



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

The Keystone

June 2019



In This Edition...

Pages 1-2, Grand High Priest's Message

Page 2-3, Grand Almoner's Message

Pages 4-6, Awards, District Articles, Calendar, new GHP Contest

Page 7-8, Grand High Priest Official Visit and Other Pictures

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Want your articles or pictures here? Or have a question for Zerubbabel? Send them to tvarner536@aol.com.



My Companions and friends:

The Chapters across The Commonwealth have been "Soaring to New Heights". Many Chapters and Districts are raising funds for Alzheimer Research and exalting new companions. Many of these exaltations are being done by the chapters within their district at stated and/or called convocations. There are several companions traveling across Virginia to visit and support various individual Chapters; thus, spreading Capitular Masonry, renewing friendships and developing new fraternal relationships. Hopefully, we all can visit another district's chapter convocation or assist with degree work. Not only does this display our commitment to "Soaring to New Heights", it may precipitate more companions visiting across the Commonwealth. Remember, if you visit another chapter, they will likely visit you.

Lady Karen and I, as well as several others (Grand Secretary, Grand Marshal, Grand Lecturer, Lady Donna, Associate Grand Parliamentarian, Deputy Grand Secretary, Lady Marcia and PGHPs) have attended Grand York Rite Body Convocations in other jurisdictions during March, April, and May. During these out-of-state visits, which included Austria, DE, DC, FL, NC, NY, SC, and TN, each Grand Jurisdiction wholeheartedly welcomed us with kindness and gratitude. Our trip to Austria was quite memorable. It was the first time traveling across the Big Pond for Lady Karen and myself. Thanks to M.E. Clyde and Lady Marcia for their assistance and guidance, prior to and during the visit. Also, M.E. Gunter Steurer, M.E. Peter Zehetner, and M.E. Michael Kraus made the visit to Vienna

The Keystone of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia

June 2019

extraordinary and EXTRA SPECIAL. THANK YOU to all! In addition to the above visits, Right Excellent Ray Steele, Grand King, represented the Grand Chapter at Grand Commandery while I was out of state at another commitment. Also, I represented the Grand Chapter at the Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star during their formal opening. Two nights later, Lady Karen and I attended the installation of Grand Chapter Eastern Star Officers for 2019.

The Official Visits to Districts No. 2, 3, 8, 9, 11, 19, and 21 from March through May were uniquely exceptional. The support at each visit has been overwhelming. The DDGHPs and their respective district companions are given a heartfelt “THANK YOU” for all their hard work, the special courtesies, the gifts, and the hospitality shown to Lady Karen and me. I want to extend a “Special Thank You” to the Ladies that have attended those official visits; your attendance was greatly appreciated.

During the Official Visits, Lady Karen has been displaying various items to raise money for Alzheimer’s Association. Many companions have participated in making donations toward the goal of ending Alzheimer’s Disease. A “Waterford Crystal Hospitality Bowl” has been given away at each Official Visit to a lucky qualifying participant; hence, we’ve had thirteen lucky winners. Thank you, Lady Karen, for your unwavering support and helping with this endeavor! Also, thanks go out to Shannon, Grand Gentleman (and Karen’s husband) for his assistance at some of those official visits. Also, I want to THANK all the companions (Grand Chapter Officers, DDGHPs, PGHPs,

PDDGHPs, PHPs, HPs, and Companions) for their support and attendance at the various Official Visits. Y’all have made each one interesting, unique and memorable; I say that with a BIG SMILE!

As “The Eagle” continues to soar into the second half of the capítular year, please look at the Calendar on the website for upcoming Official Visits and other activities. Remember, “Soaring to New Heights” during the next few months: Start filling out those R. Claiborne Wilson Award Applications and make recommendations for the John Dove Meritorious Service Award. I believe every Chapter should apply for the coveted Wilson Award. Also, check out the calendar for July 8 - North Carolina Night in Virginia will take place at Mt. Nebo in Suffolk, Va.

Again, 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!!

May God continue to richly bless us all, our great Capítular craft, and especially, these United States of America,,

Floyd Byron Goodwin, Grand High Priest

The Grand Almoner’s Message

The Grand Almoner’s Trophy (pictured below) is completed and ready to be presented to the District who raises the most money for our philanthropies this year. There will only be one inaugural winner and I’m hopeful the spirit and enjoyment of good competition will drive you forward as much as it does me. Many of our Companions are

The Keystone of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia

June 2019



in full stride in their effort and their work is getting noticed in their communities. To date, we have raised collectively \$11,651 for AD and our other related charities. We have some serious work to do yet, but the

goal of \$100,000 is attainable if we continue to work together.

I am both excited and encouraged by the results of your Spring Alzheimer's fundraising efforts. Accolades are necessary for Most Excellent Dan Surface, who was able to work with local area businesses in his home community of Marion, Virginia to raise \$325 for District 10 as part of his annual fund drive. Right Excellent Mark Chapman should also be congratulated for his work with the members of Keystone Chapter No. 58 to raise \$3,099 for District 18 at the Louisa Walk to End Alzheimer's. Great work Companions!

Should you encounter people in your community who have questions about Alzheimer's, the below link is an excellent online reference with up to date information on AD. It was created through and is maintained by the Cleveland Clinic. I like this site because it is clear and concise while being very easy to navigate. <https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/diseases/9164-alzheimers-disease>. Remember as Royal Arch Masons, our unified goal is a world without AD. It will take every one of us to make it happen, but I am confident we will play a major role in this dream becoming a reality one day soon.



There has been quite a lot of travelling throughout our great Commonwealth in the month of May, and I want to express my appreciation and gratitude to the many Companions of Districts 11, 20, and

21 in the Southwest and Tidewater areas, respectively. My visits to your Chapters in May with Most Excellent Goodwin and our Grand Line Officers were both memorable and enjoyable. Thank you for all the fellowship and hospitality you provided to us. You made us all proud to be Royal Arch Masons. I also attended GHP Official Visits at District 19 on May 31, District 3 on June 1, District 17's Table Chapter benefitting Alzheimer's on June 4, and District 20 on June 15. My goal is to visit every District before the end of 2019. If you would like me to visit or provide a program at your District or Chapter, please reach out to me. I will do my best to fulfill your request.

Lastly, enjoy the summer holidays and take a moment to teach someone younger than you to remember and acknowledge those U.S. service men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice all over the world to ensure that we can enjoy the freedom of living in the greatest country in the history of mankind. As Harvard philosopher George Santayana once said, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." Holiness to the Lord!

Jason Curtis "Jake" Trenary, Grand Almoner

The Keystone of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia

June 2019

Correspondence Course/Veteran Awards

Congratulations to the following who recently completed the Correspondence Course! Romulo M. Capuno, Arlington No. 35; Robert Tallent, Mt. Vernon No. 14; Pablo Alejandro Rocha, Annandale No. 77; John T. G. Aakesson, Mt. Vernon No. 14; and Joseph Boyd, Barrett No. 76. We also extend congratulations and happiness to the following who have marked many years of service to Royal Arch Masonry: Robert Donald Mann, E.H. Gill No. 50, 50 years last December 20; Maryus L. Dodson, Westmoreland No. 41, 50 years on April 8; Charles W. Gibbs, Westmoreland No. 41, 60 years on May 12; and Ray Willis Sites, Keystone No. 58, 50 years on May 20. The below picture shows Companion T. C. Dickerson III and his wife being congratulated by Most Excellent Russell Snodgrass and other distinguished members of Keystone No. 58 on the occasion of receiving his 50-year veteran award on April 15.



Have you taken the Correspondence Course? by Edward Tooma

The Grand Chapter “Leadership Correspondence Course” is a golden opportunity for enhancing your knowledge about Royal Arch Masonry. It is highly recommended for all Companions. The course (3 Lessons) can be taken conveniently at home using a computer. The only reference material you’ll need is the latest Digest of Laws, Rules and Regulations which can be purchased by contacting the Grand Chapter. <https://virginiaroyalarch.org/>. The cost is \$10 for both the course and Digest, payable to the Grand Royal Arch Chapter. For those not having a computer – just request a hard copy of the correspondence course from Grand Provost Thomas Varner, 14302 Boydton Plank Road, Dinwiddie, VA 23841. Upon completion, you will receive a certificate. For instructions, refer to the Grand Chapter website and click on Education, or your Chapter secretary can assist you.

Richmond-Washington No. 3-9 Festival

On Saturday, May 11, many District 4 Companions gathered at Manwood Masonic Temple for a full day of Royal Arch degree work. Among the four candidates were Right Worshipful Douglas

The Keystone of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia

June 2019

Jones, Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, and Right Worshipful Terry Hilton, Masonic Home Development Officer. The degrees were performed in a very exemplary manner, and the candidates were quite impressed with the richness of the ceremonies. We look forward to Right Worshipful Jones becoming Grand Master and visiting our Grand Convocation in November.

Upcoming William B. Millican Royal Arch School

All Companions are invited to the annual William B. Millican Royal Arch School, to be held at Taylor Lodge No. 23 in Salem on July 29-30. The sessions begin at 9 am on each day, and lunch will be provided. The Committee on Work will hold its semiannual meeting on Sunday, July 28, at 1 pm at Cave Spring Lodge No. 230. A special attraction at this year's school is a reciting of the Royal Arch catechism, which is done very rarely.

Grand Officers visit Keystone No. 58

A routine stated Convocation of Keystone No. 58 became a special occasion when Grand Secretary Andy Anderson and Grand Marshal James Pate showed up. The evening's speaker was Grand Provost Tom Varner, who presented his well-known lecture on "Royal Arch Geography". Unknown to them, the Grand Secretary and Grand Marshal had traveled up from Tidewater in order to present a veteran's award. The below picture shows the three Grand Officers, along with High Priest Mark Chapman, and Deputy Grand Secretary Emeritus Jay Cotner.



James Pate, Jay Cotner, Mark Chapman, Andy Anderson, and Thomas Varner

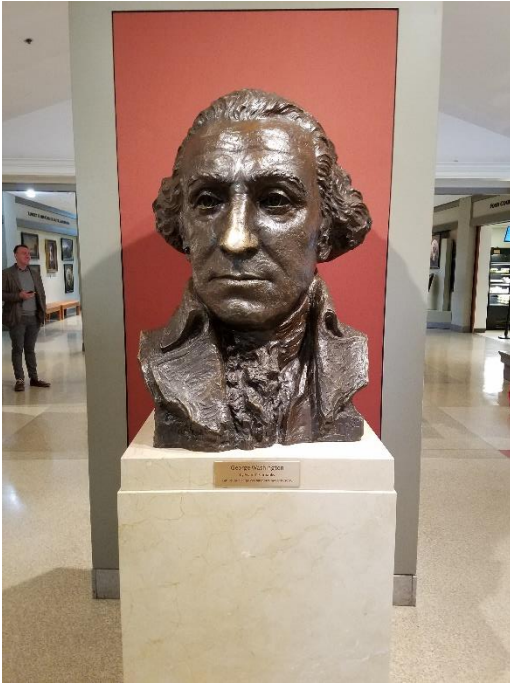
Upcoming Calendar

July 8, North Carolina Night at Mt. Nebo, Suffolk, 730 pm
July 28, Committee on Work meeting, Cave Spring Lodge No. 230, Roanoke, 1 pm
July 29-30, William B. Millican School, Taylor Lodge No. 23, 9 am
August 22, Grand King's Official Visit to Petersburg Union No. 7, 730 pm
September 28, Multi-Jurisdictional Festival
October 12, Masonic Family Day, Richmond, 830 am

The Keystone of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia

Where am I? The Grand High Priest's New Contest

Our Grand High Priest has started a new contest in each Keystone issue for the rest of this year. From his many travels, he has taken a number of pictures, and is hoping you can identify where he was at the time. Please send your answers to Grand Provost Thomas Varner at tvarner536@aol.com. One Companion will be selected from the successful entries to receive a special prize from our Grand High Priest. Here are the first three pictures:



The Keystone of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia

June 2019



Mt. Horeb Chapter welcomes new Companions recently exalted



The Grand High Priest welcomes new Companions exalted recently at Mt. Nebo



Districts 2, 3, and 21 Companions attend the Virginia Beach Alzheimers Walk on April 27

The Keystone of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia

June 2019



The Grand High Priest and Companions at the District 11 Visit on May 11



The Grand High Priest and Companions at the District 2 Visit on May 17



The Grand High Priest and Companions at the District 19 Visit on May 31