



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

The Keystone

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thevakeystone@gmail.com.

GRAND HIGH PRIEST/ MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE

Ho Companions!

As I write my last article for the Keystone, I have just finished attending the several meetings of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Maryland, the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Maryland, and the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Maryland in Frederick, Maryland, and am now looking forward to the Banquet this Saturday evening which will be full of fellowship and fun with the many Companions in attendance. October has been a busy month for traveling and visiting the Companions, with visits to the Grand Chapter. The last big event I will have left to attend is the Grand Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Virginia which I believe will be the highlight of all my many visitations.

When this article comes out, I will either be getting ready to finish up my year as your Grand High Priest and Most



Illustrious Grand Master, or will have completed it. Either way, it has been a most enjoyable year to have served all the Companions of our Great Commonwealth. Lady Donna and I have been warmly received in all of our visits, both in state and out of state, and we will never forget the many friends we

have, and new friends we have made in our travels. If you have the slightest desire of ever becoming a Grand Officer and to eventually serve as Grand High Priest and Most Illustrious Grand Master, I strongly recommend that you follow your dream and become active with your Chapter and Council, your District and attend and participate in the activities of your Grand Chapter and Grand Council to learn more about Capitular and Cryptic Masonry. You will never regret your decision to do so! It has been a most exciting and wonderful journey and I want to personally thank ALL the Companions for electing me to serve and allowing me

to continue to serve you when I transition from office, if God permits for many years to come.

With that being said, I want to encourage you to attend our Grand Convocation on November 17th and 18th in Williamsburg. Show your support for the incoming Grand Line of Officers for the next Year 2023-2024 and when asked to help out, do your best to do so. It will be very much appreciated! We have an excellent group of dedicated Masons advancing in Grand Line, and I personally believe we have one of the best Grand Chapters and Grand Councils that exist today. In order to keep on top of our game, we need to continue to grow our membership, educate our Companions through the many programs we offer, continue to support our philanthropy, make our meetings more meaningful so our

attendance will grow, support our Chapters and Councils by visiting them, learn the ritual for both the opening/closing of our Chapters and also for conferring the Degrees, and lastly, remember to work together in all our endeavors and Live by the Golden Rule.

Again, Thank You All for your support and God Bless You and our Great Nation.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Hafford Lee Arritt, Jr.

Grand High Priest

Most Illustrious Grand Master

CONVOCATION AGENDA

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2023:

9:00 A.M. ST. THOMAS OF ACON

PLACE: **CENTRAL LOUNGE**
WHO: MEMBERS ONLY.
DRESS: COAT and TIE.
ADMISSION: MEMBERS ONLY.

1:00 P.M. COMMITTEE ON WORK:

PLACE: **AMPHITHEATER**
WHO: COMMITTEE ON WORK.
DISTRICT LECTURERS.
ASSISTANT DISTRICT
LECTURERS. GRAND CHAPTER
OFFICERS. DRESS: CASUAL.

4:00 P.M. OVERVIEW AND PRACTICE MEETING WITH THE GRAND CHAPTER OFFICERS:

PLACE: **ADAMS BALLROOM**
DRESS: CASUAL

**6:00 P.M. YORK RITE COLLEGE - RECEPTION AND DINNER:
TO
8:00 P.M.**

PLACE: **HARRISON BALLROOM 1 & 2**
WHO: MEMBERS OF YORK RITE COLLEGE & INVITED GUESTS.
DRESS: TUXEDO.
ADMISSION: TICKET ONLY.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2023:

**7:00 A.M. TO
3:00 P.M. REGISTRATION – PROMENADE REGISTRATION DESK**

**7:30 A.M. TO
8:30 A.M. GRAND CHAPTER OFFICER'S BREAKFAST:**

PLACE: **ROOMS 2 & 3**
WHO: GRAND CHAPTER OFFICERS AND WIVES.
DRESS: RED COAT WITH GRAND CHAPTER TIE OR TUXEDO.
ADMISSION: INVITATION ONLY

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2023:

**9:00 A.M. TO
10:15 A.M. SUPER EXCELLENT MASTERS' DEGREE:
(CAST REPORTS AT 8:00 A.M.)**

PLACE: **ADAMS BALLROOM**
WHO: REGISTERED CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE
DRESS: CANDIDATES – COAT AND TIE
ADMISSION: MEMBERS WHO HAVE RECEIVED THE DEGREE

10:30 A.M. **ALL DISTINGUISHED GUESTS ASSEMBLE OUTSIDE ADAMS BALLROOM**

10:45 A.M. PUBLIC OPENING OF GRAND CHAPTER:
TO RECEPTION OF DISTINGUISHED GUESTS:
11:45 A.M.

PLACE: **ADAMS BALLROOM**
WHO: MEMBERS, WIVES and GUESTS
DRESS: GRAND CHAPTER OFFICERS - TUXEDO.
MEMBERS: DARK SUIT OR RED COAT WITH TIE.
ADMISSION: OPEN.

(NOTE: ALL GRAND CHAPTER OFFICERS TO BE IN THEIR SEAT BY 10:40 A.M.)

11:00 A.M. HOSPITALITY SUITE:
TO
12:45 P.M.

PLACE: **ROOM 18**
WHO: ALL ATTENDEES
DRESS: CASUAL.
ADMISSION: OPEN.

1:00 P.M. OFFICIAL OPENING OF GRAND CHAPTER (MEMBERS OF THE CRAFT ONLY.)

PLACE: **ADAMS BALLROOM**
DRESS: GRAND CHAPTER OFFICERS – TUXEDO.
MEMBERS: DARK SUIT OR RED COAT WITH TIE.

4:00 P.M. CALL OFF GRAND CHAPTER.

6:30 P.M. GRAND HIGH PRIEST'S BANQUET:

PLACE: **HARRISON AND TAYLOR BALLROOMS**
WHO: INVITED GUESTS.
DRESS: GENTLEMEN - TUXEDO (PREFERRED), RED COAT WITH TIE
OR DARK SUIT.
DRESS: LADIES - FORMAL (PREFERRED) OR CHURCH DRESS.
ADMISSION: INVITATION ONLY.

10:00 P.M. OLD SARATOGA DEGREE

PLACE: **ROOM 2 & 3**
WHO: CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE.
DRESS: CANDIDATES - COAT AND TIE.
ADMISSION: MEMBERS WHO HAVE RECEIVED THE DEGREE.

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 18, 2023:

7:00 A. M. **REGISTRATION – PROMENADE REGISTRATION DESK**
TO
11:00 A.M.

7:15 A. M. **GRAND KING'S BREAKFAST**
TO
8:45 A. M. **PLACE: ROOM A & B**
WHO: 2023 - 2024 HIGH PRIESTS AND DDGHP'S.
DRESS: RED COAT WITH TIE OR DARK SUIT.
ADMISSION: INVITATION ONLY

7:30 A. M. **GRAND HIGH PRIEST'S BREAKFAST:**
TO
8:30 A.M. **PLACE: ROOM 11**
WHO: GRAND CHAPTER OFFICERS AND WIVES.
PAST GRAND HIGH PRIEST'S AND WIVES.
INVITED GUESTS
DRESS: GENTLEMEN: RED COAT WITH TIE. OR DARK SUIT.
LADIES: STREET DRESS.
ADMISSION: INVITATION ONLY

9:00 A. M. **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE GRAND CHAPTER:**

PLACE: ADAMS BALLROOM
WHO: ALL MEMBERS.
DRESS: RED COAT WITH TIE OR DARK SUIT WITH TIE

11:30 A. M. **PAST GRAND HIGH PRIEST'S LUNCHEON MEETING:**

PLACE: ROOM A & B
WHO: ALL PAST GRAND PRIESTS.
DRESS: MEETING ATTIRE

11:30 A.M. **HOSPITALITY SUITE:**
TO
2:00 P. M. **PLACE: ROOM 18**
WHO: ALL ATTENDEES.
DRESS: CASUAL.
ADMISSION: OPEN.

1:00 P. M. **ANOINTED HIGH PRIEST DEGREE:**

PLACE: ADAMS BALLROOM
WHO: CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE.
DRESS: CANDIDATES - COAT AND TIE.
ADMISSION: MEMBERS WHO HAVE RECEIVED THE DEGREE.

12:30 P.M. **GRAND PHOTOGRAPHER**
TO
4:00 P.M. **PLACE: ROOM 16**
WHO: INCOMING GRAND CHAPTER OFFICERS AND DDGHP'S
DRESS: TUXEDO

- 2:00 P. M.** **GRAND SECRETARY'S MEETING:**
PLACE: **ROOM A & B**
WHO: CHAPTER SECRETARIES.
DRESS: CASUAL.
ADMISSION: OPEN TO SECRETARIES.
- 2:30 P.M.** **COMMANDERY MEETING**
PLACE: **ROOM 15**
WHO: SIR KNIGHTS
- 2:30 P. M.** **COUNCIL OF THRICE ILLUSTRIOUS MASTERS DEGREE:**
PLACE: **ADAMS BALLROOM**
WHO: CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE.
DRESS: CANDIDATES - COAT AND TIE.
ADMISSION: MEMBERS WHO HAVE RECEIVED THE DEGREE.
- 4:00 P. M.** **KYCH MEETING**
PLACE: **ADAMS BALLROOM**
WHO: MEMBERS AND CANDIDATES
DRESS: CASUAL
- 4:15 P.M.** **GRAND OFFICER'S MEETING**
PLACE: **ROOMS A & B**
WHO: GRAND CHAPTER OFFICERS ONLY
DRESS: CASUAL
- 6:30 P.M.** **LADIES BANQUET**
TO
8:00 P. M. PLACE: **HARRISON 1 & 2**
WHO: LADIES
ADMISSION OPEN / RESERVATION ONLY
- 7:00 P.M** **GRAND CHAPTER - FINAL SESSION – ELECTIONS:**
PLACE: **ADAMS BALLROOM**
WHO: MEMBERS ONLY.
DRESS: GRAND CHAPTER OFFICERS - TUXEDO.
- 8:30 P. M.** **PUBLIC INSTALLATION OF GRAND CHAPTER OFFICERS & DDGHPS:**
PLACE: **ADAMS BALLROOM**
WHO: MEMBERS AND INVITED GUESTS.
DRESS: GRAND CHAPTER OFFICERS - TUXEDO.
DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND HIGH PRIESTS:
TUXEDO (PREFERRED) OR DARK SUIT.
- 10:00 P. M.** **RECEPTION FOR THE GRAND HIGH PRIEST**
PLACE: **ROOM 18**
WHO: ALL ATTENDEES.
DRESS: CASUAL.
ADMISSION: OPEN.

CHAPTER / COUNCIL NEWS

District No. 17

On Thursday, November 1, District 17 successfully exalted 11 candidates to the

status of Companion. The Great Work was held on November 1 at Fauquier Royal Arch Chapter No. 25 in Fairfax, Va. It was an outstanding evening. Excellent work was performed by all!

