



Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia
Grand Council Cryptic Masons in Virginia

The Keystone

May 2017



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A publication of the Grand
Chapter Royal Arch Masons in
Virginia. 500 Masonic Lane, Suite
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Upcoming Calendar

June 3, 530 pm: DeMolay at
Luray Caverns

June 10, 1230 pm: Official Visit
to District 19, Fredericksburg



Companions and friends:

During the visits attended this year, I have reaffirmed the value of friendship. Quoting one of the great humanitarians, Brother Will Rogers, "A stranger is a friend I haven't met." How true this statement is with our fraternity. I value your friendship and loyalty shown to me and the Grand Chapter. We are all alike in the fact that our good side comes

out when given the opportunity. We stress the importance of fellowship and kindness to each other. What a great experience this has been to be with like-minded people.

The donations to the Alzheimer's Association are going well. A special thank you to Right Excellent Paul Lockhart for his diligent efforts in making this happen.

I am excited to hear about the number of exaltations so far this year. I encourage you to visit the Lodges in your area and **ASK** the brothers to consider Royal Arch Masonry. If you need help in presenting a program, please contact Rt. Ex. Tom Varner, the Grand Provost, for assistance.

I hope to see more of you as the year progresses. If you haven't attended an Official Visit of the Grand High Priest, you will be welcomed. You will be rewarded with a lot of fun and laughter.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Dan H. Surface,
Grand High Priest

Want your article here? Send to TVarner536@aol.com.

The Keystone of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia

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The “Fun-Raising” events for our Chapters are now in full swing! There have been some excellent ideas that have been done to help find a cure for Alzheimer’s. We are having “Fun-Raisers” that cover

a wide area of ideas and opportunity. I would like to share a few of them with you.

Right Excellent Jamie Nunn has heard me speak at our Grand High Priest Official Visit and one of the things that caught his ear was that if every Royal Arch Mason was to give just \$7.00 per month (or \$90.00/yr.) we would be able to raise over \$300,000 to help find a cure for Alzheimer’s. So, he worked with the High Priest of his Wythe Chapter No. 51, Excellent Robert Rice, and they came up with the idea of, if you don’t want to physically work for a “Fun-Raiser” then come to the Chapter meetings and simply give \$7.00 a month. If you do that and contribute \$90.00 you will get a “Help Find a Cure” lapel pin. This idea, I am told has helped to raise not just money, but also Chapter attendance. Now, who doesn’t want that? Jamie has also informed me that if you would like to have one of these prestigious pins, simply mail him a check for \$90.00 and one can be yours! But, supplies are limited, so act NOW!

When you think of “Fun-Raiser”, does sausage come to your mind? I know that it did not for me! I went to the Richmond Chapter 225th anniversary celebration and it appears that there is a Master Mason that

makes sausage. And, apparently it is pretty good! The High Priest had the idea of selling the sausage to help raise money to find a cure for Alzheimer’s. It seems that the Chapter sold out of the sausage and the High Priest, Excellent Marion J. Humphreys III, and the District Deputy Grand High Priest, Right Excellent Pat Harmon, presented our Grand High Priest with a check for \$700.00!

Lastly, the Companions of District 2 have been having an Alzheimer’s walk on the Boardwalk of Virginia Beach for several years. For this year’s walk, I was currently celebrating a 40-year reunion for the USS Peterson (DD-969) that I served on for two years back in 1980. I was able to recruit several of my shipmates to come with me on the walk. We had a fantastic time! In fact, during the walk, one of my ole’ shipmates said “I can’t believe we are letting Santa kick our butts on this walk!” We all had a great laugh. But, our Companions of District 2 were able to generate over \$3,000! Great job to everyone that was involved!

Companions, we have now crossed over the \$13,000 mark and we have a long way to go to reach our goal of \$100,000. But, there are golf tournaments to be played to help raise money, we have motorcycle poker runs, our Alzheimer’s walk, and many, many more events to help us get to our goal. So, let’s join together and do our best to help each other obtain their individual goals! I hope to see you out there!

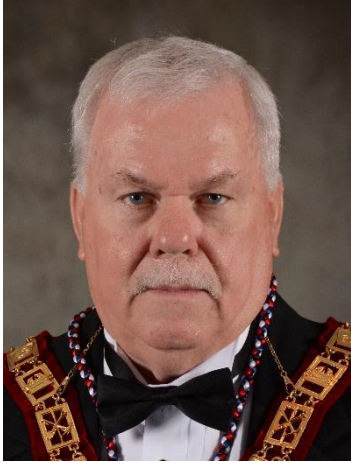
Paul Lockhart, Grand Almoner of Virginia

Most Excellent Gordon Sprigg News

Most Excellent Gordon Sprigg and his wife are very excited at having moved to the Masonic Home recently. His new email address is: ghsjr71@gmail.com.

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Our new Grand Secretary is Right Excellent Wayne H. Anderson, a well-known figure in Tidewater Masonry. Andy, as he is known, was made a Royal Arch Mason in Great Bridge Chapter No. 82 in 1989, served as its High Priest in 1992-1993, and then joined Mt. Horeb Chapter No. 11, serving as its Secretary since 2001. He was appointed as District Deputy Grand High Priest in 2006.

Companion Anderson was raised a Master Mason in Great Bridge Lodge No. 257, serving as its Master in 1994. Quickly becoming an experienced ritualist, he served on the Grand Lodge Committee on Work from 1994 to 2007. While serving on the Committee, he was appointed Grand Pursuivant in 1997, and served as Master of Portsmouth Naval Lodge No. 100 in 2001 and Ivor Lodge No. 291 in 2002. He also was named District Deputy Grand Master for the 31st Masonic District in 2003.

In his spare time, you can usually find Andy at the Portsmouth Scottish Rite Valley, where he served as Venerable Master in 2003 and as its General Secretary since 2004. He was coroneted a 33^o Mason in 2001.

We welcome Companion Anderson as the latest of the outstanding Royal Arch Masons who have occupied the position once held by our most revered Companion, Right Excellent John Dove. We look forward to the good work you will do on our behalf!

[The Red Coats are coming to a Blue Lodge near you, Edward Tooma, Shenandoah No. 17](#)

Many of our Chapters are literally sinking. What can be done to keep them afloat? As a starter: Dedication, Desire and Determination, or the three D's. We Royal Arch Masons need to buckle down and start spreading the word about our appendant body and how it can benefit our Brothers that have not taken another step. There is a lot we can reveal about the Royal Arch that'll surely spread more light. It is up to us to package programs of interest and present them in open lodge. A well-prepared 10-minute talk can work wonders. When you contact a Worshipful Master to set up a visitation, invite other Companions to join you and be sure that you all wear your Red Coat with authorized awards and decorations. Remember - the first impression is a lasting impression. Look sharp - be sharp and ready for questions from the uninitiated. Make sure you take along some handouts explaining the degrees conferred by the Royal Arch and always have petitions readily available. The Grand Chapter is an excellent source for this type of information. Make it a point to visit the Grand Royal Arch Chapter website and click on Education. Most Excellent Don McAndrews has produced a Royal Arch Membership Video that goes into detail about our Fraternity. Arm yourself with this knowledge before undertaking visitations to talk about the Royal Arch. And by all means recommend it to those considering becoming a Companion. Navigating the internet is the speediest way to do research. You may want to check out the California York Rite website for their Royal Arch information. Now that you have read this article and its attachments - make it your priority to apply the three D's and spread the word: **The Red Coats are coming to a Blue Lodge near you.**

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DC Night in Virginia, June 14

Arlington Royal Arch Chapter will hold its annual DC Night in Virginia event on June 14 at 6:30 pm at Sharon Lodge No. 327 in McLean, VA. This is a time-honored event during which we host our companions from across the muddy river and delight in shared fellowship under the mantle of brotherly love offered by Capitular Masonry. All are welcome, but please RSVP to Right Excellent Carl Weaver if you are coming from out of the district at carl@carlweaver.com.

Mt. Ex. Howard Coleman has provided this brief history of the event: "It started April 1961 when Guy A. Fuller was Grand High Priest of Virginia. He and the High Priest of Columbia Chapter DC were school chums. Mt. Ex. Fuller made a visit to Columbia Chapter and in June 1961 the High Priest made a visit to Arlington Chapter No. 35 and the event has continued to this day. Mt. Ex. George D. "King Fish" Stevens was the one that kept the annual event going until his death."

O'Keefe and Southwest Virginia Traveling Degree Team



The phrase "I will do answer make... if within the length of my cable tow," should be in the hearts of all Master Masons and refer not only to the call for assistance from

another Lodge, but for all Masonic bodies, and include the Royal Arch Chapter as well. For those Master Masons who choose to pursue "more light" in their Masonic journey, the next step, after being raised to the most sublime degree of a Master Mason, is to delve further into the quarries and learn more about the Craft: from the work assigned to wages earned and how dispersed to the discovery of the true Word of a Master Mason; each of the six degrees of the Royal Arch Chapter will enrich the Master Mason's education and allow him to better understand the important role of Masonry, not only in a historic perspective, but for today as well.

With membership waning and those who have memorized the ritual and work within the Royal Arch being few and far between, obtaining the Degrees as conferred in the Royal Arch can be burdensome for the local Chapters. Thankfully, some good Companions from O'Keefe Royal Arch Chapter #26 in Tazewell, VA, along with Companions from other Chapters in the 12th and surrounding districts, have created a traveling "Degree Team" to assist those Chapters in need of conferring the degrees on newly elected candidates. They have committed themselves to learning the ritual and work in each individual degree as to be able to better confer them when requested. These Companions have already traveled to Castlewood, VA and other Royal Arch Chapters in Southwest Virginia to bring other Brothers to "more light" in Masonry.