



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

The Keystone

January 2018



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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:

A great big THANK YOU to Mt. Ex. Dan Surface and Cindy for the great banquets at the Grand Convocation. Special thanks to Andy, Fred, and Clyde for all their help in organizing the Convocation and preparing the books and materials needed. It was great fun to see our companions and ladies, especially the visiting dignitaries

from many states and countries.

Mt. Ex. Dan has appointed a committee of Grand King Byron Goodwin, Grand Scribe Thad Decker, and Grand Captain of the Host Ray Steele to research and arrange accommodations for Grand Convocation in November 2019. They are already planning for their years as Grand High Priest. Please communicate your ideas and desires to these gentlemen so they can make their choices. They will be concerned about price, service, accommodations, and location. November 2018 is the last year of our current contract with Fort McGruder.

We are already traveling and enjoying our visits as Grand High Priest. "Wait till they get a load of us!" Recently, we attended the Job's Daughter Pageant in Williamsburg. We are so proud of this organization and its talented beautiful young ladies. Remember a Mason can sponsor a non-masonic-related young lady and allow her this very enriching opportunity. Please stay involved with our youth and support them any way you can; they are our future leaders.

There is a tremendous amount of educational material on our virginiaroyalarch.org website. I encourage everyone to

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use it to improve their Chapter. Finally, I hope everyone had a nice Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Joe G. Broce, Grand High Priest

The Grand Almoner's Message



Welcome to 2018! I will start this year's Keystone message with just a little history. In 2011, Grand Chapter donated \$3,000 to Alzheimer's in Chicago to help find a cure. District 17 held its first Table

Chapter in 2012 for three reasons:

- It was our District's first joint venture, and all five Chapters worked together in obtaining the location, coordinating the meal, setting up the dining hall, etc. The District started to come together as a team, and began building bonds and friendly competition among the Chapters.

- To be a marketing tool for obtaining new memberships. All Master Masons were invited and Most Excellent Don McAndrews spoke on Royal Arch Masonry. Warren Chapter ended up with seven new members, and the rest of the Chapters gained in their membership as well.

- To raise money for Alzheimer's. In our first Table Chapter, District 17 raised \$3,000.

Since 2012, Grand Chapter donations have

have significantly increased. In 2017, total donations to the Alzheimer's Association, the Masonic Home of Virginia's Memory Unit, and Project Lifesaver were \$70,882.65. This is phenomenal work by all of you!

Now, what are our 2018 goals? Our Grand Chapter is to raise \$100,000. I have asked each District to have a "Sprint 2 2K" or "Sprint to \$2,000" to get the year started. By March 31, if each District can raise \$2,000, we will have \$32,000! That would be a nice way to start off 2018! Your "Fun Raising" events can go to Alzheimer's, the Memory Unit, or to your local Project Lifesaver. Please make sure each check includes the District number in the memo section to give it proper credit.

I am also a firm believer in working smarter, not harder. I am currently working with the National Area Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. Our Grand Musician and I traveled to MAHOVA the Saturday before Christmas. Rt. Ex. Jeff played music for the residents and I played Santa. The smiles and the response that we received from the residents was heartfelt and warming, and it was a great event. We also posted some of the videos on line in Facebook asking for a donation, and were able to obtain \$405. But, Rt. Ex. Jeff asked the question, why are we stopping there? Let's contact our Alzheimer's Chapter and see if we can post the videos there and ask for donations from a bigger audience? Building a better relationship with each of the four Alzheimer's Chapters is what I am currently working on. If we can find a way to ask for a donation from their website and have it accredited to a District, I believe \$100,000 is just a starting point.

Paul Lockhart, Grand Almoner of Virginia

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Meet the Grand Master of the First Veil



Rt. Ex. James Nunn was born in Bluefield (WVa) and graduated high school in North Carolina. With degrees from Bluefield College and Virginia Tech, he is the Chief of Medical Physics

for Lewis Gale Regional Cancer Center in Pulaski and Assistant Professor of Health Sciences at Virginia Western Community College. He, his wife Rebecca, and their 11-year-old daughter live in Blacksburg.

He was raised in 1999 in Bland Lodge #206, where he served as Master and as District Deputy Grand Master for the 42nd Masonic District. Joining Royal Arch in 1999, he served as High Priest of Wythe Chapter No. 51, as District Deputy Grand High Priest of the 10th Capitular District, and most recently as Administrative Assistant to Most Excellent Daniel Surface and District Education Officer. He is also a Past Commander of Lynn Commandery No 9, a Past Worthy Patron of Bland Chapter No. 41 in the Eastern Star, and is active in other York Rite Bodies.

Grand Chapter Recap

Grand Chapter was attended by 204 Companions from 47 Chapters. During the Friday session, Rt. Ex. Peter Jensen received the Grand Line Bowl, continuing District 17's recent dominance of this coveted award. The Robert Wilson Claiborne Award for

Excellence was awarded to the following: Norfolk United #1, Richmond #3, Warren #5, Petersburg Union #7, Washington #9, O'Keeffe #26, W.G. Bottimore #28, Arlington #35, Wythe #51, Marion #54, and Warwick #80. At the Grand High Priest's Banquet, the Ish Sodi Award was presented to Rt. Ex. William Fuzia and Rt. Ex. Danilo Diego, while Mt. Ex. Meredith Hutto and Rt. Ex. Thomas Varner Jr. received the John Dove Meritorious Service Award. Varner had earlier received a Scarlet Ritual Card. Rt. Ex. James Nunn, Rt. Ex. Ralph Jones, Rt. Ex. Pat Harmon, and Rt. Ex. William Owens also received awards from the Grand High Priest for their fine service.

On Saturday, the Resolution to change Section 93 to allow Chapters to open without the presence of one of the stationed officers did not pass. During elections, all Grand Line Officers moved up one station and Rt. Ex. James Nunn was elected Grand Master of the First Veil. Mt. Ex. Meredith Hutto presented the Past Grand High Priest's report and congratulated Grand High Priest Daniel Surface for doing an exceptional job in demonstrating leadership and friendship during his year. Grand Chapter then closed, followed by the annual installation of Grand Officers and District Deputies.

Education at Manassas Chapter No. 81

Excellent Joe Martinez, the High Priest of Manassas Chapter No. 81, is Leading By Example this year. Royal Arch education being his primary passion, he presented a program on Royal Arch symbols in October, is working on three more, and has slated a number of guest speakers for Convocations throughout the year. He invites all of you to visit on second Thursdays and learn something new about Royal Arch Masonry!

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Ask Zerubbabel

How often do we have past and future Grand Masters in our Grand Line? Our Grand Royal Arch Chapter has been very fortunate recently with future Grand Master Wayne Flora serving as Grand High Priest in 2005, Past Grand Master James Scarce in 2016, and Past Grand Master Ed Cohen now serving as Grand Principal Sojourner. Prior to that, Past Grand Master Stewart Miner served as Grand High Priest in 1986, and future Grand Master Millard Robbins served in 1953. Perhaps the most distinguished Grand Line was installed in 1941, when Past Grand Master C. Vernon Eddy became Grand High Priest. The Grand Secretary was Past Grand Master and former Virginia Governor James Price. Also in Grand Line that year were future Grand Masters Charles Webber, Orvin Miles, and Charles Flintoff, and Past Grand Masters Thomas Hooper and James Hillman. They all served as Grand High Priest, and Hillman was Grand Secretary for 14 years.

150th Anniversary of Keystone Chapter No. 58

On December 13, Keystone No. 58 held a fine Table Chapter to celebrate its 150th year. Over 30 Companions attended, including Grand King Byron Goodwin, Grand Captain of the Host Raymond Steele, Past Grand Master Jeffrey Hodges, Past Grand High Priests Russell Snodgrass and James Fields, and Grand Provost Thomas Varner. The meal was sumptuous, the toasts dignified and festive, and Ex. Robert Simpson provided an excellent program on the Chapter's history and many accomplishments. Mt. Ex. Snodgrass noted that Ex. Simpson had also spoken at the Chapter's 125th anniversary exactly 25 years earlier on December 13, 1992. All had a great time with much fellowship, as shown by the picture below.



Attendees at the December 13 Keystone No. 58 Table Chapter

Upcoming Calendar

January 13, District 1 Official Visit, 6:30 pm

January 20, Royal Arch Festival, Lexington, 8 am; District 4 Official Visit, 6:30 pm

January 23, Royal Arch Degree at Petersburg Union #7, 7 pm

February 3, District 15 Official Visit, 12:30 pm; District 14 Official Visit, 6:30 pm

February 10, District 9 Official Visit, 6:30 pm

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February 17, District 11 Official Visit, 12:30 pm; District 10 Official Visit, 6:30 pm

February 24, District 12 Official Visit, 12:30 pm

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



Mt. Ex. Surface Raps the Opening Gavel



Bowl winner Peter Jensen of District 17



Mt. Ex. Surface at the GHP Banquet



Mt. Ex. Surface receives his PGHP Apron



Ish Sodi Award Recipients



John Dove Meritorious Award Recipients

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Mt. Ex. Joe and Debbie Broce “Lead by Example”



2018 Grand Chapter Officers