



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

# The Keystone

**March 2022 Vol. 6 No. 1**



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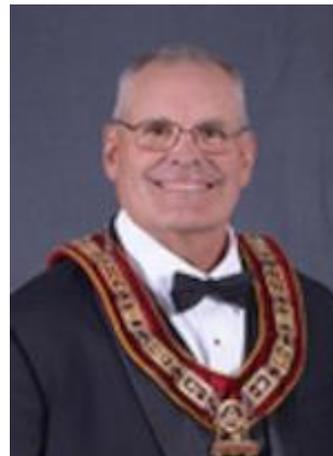
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Want your articles or pictures here? Or have a question for Zerubbabel? Send them to [thevakeystone@gmail.com](mailto:thevakeystone@gmail.com).

## The Grand High Priest/Most Illustrious Grand Master's Message



Ho, Companions; Recently, Lady Judy and I had the privilege of visiting Clintwood, Virginia on the occasion of my official visit to District 11. It was a great time and R.E. John Kendrick is to be commended on planning a great visit. We also

had the opportunity to visit with the Companions of District 17. Though we were not able to meet in person, it was a wonderful chance to speak to and with the members of that district. R.E. Ray Bacchus is doing a great job in his district. Some have asked if there is a specific format for the district visits. My answer to them is "No". It is important to see each district as they are. If we tell folk how we want things set up, then we might not get a true sense of how the chapters are doing. The visits that have been made so far have been great. Each was different. That was okay. As we visit during the year, it will be neat to see all of the differences. It is the differences in life that make us who we are. There are things that we need to hold fast to. We know when there are Royal Arch members around. They are the ones wearing the red coats.

That is what separates us from other groups. It does not make us better or worse. It is just different. So often, in life, some would be upset by the differences. We are not better or worse than others. It is interesting to see how people react to the differences they see in others. Sometimes, the reaction is not very pleasant. More often than not, the reaction is good.

The other day, one of my college students came up and asked me a question. What made this situation unique from other times is what the student was wearing. He had a pink skirt on. It caught me by surprise. Rather than make a big deal about it, the student's questions were simply answered, and we got on with class. In your daily lives, how would you have reacted upon seeing something like this? The students' choice of clothing was their own. It did not impact the class. It was just something that was different.

Our lives continue to be altered by the pandemic. Some districts have chosen to continue meeting online. Other districts are meeting in person. Some are doing a little bit of both. Though all might be different, the important point is that they are still meeting. We are working and accomplishing the tasks of our group. Is it perfect? The answer to that would probably be, "No." In life, is there anything that is perfect?

The important thing is to continue working on the important things. Many chapters are continuing the fundraising efforts for the Alzheimer's Foundation. Just as we participate in our walks, we know that our goals can be accomplished by putting one foot in front of the other. Does it mean that there won't be trying times? Does it mean that things are not as they should be? We need to remember that, when walking, we

might be confronted by a puddle. We can choose to go through the puddle, jump over it or go around it. The good thing is that most will not choose to turn around and go back where they came from. Keep moving forward Companions!

Peace,  
Mark Pennypacker  
Grand High Priest/Illustrious Grand Master

### The Grand King's Message



Companions:  
With the weather becoming warmer and more pleasant to get out of our respective homes, let us remember to support our Grand High Priest, ME Mark Pennypacker, with our attendance as he continues to

make his Official Visits throughout our state.

For those Chapters that are struggling, connect with other local Chapters that are growing and ask what they are doing to encourage growth in membership and attendance.

Discuss the tactics they are using and see if it will work for your Chapter. To survive you have to be willing to change!

Do not forget to use the Grand Chapter website for the many sources of information it contains. Also, ask the Worshipful Master of the local Lodges for his permission to present a program on the Royal Arch. Hopefully it will have a positive impact and you will be able to attract more candidates.

Lastly if you have information on your

Chapter and/or Companions promoting the Royal Arch, be sure to submit it to the editor of the Keystone, Rt. Ex. Jim Landerkin, at [thevakeystone@gmail.com](mailto:thevakeystone@gmail.com) to be included in an upcoming edition of the Keystone for all the Companions to read.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone in November at Grand Chapter, if not before.

Fraternally,  
Lee Arritt  
Grand King

## The Grand Almoner's Message



Companions – Tis the time of the year to begin planning. For what, you may ask? The weather is getting warmer, the days are getting longer, time changes on March 13 and Spring arrives on

March 20, we will be able to commence outdoor activities. These outdoor activities can only be successful if we adopt the 7 Ps of Amphibious Warfare, shortened to allow publication in a “G” audience magazine.

They are:

PROPER  
PRIOR  
PLANNING  
PREVENTS  
(Edited P)  
POOR  
PERFORMANCE

Even a simple Chapter BBQ and Corn Hole event, just for Chapter families, requires planning on the part of the “organizers” to be successful. How much more planning does an event require when the Chapter wishes to involve the local community, obtain local business sponsors, etc. take?

District 4 of the Blue Lodge holds a golf tournament every year, suspended for COVID in 2020, and the results are fairly impressive. In 2019 the tournament raised over \$8,000.00 after all expenses and prizes were paid out. This was not planned overnight, and each Lodge had a specific task to accomplish. The 2021 tournament raised a similar amount. The District 4 DDGM Trophy is awarded to the Lodge with the highest participation, players and funds donated, as an added incentive. We start planning for the next tournament well in advance, say 6 months, of the next one. Your Royal Arch District can apply the same principles to your next event.

This is just an example of what can be accomplished by applying the 7 Ps. Any event will be more successful when it is the beneficiary of advance planning.

Finally, Companions, Valentine's Day has passed, 14 February, and I hope that we all remembered our loved ones, especially those who may not have realized it occurred and has passed.

Fraternally,  
Chuck Trude PM, PHP, PC  
Grand Almoner

## The Grand Provost's Message



My Dear Companions,  
I hope this finds you  
and yours safe and well.  
It is an honor and a  
pleasure to be serving  
you as Grand Provost  
and Chairman of the  
Grand Chapter and  
Grand Council  
Committee on  
Education and Service

this Capitular Year. M.E. and M.I. Mark has provided his plan and we are busy at work! The following is what we are up to, and an invitation for you to reach me with your thoughts and ideas. It is together, invested, will we strengthen our Chapters and Councils.

The Chapter and Council Officer Training Manual has been completed and added to the website under the “Forms and Information” page (further under Miscellaneous <https://virginiaroyalarch.org/forms/>).

It has also been added to the Education page (in the block at the bottom below the Educational Programs and Materials): <https://virginiaroyalarch.org/education/>. This will provide Companions with a better understanding of what is expected, allowing them to better succeed and Chapters and Councils to thrive.

We continue working to increase the listing of resource materials on the website: <https://virginiaroyalarch.org/education/>. Many of the programs have been used by Companions both in and out of this Grand Jurisdiction to provide light in their Chapter and Councils. Please do reach me with programs or links to sites that you feel would

be a good resource to share.

The Correspondence Courses will soon be launched electronically. This will provide the opportunity for you to enjoy an experience whereby you can take the courses individually or as a group and allows you to complete them at your leisure, wherever you may choose to do so. The course itself has been updated; the lessons are located at <https://virginiaroyalarch.org/education/>.

Your Committee on Education and Service continues to strive to bring you news and helpful information via The Keystone Newsletter publication. It always makes for a better publication when Companions provide input to allow us to share what is going with the rest of the jurisdiction. We encourage you to provide input as often as possible. Please submit entries to [thevakeystone@gmail.com](mailto:thevakeystone@gmail.com).

The Grand Chapter & Grand Council Committee on Education and Service is continuing to provide opportunities for our collective improvement and enlightenment, through virtual educational presentations. These sessions will be held on the Zoom platform on the following dates:

### **26 March 2022**

10:00 to 11:00 am

Most Ex. Companion Nicholas J. Sampogna,  
GHP

### **25 June 2022**

10:00 to 11:00 am

Companion Sean D. Graystone

### **24 September 2022**

10:00 to 11:00 am

Most Illustrious Companion John Bridegroom,  
MIPGM

# The Virginia Keystone Newsletter – March 2022

Join the Zoom Meetings at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85841652609?pwd=Nmt1RGFxaEpHMGVTdm83TkDORDF3QT09>

Meeting ID: 858 4165 2609, Passcode 992126

Sincerely and fraternally yours in friendship  
and service,

Raymon W. Bacchus  
Grand Provost

## Grand High Priest / Grand Illustrious Master Official Visits for March, April and May:

March 19, District 20, Chapter 75; Lunch, 12:00 noon; Chincoteague

March 26, District 14, Chapters 2, 24, 44, Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; Clifton Forge

April 23, District 21, Chapters 11, 20, 72; Lunch, 12:00 noon; Chesapeake

May 21, District 18, Chapters 13, 47, 58, 64; Lunch, 12:00 noon; Charlottesville

May 28, District 4, Chapters 7, 3-9, 89; Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; Altavista



The MEGHP / MIGM's Official Visit to the 11<sup>th</sup> Capitular District on 19 February.



**Red Coat Night.** District 2 of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia was hosted by Willis V. Fentress Lodge No. 296, for a Red Coat Night, Tuesday, March 1, 2022. Worshipful Harry Kellett presented a program about Royal Arch Masonry. It was a very successful event attended by 23 Companions.

Attendees:

Front Row Left to Right: Comp Steve Suratos, Ex Brian Cox (HP PARAC #1607), Rt. Ex. Danny B. Diego, Comp Ron Estepa, WM/Com Frank Beard (WM of Willis V. Fentress Lodge #296), Comp Harry Kellett, Rt. Ex. Gil Cruz, Rt. Ex. Ralph Jones, Comp Jose Cintron.

Middle Row: Rt. Ex. Richard Collins, Rt. Ex. Fred Dixon, Comp Brian Rumly, Comp Gary Johnson, Rt. Ex. Randy Johnson (Grand Lecturer), Comp Russell Bradshaw, Comp Michael Johnstone, Comp Charles Abatsis.

Back Row: Comp David Rush, Ex. Robert Ives (HP NURAC #1), Rt. Ex. David R. Conner (District Deputy Grand High Priest, 2nd Capitular District 2022) Ex. William Peterson, Ex. Graham "Chip" Winston, Comp Paul Schirle.

## The Virginia Keystone Newsletter – March 2022

On Monday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, Waynesboro-Union RAC No. 2 conferred the Royal Arch Degree on six candidates, three from Waynesboro-Union RAC No. 2 and three from Keystone RAC No. 58. The degree work, which was excellent, was planned and executed by Mt. Ex. Russel G. Snodgrass.



At Pearisburg No. 29, High Priest Clay Bane was presented with the quilt he won in the December Raffle.

The presentation was made by DDGHP Maxwell during his quarterly visit. The quilt was crafted by Maxwell's mother and her friends.