



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

# The Keystone

**March 2018**



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Companions and friends:

Wow! What a wonderful time we are having in our travels. We have completed eight Official Visits so far, and have had great hospitality and companionship at each visit. Our Grand Officers and Past Grand High Priests are showing up everywhere we go. All the food we have enjoyed is delicious and the gifts are outstanding. I will treasure

forever the handmade gavel Most Excellent Charles E. Cave presented me, and I am using it in all my Official Visits. We have received many beautiful handcrafted gifts as we travel. There are so many talented artists in our organization.

This week we are headed to Delaware and next week to North Carolina. These out-of-state visits are a lot of fun, meeting companions from other places and observing their grand convocations. In Philadelphia, we were guided on a private tour of the majestic Masonic Temple. It is a must-see experience, with craftsmanship at its height. We're looking forward to more travels and making new friends.

Please continue to use the website: [virginiaroyalarch.org](http://virginiaroyalarch.org) to keep up with our upcoming events. Also there are more educational materials on the site and lots of good information. In closing, I saw this quote from Tao Te Ching in the paper today, and wanted to share it with you. "In dwelling be close to the land. In meditation go deep in the heart. In dealing with others be gentle and kind." May God Bless each of you and keep you safe in your travels.

Sincerely and fraternally,  
*Joe G. Broce, Grand High Priest*

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## The Grand Almoner's Message



Companions of Royal Arch Masonry in Virginia, we are just about to close out the first quarter of the year. Each of the Districts have been doing a fine job, and we are starting to raise our

"Fun Raiser" thermometer.

Since our Annual Convocation in November, I challenged each of the districts to a "Sprint to \$2,000", to see if each district can raise \$2,000 between the Annual Convocation and March 31. We are nearing that finish line and I would like to highlight one district; District 15. District 15 has, to date, raised \$1,755.00! They have had many functions and opportunities to help get them where they are today. A hearty debt of gratitude goes out to the District Deputy Grand High Priest Right Excellent Kevin McCullough and to the District Almoner Excellent Jake Trenary for their hard work and dedication! Let's see if you by the end of the month you can reach that \$2,000 goal! Great job!

I would also like to point out that Potomac Chapter #88 held a Table Chapter and raised \$329 for Alzheimer's. Another Great job! Congratulations!

On a personal note, my mom has been diagnosed in December with Alzheimer's and is now in a memory unit in Tulsa Oklahoma. My sister Lynette spends much of her time looking out for my mom. Please keep my

mom and sister in your thoughts and prayers. In addition, please note that the funds that we raise not only go to finding a cure for this disease, but much of it goes toward helping those care for the patients with this disease.

*Paul Lockhart, Grand Almoner of Virginia*

## 50-Year Veteran Presentations



On February 19, Right Excellent Robert Artz was presented his 50-year Royal Arch certificate and regalia at his home by Excellent Ed Tooma, High Priest of Shenandoah #17 and Chapter Secretary Right Excellent Alan K. Spear. Companion Artz has dedicated his entire life to

Freemasonry, serving in all capacities with the Blue Lodge, including Worshipful Master, Instructor of Work, and Mentor. As a Royal Arch Mason, he served his Chapter as High Priest and then later as District Deputy Grand High Priest. The Royal Arch is proud to have this Companion among its ranks. Pictured above from left to right are Companions Artz and Tooma.

A few weeks later, Companions C.W. Gibbs and John H. Myers received their 50-year emblems at Westmoreland Chapter #41. Shown below from left to right are District Deputy Grand High Priest Lin Spears, Excellent Richard Hinson, Gibbs, Myers, and Most Worshipful and Right Excellent George Bernard Dungan Jr.

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**50-Year Presentation, Westmoreland #41**

## **Winning the Grand Bowl**

As District 17 has won the Grand Bowl five times in the last seven years, Right Excellent Peter Jensen offers the following tips for how your District can win it this coming November: Get out, get to know the chapters in your district, especially the secretaries. Don't just visit on your OV, visit regularly and see what you can do for them. Encourage them to get their reports done, help them with any gaps in completing the forms. Complete all of the DDGHP paperwork on time and get everything submitted early so the Grand Line officers have plenty of time to review. Get to know the Grand Line Officers, invite them to your larger events, and keep them abreast of your activities. Lastly, prepare a complete detailed report of your District's activity for the year. Leave nothing out and include fundraising, Table Chapters, visits to other bodies, etc.

## **I Want to be an Actor, by Edward Tooma, Shenandoah #17**

So you've always wanted to be an actor. Well, here's that chance you've been waiting for, and you don't have to go to Hollywood

to make your dream come true. It all starts in your Blue Lodge with the Ritual. Think of it as the script you would have to learn for a part in a movie, or theater production. Ritual, just like a script, is to be acted out, and not just read. Each word needs to be pronounced precisely, placing the proper emphasis in the right places to impress upon the candidate the story you are telling. The only way for you to perfect this type of actor presentation is by practice, rehearsing with others and holding critique sessions. Treat it as your audition to become that actor you've always wanted to be. The most important thing about Ritual delivery, whether it be in a Lodge or Chapter, is your overall presentation. You must ensure that what you are saying sounds sincere. This is where acting comes in. The spotlight is now on you! Your aim is to hold the candidates' undivided attention to every single word you are saying. When reciting Ritual, the Lodge room or Chapter should be quiet as a tomb. The only person to be heard is you presenting the Ritual. The impact this makes upon the candidate, should be an everlasting memory. Those on the sidelines will surely be impressed. My recommendation, is to practice Ritual every chance you get. Read it aloud. Try different techniques with the placing of emphasis in the proper place(s). One method is to underline words you want emphasized. Keep a dictionary handy for proper pronunciation. Nothing is more embarrassing than pronouncing a word wrong. Now, if you don't have a dictionary, go to Google and research the word that gives you a problem. Google will pronounce it for you and even give a definition. Don't have a computer - go to your nearest library. Sure, it's a lot of homework, but to become that actor you have

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wanted to be for so long, it's well worth devoting some preparation time. This is where rehearsal plays a big part too. Your screen test without travelling to Hollywood will be center stage in your Lodge or Chapter. Make it an impressive one. You can do it. I would like to close this article with the words of our late Brother, Norman Vincent Peale. "You can, if you think you can."

## **District 17 Table Chapter**

On February 26, Potomac Chapter #88 held a very successful Table Chapter for the Lodges in Masonic District No. 2. They've received nothing but good feedback from all who attended. The dinner turned out to be WOW! The size and quality of the steaks and how delicious the wine was will probably be the topic of conversation for quite a while. Of the 32 attendees, there were eleven possible candidates in attendance. Two petitions were received; there are at least two who plan to petition as soon as they are raised, and the others were interested and kept the Companions on their toes by asking a number of really good questions. Excellent Jason Matchett delivered an engaging educational program, and DDGHP Marty Juul spoke to the Companions and guests about some of the joys and lessons of Royal Arch Masonry. To top that off, Potomac Chapter #88 raised over \$329 in support of the Alzheimer's Association, all while having a great time.



**Attendees at District 17 Table Chapter**

## **District 2 Red Coat Night**

Under the leadership of District Deputy Grand High Priest Danny Diego, twelve District 2 Companions were hosted by Owens Lodge #164 at a "Red Coats Night" on February 8. During the meeting, Excellent James Pate, High Priest of Norfolk United #1, presented Most Excellent Don McAndrews Royal Arch video about Royal Arch. Last year, the District adopted the slogan

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“The Red Coats are Coming”; this year, its slogan is “Red Coats on the Move”. These events have been so successful, that six more are planned for the rest of the Capitular year.



**Attendees at Owens Lodge #164 “Red Coat Night”**

## **Correspondence Course Update**

Speaking of Districts 2 and 17, they have been very active lately in holding organized Correspondence Course sessions on February 16 and March 24, respectively. These events have offered good fellowship, plenty of learning, and lots of good food. The following Companions have completed and passed the Correspondence Courses:

Norfolk Union #1: Paul Schirle, Graham Winston, Joel Watson, James Pate; Waynesboro Union #2: Stephen Young, Robert Simpson; Shenandoah #17: Gerald Ross; Princess Anne #1607: Frank Beard, Harold Campbell, David Connor, Roger Taylor, David Strohsahl, Brian Cox, Willmont Griffin.

The following Companions are presently taking the courses: Norfolk Union #1: Walter Burton III, Eric Andersson; Harrisonburg #6: Steven Giddens; D. C. Shanks #31: Cameron Caffee; Loudoun #55: Matthew Vepraskas; Great Bridge #82: Gregory Gustafson, Walter Trinkala; Princess Anne #1607: William Peterson, Benjamin Tendilla, Ariel Alcantara.

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## Lexington Royal Arch Festival

On January 20, Rockbridge Royal Arch Chapter #44 hosted a large and successful degree festival, their first since 2011. The festival was hosted at the Masonic Temple/Hall of Mountain City Lodge #67 in Lexington. Together with a number of Chapters, they exalted fourteen new companions to the most sublime degree of Royal Arch Mason, many of whom received all six degrees that day. Twenty-one Royal Arch Masons from around the state came to comprise a super degree team, including Grand Lecturer Randy Johnson, Past Grand High Priests Russell Snodgrass and James Fields, and many other great ritualists such as Jay Cotner and Charles Via. The Companions toiled in the quarries from for six hours, enjoyed breakfast and lunch together, and then some of the attendees came to Richmond to see the Grand High Priest.



**Attendees at Rockbridge #44 Festival**

## Upcoming Calendar

- April 13, District 2 Official Visit, 6 pm, Virginia Beach
- April 14, Alzheimer's Walk, 9 am; Research Chapter, 1 pm, both at Virginia Beach #274
- April 14, District 3 Official Visit, 6 pm, Newport News
- April 20, District 17 Official Visit, 6 pm, Manassas
- April 21, District 18 Official Visit, 12 pm, Barboursville
- April 28, Warwick #80 Table Chapter, 630 pm, Newport News
- May 12, District 8 Official Visit, 6 pm
- May 18, District 21 Official Visit, 6 pm
- May 19, District 20 Official Visit, 12 pm

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**Attendees at District 4 Official Visit, Richmond**



**Attendees at District 15 Official Visit, Front Royal**



**Attendees at District 9 Official Visit, Wytheville**

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**Grand High Priest Broce Receives Gavel from Most Excellent Charles Cave**



**Attendees at District 11 Official Visit, Norton**



**Attendees at District 10 Official Visit, Marion**