



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

# The Keystone

**October 2017**



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A publication of the Grand  
Chapter Royal Arch Masons in  
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Want your articles or pictures  
here? Or have a question for  
Zerubbabel? Send them to  
tvarner536@aol.com.



Companions and friends:

I wish to express my appreciation to all companions for the hospitality and friendship shown to Lady Cindy and to me during our travels across the state this year. Serving as your Grand High Priest has been an honor and a great responsibility that I have taken seriously during the performance of my duties.

The elected and appointed officers are the greatest. The future of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia is in their very capable hands.

I will have lasting memories of the laughter and enjoyment experienced at the Official Visits. Fun was had by all.

We are blessed by our Heavenly Father with talents and skills. Please do not waste them! Each of you have a contribution to be used toward making our fantastic Fraternity succeed. I appreciate all of you.

There are two additional companions who have been honored with a Fifty Year Veterans award: Charles Avis Via from Keystone Chapter No. 58 and Willard E. Hamm from Marion No. 54. Congratulations to them for their many years of service to Royal Arch Masonry.

I look forward to being with you at the Grand Convocation. Your attendance is very important.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Dan H. Surface, Grand High Priest

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Companions of Royal Arch Masons of Virginia! We are coming to a close for the 2016 – 2017 Capitular year. You have done an exceptional job and should be proud of yourselves for the work you have done

in helping to find a cure for Alzheimer's.

<u>Total Donations</u>	
District	Amount
District 1	\$400.00
District 2	\$3,246.62
District 3	\$700.00
District 4	\$5,351.00
District 8	\$400.00
District 9	\$680.00
District 10	\$7,055.00
District 11	\$15.00
District 12	\$6,913.05
District 14	\$310.00
District 15	\$350.00
District 17	\$11,575.86
District 18	\$9,248.00
District 19	\$2,632.00
District 20	\$400.00
District 21	\$730.00
Total:	\$50,006.53

Thus far we have received over \$50,000 in donations as shown above. I have talked with Most Excellent Dan and he has informed me that any contributions that have been made by your chapters to Project Lifesaver can also be used for our Alzheimer's totals! So, if you have collected money for Project Lifesaver,

please let me know and we will add it to your district numbers. Great job by everyone!!

*Paul Lockhart, Grand Almoner of Virginia*

## The Grand Scribe's Travels



Many of you know how skilled our Grand Scribe is in the Royal Art. He has long been one of the top leaders in District 21, and is an exceptional ritualist. One time he went to Danville with Most Excellent Clyde

Perry and Grand Lecturer Randy Johnson, and the three of them conferred the entire Royal Arch Degree. He is often called "Lord Byron" because of the Companions' high respect for him. But he is humble and modest and doesn't speak often of himself. Quietly over the last few years, he has undertaken the task of visiting all of the Chapters in Virginia. Traveling the "rough and rugged paths" alone, he has been to most Chapters and only has a few more to attend. This is a most salutary endeavor and speaks well of his preparation to become our Grand High Priest.

## Ask Zerubbabel

Why does the Right Worshipful Master make five different references to the "stone which was rejected" in the Mark Master Degree? These Christian scriptures are found in the Old and New Testaments as follows:

Acts 4:11 - "This is the stone which was set at naught by you builders, which is become

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the head of the corner”. Psalms 118:22 - “The stone which the builders rejected is become the headstone of the corner”. Matthew 21:42 - “Did ye never read in the scriptures, the stone which the builders rejected is become the head of the corner”. Mark 12:10 - “And have you not read this scripture, the stone which the builders rejected is become the head of the corner”. Luke 20:17 - “What is this then which is written, the stone which the builders rejected is become the head of the corner”.

Just as the keystone locks all the other stones in place and supports the structure’s overall weight, so do the Royal Arch degrees lock in the teachings of Masonry and support the story of the loss, safekeeping, and discovery of the True Word. And more important, let it remind us that God unites us all into one family of Companions and bears the weight of our sufferings and errors unto life eternal.

## **Call to Grand Chapter and Resolution**

The Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia will hold its 210th Grand Annual Convocation at the Fort Magruder Hotel, Williamsburg, on November 16-19. There is one resolution for action:

BE IT RESOLVED, that Section 93 of the Digest of the Laws, Rules and Regulations of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia/Grand Council Cryptic Masons in Virginia, which reads as follows:

Section 93. Stationed Officer Required To Open A Chapter. A Chapter cannot be opened or stand open without the presence of one of its stationed officers, but any

Companion may preside at the request of the officer entitled to preside.

BE AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

Section 93. Stationed Officer Required To Open A Chapter. A Chapter cannot be opened or stand open without the presence of one of its stationed officers, but any Companion may preside at the request of the officer entitled to preside. In the event of the unavoidable absence of the High Priest, King and Scribe, the District Deputy Grand High Priest or a capable Past High Priest designated by the High Priest may preside.

REASON: This article seems to cause problems in opening chapters at various times. For instance, Allegheny Chapter No. 24 was unable to meet due to the absence of the Council officers despite the presence of ten members of the Chapter and three guests from the District, including two past Grand High Priests, five Past DDGHP, one current DDGHP, and five Past High Priests, all of whom are well qualified and experienced in Royal Arch Masonry. The above resolution is also consistent with prior decisions rendered by Past Grand Masters in regard to Section 2.05 of the Methodical Digest of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, allowing Lodges to open in the absence of its stationed officers (Section 2.05 1974 D-5. 1995 D-20 1997 D-10 Set aside a portion of Section 2.05 and permitted a lodge to hold a stated communication without the presence of one of the stationed officers of the Lodge, providing that the District Deputy or a capable Past Master of the Lodge presided. (W. C. Vaughan, W. H. Morlock and A. W. Adkins)

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## William B. Millican Royal Arch School

The Committee on Work held the William B. Millican Royal Arch School at Taylor Lodge in Salem on August 28-29. About 30 Companions attended and helped the Committee on Work exemplify all six degrees over the two days. The School was very successful, and the attendees voted to hold it again in Salem next August 27-28. You will receive plenty of notice and all Royal Arch Companions are encouraged to attend and support our Grand Lecturer Randy Johnson.



**District 17 Companions Working Hard on the Royal Arch Correspondence Course**

## Districts 1 and 17 Lead the Way on the Correspondence Course

During the past year, our Companions in Northern Virginia have done great work on the Royal Arch Correspondence Course. District Education Officer Raymon Bacchus and Right Excellent Peter Jensen of District 17 held sessions on April 8 and September 9, while District Education Officer David Potts and Excellent Jim Landerkin of District 1 conducted a session on June 3. All of their efforts were very successful, and have resulted in requests for additional sessions in the next year. Excellent Bacchus reports the key to success is: “The format is easy to follow and allows for the Companions to work together in completing them. One delightful byproduct is that they have provided an opportunity for the Companions to enjoy a few more laughs and a cuppa together along with a sweet treat. That my friend, in my humble opinion, is always a good thing.”

The Companions who completed the course are: District 1 - Jim Landerkin, Rich Saunders, Raymond Kasey, Rob Ortiz. District 17 – Chuck Trude, Warren Mullins, Adam Duncan, Michael

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Huff, John Shroeder, Gilberto Velez, Arthur Wood, Claudio Benedi, Harold Chadsey, Brian Walaszczyk, Kerry Worsham, David Rider, Peter Jensen, Ronald Leibfreid, Christopher Chrzanowski, Greg Hubley, Bret Thomas, and Joel Chapman.

## The Anointed High Priest Degree

The Anointed Order of High Priesthood also known as a “chair” degree, is conferred upon present or past High Priests, typically during the time of the Grand Chapter’s Annual Grand Convocation. In Virginia, it is a requisite to being recognized as a Past High Priest when his year has ended.

It tells the story of Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and his encounter with Melchizedek, High Priest of Salem. The candidate participates in a breaking of bread and sharing of wine, assumes an obligation to preside justly over his chapter, and to regard all Companion High Priests as true friends and Brothers. He is then solemnly anointed, consecrated and set apart to the Holy Order of High Priesthood. The scripture verses relevant to this degree are Genesis 14:1-3, 8-24, and Genesis 33:18-20.

The central element of the jewel of a Past High Priest is a representation of the breastplate worn by the High Priest in the Holy Temple of Jerusalem; its twelve precious stones representing the twelve tribes of Israel. It was through this breastplate that God could communicate to the High Priest by causing the air currents to flicker light from the candle onto two sacred jewel stones held by the High Priest: the Urim (representing light and excellence) and the Thummim (representing perfection and completion), and thence reflected upon the breastplate where they would cause flashes upon the stones. A flash from each of the two sacred jewel stones onto each of the breastplate stones indicated the particular Hebrew letter engraved upon that respective stone. When not in use, the Urim and Thummim were kept in a pocket behind the breastplate. Three equilateral triangles or deltas, are each a symbol of the sacred name of God, the pronunciation of which is no longer known to man. The Hebrew characters inscribed on the deltas, collectively known as the Tetragrammaton, are believed to be the consonants of that sacred name.

## Upcoming Calendar

November 4, 8 am:	Richmond Alzheimer’s Walk
November 4, 8 am:	Lynchburg Alzheimer’s Walk
November 16-19:	Grand Annual Convocation, Fort Magruder Inn, Williamsburg
January 13, 2018, 630 pm:	Proposed Grand High Priest Official Visit to District 1
January 20, 2018, 630 pm:	Proposed Grand High Priest Official Visit to District 4

Grand Chapter link to other Alzheimer’s Walks: <http://www.virginiaroyalarch.org/walk/>

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**On August 26 at District 19, the Grand High Priest made his last Official Visit**



**The Grand High Priest, Grand Officers, and other Companions at Masonic Family Day**