



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

# The Keystone

**April 2019**



*In This Edition...*

**Pages 1-2, Grand High Priest's Message**

**Page 2-3, Grand Almoner's Message; Correspondence Course/Veterans**

**Pages 4-7, "Traveling Man", District Articles, Calendar**

**Page 8, Grand High Priest Official Visit Pictures**

A publication of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia. 500 Masonic Lane, Suite C, Henrico, VA 23223-4916

Want your articles or pictures here? Or have a question for Zerubbabel? Send them to [tvarner536@aol.com](mailto:tvarner536@aol.com).



My Companions and friends:

The year 2019 started off on roller-skates, with an exaltation on January 2, an outstanding Homecoming on January 5, followed by five Official Visits. Although roller-skates may not be the correct term, perhaps "skis and/or ice-skates" might better describe the equipment needed to travel during the weather conditions in January. Although the weather conditions were somewhat less than desirable, the attendance was OUTSTANDING, and all those that made the journey(s) to those official visits should be rewarded with a big "THANK-YOU!" Also, the companions across the Commonwealth should feel pride and blessed, as do I, to have such supportive Grand Chapter Officers and DDGHPs.

Lady Karen and I were welcomed with open arms, terrific hospitality and exceptional courtesies during the Official Visits to Districts No. 1, 10, 12, 14, and 18 in January. THANK-YOU to those District Deputies for their work, preparation, and implementation of their duties for the events. Their jobs required the assistance of many other companions and ladies to achieve such success and they should be thanked as well. If you missed any of the Official Visits in January, there are more in March, April, May, and June; check the website calendar for the location/dates.

In addition to the above official visits, Lady Karen and I, as well as Grand Secretary Andy Anderson and Grand Marshall Jim Pate, have journeyed northward as far as Albany, New York, visiting various Grand York Rite Body Convocations. Several more "out of state" visits are

# The Keystone of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia

April 2019

scheduled and if any other companions wish to attend, I'm sure you will be welcomed by the other Grand Jurisdictions just as we have.

There's enthusiasm across the state, as many chapters are conferring the degrees on their own rather than waiting for a festival. Degree work, ritual, education, companionship, etc. is essential to Capitular Masonry. I would encourage all chapters to seek the R. Claiborne Wilson Award this year. The challenge goes out to all chapters, big and small, whether you received it last year or not, start preparing the paperwork now so that in September, it's ready to send in! Please show the companions at Grand Chapter that your Chapter was "Soaring To New Heights" in 2019! Also, remember that the completed nomination forms for the John Dove Meritorious Service Award must be submitted to the Grand Secretary by September 15. If at all possible, please attend the Virginia Beach Walkathon supporting the Alzheimer's Association on April 27. Following lunch, Virginia Research Royal Arch Chapter No. 1753 will meet; please come out and join us!

As Columbo would say, "Oh, just one more thing!", we are having a GREAT TIME traveling around the Commonwealth renewing old friendships and making new friends. The generous gifts presented to us from the various districts have been received with heartfelt gratitude. Thank you to them and to all that have made this journey possible and Thanks Be To God for HIS Blessings and for so richly blessing us.

May God Continue to Richly Bless Us All,  
*Floyd Byron Goodwin, Grand High Priest*

## The Grand Almoner's Message



Companions all: Although it's hard to believe, the 1st quarter of the 2019 Capitular year has already come and gone, and we have collectively raised \$3,390 in support of the Alzheimer's

Association, the MAHOVA memory unit, and Project LifeSaver. I have had the pleasure of visiting Districts 1, 10, 14, and 15 alongside your Most Excellent Grand High Priest during his Official Visits. A special thanks to the District Deputy Grand High Priests and District Almoners in those Districts for not only your hospitality and fellowship, but also for your support and donations to our charities. Nothing can be more fun than enjoying a wonderful evening surrounded by great company all while working to support a great cause.

I have been notified by Companion Charles Dunn Harmon, the District Almoner of District No. 15, that a team is again being formed to participate in the Northern Shenandoah Valley Walk to End Alzheimer's. If you would like help or support in forming a team for a Walk near you, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. In my opinion, Walk Teams are the easiest way to help us raise money to fund a cure for this dreadful disease and the Inaugural Almoner's Trophy is on the line!

On February 7, 2019, Lady Traci and I attended the Wall of Hope Reception for the Northern Virginia Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association in recognition of the

# The Keystone of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia

**April 2019**

contributions that Royal Arch Masons made in 2018. It was an excellent program that featured our charitable work. I couldn't help but think that many people in the audience that night received their first glimpse of who Masons are and what Masons do. It was a moment that I was proud to be a part of.

On March 13, I will attend a symposium in McLean, Virginia entitled "Advancing the Science: The Latest in Alzheimer's Research" by Dr. Rebecca Edlemayer, Ph.D. Dr. Edlemayer is the Director of Scientific Engagement for the Alzheimer's Association. I hope to receive some updates on several questions I posed earlier this year regarding how research grants are allocated and utilized nationally. I also hope to come away with some cutting-edge treatment and screening advancements that I can share with you when I visit within your Districts. I plan to attend Most Excellent Goodwin's Official Visits to Districts 8, 9, 11, 21, 2, 19, and 3 before mid-June.

If you should have any questions that arise in the meantime regarding any programs that involve our Royal Arch Masonic Charities, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. I am here to assist you and help make your philanthropy successful. Additional information and resources about the Alzheimer's Association can be found at <https://alz.org>. I have also prepared a 5-minute PowerPoint program that you can share with your Chapter. I'll be glad to send it to you.

Together we can accomplish anything, and please recognize that we can't do it without you. Our collective goal is to raise \$100,000 in donations in 2019 so that we can

eventually have a world without Alzheimer's Disease. Happy St. Patrick's Day,  
*Jason Curtis "Jake" Trenary, Grand Almoner*



**The Trenarys at the Wall of Hope Reception**

## **Correspondence Course/Veteran Awards**

Congratulations to Companions Doug Guthrie of Mann Page No. 89, Pat Blankenship of Princess Anne No. 1607, and Adam Buffington of Keystone No. 58 for completing the Correspondence Course!

We extend congratulations and happiness to the following who have marked many years of service to Royal Arch Masonry:

Joseph H. Tate, Barrett No. 76, 50 years, January 29; Roy J. Love, Marion No. 54, 50 years, February 24; Beril M. Abraham, Norfolk United No. 1, 50 years, March 11; Alexander Page Jr., Norfolk United No. 1, 50 years, March 17; Truman D. Baxter Jr., Norfolk United No. 1, 50 years, March 19; Taliaferro C. Dickerson III, Keystone No. 58, April 15.



# The Keystone of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia

April 2019



“Traveling Man” Edward Tooma (dark blue shirt) at Mt. Nebo No. 20 recently

## Traveling Man, by Excellent Edward Tooma

Remember the song "I've been Everywhere Man" by the great Hank Snow? Sometimes I feel that way myself. I've been a traveling man for 50-plus years and have set foot in many Lodges around the world. My very first experience attending a foreign Lodge was in Berlin (West) Germany, known at that time as the Divided City, or the Four Powers City. The Lodge was Outpost No. 46. I still remember the Worshipful Master wearing a Turban which I thought was rather strange at first sight. Mainly because it was different from what I had been used to seeing.

While stationed in Bremerhaven, Germany, I visited North Sea Armed Forces Lodge No. 829. This was my first experience watching a degree in the German language. Surprisingly, I was able to follow along. Armed Forces Lodge has since relocated to Bremen, Germany. And, in the Republic of Korea, I had the opportunity to meet with brethren at MacArthur Lodge No. 183, named after General Douglas MacArthur. You may never go overseas, but that doesn't stop you from making as many Fraternal visits as you can. The same applies if you are a Royal Arch Mason or a member of other appendant bodies - make yourself visible. Here, stateside, I have been in Lodges from Bangor, Maine, to Washington DC, to right here in the Commonwealth of Virginia. I guess what I am trying to say is - take the opportunity every chance you have to visit your District Lodges and Chapters - not to forget neighboring jurisdictions.

Can visitation be a learning experience? Absolutely! Although our rituals are pretty much identical, it is amazing to watch and listen as others interpret their own delivery style. Rather impressive to say the least. And, fine-tuned degree work makes for an everlasting memory. Do yourself a favor and round up some Brothers or Companions, and map out places you have never been too, and go for it. Then, you can say - "I've Been Everywhere Man."

## Pearisburg No. 29 Festival

On Saturday, January 26, Pearisburg Royal Arch Chapter #29 hosted a Festival for the Royal Arch Masons of Virginia to initiate new Companions to the craft. Present were representatives

# The Keystone of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia

**April 2019**

from Alleghany No. 24, Barrett No. 76, E.H. Gill No. 50, Galax No. 87, Lynchburg No. 10, Marion No. 54, O'Keeffe No. 26, W.G. Bottimore No. 28, and Waynesboro Union No. 2. In all there were 39 Companions present to confer the degrees on 24 candidates. Also present were Most Excellent Joe Broce (2018, "Lead by Example"), Most Excellent James Fields (2013, "Service - A Mason's Way"), and Most Excellent Danny Bowman (2011, "United We Stand"), Grand Royal Arch Captain Bill Owens, and Grand Master of the Third Veil James Nunn.



**Companions and new members of Pearisburg No. 29 celebrate their January festival**

## **History of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter, by Grand Provost Tom Varner**

I recently read "A History of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in the Commonwealth of Virginia", written by future Grand Master of Masons Archer Bailey Gay in 1958. I found it very interesting, as it contains a synopsis of all the Grand Proceedings for the first 150 years of Grand Chapter. It covers how the Grand Chapter was founded, the origin of our ritual, the merger with the Grand Cryptic Council, the various refusals to join the General Grand Chapter, the various meeting places, and the gradual building of the Methodical Digest, as well as biographical information on the Grand High Priests and other notable Grand Officers. When I finished reading, I realized that our Grand Chapter website would be greatly enhanced by the inclusion of the various photos of our Grand High Priests, which are readily available from the Grand Lodge and the various Grand Proceedings. Working with Grand Webmaster Emmett Pate, we have been scanning and posting the pictures in the "History of Grand Chapter" portal. I am also planning to update Brother Gay's history by including excerpts from the Grand Proceedings since 1958. I encourage you to see what has been done so far and stay tuned for future developments!

## **Upcoming Calendar**

April 27, 9 am, Alzheimer's Walk, Virginia Research Chapter No. 1753, Virginia Beach

May 11, 600 pm, District 11 Official Visit, Clintwood

May 17, 600 pm, District 2 Official Visit, Chesapeake

May 18, 600 pm, District 21 Official Visit, Suffolk

May 31, 600 pm, District 19 Official Visit, Urbanna



# The Keystone of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia

April 2019

## Unveiling of Past Masters Degree Painting at Keystone No. 58



Right Excellent Mark Chapman has done it again! As you enter the Keystone Chapter room in Charlottesville, you'll notice that the second oil painting of the six Royal Arch degree paintings has been hung. It commemorates the Past Master degree and is entitled "Sitting in the East". In the painting, note the new Master surrounded by carved cherubims and palm trees on the inner walls of the temple. These carvings and others are described in I Kings 6:29. Thanks go to Excellent Bob Simpson and Companion Bill Bond for co-sponsoring the commission for this Royal Arch artwork.

In February, Keystone Chapter held a photo shoot to incorporate Companion characters on the canvases for the next set of paintings. Right Excellent Chapman says of the paintings: "These paintings are rich in mental pictures of degree candidates traveling through life and they remind us to look to God for protection and guidance. The journey to the Royal Arch is one of discovery and the pinnacle of ancient craft masonry... one that we wish to experience and hopefully the artist can capture."

## Sickness and Distress

We wish Most Excellent Charles Cave and Right Excellent Reverdy Wright a speedy recovery and best wishes for their recent health setbacks.



**Mt. Nebo No. 20 exalted six new Companions on December 10**



# The Keystone of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia

April 2019



**Petersburg Union No. 7 exalted one Companion on January 2**



**Mann Page No. 89 exalted one Companion on March 20**



**Right Excellent Roger Van Dyke's Official Visit to Pearisburg No. 29**



# The Keystone of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia

April 2019



**Grand High Priest Goodwin and the Companions at the Official Visit to District 14**



**The Grand High Priest shows off handcrafted "Crown" at the District 14 Official Visit**



**Right Excellent George Bierman recognized by Most Excellent Goodwin on January 26**