

District Deputy Grand High Priest Handbook



*Kyle William Strickland
Grand High Priest 2025-2026
Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia
Thrice Illustrious Grand Master
Grand Council Cryptic Masons in Virginia*

Kyle William Strickland



“Son of Man, Mark Well”
Most Excellent Grand High Priest
Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia
Thrice Illustrious Grand Master
Grand Council Cryptic Masons in Virginia

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Grand High Priest's Biography

Most Excellent Kyle William Strickland was born in Portsmouth, Virginia in 1985, the youngest son of Kenneth Patton and Monica Sue Strickland. He holds an associate of science degree in engineering from Tidewater Community College and a bachelor's degree in environmental science from Southern New Hampshire University. Companion Strickland has dedicated over 20 years to a career in environmental service and is currently employed by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. Companion Strickland and his wife, Amber, also own and operate several small businesses.

Brother Strickland, a fourth-generation Master Mason, was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in Lake Drummond Lodge No. 178 on September 4, 2003, where he is a life member in perpetuity. He served this Lodge as Worshipful Master (2009), Associate Secretary (2010-2014), Trustee (2010-2014), and has served as Secretary since 2014. He has been the Lodge Instructor of work since 2010. He is also a member of Great Bridge Lodge No. 257 in Chesapeake, VA, a life member of Bannack Lodge No. 3-7-77 in Montana, and holds an honorary membership in Hope Lodge No. 122 in South Carolina.

Brother Strickland has served the Grand Lodge of Virginia in several capacities, including as District Blood Coordinator (2010-2012) and District Education Officer (2012-2014). He served as Vice-Chairman of the Grand Lodge Committee on Membership from 2015-2022 and has been a member of the Grand Lodge Committee on Foreign Correspondence since 2014.

Companion Strickland was Exalted to the Most Sublime Degree of Royal Arch Mason on May 12, 2007, and is a Past High Priest and current Secretary of Cradock Royal Arch Chapter No. 72. He served as District Deputy Grand High Priest of the 21st Capitular District under Most Excellent James Arthur Fields, Jr. in 2013. He was appointed Grand Chaplain in 2014 and served as Grand Provost and Chairman of the Education Committee from 2014-2016. Companion Strickland was nominated by Most Excellent F. Byron Goodwin and elected as Grand Master of the Second Veil in 2018. Companion Strickland has served as an officer of the Grand Council of Anointed High Priests of Virginia since 2013 and as Excellent President since 2022. He is also a member of the Grand Council of Super Excellent Masters and the Grand Council of Thrice Illustrious Masters, both in Virginia.

He is a member, Past Commander, and current Recorder of Portsmouth Commandery No. 5. He was awarded the Knight Commander of the Temple in 2025. He was invested with the Knight York Cross of Honor and is a member of Rose of Sharon Priory No. 2. He is a member of the Virginia Chapter of Knights Preceptors, Garden of Gethsemane Tabernacle No. 2 Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests, and Virginia Synod No. 1 Ancient and Heroic Order of the Gordian Knot.

Companion Strickland is a member, Past Sovereign Master, and current Secretary of Portsmouth-Chesapeake Council No. 155, Allied Masonic Degrees.

Companion Strickland is a member and Past Puissant Sovereign of St. Thomas Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine.

Brother Strickland is a member of the Valley of Portsmouth, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite.

Companion Strickland was Knighted as a member of the Royal Order of Scotland in 2017.

He was the recipient of the Gold Honor Award presented by the York Rite Sovereign College of North America and is a member and current Treasurer of Hampton Roads College No. 95, and a member of Emerald Isle Council No. 17, Knight Masons. Brother Strickland was elected to receive the Order of the Purple Cross in 2024.

He is a member of Khedive Temple, A.A.O.N.M.S., in Chesapeake, VA, and is a Past Captain of the Camaro Unit.

Brother Strickland and his wife, Amber (Mutter), reside in Chesapeake, Virginia, with their daughter, Camdyn. They attend Seven Cities Church. In their spare time, they enjoy volunteering in the community, spending quality time with family and friends, and traveling, especially to Hatteras Island on the Outer Banks of North Carolina.



District Deputy Grand High Priest's Introduction

Right Excellent Sirs and my dear Companions,

I am excited about what our upcoming year has to offer and what we can do to better serve our Craft. Our theme for the upcoming Capitular year is ***“Son of Man, Mark Well.”*** "Son of Man" is intended to remind us of our humanity and the limitations of our understanding compared to God's divine power. "Mark Well" is intended to imply that we pay close attention to the details of God's instructions, emphasizing the importance of understanding and following His laws accurately. This symbolism centers around the idea of individual responsibility, personal development, and the pursuit of excellence. It emphasizes the importance of leaving one's mark on the world and being accountable for one's actions, both professionally and personally.

A central goal for our year will be establishing a firmer foundation on which we can strengthen and grow our Royal Craft. To accomplish this, we must embrace Masonic Unity especially within the York Rite, strengthen our ties with the Symbolic Lodge, and work together with appendant bodies.

We will continue to focus on increasing membership in the subordinate chapters. We will deploy an active Membership Committee, continue and expand the work of the Public Relations Committee, and embrace the concept of servant leadership.

We must Recruit, Retain, and Re-engage and we can do this through Visibility, Viability and Versatility. Establishing a visible presence in our Blue Lodges and recruiting new members. Retaining our newest members through viability and giving them a reason to thrive, grow, and develop. We must also re-engage our less involved members by employing versatility by adapting to the world around us while preserving our ancient Landmarks, Customs, and Usages. By re-engaging our inactive members and increasing participation, we can create excitement and build enthusiasm. Through that enthusiasm, petitions should increase and strengthen our membership.

Concerning philanthropic activities, District Deputy Grand High Priests are encouraged to reinforce my hope that each district will undertake some unified fundraising activities to maximize our impact with the Alzheimer's Association and/or the MAHOVA Memory Unit. I am challenging each Chapter to raise at least \$500 and I know many will raise much more. If each Chapter can do this we are nearly a quarter of the way to our goal!

Thank you to all the members of this Grand Chapter for allowing me to serve in the highest office in our great Masonic organization. It is my fondest wish that we have a productive and fun year. To that end, I am committed to providing each of you with any assistance that may be required to help each Chapter and District achieve their individual goals.

Grand Chapter Goals for 2025-2026

- ***Membership***
 - Have a net increase in Membership for 2026
 - Promote Royal Arch Masonry in the Symbolic Lodges in the District.
 - Arrange to have a red coat night in the Symbolic Lodges to confer a degree or present a Royal Arch program.
 - Encourage each Chapter to sponsor a “York Rite Night” or bring a Brother to Chapter night.
 - Work on re-engaging existing membership in your chapter.
- ***Ritual***
 - Continue Statewide Ritual School.
 - Encourage the formation/restoration of dormant ritual schools.
 - Appoint Chapter Instructors of Work and encourage ritual in individual Chapters. See RCW award qualifications for companion learning to confer any degree.
 - Recommend District Lecturers to conduct District-wide ritual schools in the District during the year.
- ***Royal Arch Philanthropic Programs***
 - Raise \$100,000 for our philanthropic endeavors
 - Encourage each Chapter to sponsor and participate in fundraising efforts, with all or part of the proceeds donated to the Alzheimer's Association, the Memory Unit at MAHOVA, and/or Project Lifesaver
 - Encourage each Chapter to host programs on Alzheimer's or MAHOVA Memory Unit during Stated Convocations
 - Encourage other Masonic groups (especially our Youth) to participate in Alzheimer's Walks and other fund-raising events
 - Encourage support for the Project Lifesaver program
 - Special Fundraiser for this year – Royal Arch Cancer Ribbon Pins

- ***Support Our Masonic Youth***
 - Sponsor a program by a Masonic Youth Group in each Chapter
 - Encourage each Chapter member to attend at least one meeting of the DeMolay, Job's Daughters, or Rainbow Girls, and present a program of interest to the group being visited.
 - Encourage each chapter in your district to make a monetary donation to your closest DeMolay, Job's Daughter's, and Rainbow for Girls. You would be surprised how much \$25-\$50 per chapter can add up!
- ***Chapter and District Health***
 - Each DDGHP will be a member of the Chapter Health and District Alignment Committee. It is my expectation that each of you take an active look at your chapters and districts to gauge their health
 - Track KPIs
 - Attendance as a percentage of membership of each chapter
 - New companions exalted
 - Discuss with your chapters,
 - Meeting days, times, and frequencies work for their membership
 - Chapter health assessment and offer

Grand Chapter goals have essentially remained the same for several years. However, they remain at the forefront as the desired result of Royal Arch Masonry in Virginia. We must continue to strive to build strong Chapters with responsible leaders, strong membership, and continuing support for our Philanthropic causes.



District Deputy Grand High Priest Duties and Expectations

- *General Duties:*
 - Represent the Grand High Priest in your District.
 - Visit each Chapter Officially as prescribed.
 - Make and complete all reports **On Time**.
 - Issue necessary dispensations as requested or needed.
 - Present and help implement the GHP's program for the year.

- *Specific Duties:*
 - Disseminate the GHP's plan to all your Chapters.
 - Plan and direct the necessary business for the Official Visit to your District by the Grand High Priest, including his officers and wives.
 - Provide any necessary maps and written instructions for the visit.
 - Grant [Limited Dispensations](#)

- *Specific Targeted Areas:*
 - Ritualistic Proficiency
 - Membership Opportunities
 - Strategic Leadership Capabilities
 - Philanthropic Endeavors
 - Youth Involvement
 - Newsletter

- *Statewide/District/Chapter Goals:*
 - Support and attend Ritualistic programs of the Grand Lecturer, Associate Grand Lecturer, and District Lecturers.
 - Suggested attendance at Alzheimer's Walk-a-thon, MAHOVA Family Day and the Grand Convocation in November (a must) and as many District OV as you are able.
 - On a District Level:
 - Aid in leadership development.
 - Promote unity in all branches of Freemasonry.
 - Always promote a positive and upbeat attitude.
 - Chapter Level:
 - Support your Chapters at their Stated Meetings and Work Nights.
 - Visit and support our Youth programs.
 - Be a spokesperson:
 - Promote the Royal Arch Chapter in all meetings and gatherings.
 - Request to be a Speaker at Lodge events and stated meetings.
 -

In accordance with Section 95 of the Digest, only one ritual book should be open during Chapter convocations. Adequate numbers of informed companions are available to provide prompts if required.

Reports and Timeline

REPORT:	SEND TO:	WHEN:
Official Visit of DDGHP (OV Report Form)	Original to: GHP Copy to: Gr. King, Gr. Scribe, Grand Secretary	Within 10 days after visit
Quarterly Report of DDGHP (Quarterly Report Form)	Original to: GHP Copy to: Gr. King, Gr. Scribe, Gr. Secretary, GM3V	Jan. 1, Apr. 1, July 1, Oct. 1
Annual Report of DDGHP (Annual Report Guide)	Original to: GHP Copy to: Gr. King, Gr. Scribe, Gr. Secretary, GM3V	November 1
GHP Official Visit (GHP OV Form)	Grand High Priest	6 weeks before date of visit
Bylaw Change	Grand Secretary	As required
Application for Veterans' Emblem	Grand Secretary	As required
Dispensation (Limited Dispensation Form)	Copy to: GHP, Grand Secretary	When issued

Key Contact Addresses

GRAND HIGH PRIEST: Kyle William Strickland PO Box 6802 Chesapeake, VA 23323	GRAND SECRETARY: Wayne H. Anderson PO Box 2276 Portsmouth, VA 23702
GRAND KING: Joel Thomas Bundy, MD 2245 Santa Fe Arch Virginia Beach, VA 23452	GRAND SCRIBE: Thomas Lee Varner 14302 Boydton Plank Road Dinwiddie, VA 23841
GRAND MASTER 3rd VEIL: J. Brandon Hale PO Box 1154 Lebanon, VA 24266	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: John Wesley Conroy, Jr. 722 Wood Duck Lane Chesapeake, VA 23323

NOTE: There is no prescribed form for the Annual Report of the DDGHP, but there is a prescribed format in the pages that follow. This report is intended as a recapitulation of the events which have occurred after taking office, and to be meaningful, should include specific recommendations relative to areas of improvement for each Chapter, together with concrete suggestions with recommendations on implementation. Please note that failure to submit this form may disqualify you from being considered for the Grand Line Bowl.

DDGHP Official Visit Report

Chapter Name: _____

Chapter No. _____

District No. _____

PARTICIPATION:

1. Number of members? _____ Average attendance at meetings in the past 12 months?
2. Average length of meetings in the past 12 months?
3. The number of fraternal visits made to other Chapters by your Chapter in the last 12 months?.....
4. Did the Chapter have a Scout Recognition program in the past 12 months? Yes - No
5. How many service projects did the Chapter sponsor in the past 12 months? (Meals on Wheels, Doctor Transportation, etc.).....
6. How many community events did the Chapter participate in over the past 12 months? (Sponsor a youth team in sports, 4-H program, Scholarship at schools, etc.)
7. How many Alzheimer's programs did the Chapter conduct in the past 12 months?

LEADERSHIP:

8. Is the High Priest a Past High Priest?..... Yes - No
9. Is the High Priest repeating from the immediate previous year? Yes - No
10. Does the Chapter have a Chapter Instructor of Work? Yes - No
11. Does the Chapter have a Chapter Educational Officer? Yes - No
12. Does the Chapter have a Blue Lodge Ambassador Yes - No
13. Does the Chapter have an Almoner? Yes - No

EDUCATION/MEMBERSHIP:

14. How many Officers/Members completed the Correspondence Courses in the past 12 months? None - One - Two - Three - More _____
15. How many line officers attended the William B. Millican Royal Arch School (last year)?..... None - One - Two - Three - More _____
16. Did the DEO make a planned visit to the Chapter and present a program for the meeting? Yes - No
17. Has the Chapter implemented the "Program for Progress"? Yes - No
18. Does the Chapter conduct routine "Educational Schools"? Yes - No
19. Does the Chapter have an organized plan for obtaining "New" members"? Yes - No

FISCAL:

20. Does the Chapter have a budget? Yes - No If so, is there a Budget committee in place? ... Yes - No
21. How many members owe more than the current year's dues? _____
Has personal contact been made with the delinquent members by the High Priest or Secretary? Yes - No
22. Are the Treasurer's records up-to-date and do they balance with the audit report? Yes - No
23. As required by IRS law, did the Chapter file Form 990-N, Form 990-EZ, or Form 990 last year?..... Yes - No

24. Was the Audit Committee Report available and did the committee sign it?.....Yes - No
25. Was the Trustees' Report available and did the committee sign it?.....Yes - No
26. Are the current Trustees recorded with the Circuit Court?Yes - No
27. Does the Chapter own its building? Yes - No
- What is the condition of the building? Excellent - Good - Poor
28. Does the Chapter have Liability and Property Insurance on the facilities and furniture?Yes - No

RITUAL:

29. Can the Chapter confer "All" of the degrees?.....Yes - No
30. If No, which Degrees can be Conferred: MM - PM - RM - SM - MEM - RA
31. Can the Chapter deliver the lectures in all degrees?.....Yes - No
32. Does the Chapter have an adequate number of Catechism Coaches?Yes - No
33. Does the Chapter utilize the District Instructor of Work and/or Division Lecturer?Yes - No
34. Did the Chapter Confer the Degree of Past Master this year?.....Yes - No
- If "yes," was it performed at a: Provisional Lodge or Royal Arch Chapter Date Conferred _____
35. Does the High Priest have a Certificate of Qualification?.....Yes - No
- Certificate Number: _____
36. Does the Grand King have a Certificate of Qualification?Yes - No
- Certificate Number: _____

OTHER:

37. Are the minutes of the Chapter signed by the High Priest and Secretary up to the last meeting?Yes - No
38. Does the Chapter have a current copy of the "Digest of the Laws, Rules & Regulations of Grand Chapter"?
Yes - No
39. Does the Chapter have a "List of Lodges Masonic"? Yes - No If so, what year is it?..... _____
40. **Supplementary Information – Attach a Separate Sheet.**

Compiled by: _____, Secretary Date: _____

Submitted by: _____, District Deputy Grand High Priest Date: _____

DDGHP Quarterly Report

Chapter Name: _____

Chapter No.	District No.

PARTICIPATION:

1. Number of Members?
2. Average attendance at meetings?
3. Average length of meetings?
4. Number of fraternal visits made?
5. How many service projects did the Chapter sponsor?
6. How many community events did the Chapter participate in?
7. How many Alzheimer's programs did the Chapter conduct?

	Dec. 31	Mar. 31	June 30	Sept. 30

LEADERSHIP:

8. How many "Programs" were presented at Chapter meetings?
9. How many "Ladies Programs" were presented?
10. How many "Outside" activities were held?

EDUCATION/MEMBERSHIP:

11. How many Officers completed the Correspondence Courses?
12. How many Members completed the Correspondence Courses?
13. How many Officers attended the Wm. B. Millican Royal Arch School?
14. How many Members attended the Wm. B. Millican Royal Arch School?
15. How many "Program" visits did the DEO make to the Chapter?
16. How many "Educational" Schools were conducted by the Chapter CEO?
17. How many "New" petitions were received?
18. How many "Lodge" visits/programs have been made by the Lodge Ambassador?

FISCAL:

19. Membership Changes:
 - Beginning
 - Gains
 - Losses
 - Ending
20. How many members owe more than the current year's dues?
- Has personal contact been made by the High Priest or Secretary?
- How many have been cited for "Non-payment " of dues?
21. Are the Treasurer's records up-to-date?
22. Are the Secretary's records up-to-date?
23. Has the High Priest and the Secretary signed the Minutes?

RITUAL:

24. How many Chapter Ritual Schools have been held by the CIW?
- How many Members attended the Chapter Ritual School?
25. How many "District" Ritual Schools have been held by the DIW?
- How many "Officers" attended the "District" Schools?
- How many "Members" attended the "District" Schools?
26. How many "Courtesy" Degrees of Past Master have been conferred?
- How many "Candidates" received the Past Master's Degree?
- Did you offer then a Petitions for the Royal Arch Degrees?

OTHER:

27. **Supplementary Information - Over.**
Note: You are encouraged to submit additional information about your Chapter, positive or negative!

DDGHP Annual Report

This report is REQUIRED & NECESSARY to enable the Grand High Priest, the Grand King, the Grand Scribe and the Grand Master of the 3rd Veil to assess the status of Royal Arch Masonry in the Commonwealth of Virginia and to assist in determining the winner of the Grand Line Bowl.

Please use the following format:

- Short introductory statement regarding the District.
- Activities held in the District to support the Grand High Priest's programs and promote Royal Arch Masonry in the District.
- Comments on the strengths and weaknesses, and a critical assessment of the overall status of Royal Arch Masonry in the District, focusing on the question: "Is Royal Arch Masonry growing in this District?"
- Recommendations for improving Royal Arch Masonry in the District and the Grand Chapter.

Send one **copy** of your report **to each** of the following:

- 1) Grand High Priest
- 2) Grand King
- 3) Grand Scribe
- 4) Grand Master of the Third Veil (Chairman of the Grand Line Bowl Committee)
- 5) Grand Secretary
- 6) Administrative Assistant

Please Note:

There is no prescribed form for the Annual Report of the DDGHP, but there is a prescribed format, which is listed above.

This report is intended as a recapitulation of the events which have occurred after your taking office, and to be meaningful, should include specific recommendation as to the needed areas of improvement for each Chapter.

Concrete suggestions should be made with recommendations on implementation.

****Please note that failure to submit this report, as well as your quarterly reports, could potentially disqualify you from being considered for the Grand Line Bowl!****



District Deputy Grand High Priest Official Visit



Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia



To: Grand Chapter Officers,
Past Grand High Priests,
District Deputy Grand High Priests,
And their ladies

Dear Companions and Ladies:

As the Grand High Priest, it is my request that the following dress code be observed during the 'Official Visits' to the Capitular Districts and Chapter Visits.

Dress Code for:	Elected and Appointed Officers District Deputy Grand High Priests Past Grand High Priests
2025-26 GHP Official Visits:	Meeting Type: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dinner/GAC: Formal Attire (Tuxedo/Black Tie) -- White dinner jackets are permissible between Memorial and Labor Day – please indicate such • Lunch: Red Coats & Tie
Dress Code for Chapter Visits:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red Coats & Tie
Dress Code for:	Grand Chapter Ladies
2025-26 GHP Official Visits:	Meeting Type: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dinner/GAC: Semi-Formal/Cocktail • Lunch: Dressy casual/Business casual

Please note the continuation in dress code from the prior year's Official Visits. For any Official Visits held before 5:00 pm, i.e. lunch meetings, the dress code for all Royal Arch Masons, inclusive of Grand Chapter Officers, will be red coat and tie. Formal attire, i.e. Tuxedos, will be reserved for dinner meetings, The Grand Annual Convocation, and potentially any Called Convocations of Grand Chapter. Additionally, it is my wish that all Companions, regardless of station, feel free to wear formal attire at any Official evening function if they so desire. As such, each DDGHP is hereby instructed to relay this information to the members of your respective chapters in your appointed districts.

Attire for the Grand High Priest's Banquet will be provided with the call to Grand Chapter.

Kyle William Strickland, Grand High Priest
Grand Chapter Royal Arch Mason in Virginia

Suggested Agenda for the DDGHP Official Visit to Your Chapters

1. Thank All for their attendance.
2. Express your appreciation and thanks for being able to serve as District Deputy Grand High Priest for 2025-26.
3. Introduce Members of the District Team
 - A. (i.e. District Lecturer, Assistant District Lecturer, District Almoner, District Educational Officer, etc.).
4. Present Awards and Certificates from last year.
5. Convey greetings from: Most Excellent Kyle William Strickland, Grand High Priest, Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia.
6. Review our theme: “Son of Man, Mark Well”
7. Speak about the Grand High Priest’s Programs:
 - A. Membership
 - B. Education
 - C. Public Relations (Website/Social Media)
 - D. The Keystone Newsletter
 - E. Ritual
8. Speak about Grand High Priest’s Charities:
 - A. Alzheimer’s Association
 - B. Masonic Home of Virginia Memory Unit
 - C. Put a Pin in Cancer Program
9. Promote to the Companions, at a minimum, these events:
 - A. The Grand High Priest’s Official Visit to your District
 - B. Statewide Royal Arch Festival (June 13, 2026)
 - C. William B. Millican Royal Arch School (June 30-August 1, 2026)
 - D. The Area & District Schools
 - E. Any District Activities
 - F. Grand Chapter Activities

Enthusiasm is contagious, so display your feelings about Capitular Masonry during the visit!

Planning Your Official Visit to Your Chapters

Ceremony of Installation of District Deputy Grand High Priest:

Although you have been installed and presented your Warrant by the Grand High Priest at the Grand Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter, you may wish to be installed ceremoniously at your home Chapter.

As this ceremony is not required, it does enlighten your companions about the duties and responsibilities you have assumed.

The Ceremony is near the back of the Digest (Suggested Ceremony for Installing District Deputy Grand High Priest).

Duties and Objectives:

References to the District Deputy Grand High Priest, along with his duties, are found in Section 73 through Section 86 and Section 160 of the 'Digest of the Laws, Rules and Regulations of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia'. Please read and review them.

Primary Objectives:

1. **Read** the 'Digest of the Laws, Rules and Regulations of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia.
2. Communicate to the Chapters information about the Grand High Priest and his plans for the Craft during his term. You are the conduit of information between the Chapters within your district and the Grand High Priest and/or Grand Chapter.
3. Obtain information about the status of the Chapter's health. You will want to look at three things (at a minimum):
 - a. Membership - Is the Chapter growing or losing members, how well attended are the Chapter meetings and how much support the Companions are giving to the Chapter?
 - b. Activity - How active is the Chapter in the Community and in Chapter events?
 - c. Plans for the year – What programs are being offered and what projects are being undertaken. Share with them the 'Program for Progress' of the Grand Chapter. It contains many valuable ideas and can be used to plan many events.
4. Visit each Chapter in your District *at least* quarterly.

REMEMBER: The District Team includes the District Lecturers, Assistant District Lecturers, District Almoners, District Educational Officers, and You. Please use the Team to the best advantage, thus providing the Chapters with assistance for continued success!

Read The Digest

The first step in the preparation stage is to review the duties of a District Deputy Grand High Priest before his Official Visit to the Chapter(s). An understanding of the 'Report of Official Visit by the District Deputy Grand High Priest' is essential.

Official Visit Dates

At your meeting with the Chapter High Priests' and the District Team, establish the dates of your Official Visits and communicate the date of the Grand High Priest Official Visit to your District. This meeting should be held as soon as reasonably possible after your installation as District Deputy Grand High Priest.

Avoid scheduling your Official Visits to the Chapters on the dates the Grand High Priest may be visiting a Chapter in your District. Also, try to avoid scheduling an Official Visit on a date when the Chapter is doing degree work or has a major event scheduled.

Notification Letters to the Chapters

It is preferable that you notify the High Priest and/or Chapter Secretary at least ten days before you make your Official Visit.

Of course, you may make your Official Visit without such notice or by giving a notice in less than the time specified if he deems this action proper in discharging the duties of his Office.

If you have already met with the Companions who are now High Priests and have developed an Official Visit schedule, you have already satisfied this requirement.

You should by courtesy, always send a written notification with a copy of all your Official Visit dates to each Chapter in your district (See Sample Official Visit Notification Letter)

Provide Advance Copies of the Report Forms

A copy of the 'Report of Official Visit of the District Deputy Grand High Priest' may also be provided to the Chapters in advance of the visit.

This will enable the High Priest, Secretary and Treasurer to have a better understanding of what you need to complete the forms.

***Remember that you are responsible for completing the forms, not the Chapter Officers!

***Realizing the Chapter Officers will assist with the gathering of the information, it is most important that it be accurate! Thus, there is even more reason for arranging a prior meeting with the Officers of each Chapter.

Prepare the DDGHP Message

The next step is to develop your message for the visit. As the Grand High Priest's representative, you need to include certain key topics.

You will want to cover the Grand High Priest's theme, "**Son of Man, Mark Well,**" as well as the programs, charities and important dates, at a minimum. Please, do not feel the need to read my Masonic Biography.

As part of your message, encourage the Chapters to recommend a deserving Companion to receive the 'John Dove Meritorious Service Award'. This is the highest award that can be given

to a Virginia Royal Arch Companion and without a recommendation from the Chapter, District and/or an individual Companion, there is little chance one of your members may receive this award.

Ensure the Chapters are Prepared for Your Official Visit

Finally, arrangements should be made with the District Lecturer, preferably at a District School, to have the various Chapter officers practice the ceremony for receiving the DDGHP.

Final preparations for Your Official Visit

You are requested to wear a black tuxedo. You should arrive at the Chapter in enough time prior to the opening of the meeting to allow time to discuss requisite matters with the High Priest, Treasurer and Secretary.

Complete Chapter Report

Prior to the Official Visit, you should sit down with the High Priest, Treasurer and Secretary to review and complete the information requested on the 'Report of Official Visit by the District Deputy Grand High Priest'.

It would be helpful to do this at the same time as you examine the Chapter records as per Section 80 of the Digest.

***This Report should be taken seriously by both the Chapter Officers and the District Deputy Grand High Priest.

The report information helps the Chapter pinpoint trouble areas that need to be addressed, realize their strong points and provides information for future Chapter officers to prepare for their year in the East. It is also helpful to review this information with the District Team to develop plans to assist the Chapter when so requested by the High Priest. This information is further used by the various Grand Chapter Committees to develop programs and publications designed to assist our Chapters become and remain successful and prosperous.

Chapter Records

Examination of the records of the Chapter is among the important duties of the DDGHP during the Official Visit process. While this examination doesn't have to be completed on the day of your Official Visit, the results of your examination will be included in the report of your visit.

This examination should cover the records of the Secretary, including minutes, by-laws, dues accounts, annual audit report, mark book and other records which may be kept by the Secretary. The records of the Treasurer should also be examined to determine if the funds of the Chapter are being handled properly and pertinent laws of the Grand Chapter are being observed. The DDGHP should ascertain if proper notice is given the High Priest of those members who are delinquent in their dues and if citations have been issued.

Chapter By-Laws

The examination of the by-laws of a Chapter is a major function of the DDGHP. The DDGHP shall make a general review of the Chapter's By-Laws to see if they conform to and are in accordance with the regulations of Grand Chapter.

He shall verify that the Chapter has a current 'Digest of the Laws, Rules and Regulations of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia'.

He should be particularly certain that all amendments to the By-Laws were officially approved by the DDGHP and the Grand High Priest. He should also determine that these amendments comply with the laws of the Grand Chapter and contain no forbidden material such as parts of the Digest, provisions limiting the authority of the High Priest or those provisions which might attempt to specify duties of any elective officer which are covered by Grand Chapter law. Any deficiencies found should be discussed with the High Priest and the Secretary and they should be directed to take necessary corrective action. These deficiencies are to be addressed in the Report of Official Visit by the District Deputy Grand High Priest.

Other Points

There are other matters concerning the state of the Chapter, the attendance of its members and the way the Chapter conducts its business and ritual. These matters are points which the DDGHP should address before he leaves the Chapter.

When the Chapter is visited officially, the DDGHP should inquire as to:

- What Royal Arch education programs are being followed?
- Does the Chapter have an Educational Officer?
- Using the Grand Chapter booklets that are available for candidates/members?
- Are they using a mentoring program?

You are required, by tradition, to preside over all or a portion of the stated communication of the Chapter after it has been opened and you have been officially received. Therefore, the length of time which the DDGHP occupies the East is a matter of personal choice. However, it would probably be to his advantage to observe the Chapter's business at the hands of the regular Chapter Officers. It is suggested that he occupy the East only during his address and for the closing of the Chapter.

Analysis of the Official Visit

Careful thought should be given when answering the questions in various questionnaires and visit checklists, particularly those questions which require subjective judgement. Honesty is essential, but appraisals of the Chapters and their officers must also be objective and impartial. The Grand High Priest and the Officers of the Grand Chapter require quality evaluations to determine appropriate corrective actions, if applicable.

The DDGHP should use the information obtained during visits for discussions at subsequent meetings with the High Priests to acknowledge superior performance and to achieve improvements where necessary. For example, if a Chapter has many members delinquent in payment of dues, a reason(s) should be determined. The subsequent visit should be made two or three months later to see if corrective action has been taken.

It is recognized that the DDGHP Official Visits may be made early; therefore, the Report of DDGHP Official Visit will have been completed without having full knowledge of problem areas that may be found as time endures.

Above all, additional visits should be made to the Chapters as often as possible; both stated and called communications. Such visits during the year will enable the DDGHP to discharge his duties as the representative of the Grand High Priest and to remain aware of how the Chapters are progressing.

Completing the Report of Official Visit by the DDGHP

The report of your visit is to be SUBMITTED WITHIN TEN DAYS to the Grand High Priest, Grand King, Grand Scribe, Grand Secretary, and .

To ensure that these Officers receive the important information you've gathered in a timely manner, a standardized checklist and report has been developed. The Grand Secretary maintains the form in stock for your use or you can freely duplicate the forms. They are also on the website!

The report is intended to act as a point of departure for discussions with various Chapter Officers. It contains a comprehensive series of questions, a detailed list of specific items for you to observe or check and room for comments/notes. The Stationed Officers, Chapter Secretary and Treasurer are expected to provide appropriate portions of the information required in the Chapter Report. The DDGHP Report will require your careful observations, painstaking analysis and judgement.

The checklist should be completed while the details are fresh in your mind. The 'Report of Official Visit of the DDGHP' must be submitted to the Grand Secretary no later than ten days after the official visit.

Some data is sensitive in nature; when completed, the forms and the origin of their contents should be handled as private and confidential. Maintain a copy of your checklist notes readily available, in a safe place. Either the Grand High Priest or the Grand King may call you by phone to confirm your findings and to solicit further insights into the cause and effect of chronic issues or potential problems.

Depending upon the nature of the identified problem areas, they may also request that you personally assist a specific Grand Chapter Committee (or District Officer) to shape an innovative solution and an effective implementation strategy to remedy the situation

Remember, you are the Personal Representative of the Grand High Priest. Act with dignity and decorum always.

You are my eyes and ears in your District. I hope you will view your position as one in which what you convey to me will be private and together, we will address whatever action is required of us to improve and promote Royal Arch Masonry in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Now, take the first steps as District Deputy Grand High Priest and Son of Man, Mark Well.



Grand High Priest Official Visit

Suggested Itinerary: Official Visit of the Grand High Priest

	Social	DDGHP & GHP
	Open – Welcome	DDGHP
	Pledge of Allegiance	DDGHP
	Blessing of the Meal	Chaplain
Dinner		
	Introduce the Grand High Priest	DDGHP
	Introductions	DDGHP & GHP
	Remarks	GHP
	Presentations of Gifts	DDGHP
	Tiled Meeting	District Chapters & DDGHP

Protocol for Grand High Priest's Official Visit

1. The Grand High Priest prefers that ALL Official Visits to the Districts for Capitular year 2025-2026 will be **Tiled** Meetings with Social & Dinner beforehand.
2. You are expected to, and it is my personal request, that you invite **Widows** from every Chapter in your District, the Companions, their Ladies and their families, local Masonic youth organizations, Blue Lodge Members and non-Royal Arch Masons, those who are routinely invited per protocol and your friends (especially friends which may be interested in becoming a member of our great Royal Arch) to the dinner.
3. When the Grand High Priest is making an Official Visit to your District, it will be highly appreciated if you would agree to reimburse or provide for lodging.
 - a. Per protocol, an invitation announcing the event should be sent to each of the Grand Chapter Officers (Elected & Appointed), Past Grand High Priests, and DDGHPs.
 - b. It would be appreciated by the Grand Chapter if you can provide the meal complimentary to all Dias Officers and Elected Officers.
 - c. Appointed Grand Officers would appreciate a complimentary meal also. Usually there are no more than 8 of these officers in attendance.
4. In your invitation, you should state your expectations. If you expect your invitee to pay for the meal, indicate the ticket price.
 - a. NOTE: If the meal is to be complimentary, please indicate in the invitation that it is to be complimentary for him (and guests).
 - b. Additionally, a Sample Invitation Letter is attached for your convenience.
 - i. If you do not wish to use the sample and prefer your own, please incorporate in your letter the information requested as shown in the sample.
5. All District Deputy Grand High Priests in attendance are expected to wear their Jewel and Aprons in the Tiled Meeting.
6. Make sure you follow 'Protocol' when receiving the Grand High Priest. The three highest ranking Officers (Past Grand High Priests, Grand Chapter Officers and if necessary Past DDGHP) will compose the Committee for the Grand High Priest. The DDGHP should verify with the Grand High Priest the Committee chosen for accuracy.

Planning Guide Check List

This guide and checklist will not cover every possible situation, but it will address most of them. Planning is essential. Form a planning team and use them. Involve the High Priests and District Team in the planning process. Provide them each with a copy of the guide and checklist.

Remember, it is the little things we do that make for a successful Official Visit.

Please note: There are several sample forms that have been provided to assist you in carrying out various aspects of your duties as District Deputy Grand High Priest and for assisting in other matters. Please use them appropriately.

I. Preliminary Preparations:

- A. Obtain confirmation of the Grand High Priest's Official Visit in writing.
- B. ALL Official Visits in 2025-26 will be tiled visits with social and lunch/dinner beforehand, which should include Royal Arch Widows, the Companions and their families, local Blue Lodge Masons & Masonic youth organizations, and your friends and family.
- C. Time suggestions: (the GHP prefers Tiled meeting start time of 7:00 PM)
 - o Social at 5:30/6:00 PM
 - o Meal at 6:00/6:30 PM
 - o Tiled Visit at 7:00/7:30 PM
- D. Obtain the approval of your Official Visit plan through the 'Administrative Assistant' (***[See Official Visit Form](#)***)

II. Limited Dispensation:

- A. A Limited Dispensation is for multiple Chapters to meet as a District to receive the Grand High Priest at a specified date, time, and location.
(***[See Limited Dispensation Form](#)***)

III. Transportation:

- A. Determine the expected arrival time of the Grand High Priest at the meeting site.
- B. If the Grand High Priest is driving, provide adequate directions to the meeting site (i.e. GPS Address or by a diagram or map, pinpointing the exact location, will be most appreciated).
- C. Provide the Grand High Priest with a reserved parking space as close to the meeting site as possible.
- D. Provide the Grand High Priest with names, addresses and telephone numbers of Companions he can contact in event of emergency situations.
(***[See Official Visit Form](#)***)

IV. Accommodations:

- A. Determine who will be in the Grand High Priest's party.
- B. In 2025-2026, please provide Lodging for the Grand High Priest when requested to do so.

- If you are unable to pay for the Lodging, please inform the Grand High Priest, in advance, so that he will not be surprised.
 - If the Grand High Priest is to pay, he may seek recommendations from you about suitable lodging in your area.
- C. Provide a place to change for the Companions and ladies who travel to or after the event.
- D. Appoint a Companion(s) to wait on the Grand High Priest and his party; ask a Lady or Ladies to wait on the Grand High Priest's Lady and other Ladies accompanying their husbands in his party.
- E. Those assigned should make sure that the Grand High Priest and his party are properly introduced and transported as necessary. After the meeting, see that they get to their car, hotel or plane. ***Royal Arch hospitality dictates that you treat them as the Honored Guests they are.***
- V. **Publicity and Attendance:**
- A. Prepare proper notices of the meeting and distribute them through the District bulletins, announcements, and/or the local news media.
- B. Make use of the available photograph and biographic sketch of the Grand High Priest.
- C. Appoint communication committees to contact all members and sojourning Companions in the area informing them of the Grand High Priest's Visit.
- D. Extend invitations to sister Districts to attend.
- E. Send invitations or notices of the meeting to:
- Grand Chapter Officers (elected and appointed)
 - Past Grand High Priests
 - Widows
 - District Companions and their families (regardless of title/position in Grand Chapter)
 - DDGHPs, Dist. Lecturers, DEOs, Dist. Almoners, Committeemen and Representatives
 - Please consider inviting our youth to attend and/or participate
 - Remember to invite local Lodges, friends and family
- (See [Sample Invitation Form](#))***
- F. Inform all invited as to proper attire and cost.
- VI. **The Meeting Place:**
- A. Make sure it is adequate (size and seating) and clean.
- B. Have a table near the front for those who will present the Grand High Priest.
- C. Reserve a table near the front for anyone who will receive and or make a presentation.

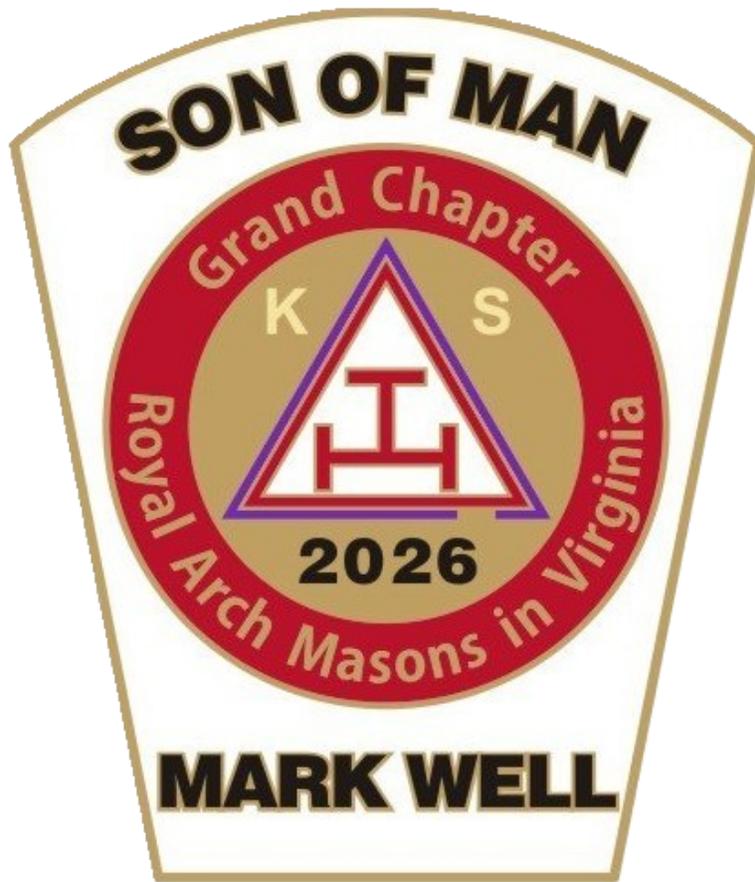
- D. Provide a lectern of adequate height with adequate lighting and microphone.
- E. Make sure the temperature of meeting place is comfortable prior to the meeting.
- F. Make sure there is a table & area available for GHP/Lady's Alzheimer's Display Items.

VII. **The Official District Meeting, Other Details:**

- A. Work out the events and program of the meeting in detail.
- B. Incorporate Companions from the Chapters in your District to participate in the reception of the Grand High Priest
(See [Reception Procedures](#))
- C. Send a copy of the program to the Administrative Assistant at least six (6) weeks before the meeting for approval.
- D. Inform the Grand High Priest as to who will be the presiding officer.
- E. Remember, the main purpose of the meeting is to receive the Grand High Priest in your District.
- F. Be sure all equipment essential for the Official Visit of the Grand High Priest is in its proper place (Podium with amplification system, Head Table and Table setup, as required).
- G. Lastly, BEFORE making reservations, signing a contract, or making any other major expenses; make certain you cover what happens and who will pay for the facility or food should you need to cancel.
 - This has happened in the past due to weather. (Flood, hurricane, tornado, ice, snow, etc.)
- H. NO presentations will be made without the Grand High Priest's prior approval
 - ***Include this information when you submit your plan prior to the visit.***
 - ***Respectfully request No Surprises!!***
- I. All group pictures will be taken after the Dinner Meeting.
- J. The DDGHP/GHP will introduce all guests
(See [Protocol for Introductions](#))
- K. Be sure to clear all announcements, comments, etc. before the Grand High Priest rises to talk. No one should speak or make announcements after the Grand High Priest's remarks.

SPECIAL NOTE: It is NOT proper to have a stated convocation at the same time as the GRAND HIGH PRIEST'S OFFICIAL VISIT!!

Please note: There are several sample forms that have been provided to assist you in carrying out various aspects of your duties as District Deputy Grand High Priest and for assisting in other matters. Please use them appropriately.



Grand High Priest Official Visit Logistics

Grand High Priest's Official Visit Form

- 1). Day/Date of Visit: _____ Time: _____ A. M. " P. M. "
- Type of Visit: " Chapter " District " Other **(Specify on back)**.
- Chapter No. ____; District No. ____.
- Host Organization: _____
- Indicate the other District(s) and Chapter(s) involved, by Name and No.:
- _____ ; _____ ; _____ ;
- _____ ; _____ ; _____ ;
- 2). Location of Meeting Place: _____
- Tele. No.: _____
- Address: _____
- Directions (GPS): _____
- 3). Activities Planned **(Check all that Apply)**:
- | | YES | NO | TIME |
|--|-----|----|-------|
| Meal(s): BREAKFAST " LUNCH " DINNER " | | | _____ |
| Ladies and/or Family | .. | .. | _____ |
| Tiled Meeting | .. | .. | _____ |
| Youth Organizations (Specify on back) | .. | .. | _____ |
| Other Masonic Organizations (Specify on back) | .. | .. | _____ |
- 4). Dress for **Chapter** Officers: Tuxedo " White Dinner Jacket " Business Suit "
- 5). Grand Chapter Officers have been invited by letter? YES " NO "
- Past Grand High Priests have been invited by letter? YES " NO "
- 6). Accommodations for Grand High Priest's Party **(In name of Grand High Priest)**:
- Place: _____ Tele. No.: _____
- GPS Address: _____
- 7). Persons to contact in case of emergency situations (2):
- Name: _____ Tele. No.: _____
- Name: _____ Tele. No.: _____
- 8). Name of person to assist or guide the Grand High Priest upon his arrival:
- Name: _____ Tele. No.: _____
- Address: _____
- 9). Name of person to assist the Grand High Priest's wife/Lady:
- Name: _____ Tele. No.: _____
- Address: _____
- 10). Name of person submitting this form **(Include District or Chapter No.)**:
- Name: _____ Tele. No.: _____
- Email of person submitting this form: _____
- District No. ____; Chapter No. ____.

Note: Make a **"Copy"** of this document for your records.

Send the **"Original"** to the Administrative Assistant of the Grand High Priest:

You must return this form at least six (6) weeks prior to the date of the visit.

An e-mail response will be returned to you as confirmation of the visit.

In case of emergency or change:

Contact The Administrative Assistant of The Grand High Priest:

**John Wesley Conroy, Jr.
Email: AAGHP2026@gmail.com
722 Wood Duck Lane
Chesapeake, VA 2323
Tele: 757-617-9395 (C)**

FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT’S USE ONLY!!:

Members of Grand High Priest’s Party	
Accommodations Needed and Duration	
Please inform the Administrative Assistant of accommodation arrangements when finalized!	

Consigliere to the Grand High Priest (Chief Advisor)

**Joseph Brandon Hale
Email: hale.joseph.b@gmail.com
P.O. Box 1154
Lebanon, VA 24266
Tele: 276-971-6095 (C)**

Limited Dispensation Form

Date: _____

_____, High Priest

Right Excellent Sir:

I, _____, District Deputy Grand High Priest of
Capitular District No. _____, do hereby grant to:

(Chapter Name) _____ No. _____, dispensation to Change their
Convocation in the following way(s):

1). **Date:** From: (Month) _____; (Day) _____; (Year) _____.
To: (Month) _____; (Day) _____; (Year) _____.

2). **Time:** From: _____ AM/PM (Circle One)
To: _____ AM/PM (Circle One)

3). **Location (Address):**
From: _____;
To: _____.

This change was communicated to the members by: (Circle One):
Bulletin – E-Mail – Mail – Newspaper – Radio – Telephone – Other (Specify) _____.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

(Signature)

(Name – Printed)

District Deputy Grand High Priest,
Capitular District No. _____.

_____ (Date Approved)

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Grand High Priest)

_____ (Date Approved)



GRAND CHAPTER ROYAL ARCH MASONS IN VIRGINIA

Rt. Ex. (DDGHP Name), DDGHP #XX
(DDGHP's Address)
City, VA 24xxx
Telephone No. (XXX) XXX-XXXX
Email and RSVP: youremail@you.com

TO: Grand Chapter Officers (or DDGHP, or Past Grand High Priests, etc.)
FROM: Rt. Ex. (DDGHP name), Capitular District #XX
RE: Official Visit of Most Excellent Kyle William Strickland, Grand High Priest
DATE OF VISIT: Month XX, 2026
LOCATION: Your Chapter RAC #XX (Name of Masonic Temple), Address/Location

Dear Most Excellent, (or appropriate title)

You and your lady are cordially invited to be our guests at this special occasion to welcome the Grand High Priest, Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia, Most Excellent Kyle William Strickland to our district.

Social will be at 6:00 PM
Dinner will be at 6:30 PM

Cost: \$XX.XX per person (Grand Chapter Officers & DDGHP Complimentary)
Tiled meeting will begin at 7:00 PM

Overnight accommodations:
Hotel Name, Address, City, State, Zip Telephone: (XXX) XXX-XXXX

Most Excellent Kyle and I look forward to seeing you and request that you respond to our invitation on or before Month XX, 2026 if you plan to attend the dinner.

If you have any questions or special needs, please let me know.

Sincerely & Fraternaly,
(DDGHP Name)
District Deputy Grand High Priest
XXst Capitular District

Enclosure: Directions (Please include descriptive directions to location and parking.)

Reception Procedures for the Official Visit to the District by the Most Excellent Grand High Priest

See Ceremonies for Receiving the GHP at a District Convocation for full ritual

- I. **Selection of Officers to sit in the East:**
 - A. Opening of Chapter:
 - Most Excellent - High Priest of “Host” Chapter of District
 - King – High Priest of a District Chapter
 - Scribe – High Priest of a District Chapter
 - If High Priests are not present to sit in the East, then use next “Highest Titled” Chapter Officer.
 - II. **For the District Deputy Grand High Priest:**
 - A. Appoint a Committee of two (PDDGHPs) to:
 - Present DDGHP at the Altar and escort to the East

Note: High Priest moves to sideline.
District Deputy Grand High Priest assumes the East.
- III. **For the Most Excellent Grand High Priest**
 - A. Appoint a Committee of three (PGHPs) to Retire with, Wait upon, Return with, and Present the GHP
 - B. The Committee shall be composed of the following:
 - First: Past Grand High Priests (if present)
 - Second: Grand Chapter Officers (if present)
 - Use the most senior GC Officer (GK, GS, GTRS, GSEC, GCOH, GPS, GRAC, GMVs)
 - Third: Past District Deputy Grand High Priest’s (if present)
 - Fourth: Other Officers (beginning with the most senior)
- IV. **Receive the Most Excellent Grand High Priest**

Note: The Scribe moves to the side lines.
- V. **Introductions: Follow the Grand Chapter [Protocol for Introductions](#) to the letter**
- VI. **The “Most Excellent Grand High Priest” gives his remarks, assumes the East, and closes the Chapter**

Protocol for Introductions

MOST IMPORTANT – Each Companion Should ONLY be introduced ONCE, at their current or highest office held

- I. **Present the Grand High Priest**
- II. **Present the following AT THEIR SEATS:**
 - A. All Who Have Not Served as High Priest, **Please Rise.**
 - B. All 50 Year Royal Arch Veterans and older, **Please Rise.**
 - C. All Past High Priests and Past District Deputy Grand High Priests, Who Have Not Attained a Higher Office or Hold Title in the Grand Chapter, **Please Rise.**
 - D. All District Lecturers, Assistant District Lecturers, District Almoners and District Educational Officers, **Please Rise.**
 - E. All Presiding Officers of Appendant or Associated Bodies, **Please Rise.**
 - F. All Past Grand Commanders
 - G. All Grand Lodge Officers, **Please Rise.**
 - a. The Grand Master may wish to introduce them if present
- III. **Present the following AT THE ALTAR:**

(See Introduction Aid)

- A. All Past Grand Masters
- B. All Recipients of the Ish Sodi Award
- C. All Recipients of the John Dove Meritorious Service Award
- D. All Virginia and Visiting Presiding Grand Officers including:
 - a. The Grand Commander Knights Templar
 - b. The Sovereign Grand Inspector General of the Scottish Rite
- E. All High Priests.
- F. All District Deputy Grand High Priests (GHP will introduce)
- G. All Past Grand High Priests (GHP will introduce)
- H. All Grand Chapter Officers (GHP will introduce)
- I. The Current Grand Master of Masons in Virginia

Royal Arch Chapter Introduction Aid

Committee Appointments – Presentations at the Altar

Grand High Priest

Committee of THREE: _____, _____ &

A. All Past Grand Masters

Committee of TWO: _____ & _____.

B. All Recipients of the Ish Sodi Award

Committee of TWO: _____ & _____.

C. All Recipients of the John Dove Meritorious Service Award

Committee of TWO: _____ & _____.

D. All Virginia and Visiting Presiding Grand Officers

Committee of TWO: _____ & _____.

E. All High Priests

Committee of TWO: _____ & _____.

F. All Visiting District Deputy Grand High Priests

Committee of TWO: _____ & _____.

G. All Past Grand High Priests

Committee of TWO: _____ & _____.

H. All Grand Chapter Officers

Committee of TWO: _____ & _____.

I. The Current Grand Master of Masons in Virginia

Committee of TWO: _____ & _____.

Living Past Grand High Priests

Grand High Priest	Year	Theme	Lady
James Paul Nunn	2024-2025	Around this Sacred Altar	Rebecca
William Randall Owens	2023-2024	Be the Light	
Hafford Lee Arritt, Jr.	2022-2023	Live By The Golden Rule	Donna
Mark Todd Pennypacker	2021-2022	Scripture, Tradition, Reason	Judy
Raymond Douglas Steele	2019-2020	Good Work-Square Work, the Foundation of America	Barbara
Floyd Byon Goodwin	2018-2019	Soaring to New Heights	Karen
Joe Gilbert Broce	2017-2018	Lead By Example	Deborah
Daniel Hufford Surface, Jr.	2016-2017	Friendship-Leadership	Cindy
Donald Leo McAndrews	2014-2015	God Is Our Guide	Suzanne
James Authur Fields, Jr.	2012-2013	Service-A Mason's Way	
Nelson Crane Trinkle, Sr.	2011-2012	Perform The Obligations	Karen
Danny Lee Bowman	2010-2011	United We Stand	Debbie
Charles Warren Wagner	2006-2007	Rebuilding The Temple	Kathryn
Wayne Sawyer Flora	2005-2006	Pass It On	Mary
Gordon Hector Sprigg, Jr.	2004-2005	Commitment To Mankind	
Philip Edgar Thiem	2003-2004	The Keystone of Freemasonry	Darlene
Russel Ghee Snodgrass	2001-2002	Holiness To The Lord	Joanne
Thomas Randolph Jones	1994-1995	Share The Spirit	Becky
Meredith Craig Hutto	1989-1990	Communication the Key to Success	Elaine

Widows of Past Grand High Priests & Past Grand Officers

Mrs. Joseph P. Barnes*

Mrs. Jeffery Glen Burcham*

Mrs. June Burton*

Mrs. Brenda Cave*

Mrs. Mary Ellen Chapman*

Mrs. Gwen Cohen*

Mrs. Susanne Coleman*

Mrs. Arnold A. Dudley+

Mrs. Pat Eggleston*

Mrs. Judy Friel+

Mrs. C. Frank Goodrich*

Mrs. Bonnie Gurney*

Mrs. Katherine (Kitty) Hughes*

Mrs. Nancy Jordon*

Mrs. Georgia Newhall*

Mrs. Marcia Perry*

Mrs. Bob Priode*

Mrs. Retta Sheppard*

Mrs. Susan Wettstone+

Mrs. Lynne Matthews Whitlock*

Mrs. A. E. Wilkinson*

*Widow of Past Grand High Priest

+Widow of Past Grand Officer



Royal Arch Chapters

District No. 1

Mount Vernon, No. 14
1430 West Braddock Road, Alexandria, Virginia
Meeting Date/Time: 1st Tuesday – 7:30

District No. 1

Arlington, No. 35
3805 Lee Highway, Arlington, Virginia
Meeting Date/Time: 2nd Wednesday – 7:30

District No. 1

Annandale, No. 77
7001 Backlick Road, Springfield, Virginia
Meeting Date/Time: 2nd Monday – 7:30

District No. 2

Norfolk United, No. 1
7001 Granby St, Norfolk, Virginia
Meeting Date/Time: 1st Monday – 7:30

District No. 2

Great Bridge, No. 82
6060 Providence Road, Virginia Beach, Virginia
Meeting Date/Time: 4th Thursday – 7:30
(Nov/Dec – 2nd Thurs)

District No. 2

Princess Anne, No. 1807
2849 Princess Anna Road, Virginia Beach,
Virginia
Meeting Date/Time: 3rd Tuesday – 7:30

District No. 2

Virginia Research, No. 1753
148 Mount Pleasant Road, Chesapeake, Virginia
Meeting Date/Time: Quarterly 3rd Saturday
(April, July, Sept, Dec)

District No. 3

Urbanna, No. 59
2126 King William Avenue, West Point, Virginia
Meeting Date/Time: 1st Thursday – 7:00

District No. 3

Warwick, No. 80
65 Saunders Road, Newport News, Virginia
Meeting Date/Time: 1st Wednesday – 7:00

District No. 4

Richmond Washington No. 3-9, No. 0
6787 Forest Hill Avenue, Richmond, Virginia
Meeting Date/Time: 1st Thursday – 7:00

District No. 4

Petersburg Union, No. 7
115 South Sycamore Street, Petersburg, Virginia
Meeting Date/Time: 4th Thursday – 7:30

District No. 4

Mann Page, No. 89
9001 Boulevard Road, Providence Forge,
Virginia
Meeting Date/Time: 3rd Wednesday – 7:00

District No. 4

Peter Francisco No. 90
1470 Anderson Highway, Cumberland, Virginia
Meeting Date/Time: 1st Monday – 7:00

District No. 8

Lynchburg, No. 10
425 Washington Street, Alta Vista, Virginia
Meeting Date/Time: 4th Thursday – 7:30

District No. 8

Murray, No. 22
4131 Ranchcrest Dr, Roanoke, Virginia
Meeting Date/Time: 3rd Thursday – 7:30

District No. 8

D. C. Shanks, No. 31
1220 Texas Street, Salem, Virginia
Meeting Date/Time: 3rd Mondayh – 7:30

District No. 9

Wythe, No. 51
1079 West Main Street, Wytheville, Virginia
Meeting Date/Time: 4th Monday – 7:30

District No. 9

Taylor, No. 70
710 College Street NW, Christiansburg, Virginia
Meeting Date/Time: 2nd Tuesday – 7:30

District No. 9

Pearisburg, No. 29
506 Church Street, Pearisburg, Virginia
Meeting Date/Time: 3rd Tuesday – 7:30

District No. 10

E. H. Gill, No. 50
14411 Black Hollow Road, Abingdon, Virginia
Meeting Date/Time: 4th Thursday – 7:00
(Nov/Dec – 3rd Wed)

District No. 10

Marion, No. 54
112 Church Street, Marion, Virginia
Meeting Date/Time: 3rd Thursday – 7:30

District No. 11

Craig, No. 30
916 Park Avenue, Norton, Virginia
Meeting Date/Time: 3rd Saturday – 10:00

District No. 11

Castlewood, No. 34
Old Castlewood, Castlewood, Virginia
Meeting Date/Time: 3rd Tuesday – 7:30

District No. 11

Barrett, No. 76
Corner of Main and Hager St, Castlewood,
Virginia
Meeting Date/Time: 4th Thursday – 7:30

District No. 12

O'Keeffe, No. 26
120 West Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia
Meeting Date/Time: 2nd Monday – 7:30

District No. 12

W. G. Bottimore, No. 28
564 Virginia Avenue, Bluefield, Virginia
Meeting Date/Time: 4th Tuesday – 7:00

District No. 14

Waynesboro Union, No. 2
1600 West Main Street, Waynesboro, Virginia
Meeting Date/Time: 1st Thursday – 7:00

District No. 14

Alleghany, No. 24
725 Commercial Avenue, Clifton Forge, Virginia
Meeting Date/Time: 4th Thursday – 7:00

District No. 14

Rockbridge, No. 44
103 West Nelson Street, Lexington, Virginia
Meeting Date/Time: 3rd Monday – 7:00

District No. 15

Luray, No. 4
10 East Main Street, Warrenton, Virginia
Meeting Date/Time: 2nd Wednesday – 7:30

District No. 15

Shenandoah, No. 17
Corner of Main and Center Sts, Edinburg,
Virginia
Meeting Date/Time: 3rd Tuesday – 7:30

District No. 15

John Dove, No. 21
118 Loudoun St, Winchester, Virginia
Meeting Date/Time: 2nd Thursday – 7:30

District No. 15

Hiram, No. 45
438 Skyline Vista Drive, Front Royal, Virginia
Meeting Date/Time: 1st Tuesday – 7:00

District No. 17

Warren, No. 5
386 Stuyvesant Street, Warrenton, Virginia
Meeting Date/Time: 1st Tuesday – 7:00

District No. 17

Fauquier, No. 25
10503 Oak Place, Fairfax, Virginia
Meeting Date/Time: 1st Wednesday – 7:00

District No. 17

Manassas, No. 81
9810 Cockrell Road, Manassas, Virginia
Meeting Date/Time: 2nd Thursday – 7:00

District No. 17

Potomac, No. 88
43881 Waxpool Road, Ashburn, Virginia
Meeting Date/Time: 4th Monday – 7:30

District No. 18

Orange, No. 47
5488 Governor Barbour Road, Barboursville,
Virginia
Meeting Date/Time: 1st Tuesday – 7:00

District No. 18

Keystone, No. 58
Corner of 5th and Main Streets, Charlottesville,
Virginia
Meeting Date/Time: 4th Tuesday – 7:00

District No. 18

Arvonias No. 64, No. 64
Main Street, Dilwyn, Virginia
Meeting Date/Time: 3rd Tuesday – 7:00

District No. 19

Fredericksburg No. 23, No. 23
803 Princess Anne Street, Fredericksburg,
Virginia
Meeting Date/Time: 3rd Tuesday – 7:30

District No. 19

Westmoreland No. 41, No. 41
70 Great House Road, Kinsale, Virginia
Meeting Date/Time: 1st Tuesday – 7:00

District No. 20

Chincoteague No. 75, No. 75
5292 Woodland Drive, Chincoteague, Virginia
Meeting Date/Time: 1st Thursday – 7:00

District No. 21

Mount Horeb No. 11, No. 11
4610 Caroline Avenue, Portsmouth, Virginia
Meeting Date/Time: 3rd Wednesday – 7:00

District No. 21

Mount Nebo No. 20, No. 20
247 Main Street, Suffolk, Virginia
Meeting Date/Time: 2nd Monday – 7:00

District No. 21

Cradock No. 72, No. 72
509 George Washington Hwy, Chesapeake,
Virginia
Meeting Date/Time: 4th Tuesday – 7:00



***Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia
Award Winners***

John Dove Meritorious Service Award

Title	Name	Chapter	No	Year	Lady
Rt. Ex.	George Raymond Bierman	Annandale	77	2002	Mary
Rt. Ex.	Jay L Cotner	Keystone	58	2003	Ellen
Mt. Ex.	James Arthur Fields, Jr.	Waynesboro Union	2	2005	
Rt. Ex.	Stephen Keith Cook	O'Keeffe	26	2005	
Mt. Ex.	Donald Leo McAndrews	Manassas	81	2006	Suzanne
Rt. Ex.	Randall Wayne Johnson	Great Bridge	82	2007	Donna
Rt. Ex.	Edmund Cohen	Loudoun	55	2008	Gwen
Rt. Ex.	James Arthur Phillips	Urbanna	59	2009	Kathy
Rt. Ex.	Charles Avis Via	Keystone	58	2012	
Mt. Ex.	Russel Ghee Snodgrass	Keystone	58	2013	Joanne
Rt. Ex.	Danny Wayne Bentley	Castlewood	34	2013	
Rt. Ex.	John Warren Bullach, Jr.	Arlington	35	2013	
Mt. Ex.	Wayne Sawyer Flora	Princess Anne	1607	2014	Mary Ann
Rt. Ex.	Rhey Maurice Soloman	Loudoun	55	2014	Penny
Mt. Ex.	Gordon Hector Sprigg Jr	Mann Page	89	2016	
Rt. Ex.	Frederick Russell Dixon	Norfolk United	1	2016	Elizabeth
Rt. Ex.	Thomas Lee Varner, Jr.	Petersburg Union	7	2017	Diane Lea
Mt. Ex.	Meredith Craig Hutto	Kecoughtan	42	2017	Elaine
Mt. Ex.	Floyd Byron Goodwin	Mount Nebo	20	2018	
Mt. Ex.	Danny Lee Bowman	O'Keeffe	26	2018	Debbie
Rt. Ex.	James Horatio Pate	Norfolk United	1	2019	Judy
Mt. Ex.	Daniel Hufford Surface, Jr	Marion	54	2020	Cindy
Rt. Ex.	Cameron C. Caffee	DC Shanks	31	2020	Mollie
Rt. Ex.	Wayne Howard Anderson	Mt. Horeb	11	2021	Vonnie
Mt. Ex.	Mark Todd Pennypacker, Sr.	John Dove	21	2021	Judy
Rt. Ex.	William Dean Robinson	Castlewood	34	2021	Connie

Title	Name	Chapter	No	Year	Lady
Rt. Ex.	Harry Wesley Hammack	Hiram	45	2022	
Rt. Ex.	John Chelsey Lundin, Jr	Richmond- Washington	3-9	2022	
Rt. Ex.	Joseph Wesley Jeffries	Chincoteague	75	2023	
Rt. Ex.	Joseph Brandon Hale	Marion	54	2023	
Rt. Ex.	Herbert Griffith Turner, Jr.	Petersburg-Union	7	2024	
Rt. Ex.	Jeffrey Cole Hedges	Warren	5	2024	
Mt. Ex.	James Paul Nunn	Wythe	51	2024	Rebecca
Mt. Ex.	Joe Gilbert Broce, Sr.	Taylor	70	2025	Debbie

Ish Sodi Award

Title	Name	Chapter	No	Year	Lady
Rt. Ex.	Danny Wayne Bentley	Castlewood	34	2007	
Rt. Ex.	William Thornton Lee, Jr.	Orange	47	2007	
Rt. Ex.	James Barry Bartley	Loudoun	55	2007	Margaret
Mt. Ex.	Russel Ghee Snodgrass	Keystone	58	2007	Joanne
Rt. Ex.	Anthony Joseph LaCava	Warren	5	2011	Yvonne
Rt. Ex.	Bruce Allen Richardson	O'Keefe	26	2011	Sue
Mt. Ex.	Gordon Hector Sprigg, Jr.	Washington	9	2012	
Rt. Ex.	Christopher Mark Rembold	Lynchburg	10	2012	
Rt. Ex.	Henry Godfrey Sharber, III	Petersburg Union	7	2013	Donna
Rt. Ex.	Tony Michael Parks	Wythe	51	2013	
Rt. Ex.	William Randall Owens	O'Keefe	26	2014	Fairy
Rt. Ex.	John Richard Rawls	Warwick	80	2014	Johanna
Rt. Ex.	Christopher Swihart	Manassas	81	2015	Tammy
Rt. Ex.	Mark Stephen Chapman	Keystone	58	2015	Susan
Mt. Ex.	Nelson Crane Trinkle, Sr.	Washington	9	2016	Karen
Rt. Ex.	Hafford Lee Arritt, Jr.	Murray	22	2016	Donna
Rt. Ex.	Danilo Baldoz Diego	Norfolk United	1	2017	Lynn
Rt. Ex.	William Richard Fuzia	WG Bottimore	28	2017	Marsha
Rt. Ex.	Paul William Lockhart	Warren	5	2018	Mari
Mt. Ex.	Joe Gilbert Broce	Taylor	70	2019	Debbie
Rt. Ex.	Jason Curtis Trenary	John Dove	21	2020	Traci Lee
Rt. Ex.	Michael Thomas Huff	Fauquier	25	2020	Chelsea
Rt. Ex.	Dennis Mark Haas	Hiram	45	2020	Laura
Rt. Ex.	Peter Stuart Jensen	Fauquier	25	2021	
Rt. Ex.	Raymon Walter Bacchus	Potomac	88	2021	Amanda
Rt. Ex.	Roger Wayne Taylor	Princess Anne	1607	2022	Donna

Title	Name	Chapter	No	Year	Lady
Rt. Ex.	Matthew Scott Bourelle	John Dove	21	2022	
Rt. Ex.	Joseph Brandon Hale	Marion	54	2022	Megan
Mt. Ex.	Raymond D. Steele	John Dove	21	2023	Barbara
Rt. Ex.	Alan K. Spear	Shenandoah	17	2023	
Rt. Ex.	Larry J. Lloyd	Orange	47	2023	
Rt. Ex.	Edwin E. Pruett	O'Keefe	26	2023	
Ex.	Edward Phillip Tooma	Shenandoah	17	2024	
Rt. Ex.	Glen Allen Bryant	Alleghany	24	2024	
Rt. Ex.	Craig Alan Cox	Marion	54	2024	
Rt. Ex.	Joseph Efrain Gadea	Warwick	80	2024	Lourdes
Rt. Ex.	John Boyd Kendrick	Barrett	76	2025	
Rt. Ex.	Joel Kristian Cagle	Wythe	51	2025	
Rt. Ex.	David Ray Conner	Princess Anne	1607	2025	
Rt. Ex.	Clifford Harry Gregory	Richmond- Washington	3-9	2025	
Rt. Ex.	Marion Jefferson Humphreys, III	Richmond- Washington	3-9	2025	Jennifer

Grand Line Bowl Winners

Title	Name	District	Year
Rt. Ex.	Joe G. Dodson, Jr.	11	1965
Rt. Ex.	Paul D. Kent	3	1966
Rt. Ex.	Raymond H. Clyburn	2	1967
Rt. Ex.	W. Joseph White	2	1968
Rt. Ex.	Joseph P. Barnes	3	1969
Rt. Ex.	Thomas L. Zirkle	4	1970
Rt. Ex.	Omar White	3	1971
Rt. Ex.	Ishmael Franklin	21	1972
Rt. Ex.	Carl R. Delgrange	12	1973
Rt. Ex.	Billy Copeland	22	1974
Rt. Ex.	Frank E. Alderman	2	1975
Mt. Ex.	James W. Smith	1	1976
Rt. Ex.	Clyde G. Burcher	3	1977
Rt. Ex.	William E. Donald	22	1978
Rt. Ex.	Bernard B. Belote, Jr.	2	1979
Mt. Ex.	Stewart W. Miner	1	1980
Mt. Ex.	Philip E. Thiem	2	1981
Rt. Ex.	H. Hugh Green	2	1982
Rt. Ex.	Donald M. Van Houten	17	1983
Mt. Ex.	Edward R. Burton, Jr.	4	1984
Rt. Ex.	Benton W. Wicks	15	1985
Rt. Ex.	Samuel G. Hughes	19	1986
Rt. Ex.	William S. Pennington, Jr.		1987
Rt. Ex.	Lester H. McElroy	22	1988
Mt. Ex.	Edwin C. Whitlock	21	1989
Rt. Ex.	Joseph G. Dotson	11	1990

Title	Name	District	Year
Rt. Ex.	Edwin S. Becker	1	1991
Rt. Ex.	Lynn R. Smith	2	1992
Rt. Ex.	John P. Derickman, III	2	1993
Rt. Ex.	George R. Bierman	1	1994
Rt. Ex.	Wallace P. Benesch	1	1995
Rt. Ex.	William F. Copenhaver	16	1996
Rt. Ex.	James T. Banton, Sr.	1	1997
Rt. Ex.	William T. Lunsford	2	1998
Rt. Ex.	Leroy T. Coleman	21	1999
Rt. Ex.	George F. Black, Jr.	3	2000
Rt. Ex.	James Barry Bartley	17	2001
Rt. Ex.	Edwin P. Elliott	17	2002
Rt. Ex.	Donald Waite	4	2003
Rt. Ex.	Paul Cook	12	2004
Rt. Ex.	Leo Barker	4	2005
Rt. Ex.	Frederick S. Koziol	9	2006
Rt. Ex.	Frederick C. Vaughn, Sr.	14	2007
Rt. Ex.	W. Wayne Ratliff	8	2008
Rt. Ex.	Roger E. Duncan	9	2009
Rt. Ex.	E. Stephen Smith	8	2010
Rt. Ex.	Anthony Joseph LaCava	17	2011
Rt. Ex.	David C. McAndrews	17	2012
Rt. Ex.	Jason Webber Lotz	1	2013
Rt. Ex.	Edward Allen Wade	17	2014
Rt. Ex.	Dennis Mark Haas	15	2015
Rt. Ex.	Paul William Lockhart	17	2016
Rt. Ex.	Peter Stuart Jensen	17	2017
Rt. Ex.	Danilo Baldoz Diego	2	2018

Title	Name	District	Year
Rt. Ex.	Joseph Brandon Hale	10	2019
Rt. Ex.	Herbert Turner	4	2020
Rt. Ex.	Kevin Paul Walek	15	2021
Rt. Ex.	David Ray Conner	2	2022
Rt. Ex.	John B. Kendrick	11	2023
Rt. Ex.	Cliff Harry Gregory	4	2024
Rt. Ex.	William Arthur Crosscup, V	9	2025
Rt. Ex.	One of you	99	2026

2025-2026 Grand High Priest Itinerary

The Grand High Priest's Calendar can be accessed at [Grand High Priest's Calendar 2026](#)