



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

The Keystone

July 2023 Vol. 7 No. 2



Contents

Grand High Priest/ Most Illustrious Grand Master's Message	2
Introducing the Grand Almoner.....	4
Leadership Correspondence Course Completions	5
Education and Service - Educational Sessions	6
<i>Grand Chapter</i>	6
<i>Pork Rite Leadership</i>	7
Chapter / Council News	8
One Day Conferral Dispensation	18

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
thevakeystone@gmail.com.

GRAND HIGH PRIEST/ MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE

Ho Companions!

Greetings Companions.

By the time you read this article I will have finished all my Official Visits to all sixteen Districts, and have made eleven visits representing our Grand Chapter/Grand Council to both out-of-state and in-state visits. My wife, Donna, and I would like to thank all the District Deputy Grand High Priests, their Ladies and family, and all the Illustrious Companions and their Ladies for the many acts of kindness shown to us on the visits. I am also happy to report that with the two donation jars we had at each District Visit, we have raised over \$5,000.00 for the MAHOVA Memory Unit to go toward the memory-impaired patients, and over \$2,000.00 for the Alzheimer's Association. It is really amazing what was collected by just strategically placing two jars into which all could voluntarily donate. Thanks to all the Companions and Districts for your



generosity in contributing to this worthy cause. I am sure there will be additional fundraisers to add to those totals before the year is over.

It is great to hear of the number of Chapters/ Cryptic Councils conferring the degrees and exalting more Companions thus increasing our membership numbers. Those of you involved in conferring the degrees, a big THANK YOU for all you are doing. Remember to involve

the new Companions in the Chapter/ Councils meetings and events. We do not want to have them become disinterested in the Royal Arch.

We also want to remember those Companions that have gone to their Heavenly Home. Keep in touch with their family and always remember them in your prayers. If you have any special events where their families can be included, please invite them. Let them know we have not forgotten about them. Hopefully the number of Companions we

are exalting is more than the Companions we are losing so we can increase our membership.

Also Companions, do not forget about the Educational programs being presented via Zoom. All you have to do is log into the meeting with your computer, laptop or phone and enjoy all the information being presented. RE Ray Bacchus has done a wonderful job at putting these programs together and it would be to your advantage to participate. All the programs are on the Grand Chapter/Grand Council website for your convenience. The next program is scheduled for Saturday, September 23, 2023 at 10:00 AM. With that being said, check out the entire website if you have not done so. There is a ton of information there not only for the Grand Chapter Officers and Chapter Secretaries, but for all Companions. Take advantage of this information on the website which our Grand Webmaster, RE Emmett “Buddy” Pate, is responsible for.

Our William B. Millican Royal Arch School was held on Friday, June 23 and concluded on Saturday, June 24. There was a Committee on Work meeting on

Thursday, June 22 prior to the school. All the meetings were held at Taylor Masonic Lodge No. 23 in Salem, VA. This is an excellent School to learn the ritual and if you can, take advantage of it next year. Our Grand Lecturer, RE Randy Johnson, Associate Grand Lecturer, RE Arthur Phillips, and the Secretary/Treasurer of the School, ME/MI Byron Goodwin, put in a lot of time to organize the William B. Millican School and deserve to be commended for their efforts.

As we enjoy the summer months and become involved with the normal Family Traditions of this time of year, do not forget about attending your Masonic Lodge and your Royal Arch Chapter/Cryptic Council. A Lodge Picnic is a great opportunity to discuss the Chapter/Council with the Brethren so be sure to have a petition(s) in hand!

Until the next issue of the Keystone, God Bless and take care!

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Hafford Lee Arritt, Jr.
Grand High Priest

INTRODUCING THE GRAND ALMONER

Ho Companions!

Grand Almoner News

Companions,

Great work, square work is being done for our noble Royal Arch/Cryptic Council charitable causes in Virginia! We are providing a steady stream of donations to support the Alzheimer's Association, the MAHOVA Memory Unit, and Project Lifesaver. Through our philanthropic causes, we have donated over \$16,000 so far, and I know of other events occurring soon. If you have Alzheimer's Walks coming up, please let me know so we can spread the word for other Companions and friends to attend.



If you do not know how to participate in your local Alzheimer's Walks, please let me know. I will provide you with a point of contact in your local Alzheimer's Association office that can help you out. Even if you participate in someone else's walk, your

Chapter/Council and District can still receive credit.

Fraternally,
Dave Strohsahl
Grand Almoner

Link to find a walk:

2023 Walk to End Alzheimer's | Alzheimer's Association |

URL: https://act.alz.org/site/SPageServer?pagename=walk_homepage

Psalm 41:1 - Blessed are those who have regard for the weak; the Lord delivers them in times of trouble.

LEADERSHIP CORRESPONDENCE COURSE COMPLETIONS

The following Companions have recently completed correspondence courses. The Education Chair applauds your efforts and your successful completion.

Companion **Joey S. Martin** of D.C. Shanks No. 31 successfully completed the Correspondence Course on 28 September 2022. Congratulations!

Companion **Christopher T. Stevens** of D.C. Shanks No. 31 successfully completed the correspondence course as of 4 October 2022. Congratulations!

Companion **Brian P. Van de Meulebroecke** of Fauquier No. 25 successfully completed the Correspondence Course on 18 October 2022 . Congratulations!

Companion **Matthew B. Reed** of Norfolk United No. 1 successfully completed the Correspondence Course on 8 March 2023. Congratulations!

EDUCATION AND SERVICE - EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS

GRAND CHAPTER

The Grand Chapter and Grand Council Committee on Education and Service is continuing to provide opportunities for our collective improvement and enlightenment, through educational

presentations. “Grand Chapter and Grand Council of Virginia Committee on Education and Service - Educational Sessions” the fourth Saturday of September from 10:00am to 11:00 am EDT!

Date	Speaker	Program
23 September 2023 10:00 to 11:00 am EDT	Companion Timothy A. Dahlman, HP, Chivalric District No.17 Education Officer	"The Most Excellent Master – The Charge"

Zoom meeting invitation for ALL sessions.

Topic: Grand Chapter and Grand Council of Virginia Committee on Education and Service – Educational Sessions

Date / Time: 23 September 2023, 10:00 AM EDT (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85841652609?pwd=Nmt1RGFxaEpHMGVtdm83TkdORDF3QT09>

Meeting ID: 858 4165 2609; **Passcode:** 992126

One tap mobile:

+13017158592,,85841652609# US (Washington DC); +13126266799,,85841652609# US (Chicago)

YORK RITE LEADERSHIP

In addition to the quarterly education sessions that the Grand Chapter and Grand Council Committee on Education and Service provides, there is the York Rite Leadership Program that is highly recommended. The York Rite Leadership organization is a Center of Excellence that delivers executive-class leadership training and coaching to all masonic leaders wheresoever dispersed. The current York Rite Leadership Training Program consists of three well-developed courses that are designed to give you the skills to be a better leader of yourself and others.

The three courses are:

- 100 – Personal Effectiveness
- 200 – Group Dynamics
- 400 – Influential Communication

These courses may be attended online (the x01 class) or in person (the x02

class). The course is provided in person each year in the Washington, D.C. area in conjunction with the Mid-Atlantic Department Conference (MADC). Any member of the Masonic family may participate. We do ask that the youth be mature. For guidance, a young gentleman or lady who is between 14 and 18 and has a mature outlook, may be admitted. Admission is always at the discretion of the instructor. Please visit <https://yorkriteleadership.org/> to learn more."

Please share this with all members of our Gentle Craft, especially your Companions. We look forward to having you join us!

Sincerely and fraternally yours in friendship and service,

Raymon W. Bacchus,
Grand Provost

CHAPTER / COUNCIL NEWS

District No. 1

Companions from District No. 1 supported the Grand Lodge's One-Day Conferral on April 29 by expertly conferring the Fellowcraft Degree on 68 Candidates from Masonic Districts No.1A and 1B.

Pictured in the photo are (Back row) RE Carl Weaver, Comp. Xavier Mariscal,

Comp. John Hubbell, RE Adam Duncan, Comp. Clayton Mitchell, (Front Row) RE Romulo Capuno, Comp. Anthony Latta, RE Andrew Vellenga, Comp. Troy Van Winkle, and Comp. Dick Laaken.

Not pictured is RE Pablo Rocha who was the inspiration behind District No.1's participation in the event.

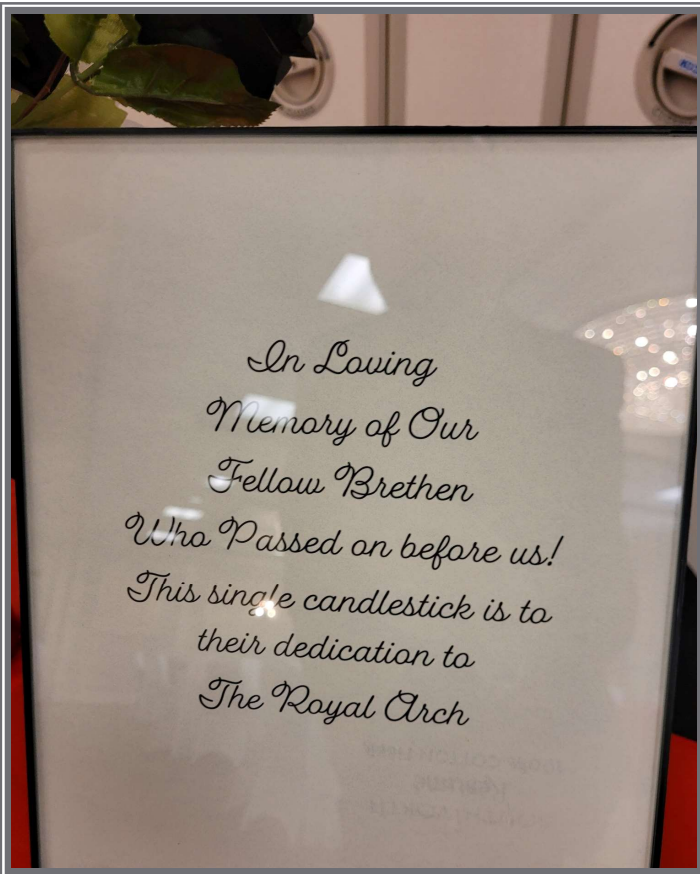


District No. 11

ME/MI Lee conducted his Official Visit to District No. 11 on March 25, 2023. The visit, held at the Inn at Wise in Wise, Virginia, had approximately 40

companions attending. A great evening was had by all attendees, and the Inn at Wise was very accommodating. Appreciation and recognition was extended to the staff and management.





**Districts No. 2, 3, 8, 10, 11, 12,
and 18**

Pictured from left to right, RW and Dr. Sam Jones, MW Donald Strehle, ME/MI Lee Arritt and RW Terry Hilton receiving the Masonic Home donations collected during the Official Visits made by ME/MI Arritt on Wednesday, April 19 at

MAHOVA. This gift from the Companions of Districts No. 2, 3, 8, 10, 11, 12, and 18 came to a total of \$3000.00 making a total of \$5,233.00 donated to MAHOVA for use in the Memory Unit. Donations for the Alzheimer's Association came to a total of \$835.00 from the same districts and a total of \$1,583.00 from all the official visits.



District No. 19

RW Jack Lewis, Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of VA, ME/MI Lee Arritt, and RW Terry Hilton, Director of Development for MAHOVA.

The funds, a total of \$317.00, were collected at ME/MI Lee's Official Visit to District No. 19 at Fredericksburg No. 23 on Tuesday, May 16, 2023. The \$317.00 will go toward cost for The MAHOVA Memory Unit.



District No. 19

ME/MI Lee Arritt, Grand High Priest, made his official visit this past May 16, 2023, in Fredericksburg.

The visit was well attended, and the ME/MI Arritt and the attendees had an excellent dinner and discussion afterward.



Fredericksburg No. 23

At its 18 July Stated Chapter, RE Tom Varner discussed and provided an extemporaneous exemplification of the Royal Arch Catechism. After several discussions over the past several Stated meetings, Chapter High Priest/Illustrious Master David Bennett invited RE Varner to the Stated to discuss the Royal Arch Catechism history and significance.

The entire Chapter/Council was rivetted to the discussion, and as always, RE Varner delivered a great summary, and also responded to questions and answers.

We at the Fredericksburg No. 23 er look forward to further exploration of the catechism, and how it might be employed to incite enthusiasm and meaning among the membership.



Great Bridge Lodge No. 257.

On March 22nd, Brethren and Companions welcomed Royal Arch Masons in their RED COATS. A delicious meal served by the Jobs Daughters Bethel No. 37 with cake for dessert.

With permission from Grand Master Strehle, we were permitted to wear our

regalia during the meeting. GHP/MIGM Hafford Lee Arritt delivered his message to the brethren and companions present. Afterwards, WM Lester Tysor presented the GHP/MIGM with a wall plaque “In God We Trust”. With close to 50 in attendance, it was great to see all the red coats that evening!!”



Rockbridge No. 44

Chapter/Council

Moomaw No. 27 Commandery

This past May, the Companions and Sir Knights hosted a joint program delivered by District Chapter/Council Educational Officer Tim Thorman to discuss the Bicentennial of Templary. Companion Thorman discussed the next 5 degrees, as the Chapter successfully completed the Mark Master Degree on March 27!

Congratulations to newly initiated Mark Masters Steve McNeil, Evan Hanna, Stafford Johnson, Isaac Slone, and Dylan Whitt.

High Priest/Illustrious Master Jesse S. Lyons remarked he was “very proud of the men who took the time to perform the degree! A first in many years!”

A special thanks to RE Tom Varner for portraying the Right Worshipful Master!



Waynesboro Union No. 2.

Waynesboro Union No. 2 conferred the Royal Arch Degree on nine candidates on July 18, 2023. There are three Chapters/Councils in the 14th District - Waynesboro Union No. 2, Alleghany No. 24, and Rockbridge No. 44. ME/MI H. Lee Arritt, RE Joey S. Martin, and RE Ewell S. Beirne – all members of Grand Royal Arch Chapter/Grand Cryptic Council of Virginia – attended.

RE Gregory D. Hosaflook conferred the degree with ME/MI Russel G. Snodgrass

as Principal Sojourner. ME/MI Arritt delivered the charge. The entire degree team is to be commended for the excellent conferral of this degree. Congratulations to the 14th District for their activities in local Chapters/Councils and in the community. Their enthusiasm, success, and visibility raise awareness in the general public and increases interest from Brethren in both local Lodges, Chapters, and Councils.



ONE DAY CONFERRAL DISPENSATION

Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons
In Virginia



DISPENSATION

TO ALL WHOM THESE PRESENTS MAY COME GREETINGS:

Know you that I, Hafford Lee Arritt, Jr., by the power in me vested as Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia, do grant unto

**ALL ROYAL ARCH CHAPTERS IN THE GRAND JURISDICTION OF
VIRGINIA**


THIS DISPENSATION

To present their balloted Candidates at the Multi-State Jurisdictional Festival to be held under the auspices of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Maryland, located at 304 International Circle, Cockeysville, Maryland 21303, on Saturday, October 14, 2023, at 9:00 AM for the purpose receiving the Capitular Degrees as conferred at the Festival. Registration will begin at 8:00 AM. The four Capitular Degrees of Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, and the Royal Arch Degrees will be conferred by the sister Jurisdictions of Virginia, Delaware, Maryland, and the District of Columbia upon the Candidates of all four Jurisdictions. There will be no Balloting for Virginia Candidates at this Festival. Each Chapter with Candidate(s) must furnish a letter from their Chapter verifying that their Candidate(s) has/have been elected to receive the degrees and all fees are paid. The letter is to be signed by the High Priest and Secretary and sealed with the Chapter Seal. The Chapter will furnish a mark sheet for each Candidate. All Candidates must be accompanied by a member of the Chapter that he petitioned, or he will not be allowed to receive the Degrees at the Festival. The Subordinate Chapter Secretary must notify the Grand Secretary of any Candidates being taken to the Festival ten days prior to the Festival date. Chapters may then accept such Candidates into membership only after they have received the Select and Royal Master Degrees, also having received the High Priest, King, and Scribe Lectures, within Ninety (90) days of the Festival. The date of record for the Candidates will be when they have received the Select and Royal Master Degrees. The Chapter Secretary must furnish in a monthly activity

report the dates of each degree when the Candidate(s) has/have completed the requirements for this Festival.


Given under my hand and the seal of the
Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia
This 29th Day of June A.D. 2023

No. 2023-0014


Hafford Lee Arnett, Jr.
Grand High Priest



Attest:


Wayne H. Anderson
Grand Secretary
