. Eastern Star Lodge #3 and granted to the students.

In 2023, the committee awarded 43 High School Scholarships at \$1,000 each and 87 Continuing Education Scholarships at \$400 each. Brother Christian elected to take a cash prize and donated \$2,000 back to the Grand Lodge Scholarship Fund.



MWGM Morgan presents Awards at Allegheny-Dunbar #109

Roanoke – On Sunday April 14, 2024, Most Worshipful Grand Master Beverly W. –Butch– Morgan, Jr. #298 paid an official visit to Allegheny-Dunbar Lodge #109 to make



several award presentations. He presented 25 Year Awards to Brothers James A. Sawyer, James D. Borders, Shannon Taylor, Felix Morgan and Robert T. Nance.

The Grand Master also presented MWPGM George Clements with his 50th year pin and certificate.



Commonwealth #81 Celebrates 126 Years, their Widows and Wives

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33



Henrico – While Widows Mrs. Michelle Whitehurst-Cook and Dr. Laverne Spurlock spoke on behalf of their late Masonic husbands, the wife of WPM Mike Mangum, Mrs. Christine Mangum, spoke for the present active lodge members.

WM S. Dewayne Dyson #81 yielded to the talents of JW Rev. Joseph E. Armstrong, III #81 who served as the

Master of Ceremonies at their 126th Anniversary Banquet where they also honored their widows and wives of the lodge.



Opening with an invocation by WPM Tyrone Harris, a welcome by WPM George H. McGlone, Jr. and a lodge history by WPM Wayne D. Graves, the program continued with dinner. The MC then introduced the evening speaker, WPM Rev. Lance Watson, Jr. Emphasizing the importance of a lodge history with a solid foundation, he stressed the lodge must continue to build on this legacy.

The program concluded with awards to Brothers WPM Keith L. Berkeley, WPM Edmund L. Logan, Sr. and WPM Rev. Lance Watson, Jr. In the absence of Most Worshipful Grand Master Beverly W. Morgan, Jr. #298, WDDGM Lynwood Jones #27 congratulated the lodge on their success.

Hobson Lodge #23 Supports Elementary School

By WADDGM Greg Darrisaw #23



Richmond - The Brothers of Hobson Lodge #23 have a long-standing tradition of supporting our local community. On May 30th, we donated over 400 bottles of water and snacks to the school's Annual Field Day. Over a decade ago, J. H. Blackwell Elementary School (whose namesake Dr. J. H. Blackwell, Jr. #23, Past MWGM 1938-1940) was adopted as Hobson Lodge's local school for continuous support. We were so happy to be able to help make the day a success for the students and staff. The water and snacks were a big hit, and we received many thanks from the students.



Acacia Lodge #32 sponsors the Book Scholarship Award

By SW Curtis Dixon #32



Alexandria - On Monday, May 13, 2024, Acacia Lodge #32 had the honor of presenting a \$500 book scholarship to Alicia Worsenylh of Alexandria, VA. Alicia was chosen for the scholarship from a pool of many students and Acacia believes that she will make excellent use of the award. Alicia will be attending George Mason University to study Bio-Medicine. The

scholarship was awarded by Worshipful Master Derek Bolding of Acacia Lodge #32. Acacia is committed to continuing its support for this initiative.

Jefferson Lodge #20 has Climatic 2023

By WPM V. Parish #20



Charlottesville - Jefferson Lodge #20 in Charlottesville, VA, had a remarkable year in 2023, marked by numerous events and activities.

The lodge began the year with an educational focus, participating in a School of Instruction and a Jewel Contest. The Lodge proudly received a certificate of attendance for having the highest number of participants.

In May, members of the Lodge attended the Daughters of Zion event, showcasing their support for this significant community group. The event was a platform for fostering relationships and honoring the contributions of women in the community.

On June 11th, Jefferson Lodge #20 celebrated St. John's Day, participating in a parade and community event as part of the Charlottesville VA Juneteenth Celebration.

Jefferson Lodge #20 played a vital role in the 32nd Chihamba African American Cultural Arts Festival held at Booker T. Washington Park in Charlottesville. This event on July 29th was a celebration of African American culture and arts.

In October, Jefferson Lodge #20 hosted a community yard sale at Jackson P. Burley Middle School. Held on October 21st, this event was an opportunity for the Lodge to interact with the local community, raise funds, and support various charitable endeavors.

For Thanksgiving, members distributed holiday gift cards at a local grocery store, ensuring that families in need could enjoy a festive meal and the warmth of the holiday season.

A significant milestone for Jefferson Lodge #20 in 2023 was paying off the mortgage and renovating all three properties. This achievement reflects the Lodge's financial stewardship and dedication to maintaining and improving its facilities for future generations.

Finally, Throughout the year, Jefferson Lodge #20 collaborated with Mount Zion #18 in Staunton, VA, conducting 1st and 2nd-degree work, which emphasized the Lodge's ongoing commitment to Masonic teachings and rituals.

In 2023, Jefferson Lodge #20 upheld its Masonic principles and made significant contributions to the Charlottesville/Albemarle community. The Lodge's activities and events reflect a strong dedication to education, cultural celebration, community service, and Masonic fellowship.

Arlington Lodge No. 58 Celebrates their 26th Annual Scholarship Program



Arlington – On May 18, 2024, Arlington Lodge #58 hosted its 26th Annual Scholarship Program and Songfest at the Macedonia Baptist Church in Arlington, Virginia.

During the event, four outstanding young men were each awarded \$1000 to support their educational pursuits. Attendees enjoyed soulful musical performances by the talented group "The Four" and were inspired by the uplifting words of encouragement shared by the lodge members.

Mt. Nebo Lodge #43 and Petersburg Chapter #33 OES PHA has Appreciation Banquet

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33



Petersburg – Serving as committee chairs, Honorary Grand Worthy Matron and WPM Ricky Williams #43 were well pleased at the turn-out at their Joint Appreciation Banquet of Petersburg Chapter #33 OES PHA and Mt. Nebo Lodge #43. On March 23, 2024, the chapter and lodge hosted the event entitled "Pressing My Way Through" to honor several members.

As Master of Ceremonies Tyquan Taylor #43 opened the program of events, Sister Dr. Carmen Brown extended the welcome, Rev. Dr. George C. Lyons #43 read scripture and Sister Floretta Moore delivered a prayer. Grand Chapter officers were then recognized by OES Executive Board Member Tonya Goode and WDDGM Darrin Hill #43 introduced Grand Lodge Officers.

As the program continued with special recognitions, awards were presented to Brother Joe Kemp #43 and his wife for 61 years of marriage, Brother Sam Mason #43 for outstanding dedication, Appreciation Award for Sister Janet Morris and an Honorary Past Worthy Matron Award to Sister Floretta

Moore. Before closing WM Taylor presented Honorary Memberships to WPGM Larry D. Christian #253 and Most Worshipful Grand Master Beverly W. "Butch" Morgan, Jr. #298.

Triangle Lodge #293 visit the Dumfries Boys & Girls Club

Dumfries – On May 1, 2024, the Brothers of Triangle Lodge No. 293 demonstrated their commitment to supporting the local community by actively participating in the Dumfries Boys & Girls Club's Passport Program.



This program aims to foster various aspects of youth development, such as education, character building, and leadership skills. During their visit, the Brothers provided hands-on demonstrations of how to tie men's straight ties and bow ties, offering valuable mentorship that was warmly received by the young boys and girls in attendance. WM Bothwell and the Brothers of Triangle Lodge No. 293 visit the Dumfries Boys & Girls Club. WM Bothwell #293 demonstrated the proper tie technique. The Brothers provided life skills and demonstrations on how to tie men's straight and bow ties offering valuable mentorship that was warmly received by the young boys and girls in attendance.

Universal Lodge No. 1: Brother Dr. Keith Noble addresses the George Mason University Graduating Class

Fairfax - On May 30, 2024, Brother Dr. Keith Noble, the esteemed Director of the Office of Advanced Analytics at the Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization



Operations within the U.S. Department of State, delivered a powerful keynote address to the graduating class of 2024 at George Mason University's prestigious Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution.

During his address, Brother Noble passionately spoke about the concept of servant leadership in the context of the ever-evolving landscape of international conflicts. He emphasized the fundamental importance of service, highlighting it as the pinnacle of human existence. Additionally, Brother Noble shed light on the pivotal role of data in enabling the Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations and the U.S. Government to anticipate, prevent, and effectively respond to conflicts.

Shiloh Lodge Celebrates 147 Years and Still going Strong



Petersburg – They are the lodge of the City of Hopewell’s first African American vice-mayor – Brother Campbell Ray Edmonds, they are the lodge of civil rights advocate and Hopewell’s first African American Mayor – the late WPM Rev. Dr. Curtis Harris, Sr. and the lodge’s only Most Worshipful Grand Master the late Bossie –BB” Simmons. On a rainy March 9, 2024, Shiloh Lodge #33 held their 147th Anniversary Program.

Celebrating this milestone with these brothers were Most Worshipful Grand Master Beverly W. –Butch” Morgan, Jr. #298 and Grand Worthy Matron Jacqueline Sutton who congratulated the lodge on this achievement.

The program of events by the Master of Ceremonies WPM Odell William #33 recognized Brother Rev. J. Lee Hill, Jr. #33 with prayers, Brother Joel Mitchell # 33 who read the lodge history, Grand District Deputy Angela Sampson-Scott who recognized Grand Chapter Officers and District Deputy Grand Master Rev. Darrin Hill who recognized Grand Lodge Officers. Following dinner WDDGM Darrin Hill introduced the evening speaker Right Worthy Jr. Grand Warden Antonio R. Pride #43. Brother Pride not only related detailed information on the lodge but historical facts that were happening in our country during the time Shiloh was in existent.

Following the RWJGW presentation, WM L. J. McCoy, Jr. thanked the Brothers and Sisters in attendance for their support before recognizing the Grand Worthy Matron Sutton and the Most Worshipful Grand Master Morgan. The Grand Master closed with appreciation for the lodge’s work and encouraged everyone to VOTE in the November 2024 elections.

Brother Eanes Celebrated for 50 Years

By WADDGM Michael Frame #30



Farmville – Recently, the Brothers of Randolph Lodge #30 celebrated WPM McCarthy Eanes for 50 years of service to

Prince Hall Masonry at Zion Hill Baptist Church in Farmville. WADDGM Michael Frame #30 of the 15th Masonic District was also present to present the Grand Lodge certificate and pin.

Acacia Lodge #32 celebrates RWPGD Brooks' induction into the Alexandria African American Hall of Fame



Alexandria - RWPGD Brooks was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in 1968. He is still active not only in his lodge, Acacia #32, but also in traveling and working in other lodges throughout the 31st Masonic District.

Some of the dignitaries who gave remarks at RWGD Brooks' induction into the Alexandria African American Hall of Fame include the Honorable Justin Wilson, Mayor of Alexandria; Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt, Superintendent of Alexandria City Public Schools; and Audrey Davis Director of the Division of African American History Office of Historic Alexandria. Cheryl Lewis Hawkins, Ph.D. (ABD) was the Mistress of Ceremonies.

A host of Brothers from the 31st Masonic District were present to witness this august event. Some of them are DDGM "CJ" James #11, WGH McArthur Myers #1, PDDGM Reggie Tolbert #330, WPM Chris Baker #32, SW Curtis Dixon #32, WPM John Fennell, PDDGM Richard Williams #1, WPM Banks #32, WM Lateef Watson #330 and WPM Gordon E. Renfrow #330.

50th Year Recognition for Brother Bailey

By WP Juan C. Tomei #7



Petersburg – On December 13, 2023, Pocahontas Lodge #7 recognized Brother Osborne K. Bailey for his 50 years in serving the lodge. RW Jr. Grand Warden Antonio R. Pride #43 and ADDGM James Parham #290 shared in the presentation along with WM Juan C. Tomei.

**WPM Allen L. Jones Jr. #293 presents
"Hanging with Jay"**



Triangle - Worshipful Master Allen Jones Jr. of Triangle Lodge #293 has been instrumental in positively influencing the lives of many young men.

WPM Jones established the "Hanging with Jay" program to provide mentoring and guidance for young men. This program is founded on biblical teachings and life lessons, with the goal of assisting young men in facing daily challenges and making constructive choices. The young men, aged 6-17, gather at Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Triangle, Va. on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month. WPM Jones expresses his gratitude for the backing of the Brothers, family members and volunteers who generously share their life experiences with the young men, aiding in their growth and success.

Brother Luke Wright #293 partnered with WPM Jones last year to seek and grant five (5) free scholarships to the STEM program for young men, empowering them to pursue their goals.

**Petersburg Chapter #33 OES and Mt. Nebo
Lodge #44 help feed Community**

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33



Petersburg – Vegetables, can goods and frozen meats were just a few of the food giveaways at Metropolitan Baptist Church on Monday June 24, 2024 that were available to the public.

Petersburg Chapter #33 OES PHA and Mt. Nebo Lodge #43 assisted the Justin J. Davis Heart Foundation in serving Petersburg and the surrounding community with FREE healthy foods, snacks and hygiene products. The foundation's mission is to identify tools and resources to share with the community to promote healthy heart lifestyle within the community. The chapter and lodge joined with the foundation to accomplish their goals.

Ms Karen Brown-Davis who facilitates the foundation welcomed the assistance from Sisters Sandra Mason and Theresa Roberts-Buford along with Brothers Ty Taylor, Darius Johnson, Gregory Goode and Sam Mason.



MWGM Morgan Visits Holland Lodge #256

By WPM Lewis L. Thompson, Sr. #256

Suffolk – On March 7, 2024, ADDGM Lewis L. Thompson Sr., #256 visited the Brethren of Holland Lodge #256 for a night of fellowship and instruction.

MWGM Morgan was also available and addressed many of the current Grand Lodge initiatives and answered questions for the Brother on many Masonic topics. After the meeting, the Brothers gathered around for the traditional photo opportunity. The Brothers assembled downstairs for a repast that consisted of fried chicken, potato salad, hotdogs, and a host of On March 07, 2024, the Most Worshipful Grand Master the Honorable Beverly W. "Butch" Morgan Jr., #298, accompanied by R.W. Senior Grand Deacon Alton L. Miles, #196, DDGM Woodrow R. Wilson, #288, and sweets and drinks. It was a Great night of Brotherly Love, and a Great night for Prince Hall Masonry.

**Trinity Lodge #44
Celebrate Students**

By WPM Demond Middleton #44



Richmond - "This year Trinity Lodge #44 displayed their support for our youth's education in several ways. We adopted the entire Special Needs Dept. at Providence Elementary School in Chesterfield, VA. At the beginning of the school year we supplied these kids with numerous school supplies consisting of number boards, color games and other items that fit the needs of the very special group. On May 23rd we celebrated their successful 2024 school year by sponsoring a end of the year pizza party. The kids were extremely grateful and presented us with personal "Thank You" cards

We also supported are high school students in two great ways. First we presented 5 graduating seniors with Amazon gift cards to assist their needs while beginning their collegiate journey. The graduating seniors also received over \$15,000.00 in scholarships from the B15 Scholarship Committee. Thank you to Bro. Issac "Chris" Thompson for leading this effort.

Every year Trinity Lodge #44 blesses students with our annual MWPGM Robert E. Jones and MWPGM Thomas Minor memorial scholarship. This year we were able to bless 3 high school graduates and 1 continuing education student. The scholarships were presented at our Widows summer cookout in which we could show the surrounding community Prince Hall Masons doing positive work. Congratulations to Eva Johnson, Zoey Cooper, John McClain and Demond Middleton II, the 2024 scholarship recipients."

Grand Master Morgan celebrates St. John the Baptist Day with the 17th and 32nd MD along with the OES

By WDDGM Walter H Davis #295



Ringgold - On Sunday June 23, 2024, our Most Worshipful Grand Master of Virginia, the Honorable Beverly W. Morgan, Jr. #298 celebrated St. John the Baptist Day with the 17th and 32nd Masonic Districts. The 20th and 33rd Districts of the Order of the Eastern Stars of Virginia Prince Hall Affiliated along with Riceville Chapter #168 of the 21st District.

In addition, the 18th District of the Piedmont Region Jurisdiction of North Carolina District Deputy Grand Master Joe Lindsey and the Order of the Eastern Star Jurisdiction of North Carolina were also in attendance.

The event was celebrated at Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Ringgold Virginia where Pastor Anthony R. Pass delivered the message.

Universal Lodge #1 and Ester Chapter No. 23 Joint Dinner Sale



Alexandria - On May 11, 2024, the Brothers of Universal Lodge #1 organized a Dinner Sale at 112 East Oxford Ave, Alexandria, VA to raise funds for the upcoming 5th Annual Universal Lodge #1 and Esther Chapter Joint Banquet #23. The sale was a successful endeavor. The Brothers of Universal would like to express their gratitude to the entire 31st Masonic District, the Prince Hall Family, and the community of Alexandria for their continued support.



Cary Wheaton Lodge #307 has 75th Anniversary

By WPM Corey M. Mosley, Sr. #307



Mechanicsville - On June 1, 2024 the Brothers of Cary Wheaton Lodge #307 in Mechanicsville, VA celebrated their 75th Anniversary. On May 28, 1949 the lodge was granted a charter by the MWPHGLVA under the leadership of MWPGM David Alston. With the vision of Worshipful Master Bro. Kevin Tisdale-Fletcher and the brothers, the lodge commemorated their anniversary by having a cookout with the ladies of Cary Wheaton Chapter #204 O.E.S.-P.H.A., friends and family. "This is what we do, as Prince Hall Masons.



Trinity Lodge #44 Honors their Widows

By WPM Don Parker #44



Richmond - Hot seasoned fried fish, grilled hamburgers, hot dogs, baked and fried chicken, baked beans, macaroni and cheese, string beans, potato salad and much more graced the menu for the Trinity #44 2024 Widows BBQ. In the heat of the midday, in June at the Shield Lake Shelter of Byrd Park, the brothers of Trinity Lodge #44 chose to honor the Widows of the lodge. With family and friends, the brothers fellowshiped with the Widows and reminded them of our commitment to their needs and showed them the respect, love and affection they deserved. With 70's music wafting through the air, laughter intermittently appearing amidst the memories shared with brothers that have gone before us.

One would think it was just a normal summer affair. The incoming Worshipful Master, Micheal S. Harris was introduced to the crowd and committed himself to continuing the obligation we all once took as Master Masons - to care for our widows. As plates were taken home, the music faded to a whisper, the brothers were reminded - "As it is written, so mote it be!"

Gladiola Chapter #194 OES Celebrates 75th Year

By WDDGM Walter H. Davis #295



Danville - On Saturday, June 15, 2024, Gladiola Chapter #194 Order of the Eastern Star of Virginia Prince Hall Affiliated Celebrated their 75th year. The event was held at the ARC Family Life Center 427 East Thomas Street Danville, Virginia.

Acacia Lodge #32, Universal Lodge #1 and Ester Chapter #23 in a Joint Cookout Fundraiser

By Senior Warden Curtis Dixon #32



Lorton – On a sunny Saturday, April 27, 2024, Acacia Lodge #32, Universal Lodge #1, and Esther Chapter #23 came together to host an exciting Joint Cookout and Raffle Drawing Fundraiser.

Through their combined efforts, they successfully sold over 300 tickets for the event and raised an impressive sum

of over \$3000. The atmosphere was filled with the aroma of delicious food and tempting desserts, creating a warm sense of fellowship among attendees. The event was further enlivened



by the vibrant tunes spun by DJ Sandman. The funds raised will be dedicated to Acacia's scholarship fund, supporting deserving students at Alexandria High School. Acacia is proud to continue its unwavering support for this important cause.

The 1st Masonic District Celebrates St. John the Baptist Day

By Asst. GP James N. Clinton #196

Norfolk – As RW Deputy Grand Master George T. Cutler, Jr. #80 listened attentively to the St. John the Baptist Day

message, he was accompanied by over 50 Sisters and Brothers to include RW Jr. Grand Deacon Curtis B. James, Sr. #67.

The 1st Masonic District met at Faith Deliverance Church of God where Pastor Lemuel Williams delivered the message.

The 12th Masonic District Celebrates St. John the Baptist Day

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33



Petersburg – During a steamy Sunday afternoon, the 12th Masonic District recognized our patron St. John the Baptist on June 23, 2024.

W. District Deputy Grand Master Darrin Hill #43 served as the program host with Brothers Arkell Graves #247, Darius Johnson #43, Tyquan Taylor #43 and Juan Carlos Tomel #7 supporting the program with a welcome, invocation, scripture and introduction of speaker respectively.

Bringing the word from 1st Peter 3:15 – 17, our W. Grand Chaplain Leroy D. Evans, Jr. #7 spoke on the subject of –“Your Work, is under Investigation.”

In the absence of Most Worshipful Grand Master Beverly –“Butch” Morgan, Jr. #298, RW Jr. Grand Warden Antonio R. Pride gave closing remarks.

Carey Wheaton Lodge #307 makes lodge Upgrades

By WPM Corey M. Mosley, Sr. #307



Mechanicville - The Board of Trustees of Carey Wheaton Lodge No. 307 with the assistance of all of the brothers had made significant upgrades to the interior of the Lodge.

The lodge was erected in 1954. Now with a surge in membership and resources, a few of the unfinished projects such as the bathrooms and the new addition have been completed.

Pictured from left to right is WPM Silvester Harris, WPM Aubrey E. Hopson, Jr., WPM Albert Ruffin, WPM Eddie Winston (Chairman), WPM Learmon Moore, Brothers Alfred Thompson, David Cole, James McCreary and Thomas R. Waddy (Not Pictured). "This is what we do, as Prince Hall Masons."

Trinity Lodge #44 Sponsor's Clothing Drive

By WPM Demond Milleton #44



Richmond - On April 20, 2024, the men of Trinity Lodge #44 collaborated with the Caritas men's shelter located at 700 Dinwiddie Ave, Richmond, Virginia and sponsored a clothing drive. Trinity provided food, fun, clothes, shoes and fellowship to these men in hopes of shedding a small ray of joy into their lives. Over 20 bags/boxes of clothes were donated and more than 100 pizza slices were served along with outstanding fellowship and conversation.

The men of Caritas are still active by attending church services, jobs and job interviews and gently used clothing is always welcomed. Thank you to our newly raised Master Mason Bro Jaenol Fronburger and WPM Dwight Hagans for leading this effort.

Triangle Lodge #293 Crab & Seafood Boil Scholarship Donation Drive



Triangle - The Brothers of Triangle Lodge #293 are dedicated to supporting the community. The theme for the 2023- 2024 Masonic year, chosen by Worshipful Master Shelly D. Bothwell, is "Keep Putting In the Work to Build a Stronger, Brighter, and Better Relationship in Our Community."

On May 4, 2024, the Lodge hosted its Annual Seafood Boil Scholarship Donation Drive, where a portion of the donations supports the Annual Triangle Lodge #293 Scholarship which provides college tuition assistance. This event was well attended by the surrounding community and the Brothers of Triangle Lodge #293 who demonstrated their continued support by providing an "All You Can Eat" Crab and Seafood Boil.

12th Masonic District has Divine Sunday

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33

Petersburg – The Brothers of the 12th Masonic District assembled at Greater Works Christian Fellowship to enjoy a



Divine Sunday worship service. On Sunday June 30, 2024, they received the Word from Pastor Shawn Brooks. Led by Sister Tonya Goode, Sisters from the 16th and 18th OES district were also on hand to support the brothers.

MWGM Morgan Celebrates Adoniram Day

By W. Grand Photographer WPM William E. Moore, Jr. #92



Beaverdam – On April 7, 2024, Most Worshipful Grand Master Beverly W. –Butch” Morgan, Jr. #298 was present at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Beaverdam, Virginia to support the Prince Hall Grand Council of Royal and Select Masons of Virginia, PHA Adoniram Day.

MWGM Morgan Celebrates Sunrise Service



Alexandria – On Easter Sunday March 31, 2024, Most Worshipful Grand Master Beverly W. –Butch” Morgan, Jr. #298 attended Sunrise Service at Third Baptist Church in Alexandria, Virginia. Joining the Grand Master was Deputy for the Orient of Virginia Keith Williams who is Commander-in-Chief of Shadrack Jackson Consistory #156.

The 33rd MD Celebrates Divine Sunday

By WGP William E. Moore, Jr. #92



Virginia Beach - On 6-30-2024, the 33rd Masonic District and District #34 of the OES PHA Celebrated Divine Sunday Church Service at New Jerusalem Ministries in Virginia Beach where Pastor Veronica Coleman brought the word from 1st Samuel Chapter 6 verses 1-16 & 19-21, " Knowing GOD is not Worshipping GOD" .

MWGM is a Traveling Man



GM Morgan with KOP in King George



GM Morgan with Grand Master of DC & Maryland



GM Morgan with KOP in Petersburg



...at the Conformance of Grand Masters in North Carolina..... with the KOP in Portsmouth at the West Virginia Grand Lodge....



...at Mt. Nebo Lodge #43,



MWGM Morgan congratulating WPM Carroll Braxton on becoming 100



and at Ruth Lodge #92.

Grand Lodge Session for 2024 Agenda of Events

Monday, September 9, 2024

- 10:00 am Grand Lodge Office Set-Up
- 4:00 pm Prepare kits

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

- 8:00 am Prepare for Registration of the 147th Session

Wednesday, September 11, 2024

- 3:00 pm Registration & Credentials, close at 10 p.m.
- 7:00 pm **Prince Hall Day & Lodge of Sorrow**

Thursday, September 12, 2024

- 7:00 am Registration & Credentials, close at 5:00 p.m.
- 7:30 am Devotionals
- 8:30 am Ceremony of Opening
- 10:00 am Official Opening of Grand Lodge
- 11:30 am Presentation of MWGM Morgan
- 12:30 pm Grand Lodge called Off
- 1:30 pm Grand Lodge Called On
- 4:00 pm Grand Lodge Called Off
- 4:15 – 6:30 pm Committee meetings

Friday, September 13, 2024

- 7:00 am Registration & Credentials close at 8:30 a.m.

- 7:30 am Devotionals
- 8:30 am Grand Lodge Called On
- 8:30 am Final Credentials Report
- 9:25 am Grand Lodge called Off
- 9:30 am – 12:30 a.m. Voting & Lunch
- 12:30 pm Grand Lodge Called On
- 12:45 pm Reports
- 4:00 pm Grand Lodge Called Off
- 7:00 pm **Grand Lodge Annual Banquet**

Saturday, September 14, 2024

- 7:30 am Devotionals
- 8:30 am Grand Lodge Called On
- 9:00 am Results of Voting
- 9:15 am Unfinished Business
- 9:45 am Reception of Visitors from Sister Jurisdictions
- 10:00 am Reception of Appendant Bodies
- 12:00 pm Reception of the Knights of Pythagoras
- 1:00 pm Grand Lodge Called Off
- 1:45 pm Grand Chapter OES
- 3:45 pm Grand Lodge Called On & Installation of Officers
- 4:30 pm **Ceremony of Closing Grand Lodge**
- 7:00 pm **Grand Master Post Board Dinner Meeting**

The Annual Grand Master's Golf Tournament

Saturday, October 12, 2024 at The KISKIACK Golf Club, 8104 Club Dr., Williamsburg, Virginia 23188

\$260 per team or \$65 per player, Registration til 9 AM – Shotgun Start 9 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 757 746-6770, or email PGM Christian at lchristian2@verizon.net

Contact Brothers

Leonard Hawkins	John Amos	Curtis Gunn	Edward Lattimore III	Leonard Johnson	Devery Travers	Michael Christian
804 271-7136	757 605-8513	757 593-4913	757 236-9099	703 856-3188	703 906-7682	804 658-9260

Pre-Registration Deadline October 7, 2024



Do you remember when these guys (3rd from left now MWGM Beverly "Butch" Morgan, Jr. and 4th from left now RWDGM George T. Cutler, Jr.) served on the 2000 – 2002 Committee on Works as members at the Tidewater School of Instruction?

In our next issue

- **The 148th Grand Lodge Session**
- **The 122nd Grand Chapter Session**
- **The 2024 KOP Encampment**



A Tribute to Our Sisters of the Order of Eastern Star

"The soul that is within me no man can degrade." **FREDERICK DOUGLASS**

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 at e-mail to mccoysgitlo@verizon.net.**

**The Most Worshipful
Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia,
F. & A. M., Inc.**

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