



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

The Keystone

November 2018



In This Edition...

Pages 1-2, Grand High Priest's Message

Page 2-3, Messages from Grand Almoner and Grand King

Pages 4-5, Chapter and District news

Pages 6-8, Grand Chapter Call

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Companions and friends:

So here it is, we have come to the end of our fabulous journey that has been so much fun. We love all the people we met and appreciate all the hospitality and gifts. We say "Thank You" to these special people: Grand Secretary Wayne "Andy" Anderson has worked diligently to keep us straight and recorded throughout the year and

now is working furiously to get the Grand Convocation on schedule. A special thanks to Bill and Farry Owens for the times you drove us around the country and gave us welcomed moral support. Clyde Perry, you are my mentor and have been very gracious with your wisdom and advice when I asked for it. Thank you to all the Grand Officers for performing your duties and supporting our Royal Arch Companions throughout the state. Thank you to all the companions and their ladies who worked so hard to do fundraisers and gather money for the Alzheimer's Research and Association. You have done a great job.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at the Grand Convocation on November 16-17 in Williamsburg. Some very important dignitaries are coming, including the General Grand Chapter GHP and his wife, and we want everyone to welcome them to Virginia.

Please continue to support the Alzheimer's research any way you can. Also, in case you haven't heard, the Order of the Eastern Star now has an official philanthropy: Service Dogs. These service dogs are a tremendous help to children with diabetes, seizures, autism, and many other challenges.

The Keystone of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia

November 2018

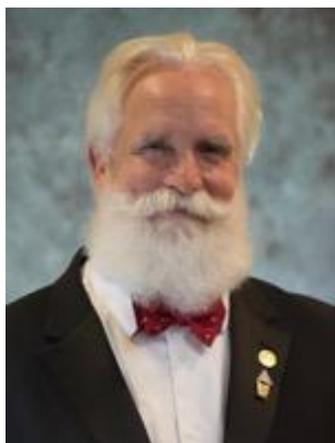
Many of our veterans are in need of service dogs also. So when you see our sisters, please donate generously to their charity and give big!

Please come by to visit us on our farm where we will be hanging out after November 17. We are on a mountainside and quiet secluded. Each of you are welcome to visit when you are in the area. We can sit on the porch and chat a while. May God Bless each of you with good health and safe travels.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Joe G. Broce, Grand High Priest

The Grand Almoner's Message



Companions of Royal Arch Masonry in Virginia, it is with pride and sadness that this will be the last correspondence I write to you, as I am stepping down as Grand Almoner. But I must say it has truly been an honor and a

pleasure to serve you and the Grand High Priest. I would like to mention that I have seen the hard work that you have put into your "Fun Raisers", and the work you have done to obtain donations is helping find a cure for Alzheimer's. I have seen you helping our fellow Masons with your contributions to the Memory Unit at MAHOVA, and I have seen the help that you have given to your local Project Lifesaver charities. This is good work, square work, just such work that is needed for the Temple! You have impressed and awed me so much.

Here are a few examples:

- You have created your own Alzheimer's Walks in Louisa and in Virginia Beach! Magnificent!
- When I receive a copy of the checks for donations to Alzheimer's, I notice that most of them come from Chapters, but many more are coming from local businesses and people that are not associated with Masonry. What this means to me is that you are talking to the community not just Alzheimer's, but about Masonry as well. Others can see the work that you are doing. And you are setting the example for the world to see!
- I have seen the many fundraising events that you have done: Table Chapters, Golf Tournaments, Dinners, Public Service Announcements, and the list goes on. Your innovation and your tenacity inspire other to do more. I do thank you!
- We have had districts that set their donation goals, raised them, and then raised them again. I would like to point out that Right Excellent Kevin McCullough and Excellent Jake Trenary, the District Deputy Grand Master and District Almoner for District 15, set their sights to obtaining \$2,500 in donations. They have raised their goals at least three times and are now at \$7,950. I do believe they will hit \$10,000!
- We have had the Rainbow Girls create their own team to find a cure and raised \$102 themselves. That may not sound like much. But, they took the challenge and in two weeks, raised money and joined me on the walk. I was sure proud to walk with them.
- District 17 has now surpassed the \$10,000 mark. But, the nice part in all of this, is that there are three other Districts on their tail! District 2 has made \$9,390 in donations, District 18 is at \$8,169, and District 15 is at

The Keystone of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia

November 2018

\$7,950. I know that with just a little more effort that each of these three districts will surpass that mark as well.

As of October 20, you all have raised \$60,553.10! Your work this past year has been phenomenal and you should be very proud of yourselves. My last challenge to you all is this: Can we raise another \$20,000 between now and the end of our Annual Grand Convocation? I think we can! See you at Grand Chapter!

Sincerely and fraternally,

Paul Lockhart, Grand Almoner of Virginia

The Grand King's Message



Foremost, let us all congratulate Most Excellent Joe Gilbert Broce for his efforts and accomplishments over the past capitial year. He and his Lady have traversed this Commonwealth and beyond, and honored

us as he “Lead By Example”, a theme not only did he emulate but instilled in others.

Over the several years, it has been my desire to visit all Chapters in Virginia before being elected as Grand High Priest. My personal goal was strategic--I wanted to visit each Chapter during their stated convocation and not during a Grand High Priest Official Visit. Fortunately, my personal challenge has been achieved and I have many cherished memories of those individual visits throughout the Commonwealth. I would encourage all companions to visit a Chapter they have never visited or wished they could.

Who knows, it may give another companion a reason to do the same?

Also, I would encourage everyone to attend the 211th Grand Annual Convocation in Williamsburg, not only to show your support of your Chapter and our Grand Chapter but to assist with any possible decisions which may arise or be discussed during the convocation. It has been said, “if you come to Grand Chapter one time, you will want to go back the next year”. You will probably meet someone you’ve never met before or more likely, many that you have seen only at Grand Chapter. Either way, you will undoubtedly make new friends or rekindle a cherished friendship from the near or distant past.

If I am fortunate enough to be elected as Grand High Priest for the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia, my official visits will begin on December 14-15 with Districts 15 and 1, respectively. My itinerary will be available on the website, through your HP, your DDGHP, or myself. Again, I look forward to your attendance and being with all during the upcoming Annual Convocation.

Sincerely and fraternally,

F. Byron Goodwin, Grand King of Virginia

Correspondence Course Update

Joseph DiPietro of Marion No. 54 and Matthew Vepraskas of Loudon No. 55 have recently completed their courses. This makes 45 completions this year!

Recent 50-Year Veterans' Awards

Tyrone H. Hash, Craig No. 30; Allen W. Derflinger, Hiram No. 45; Roger W. Mitchell Sr., Fairfax No. 13; Carlos G. Good, Luray No. 4.

The Keystone of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia

November 2018

Northern Shenandoah Alzheimer's Walk

Led by District Almoner Jake Trenary, the District 15 team was the #1 team at the Northern Shenandoah Walk to End Alzheimer's on Saturday, October 27. They raised \$7,334.99 independently as a group and also received a private grant donation from Companion John Powell and his lady, Leslie, for an additional \$5,000 for a grand total at this event of \$12,334.99! We received three Grand Champion awards and had a special guest appearance from our Grand Almoner, Right Excellent Paul Lockhart. Thank you Paul!



District 15 Walk Participants



District 2 Royal Arch Widows Attendees

Royal Arch Widow's Degree

Several years ago, companions of Tyrean Chapter No. 34 of Cut Bank, Montana, conceived the idea of entertaining their wives in lieu of a Chapter convocation. A humorous "initiation" ceremony was prepared, and it was so successful that it has been repeated from year to year.

On October 20, District 2 Royal Arch Masons conferred the degree from memory and in full regalia. While the degree is full of humor, nothing was done by any of the degree team to embarrass any candidate or to reflect upon the dignity of Royal Arch Masonry. Seven "candidates" were initiated and they all enjoyed the fun. A certificate and a lapel pin was given to each Royal Arch Lady who participated. Prior to the degree, everyone enjoyed a very tasty light dinner. At the conclusion of the "initiation rite", ice cream, cookies and coffee were served.

This is the second time that District 2 has conferred the degree, having done it in 2015 on seven candidates also. It was so well received and the Ladies enjoyed it very much that we are talking about doing it again in about two or three years.

150th Anniversary of Shenandoah No. 17

Shenandoah No. 17 in Edinburg, VA celebrated its 150th anniversary at Denny's Restaurant in Mt. Jackson on Saturday, October 20. Those in attendance included members, wives and the following distinguished guests: Most Excellent Herrin Ducote, PGHP of Louisiana and from the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Virginia; Right Excellent Ray Steele, Grand Captain of the Host;

The Keystone of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia

November 2018

and Right Excellent Wayne (Andy) Anderson, Grand Secretary. Also attending was the Mayor of Edinburg, the Honorable Daniel J. Harshman. During the celebration, the Grand Secretary presented Excellent Ed Tooma with a Past High Priest certificate. The newly installed High Priest for 2018-2019 is Gerald Wade Ross Sr. The guest speaker was Right Excellent Dennis Haas, PDDGHP, who spoke about the history of Freemasonry and its Appendant Bodies. A total of 45 were in attendance for the sesquicentennial celebration. The upcoming event also received prominent coverage in the October 19 edition of the *Northern Virginia Daily*.



Attendees at Shenandoah No. 17's Anniversary listen raptly to guest speaker Dennis Haas

Keystone No. 58 Wall Painting



We all remember how gifted Companion Mark Chapman was as Grand Almoner in 2014-2015 when he helped lead our Alzheimer's fund drives to new heights. Now, he has shown his talents in another manner by beginning a series of wall paintings of the various Royal Arch Degrees. He has already finished the Mark Master Degree as shown on the left, and will complete the other five degree paintings in the future. We look forward to seeing them, and it appears prints may be available for future purchase to benefit the MAHOVA Memory Care unit.

The Keystone of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia

November 2018

Grand Chapter Resolutions and Jurisprudence Committee Report

Resolution #1: Proposition for amendment of sections 73 and 74

Section 73. 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.

Be amended to read as follows:

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. The 20th Capitular District to be excluded from consolidation with another District if it becomes necessary to consolidate the two Chapters in District 20.

Section 74. 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 proceeding of each Annual Convocation.

Be amended to read as follows:

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 proceeding of each Annual Convocation. The 20th Capitular District to be excluded from consolidation with another District if it becomes necessary to consolidate the two Chapters in District 20.

Reason for Resolution: The reason for this exclusion is because of the geographical boundaries in which the District Deputy will have to travel a minimum distance of 200 miles round trip and have \$34.00 in tolls at the time of this resolution making it economically and geographically infeasible for the District Deputy Grand High Priest. Also, at this time the Royal Arch Chapter is the only way that the Past Master's Degree is given for the Wardens Certificate in the 12th Masonic District at this time, which would have an impact on the Blue Lodges in the District. Respectfully submitted by Right Excellent Norman Dale Fox, DDGHP 2016-2017, Capitular District 20.

Jurisprudence Committee Comments: The committee is of the opinion that Grand Chapter law should not be used to carve out a particular district for exemption. Additionally, Current law clearly states "geographically convenient" but does not address the case where it is not convenient. However, there is nothing in the law that stipulates there must be more than one chapter in a district.

Resolution #2: Resolution to Amend Section 60(f) of the Digest of the Laws, Rules, and Regulations of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia

BE IT RESOLVED, that Section 60(f) of the Digest of the Laws, Rules and Regulations of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia (hereinafter "Digest"), which reads as follows:

Section 60. Committee on Jurisprudence. At each Grand Annual Convocation, the newly installed Grand High Priest shall appoint the following Standing Committees:

The Keystone of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia

November 2018

(f) Jurisprudence, consisting of five members.

Be amended to read as follows:

Section 60. Committee on Jurisprudence. At each Grand Annual Convocation, the newly installed Grand High Priest shall appoint the following Standing Committees:

(f) Jurisprudence, consisting of five members. Past Grand High Priests of Royal Arch Masons in Virginia or Past Grand Masters of Masons in Virginia who do not hold elective office in Grand Chapter; or serve as a Trustee or as a member of any committee implicating the finances of Grand Chapter, including without limitation the Committee on Finance, the Committee on the Hubard Memorial Educational Fund, and the Committee on Philanthropic Activities.

Reason for Resolution: According the Section 68 of the Digest, “It shall be the duty of the Committee to implement Section 34 of the Digest, reviewing all resolutions and propositions, preparing them, in collaboration with their proposers, to insure proper form, text and purpose, and to submit its findings to the Grand Secretary for presentation, in printed form, to the Grand Chapter for consideration. It shall be the duty of the Committee to further study the Digest, recommending revisions when necessary, and to update for publication in the Digest such annotations, decisions, recommendations, and laws as have been previously approved by Grand Chapter.” To better effectuate the requirements hereinabove set forth, it is recommended that the Committee on Jurisprudence be comprised only of those Companions whose institutional knowledge of the laws, rules and regulations of Masonic and Capitular law derive from their past service as a presiding Grand High Priest or Grand Master. Lastly, it is believed advisable that, in order to avoid even the mere appearance of impropriety or conflict of interest, the members of the Committee should be precluded from serving on any other Committee which controls, supervises or otherwise oversees the funds, property, assets and trusts of Grand Chapter. Respectfully submitted, Jeffrey G. Burcham, Past High Priest, John Dove Chapter No. 21.

Jurisprudence Committee Comments: The committee is of the opinion that this resolution is in proper form for consideration by Grand Chapter. Since this resolution directly affects current members of this committee, further comment is deemed inappropriate.

Resolution #3: Proposal for Name Change of Chapter

Section 249 of the Digest of the Laws, Rules and Regulations of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia states that when two or more contiguous Chapter deem it in their best interest to consolidate, with the permission of the Grand High Priest the consolidation may take place. In this regard, Richmond Royal Arch Chapter No. 3 and Washington Royal Arch Chapter No. 9, both located in Richmond, VA, received permission and did consolidate effective July 1, 2018. Subsequent to the consolidation, it was decided to request a name change for the new Chapter. Therefore, be it resolved that the name of the Chapter be hereafter known as Richmond Washington 3-9 Royal Arch Chapter.

Reason for Resolution: Both Richmond RAC #3 and Washington RAC #9 are two of the oldest Chapters in the Jurisdiction. The Chapters have played a significant role in the growth of Royal

The Keystone of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia

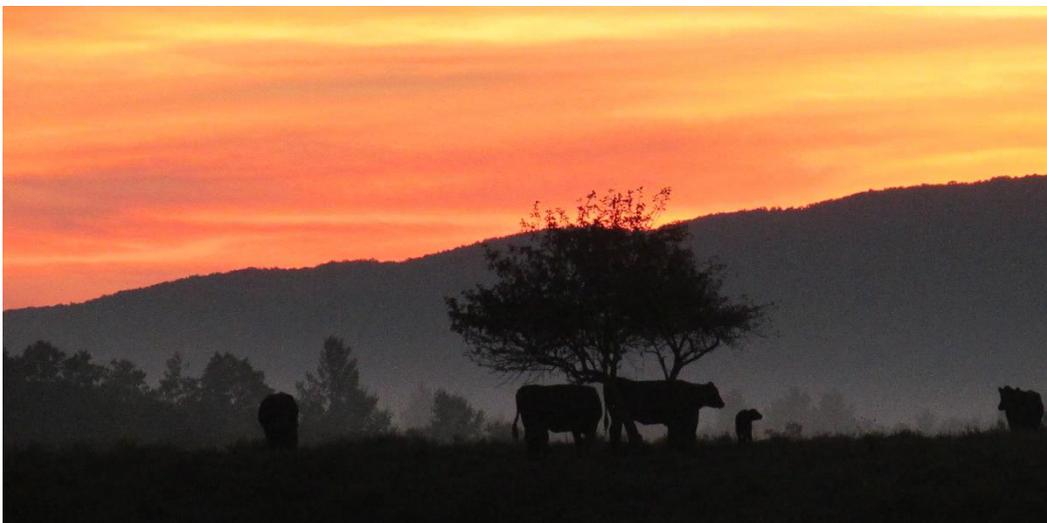
November 2018

Arch Masonry in Virginia, and the names should remain on the rolls of Chapters. Respectfully submitted by: Albert A. Dranoff, PHP, Washington RAC No. 9; Donald P. Harmon, PHP, Richmond RAC No. 3; Gordon H. Sprigg Jr., PHP, Washington RAC No. 9.

Jurisprudence Committee Comments: The committee is of the opinion that precedent has been set by naming other Chapters using names and numbers they requested, and the committee sees no reason to deny this request.

Ruling on a question from Fredericksburg Royal Arch Chapter No. 23.

The committee issued a ruling on a question from Fredericksburg Royal Arch Chapter No. 23 regarding the application for reinstatement from a member after being suspended for non-payment of dues. The committee ruled that Sections 238, 239, 240 and 241 apply to the application and must be complied with. Respectfully Submitted by: Meredith C. Hutto, Chairman; Howard F. Coleman; Russel G. Snodgrass; Danny L. Bowman; Nelson C. Trinkle Sr.



As he rides into the sunset, Grand High Priest Joe says “Y’all come visit now, ya hear?”