# Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons In Virginia



Office of the Grand Secretary Post Office Box 2276 Portsmouth, Virginia 23702 (757) 646-1438

Email: GrandChapter@cox.net

#### CALL TO GRAND CHAPTER

September 1, 2024

To: Grand Chapter Officers; Past Grand High Priests; District Deputy Grand High Priests; Chapter Secretaries; and Companions:

The Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia will hold its 217th Grand Annual Convocation at the Double Tree by Hilton, Williamsburg, Virginia on  $22^{nd}$  and  $23^{rd}$  November 2024. The deadline for the block reservation is no later than October 25, 2024. Early reservations are suggested, as the number of rooms is limited. The hotel's telephone number is (800) 222-8733 use the code RAM, the room rate is \$144.00 + \$17.28 (12%) + \$2.00 (county Tax) = \$163.28 per night. The online link is <a href="https://group.doubletree.com/2ii94c">https://group.doubletree.com/2ii94c</a>

The York Rite College Banquet will be on Thursday evening, November 21<sup>st</sup>. Use the enclosed form, make copies as needed, and mail your check to the address shown.

The Super Excellent Master's Degree will be conferred on Friday morning, November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00 A.M. Any Companion who has not received this Degree is urged to receive it. Although optional, this is one of Masonry's most beautiful degrees and should not be missed by anyone eligible to receive it. The requirement for Virginia is that the candidate has had the Royal Arch Degree. The fee for the degree is \$40.00. The check should be payable to Romulo Capuno marked for the Super Excellent Master's Degree. All proceeds after expenses are donated to Alzheimer's research.

The Grand High Priest's Banquet will be held Friday evening, 6:30 P.M. Doors will open at 6:00P.M. for cash bar. Formal or Semi-Formal for ladies

# To avoid confusion, seating for the Grand High Priest banquet will be by assigned table numbers.

The Committee of the Whole will meet Saturday morning at 9am. There will be resolutions to be read and a proposition.

The Anointed High Priest's Degree will be conferred on Saturday afternoon (fee \$70.00) at 1:00 P.M.; the Thrice Illustrious Master's Degree will also be conferred on Saturday afternoon (fee \$50.00) at 2:30 P.M. The registration forms for each degree are enclosed.

The KYCH meeting will follow immediately after the Thrice Illustrious Master's Degree

The Grand Secretary will meet with the Chapter Secretaries on Saturday afternoon at 2:00 P.M. in Rooms A & B.

Grand Commandery will meet with Sir Knights at 2:30 P.M. in Room 15.

The Ladies Banquet and Program will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Installation of Grand Chapter Officers and District Deputy Grand High Priests will take place immediately following the close of Grand Chapter.

The reception for the newly installed Grand High Priest will be held in the Hospitality Room immediately following the Installation of Officers.

High Priests and Chapter Secretaries are requested to bring this information to the attention of all Companions at your Stated Convocations and your meeting announcements.

SUPPORT YOUR GRAND CHAPTER BY YOUR ATTENDANCE ON NOVEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> 2024.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Grand Secretary

#### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2024:

9:00 A.M. ST. THOMAS OF ACON

PLACE: CENTRAL LOUNGE
WHO: MEMBERS ONLY.
DRESS: COAT and TIE.
ADMISSION: MEMBERS ONLY.

1:00 P.M. COMMITTEE ON WORK:

PLACE: AMPHITHEATER

WHO: COMMITTEE ON WORK.

DISTRICT LECTURERS.

ASSISTANT DISTRICT

LECTURERS. GRAND CHAPTER OFFICERS. DRESS: CASUAL.

4:00 P.M. OVERVIEW AND PRACTICE MEETING WITH THE GRAND CHAPTER OFFICERS:

PLACE: ADAMS BALLROOM

DRESS: CASUAL

6:00 P.M. YORK RITE COLLEGE - RECEPTION AND DINNER:

TO 8:00 P.M

PLACE: HARRISON BALLROOM 1 & 2

WHO: MEMBERS OF YORK RITE COLLEGE & INVITED GUESTS.

DRESS: TUXEDO.

ADMISSION: TICKET ONLY.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2024:

7:00 A.M.

TO REGISTRATION – PROMENADE REGISTRATION DESK

3:00 P.M.

7:30 A.M. GRAND CHAPTER OFFICER'S BREAKFAST:

TO

8:30 A.M. PLACE: ROOMS 2 & 3

WHO: GRAND CHAPTER OFFICERS AND WIVES.

DRESS: RED COAT WITH GRAND CHAPTER TIE OR TUXEDO.

ADMISSION: INVITATION ONLY

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2024:

9:00 A.M. SUPER EXCELLENT MASTERS' DEGREE:

TO (CAST REPORTS AT 8:00 A.M.)

10:15 A.M.

PLACE: ADAMS BALLROM

WHO: REGISTERED CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE

DRESS: CANDIDATES - COAT AND TIE

ADMISSION: MEMBERS WHO HAVE RECEIVED THE DEGREE

10:30 A.M. ALL DISTINGUISHED GUESTS ASSEMBLE OUTSIDE ADAMS BALLROM

10:45 A.M. PUBLIC OPENING OF GRAND CHAPTER: RECEPTION OF DISTINGISHED GUESTS:

11:45 A.M

PLACE: ADAMS BALLROOM

WHO: MEMBERS, WIVES and GUESTS

DRESS: GRAND CHAPTER OFFICERS - TUXEDO.
MEMBERS: DARK SUIT OR RED COAT WITH TIE.

ADMISSION: OPEN.

(NOTE: ALL GRAND CHAPTER OFFICERS TO BE IN THEIR SEAT BY 10:40 A.M.)

**11:00 A.M HOSPITALITY SUITE:** 

TO

**12:45 P.M.** PLACE: **ROOM 18** 

WHO: ALL ATTENDEES

DRESS: CASUAL. ADMISSION: OPEN.

1:00 P.M. OFFICIAL OPENING OF GRAND CHAPTER (MEMBERS OF THE CRAFT ONLY.)

PLACE: ADAMS BALLROOM

DRESS: GRAND CHAPTER OFFICERS – TUXEDO.
MEMBERS: DARK SUIT OR RED COAT WITH TIE.

4:00 P.M. CALL OFF GRAND CHAPTER.

**6:30 P.M.** GRAND HIGH PRIEST'S BANQUET:

PLACE: HARRISON AND TAYLOR BALLROOMS

WHO: INVITED GUESTS.

DRESS: GENTLEMEN - TUXEDO (PREFERRED). RED COAT WITH TIE

OR DARK SUIT.

DRESS: LADIES - FORMAL (PREFERRED) ORCHURCH DRESS.

ADMISSION: INVITATION ONLY.

10:00 P.M. OLD SARATOGA DEGREE

PLACE: ROOM 2 & 3

WHO: CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE. DRESS: CANDIDATES - COAT AND TIE.

ADMISSION: MEMBERS WHO HAVE RECEIVED THE DEGREE.

#### **SATURDAY NOVEMBER 23, 2024:**

7:00 A. M. REGISTRATION – PROMENADE REGISTRATION DESK

TO

11:00 A.M

7:15 A. M. GRAND KING'S BREAKFAST

TO

8:45 A. M. PLACE: ROOM A & B

WHO: 2023 - 2024 HIGH PRIESTS AND DDGHP'S. DRESS: RED COAT WITH TIE OR DARK SUIT.

ADMISSION: INVITATION ONLY

7:30 A. M. GRAND HIGH PRIEST'S BREAKFAST:

TO

8:30 A.M. PLACE: **ROOM 11** 

WHO: GRAND CHAPTER OFFICERS AND WIVES.

PAST GRAND HIGH PRIEST'S AND WIVES.

**INVITED GUESTS** 

DRESS: GENTLEMEN: RED COAT WITH TIE. OR DARK SUIT.

LADIES: STREET DRESS.
ADMISSION: INVITATION ONLY

9:00 A. M. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE GRAND CHAPTER:

PLACE: ADAMS BALLROOM WHO: ALL MEMBERS.

DRESS: RED COAT WITH TIE OR DARK SUIT WITH TIE.

11:30 A. M. PAST GRAND HIGH PRIEST'S LUNCHEON MEETING:

PLACE: ROOM A & B

WHO: ALL PAST GRAND PRIESTS.

**DRESS:** MEETING ATTIRE

11:30 A.M. HOSPITALITY SUITE:

TO

2:00 P. M. PLACE: **ROOM 18** 

WHO: ALL ATTENDEES.

DRESS: CASUAL. ADMISSION: OPEN.

1:00 P. M. ANOINTED HIGH PRIEST DEGREE:

PLACE: ADAMS BALLROOM

WHO: CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE. DRESS: CANDIDATES - COAT AND TIE.

ADMISSION: MEMBERS WHO HAVE RECEIVED THE DEGREE.

12:30 P.M. GRAND PHOTOGRAPHER

TO

4:00 P.M. PLACE: **ROOM** 16

WHO: INCOMING GRAND CHAPTER OFFICERS AND DDGHP'S

DRESS: TUXEDO

**2:00 P. M. GRAND SECRETARY'S MEETING:** 

PLACE: ROOM A & B

WHO: CHAPTER SECRETARIES.

DRESS: CASUAL.

ADMISSION: OPEN TO SECRETARIES.

2:30 P.M. COMMANDERY MEETING

PLACE: ROOM 15

WHO: SIR KNIGHTS

2:30 P. M. COUNCIL OF THRICE ILLUSTRIOUS MASTERS DEGREE:

PLACE: ADAMS BALLROOM

WHO: CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE. DRESS: CANDIDATES - COAT AND TIE.

ADMISSION: MEMBERS WHO HAVE RECEIVED THE DEGREE.

4:00 P. M. KYCH MEETING

PLACE: ADAMS BALLROOM

WHO: MEMBERS AND CANDIDATES

DRESS: CASUAL

4:15 P.M. GRAND OFFICER'S MEETING

PLACE: ROOMS A & B

WHO: GRAND CHAPTER OFFICERS ONLY

DRESS: CASUAL

6:30 P.M. LADIES BANQUET

TO

8:00 P. M. PLACE: **HARRISON 1 & 2** 

WHO: LADIES

ADMISSION OPEN / RESERVATION ONLY

7:00 P.M GRAND CHAPTER - FINAL SESSION – ELECTIONS:

PLACE: ADAMS BALLROOM WHO: MEMBERS ONLY.

DRESS: GRAND CHAPTER OFFICERS - TUXEDO.

8:30 P. M. PUBLIC INSTALLATION OF GRAND CHAPTER OFFICERS & DDGHPS:

PLACE: ADAMS BALLROOM

WHO: MEMBERS AND INVITED GUESTS.

DRESS: GRAND CHAPTER OFFICERS - TUXEDO.

DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND HIGH PRIESTS: TUXEDO (PREFERRED) OR DARK SUIT.

10:00 P. M. RECEPTION FOR THE GRAND HIGH PRIEST

PLACE: ROOM 18

WHO: ALL ATTENDEES.

DRESS: CASUAL. ADMISSION: OPEN.

# "Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia"

Office of the Grand Secretary (757) 646-1438

Email: GrandChapter@cox.net

## "2024 GRAND ANNUAL CONVOCATION"

I//We will attend the Grand Annual Convocation of The Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia on November 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, and request the following reservations:

	No. of	Per		
Event:	Reservations	Person:	Total:	
Grand High Priests Banquet  Friday, November 22, 2024 (Ladies invited)		\$65.00	\$	
<b>Buffet:</b> Caesar Salad with Shaved Parmesan, Foc Goat Cheese with Spiced Pecans & Cranberries v BBQ Sauce, Grilled Salmon with Champagne Dill S Rosemary & Garlic Red Bliss Potatoes, Fresh Baked Teas and Pre-set Iced Tea (Unsweet) DESSERTS - Mousse & Macaroons	vith a Roasted Peac Sauce, Seasonal Gril d Rolls & Butter, Fre	h Vinaigrette, led Vegetables shly Brewed R	Smoked Beef Brisket with E , Steamed Broccoli in Lemor egular and Decaf Coffee, and	Bourbon Butter Herbal
Ladies Banquet (Ladies Only)				
Saturday, November 23, 2024, 6:30 PM Caesar Salad with Shaved Parmesan, Focaccia Cr Cheese with Spiced Pecans & Cranberries with a F Sauce or Grilled Salmon with Champagne Dill Sa Rosemary & Garlic Red Bliss Potatoes, Fresh Baked Teas and Pre-set Iced Tea (Unsweet) DESSERTS - Mousse & Macaroons	Roasted Peach Vinai uce, Seasonal Grille d Rolls & Butter. Fre	grette, Grilled d Vegetables, shly Brewed R	Chicken Breast with Boursin Steamed Broccoli in Lemon egular and Decaf Coffee, and	Cheese Butter, Herbal
SPECIAL I	DIETARY REQUIRE	MENTS		
Name:	Lady's Nan	ne:		
Title:				
Address:				
Tele No				

NO REFUNDS AFTER NOVEMBER 1, 2024.

THIS RESERVATION MUST BE RETURNED BY NOVEMBER 1, 2024.

TO:

Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia c/o Grand Secretary "2024 Convocation Arrangements" Post Office Box 2276 Portsmouth, Virginia 23702-2276

## "Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons In Virginia"

Office of the Grand Secretary (757) 646-1438

Email: GrandChapter@cox.net

#### "2024 GRAND ANNUAL CONVOCATION"

2024 - 2025 High Priests and District Deputy Grand High Priests ONLY

The Grand King cordially invites you to be his guest for the Grand King's *Breakfast*, Saturday, November 23, 2024, 7:30 AM.

**Event:** NO COST

## **Grand King's Breakfast (7:30 AM)**

**Buffet:** Fluffy Scrambled Eggs, Applewood Smoke Bacon & Logan's Sausage Links, Home Fried Potatoes, Steel Cut Oatmeal & Southern Style Grist, Freshly Bake Warm Muffins, Croissants, and Cinnamon Buns, Served with Seasonal Jam, and Apple Butter, Seasonal Fruit Charcuterie, Served with Cut Fruit, Dried Fruit, Honey, Plain Greek Yogurt, Toasted Coconut Almonds and Granola, Freshly Brewed Regular & Decaf Coffee, Almond Milk, 2% and Whole Milk, Herbal Tea, Orange & Apple Juice

	-	
Name:		
Chapter/District		

SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS:

### THIS RESERVATION MUST BE RETURNED BY NOVEMBER 1, 2024

**TO**:

Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia c/o Grand Secretary "2024 Convocation Arrangements" Post Office Box 2276 Portsmouth, Virginia 23702-2276

# "Valley of Virginia College No. 161"

Joshua W. Payne, Governor Kevin M. LeVan, Secretary (540) 247-0976

Email: kevinmlevan@me.com

# "2024 York Rite College Banquet"

I//We will attend the 2024 York Rite College Banquet on November 21, 2024, and request the following reservation:

_	No. of	Per	
Event:	Reservations	Person:	<u>Total:</u>
Banquet		\$65.00	\$
Thursday, November 21, 2024 (Lad Buffet: Mixed Greens with Ranch of Focaccia Crotons & Green Goddes Grilled Chicken Breast with Bour Sauce, Steamed Broccoli in Ler Potatoes, Mini Seasonal Berry Tarts Herbal Tea, Coffee, Water, Fresh Baken SPE	or Creamy Italian Dressing, Cae s Caesar Dressing, Pasta Prima sin Cheese Sauce, Smoked B mon Butter, Seasonal Grille s, Royal Choclate Tartlets with I	avera Served w Beff Brisket w d Vegetables Raspberry Mou	rith Marinara Sauce, rith Bourbon BBQ , Garlic Mashed
Name:	Lady's Nar	ne:	
Title:			
Address:			
Tele. No			
NO RE	FUNDS AFTER NOVEMBER 1, 2	2024	

THIS RESERVATION MUST BE RETURNED BY NOVEMBER 1, 2024
TO:

Valley of Virginia College No. 161 293 Huntersridge Road Winchester, Va 22602-6834

# The Grand Council of Super Excellent Masters in Virginia

Romulo M. Capuno, Grand Recorder, 7323 Rolling Oak Lane, Springfield, Virginia 22153 (703)855-7023, E-mail: <a href="mailto:qualityqti@aol.com">qualityqti@aol.com</a>

Dear Companion Secretary,

The Grand Council of Super Excellent Masters will assemble and confer the Super Excellent Master's Degree during the Grand Royal Arch Chapter session on **Friday**, **November 22**, **2024**, **at 9:00 A.M.**, **at the Double Tree by Hilton**, **Williamsburg**, **Virginia**. Any Companion who has not received the degree is urged to receive it. Although optional, this is one of Masonry's most beautiful and informative degrees, and should not be missed by anyone eligible to receive it. The requirement for Virginia is that the candidate has had the Royal Arch Degree.

The fee for the Super Excellent Master Degree will be \$40.00. The check should be made payable to Romulo M. Capuno, Recorder, enter on the memo line for the Super Excellent Master Degree.

It takes a considerable amount of time to prepare the necessary cards and other paperwork: please have the application and fee sent in by November 1, 2024.

All proceeds after expenses will be donated to Alzheimers Research.

	Fraternally, Romulo M. Capuno, Recorder
Please deta	ach application here

## **Application for the Super Excellent Master Degree**

First Name:	Middle:	Last:	
Mailing Address:			
City:	Sta	te: Zip:	_
Telephone:	E-mail:		
Member of	Royal Arch Chapter No	o Located at:	
Check No.	Date Received by the Ro	ecorder:	

November 22, 2024, Grand Royal Arch Chapter, Williamsburg, Virginia.

Fee for the Degree is \$40.00.

Make check payable to Romulo M. Capuno, Recorder and enter on the memo line for the Super Excellent Master Degree

Mail to: Romulo M. Capuno, Grand Recorder, 7323 Rolling Oak Lane, Springfield, VA 22153

By November 1, 2024

# The Grand Council of Anointed High Priests in Virginia

Romulo M. Capuno, Grand Recorder, 7323 Rolling Oak Lane, Springfield, Virginia 22153 (703) 855-7023, E-mail: <a href="mailto:qualityqti@aol.com">qualityqti@aol.com</a>

Dear Companion Secretary,

Your High Priest elected for the 2024-2025 Capitular Year is now eligible to receive the Anointed High Priest Degree, or Holy Order of High Priesthood. This is a very beautiful and meaningful degree, and is a requisite to being recognized as a Past High Priest when his year has ended.

The Grand Council of Anointed High Priests will assemble and confer the Degree during the Grand Royal Arch Chapter session on Saturday, November 23, 2024, at 1:00 P.M. at the at Double Tree by Hilton at Williamsburg, Virginia. The fee for the Degree is \$70.00, and your checks should be made payable to "Grand Council AHP in VA" and should be sent to the address above along with the completed application form prior to November 1, 2024. While some High Priests have paid the fee for this Degree themselves, it is strongly recommended that the Chapter pay the fee in recognition of the High Priest's service to his Chapter.

Fraternally, Romulo M. Capuno, PDDGHP Grand Recorder

Please Detach Application Here

#### Application for the Anointed High Priest Degree (Holy Order of High Priesthood)

First Name:	Middle:	Last:_	
Mailing Address:			
City:		State:	Zip:
Telephone No	E-mail: _		
Member of	Royal A	arch Chapter No	Located at:
Member of		Lodge No Loca	ated at:
Date Installed High Priest:/	/	Date of Application:	/
	Applicant's S	ignature	

November 23, 2024, Grand Royal Arch Chapter at Williamsburg, Virginia
Fee for the Degree is \$70.00, Make check payable to "Grand Council AHP in VA

Mail to: Romulo M. Capuno, Grand Recorder, 7323 Rolling Oak Lane, Springfield, VA 22153

By November 1, 2024.

# The Grand Council of Thrice Illustrious Masters in Virginia

Romulo M. Capuno, Grand Recorder, 7323 Rolling Oak Lane, Springfield, Virginia 22153 (703)855-7023, E-mail: qualityqti@aol.com

Dear Companion Secretary;

Your immediate Past High Priest, if he has received the Anointed High Priest Degree, is now eligible to receive the **Thrice Illustrious Master Degree, Order of the Silver Trowel**. Although this Degree is optional, it is one of Masonry's most beautiful and meaningful degrees, and should not be missed by anyone eligible to receive it.

This Degree will be conferred by the Grand Council of Thrice Illustrious Masters during the Grand Royal Arch Chapter session at 2:30 P.M. on Saturday, November 23, 2024, at the Double Tree by Hilton in Williamsburg, Virginia. The fee for the Degree is \$50.00, payable to Grand Council TIM in Virginia and should be sent to the address above along with the completed application form below.

It takes a considerable amount of time to prepare the necessary cards, certificates and other paperwork, so please have the application and fee sent in by November 1, 2024.

Fraternally, Romulo M. Capuno, Grand Recorder

Please detach application here

#### **Application for the Thrice Illustrious Master Degree (Order of the Silver Trowel)**

First Name:		M	liddle:	Last	t:	
Mailing Address:						· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
City:			State:		Zip:	
Telephone No			E-mail:			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Member of			_Royal Arch Chapter N	No	_Located at:	
Member of			Lodge No	Located	at:	
Date Elected High Priest:	/	/	Date Received	AHP Degree	:/	/
Date of Application:	/	/				
I certify that I have served one date).	year as H	igh Priest	and have received the	Anointed Hig	h Priest Degree (or	will receive it this
Applicant's Signature:						
TIM Number (for Council use)	ı:					

November 23, 2024, Grand Royal Arch Chapter, Williamsburg, Virginia Fee for the Degree is \$50.00, Make check payable to Grand Council TIM in VA Mail to: Romulo M. Capuno, Grand Recorder, 7323 Rolling Oak Lane, Springfield,VA 22153 By November 1, 2024

## **Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia**

Proposal for District Reassignment

Whereas Section 72 of the Digest of the Laws, Rules And Regulations of The Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons In Virginia states;

**Assignment Of Chapters to Districts.** All Subordinate Chapters in this jurisdiction shall be assigned to Districts, and any Chapter which may be revived, or any new Chapter which may be chartered, shall be assigned to the District to which it is geographically convenient.

And, Whereas Section 73 of the Digest of the Laws, Rules And Regulations of The Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons In Virginia states;

**Composition Of Districts** The Districts provided for in the foregoing Section shall be as Grand Chapter may from time to time determine and the Districts shall be published in the proceedings of each Annual Convocation.

And, Whereas realignment of districts can often be beneficial to the chapters involved;

Be it Therefore resolved that the following District Assignments shall be made in compliance with Section 72 and Section 73;

Pearisburg Chapter No. 29 be reassigned from District 12 to District 9.

This would result in the following Chapter Distribution.

District 9 will be composed of Wythe Chapter No. 51, Taylor Chapter No. 70, and Pearisburg Chapter No. 29.

District 12 would be composed of W.G. Bottimore Chapter No. 28 and O'Keefe Chapter No. 26.

James P. Nunn PHP, Wythe Royal Arch Chapter No. 51

Whereas many chapters throughout this Grand jurisdiction depend upon visitors to have the required number of Royal Arch Masons present to open the chapter, and;

Whereas under current law there is no minimum number of chapter members required to form a quorum to conduct chapter business, and;

Whereas members of a chapter should always have a voice in the conduction of chapter business, now;

**Be it therefore resolved** that Section 97 of the Digest of Laws, Rules and Regulations of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia which reads,

**Section 97. Stated Convocations**. Every Chapter shall hold at least one stated convocation in each month, but a Chapter shall not hold a convocation, stated or special, during the Grand Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter. The date and hour of stated convocations shall be prescribed by the Chapter in its by-laws.

Be amended to read,

Section 97. Stated Convocations. Every Chapter shall hold at least one stated convocation in each month, but a Chapter shall not hold a convocation, stated or special, during the Grand Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter. The date and hour of stated convocations shall be prescribed by the Chapter in its by-laws. No business that requires a vote of members, other than payment of bills, shall be conducted unless at least five members are physically present.

Respectfully submitted by,

Meredith C. Hutto, PHP Kecoughtan Royal Arch Chapter No. 42(Extinct)

**Whereas** the current Digest of Laws, Rules and Regulations of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia does not contain a section on Masonic Trials, and;

**Whereas** any charges brought against a Royal Arch Masons would have to be adjudicated in a Grand Lodge Masonic Trial, and;

**Whereas** such trial would unnecessarily consume Grand Lodge resources to handle the affairs of an appendant body, and;

Whereas such affairs should remain within the confines of the Grand Chapter, now;

**Be it therefore resolved** that §218 of the Digest of the Laws, Rules and Regulations of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia be amended to expand the section to move the law from §219 to §218(b) and add §218(c) and §218(d) as described below, and;

**Be it further resolved** to amend §219 to add §219(a) through §219(m) as described below:

#### MASONIC OFFENSES

Section 218(a). Duties of Royal Arch Masons. Royal Arch Masons owing allegiance to the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in the Commonwealth of Virginia and sojourning Royal Arch Masons while in the Commonwealth of Virginia must obey the civil laws, support the established government, keep inviolable the mysteries of the Order, preserve and obey the laws and resolutions of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in Virginia, observe the Ancient Landmarks of Masonry, and discharge their duties and obligations to their families, to each other, and to mankind in general. Willful failure to comply with any of these requirements shall constitute a Masonic offense and subject the offender to Masonic trial and, if found guilty, to discipline.

Section 218(b). Who May Make Charges. Any Royal Arch Mason in good standing may make written accusation against any member or sojourning Royal Arch Mason for offenses committed by him. After one Chapter prefers charges, no other Chapter shall prefer charges for the same offense. It is the duty of any member of a Chapter, knowing of a Masonic offense committed by a member of his Chapter, to prefer charges against him.

Section 218(c). Determination of Action. The determination of whether a Royal Arch Mason may be guilty of a Masonic offense shall either be through the process of a Masonic Trial, or by adjudication action of the Grand High Priest. The Grand High Priest shall, in all cases, review all charges made against a Royal Arch Mason and make a determination to either send the case to trial, or immediately adjudicate the charges and impose penalty in the case of a guilty determination. He may, at his discretion, withhold action while efforts are made to reconcile the differences between the companions involved in the dispute.

**Section 218(d). Procedure Regarding Conviction of a Felony**. On being satisfied of the validity of a conviction of a felony in a court of law and whether or not a sentence was in fact imposed, or the entry of a plea of guilty or no contest (nolo contendere) or a plea under *Alford v. North Carolina* to a felony charge, the Grand High Priest shall forward a copy of the conviction order in the case, or of court documentation reflecting his entry of such a plea, to the Grand Master for action by the Grand Lodge.

#### **MASONIC TRIALS**

**Section 219(a). Suspension Pending a Trial.** The Grand High Priest may, at his sole discretion, suspend a Royal Arch Mason from the rights and benefits of Royal Arch Masonry upon receipt of credible evidence of acts by a Royal Arch Mason that may in his belief constitute a Masonic offense as outlined in Section 218(a) and presents a clear and present danger to the continued operation of a chapter, This action may be done pending the appointment of a Trial Commission. In this event, a speedy masonic trial shall be conducted as soon as possible.

He, or his successor, may upon receipt of exculpatory information, remove the suspension and restore the companion to membership. This action does not override the final determination by a Trial Commission.

**Section 219(b). Cannot Hold Elected Office.** A Royal Arch Mason under charges is prohibited from holding any elected office in Grand Chapter or a Subordinate Chapter. He may participate in all chapter functions. In the event that he currently holds an elective office, he shall immediately vacate the office. The office shall be filled pro-tempore until the charges are adjudicated. If the companion is cleared of charges, or the action is healed by action of the Grand High Priest, he shall resume the duties of his office. Otherwise, a special election shall be held as soon as possible to fill the vacancy.

**Section 219(c).** Waiver of Trial. A companion under charges may, at any time, agree to plead guilty and waive a masonic trial, or the continuation of one already in process. In such an event, The Grand High Priest shall have sole authority to impose penalty, up to and including expulsion from Royal Arch Masonry.

Section 219(d). Trial Commission. Should the Grand High Priest determine the necessity of a Masonic Trial, he shall forward all related documents to the District Deputy Grand High Priest, in whose district the charges were filed, and direct him to immediately form a Trial Commission composed of five members. The commission members shall either be Past High Priests, Past District Deputy Grand High Priests, Past Grand High Priests or Grand Chapter elected officers. No commission member shall be a member of the same chapter as that of the companion under charges. Each member shall affirm to the District Deputy Grand High Priest his intention to see Masonic justice prevail.

Section 219(e). Summons, How Issued. Immediately upon receipt of the trial documents, the Commission Chairman shall issue, or cause to be issued by the Secretary of the chapter of the companion under charges, a summons to the accused to appear before the Trial Commission. The summons may be delivered by Registered Mail with Return Receipt to the mailing address on file or by electronic means with delivery notification. The summons shall stipulate the place, date and time of the trial. Adequate time shall be allowed for acknowledgement of receipt.

Section 219(f). Trial, Where Held. The Commission shall hold the trial in a suitable location, convenient to the participants, where access by persons is controlled and where the private hearings cannot be overheard. The proceedings of the trial shall not be disclosed.

Section219(g). Charges and Response. All charges and response thereto shall be in writing. Prior to the start of the hearing, the companion making the charges and the accused companion shall both examine all of their written documentation submitted to the Grand High Priest and validate its accuracy and completeness. Both may submit any additional written documentation correcting or clarifying the originals at that time, with a copy of any additional documentation offered by the accuser provided to the accused. No additional documentation shall be received once the hearing has started.

Section 219(h). Testimony at Hearing. Oral testimony shall be received only in the closed hearing during questions and answers. All oral testimony shall be recorded.

Section 219(i). Who may Testify. The accused companion may call only witnesses who can provide direct testimony to the charges. No hearsay or anecdotal evidence shall be heard. All witnesses who are not Master Masons shall be sworn or affirm to tell the truth. All testimony shall be individual before the Trial Commission and only in response to the written charges. During the hearing, only the accused companion, the person providing testimony and the Trial Commission shall be in the room. The accused may provide testimony at the end of the hearing to questions from the commission raised by testimony received during the hearing.

**Section 219(j). Determination of Guilt.** Upon receipt of all testimony, The Commission shall, in closed session, discuss all facts presented. A majority of the Commission members shall be required to make a determination of guilt. Upon such determination, the Commission shall impose penalty.

**Section 219(k). Trial Commission Report.** Upon determination of innocence or guilt, the Trial Commission shall make a report specifying the result, along with penalty if guilty. They shall submit it to the Grand High Priest along with all documentation, notes and recorded oral testimony.

**Section 219(l).** Certification of Trial Results. Upon receipt of the report of the Trial Commission, the Grand High Priest shall examine the report and supporting evidence. If he finds it clear and complete, he will certify the report and send it to the Grand Secretary. The Grand Secretary will forward the report to the Secretary of the chapter where the accused is a member.

Section 219(m). Preservation of Records. In the event of a finding of innocence, the report of the Trial Commission and all other evidence will be destroyed after notification is given to the Grand Secretary. No record of the charges or trial shall remain. In the event of a determination of guilt, the report of the Trial Commission and all supporting evidence shall be retained and protected until the time allowed for appeal has expired. Upon expiration of the time for appeal, the report of the Trial Commission shall be retained and all other evidence shall be destroyed.

Respectfully submitted,

Meredith C. Hutto PHP, Kecoughtan Royal Arch Chapter No. 42(Extinct)

Whereas CD media is not as common and can incur some cost and,

Whereas electronic media that can include, .pdf and other file extensions are easily created and distributed and.

Whereas the general term electronic format will cover any future technology,

#### Now therefore, be it resolved that:

Section 38. Publishing Proceedings of Grand Chapter. A pre-printed Supplement in pamphlet form, containing the reports of the Grand High Priest and Committees and such resolutions as are eligible for consideration, shall be prepared for general distribution at the first session of the Grand Chapter, the type settings for which will be retained for transfer into the Proceedings publication. As soon as practicable after the close of each Grand Annual Convocation, the proceedings of that Convocation shall be published. Such publication shall contain, in addition to all the proceedings of Grand Chapter which are proper to be written, the annual address of the Grand High Priests; the reports of the Committee of the Whole, of the Grand Secretary, and the Grand Lecturer; a statement of the receipts and disbursements of the Grand Treasurer; a list of delinquent Chapters and the amounts due from them; the role of officers, Past High Priest and members of subordinate Chapters; all laws enacted by the Grand Chapter; and all decisions reported by the Grand High Priest and approved by Grand Chapter. The proceedings shall be supplied to the Chapters in CD format without charge. If a printed copy is desired it must be ordered and pre-paid at cost of printing plus postage. (Amended 11/15/2003)

#### Be amended to read:

Section 38. Publishing Proceedings of Grand Chapter. A pre-printed Supplement in pamphlet form, containing the reports of the Grand High Priest and Committees and such resolutions as are eligible for consideration, shall be prepared for general distribution at the first session of the Grand Chapter, the type settings for which will be retained for transfer into the Proceedings publication. As soon as practicable after the close of each Grand Annual Convocation, the proceedings of that Convocation shall be published. Such publication shall contain, in addition to all the proceedings of Grand Chapter which are proper to be written, the annual address of the Grand High Priests; the reports of the Committee of the Whole, of the Grand Secretary, and the Grand Lecturer; a statement of the receipts and disbursements of the Grand Treasurer; a list of delinquent Chapters and the amounts due from them; the role of officers, Past High Priests and members of subordinate Chapters; all laws enacted by the Grand Chapter; and all decisions reported by the Grand High Priest and approved by Grand Chapter. The proceedings shall be supplied to the Chapters in electronic format without charge. If a printed copy is desired it must be ordered and pre-paid at the cost of printing plus postage.

Submitted by:

Whereas the perpetual membership contributions have decreased to an all-time low and,

Whereas the perpetual membership should be an asset to the member, the constituent Chapter, and to Grand Chapter and,

Whereas having multiple tiers based on age would entice members to purchase perpetual memberships and,

Whereas the members of this Grand Chapter should have the authority to change the minimum contribution by resolution and,

**Whereas** there should be a memorial perpetual membership for those who have gone to the Celestial Chapter above,

#### Now therefore, be it resolved that:

Section 70(f). Perpetual Membership Contributions. Every Chartered Chapter shall promptly forward to Grand Chapter any perpetual membership contributions made by its members. The amount of the contribution shall be a minimum of twenty-five times the annual dues of the Chapter (including fifteen times the Grand Chapter per capita dues) at the time of the contribution. All contributions received by the Grand Secretary shall be promptly transferred to the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Virginia Perpetual Membership Fund. The minimum contribution may be changed by the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Virginia Perpetual Membership Board of Trustees upon due notice being given to each Chapter prior to the next Capitular Year. (Amended 11/13/93)

#### Be amended to read:

Section 70(f). Perpetual Membership Contributions. Every Chartered Chapter shall promptly forward to Grand Chapter any perpetual membership contributions made by its members. The amount of the contribution shall be determined in the following manner: Members 29 years of age or younger shall contribute 25 times the annual dues of the Chapter (including 25 times the Grand Chapter per capita dues) at the time of the contribution. Members 30-54 years of age shall contribute 20 times the annual dues of the Chapter (including 20 times the Grand Chapter per capita dues) at the time of the contribution. Members 55-64 years of age shall contribute 15 times the annual dues of the Chapter (including 15 times the Grand Chapter per capita dues) at the time of the contribution. Members 65-74 years of age shall contribute 12 times the annual dues of the Chapter (including 12 times the Grand Chapter per capita dues) at the time of the contribution. Members 75 years of age or older shall contribute 10 times the annual dues of the Chapter (including 10 times the Grand Chapter per capita dues) at the time of the contribution. All contributions received by the Grand Secretary shall be promptly transferred to the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Virginia Perpetual Membership Fund.

A memorial perpetual membership may be purchased for a deceased Royal Arch Mason,
who was in good standing in the Grand Chapter of Virginia at the time of his death by
contributing eight (8) times the current annual dues of the Chapter (including eight (8)
times the Grand Chapter per capita dues) at the time of the Contribution.

Submitted by:

Whereas the time from when a District Deputy Grand High Priest–select is determined to the time of the Grand Annual Convocation is short and,

**Whereas** to allow the incoming Grand High Priest more time to communicate with the District Deputy Grand High Priest-selects before their term,

#### Now therefore, be it resolved that:

Section 75. Appointment and Qualifications of District Deputy Grand High Priests. Every Subordinate Chapter shall at a Stated Convocation in the months of April or May recommend for the office of District Deputy Grand High Priest some Companion possessing the qualifications for this office and report its recommendation to the office of the Grand Secretary, with a copy to the Grand King, prior to June 1st. At each Grand Annual Convocation, the newly installed Grand High Priest shall appoint a District Deputy Grand High Priest for each District. Each District Deputy Grand High Priest shall have received the Order of High Priesthood and shall be (a) a member of a Chapter in the District to which he is appointed, and (b) well skilled in the laws of Grand Chapter and the work of the Capitular Degrees as taught by it. The Grand High Priest may at any time revoke the appointment of a District deputy Grand High Priest, and in the event of a vacancy from this or any other cause, may appoint a successor. (Amended 10/23/74)

#### Be amended to read:

Section 75. Appointment and Qualifications of District Deputy Grand High Priests. Every Subordinate Chapter at a Stated Convocation no later than January 31st shall recommend for the office of District Deputy Grand High Priest some Companion possessing the qualifications for this office and report its recommendation on forms furnished for that purpose to the office of the Grand Secretary, with a copy to the Grand King, prior to March 1st. At each Grand Annual Convocation, the newly installed Grand High Priest shall appoint a District Deputy Grand High Priest for each District. Each District Deputy Grand High Priest shall have received the Order of High Priesthood and shall be (a) a member of a Chapter in the District to which he is appointed, and (b) well skilled in the laws of Grand Chapter and the work of the Capitular Degrees as taught by it. The recommendation does not bind the Grand High Priest to appoint any Companion so recommended and the Grand High Priest may at any time revoke the appointment of a District Deputy Grand High Priest, and in the event of a vacancy from this or any other cause, may appoint a successor. (Amended XXXX)

Submitted by:

Whereas Sections 115, 117(a), and 117(b) of the Digest adequately addresses when and how often a Chapter must hold their stated convocations and,

Whereas some Chapters may desire to be dark in the winter or summer months or meet alternatively and,

Whereas constituent Chapters should have the right to hold their meetings in accordance with their bylaws, if they desire to meet less than every month,

#### Now therefore, be it resolved that:

**Section 97. Stated Convocations.** Every Chapter shall hold at least one stated convocation in each month, but a Chapter shall not hold a convocation, stated or special, during the Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter. The date and hour of stated convocations shall be prescribed by the Chapter in its by-laws.

#### Be amended to read:

Section 97. Stated Convocations. The date and hour of stated convocations shall be prescribed by the Chapter in its by-laws. A Chapter shall not hold a convocation, stated or special, during the Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter.

Submitted by:

Whereas there is ambiguity and confusion in the process of degrees by courtesy within and without of this grand jurisdiction,

#### Now therefore, be it resolved that:

**Section 122. Degrees by Courtesy.** A Chapter shall not confer any degree upon a person not residing within the Grand Jurisdiction of Virginia except upon the written request of a Chapter in the jurisdiction in which he resides. Upon agreeing to honor such a request, a Chapter may confer the degree without balloting, and the fees therefore shall belong to the Chapter making the request. All such requests shall be made through the offices of the Grand Secretaries.

#### Be amended to read:

Section 122(a). Conferring Degrees by Courtesy. A Chapter may confer any degree as a courtesy for another Chapter within the Grand Jurisdiction of Virginia. A Chapter shall not confer any degree upon a person from a Chapter outside of the Grand Jurisdiction of Virginia except upon the written request of the Chapter in the jurisdiction in which he belongs processed through the offices of the Grand Secretaries. Upon agreeing to honor such a request, a Chapter may confer the degree without balloting, and the fees therefore shall belong to the Chapter making the request.

Section 122(b). Requesting Degrees by Courtesy. A Chapter may, after majority affirmative vote viva voce, directly request another Chapter to confer any degree as a courtesy within the Grand Jurisdiction of Virginia. A Chapter, after majority affirmative vote viva voce, may request a Chapter outside of the Grand Jurisdiction of Virginia to confer any degree by courtesy, provided that the request be made in writing and processed through the offices of the Grand Secretaries.

Submitted by:

Whereas the sanctity and security of the ballot is central and sovereign to Freemasonry and,

Whereas the disclosure of the ballot, in the affirmative or negative should not be allowed,

Now therefore, be it resolved that:

**Section 129 A Member Shall Not Disclose His Affirmative Ballot.** A Royal Arch Mason who has voted in favor of a rejected candidate for membership or for the degrees shall not disclose his ballot.

#### Be amended to read:

Section 129 A Member Shall Not Disclose His Ballot. A Royal Arch Mason shall not disclose his ballot either affirmative or negative on any matter of membership.

Submitted by:

**Whereas** a motion to request another Chapter to confer a degree is governed by section 122 of the Digest and,

**Whereas** a motion to request another Chapter to confer a degree is not by unanimous ballot but by majority vote viva voce,

#### Now therefore, be it resolved that:

**Section 131. Every Member to Ballot on Petitions for Degrees, Etc.** Every member of the Chapter present shall ballot, unless excused by unanimous vote, whenever a ballot is taken:

- (a) On a petition for degrees, affiliation, or reinstatement;
- (b) On a resolution proposing a Companion for honorary membership;
- (c) On a motion to request another Chapter to confer a degree. (Amended 11/18/2000)

#### Be amended to read:

**Section 131. Every Member to Ballot on Petitions for Degrees, Etc.** Every member of the Chapter present shall ballot, unless excused by unanimous vote, whenever a ballot is taken:

- (a) On a petition for degrees, affiliation, or reinstatement;
- (b) On a resolution proposing a Companion for honorary membership;

Submitted by:

**Whereas** Section 133 does not allow for the raising of funds for recognized charities by lottery, raffle, etc., and,

Whereas this change would be in line with the Methodical Digest of Grand Lodge of Virginia

Now therefore, be it resolved that:

Section 133. Chapters Shall Not Set Up or Promote Lotteries, Etc. A Chapter or association of Chapters or Royal Arch Masons shall not set up or promote, or be concerned in managing or drawing any lottery, gift concert, or raffle, or knowingly permit any such lottery, gift concert, gift enterprise or raffle in any building under its control, or accept the benefit of money, or other things of value, acquired by means of such lottery, gift concert, gift enterprise, or raffle.

#### Be amended to read:

Section 133. Chapters Shall Not Set Up or Promote Lotteries, Etc. A Chapter, association of Chapters, or any Royal Arch Mason shall not set up, promote, or be concerned in managing or drawing any lottery, gift concert, gift enterprise, or raffle, or knowingly permit any such lottery, gift concert, gift enterprise, or raffle in any building under its control, or accept the benefit of money or other things of value, acquired by means of such lottery, gift concert, gift enterprise, or raffle. The Grand Chapter and subordinate Chapters may hold such enterprises provided that all local, state, and federal laws are obeyed, that they are solely to benefit recognized charitable causes such as the Grand Chapter Charities Fund, Alzheimer's Association, MAHOVA, Project Lifesaver, and are approved by the Grand High Priest.

Submitted by:

Whereas there is administrative time and effort needed to correspond with other Grand Jurisdictions and there should be some cost recuperation for such actions and,

Whereas this change would allow for additional revenue for the Grand Chapter,

Now therefore, be it resolved that:

**Section 182. Fee For Affiliation Not Required.** No fee for affiliation shall ever be required.

#### Be amended to read:

Section 182. Fee For Affiliation. No fee for affiliation shall ever be required of a Companion from a subordinate Chapter of the Grand Chapter of Virginia. A fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) shall be paid to the Grand Chapter of Virginia for each member from another Grand Jurisdiction affiliating with a Virginia Chapter, which shall be forwarded to the Grand Chapter immediately after the stated convocation at which the Companion is elected to membership.

Submitted by:

Whereas a member of a Lodge holden to the Grand Lodge of Virginia and living out of state would have to request a dispensation to not violate the law,

#### Now therefore, be it resolved that:

**Section 184. Residence of Petitioner.** A petitioner for the degrees shall be a resident of the Commonwealth of Virginia at the time of the presentation of his petition to the Chapter. (Amended 11/20/21)

#### Be amended to read:

**Section 184. Residence of Petitioner.** A petitioner for the degrees shall be:

- a. a resident of the Commonwealth of Virginia
- b. a resident of an adjoining state who qualifies under Section 2
- c. a resident of an adjoining state with a Waiver of Jurisdiction from that Grand Chapter

at the time of the presentation of his petition to the Chapter.

#### Submitted by:

Whereas a suspended member might desire only restoration of rights and benefit to permit him to petition a different chapter as a non-affiliate, and;

Whereas the current law does not offer that option, now;

Be it therefore resolved that Section 239 which currently reads;

**Section 239. Balloting On Application for Reinstatement**. All applications for reinstatement to membership shall be acted upon by ballot and all members present are required to vote. A vote of two-thirds of the members present shall reinstate him to the rights and benefits of Royal Arch Masonry and a separate unanimous ballot is necessary to restore him to membership in the Chapter.

Bea amended to read;

Section 239(a). Balloting On Application for Restoration of Rights and Benefits. All applications for restoration of rights and benefits of Royal Arch Masonry shall be acted upon by ballot. All members present are required to vote. A vote of two-thirds of the members present shall reinstate him to the rights and benefits of Royal Arch Masonry. Upon reinstatement to rights and benefits, the chapter secretary shall issue a Certificate of Non-Affiliation to the companion.

Section 239(b). Balloting On Application for Restoration of Membership. All applications for restoration of membership to the chapter from which the applicant was suspended shall be acted upon by ballot. All members present are required to vote. A unanimous ballot of the members present shall restore him to membership in the chapter.

Respectfully submitted by, Meredith C. Hutto, PHP, Kecoughtan Royal Arch Chapter No. 42