

MASONIC BULLETIN – FALL 2020 EDITION
Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of WV, F. & A.M., Inc.



OFFICE OF
Jeffrey Calcote 33°
MW GRAND MASTER

JURISDICTION OF WEST VIRGINIA
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Message from MWGM Jeffrey Calcote, Sr. 33°



Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

As we are now over 6 months into this pandemic. I hope and pray none of you have been severely impacted by this dreadful virus. Although I miss traveling and fellowshipping with our members, I'm proud of the Brothers who are finding creative ways to interact with each other. The Communication team is doing a fantastic job in assisting the craft to continue its work.

Editor-in-Chief Although we had to cancel our 2020 Grand Session, the business of Grand Lodge continues. The Grand Trustees are actively working to sell our unused properties. We hope to be able to invest in other properties which will create new revenue streams that will sustain us for many years to come.

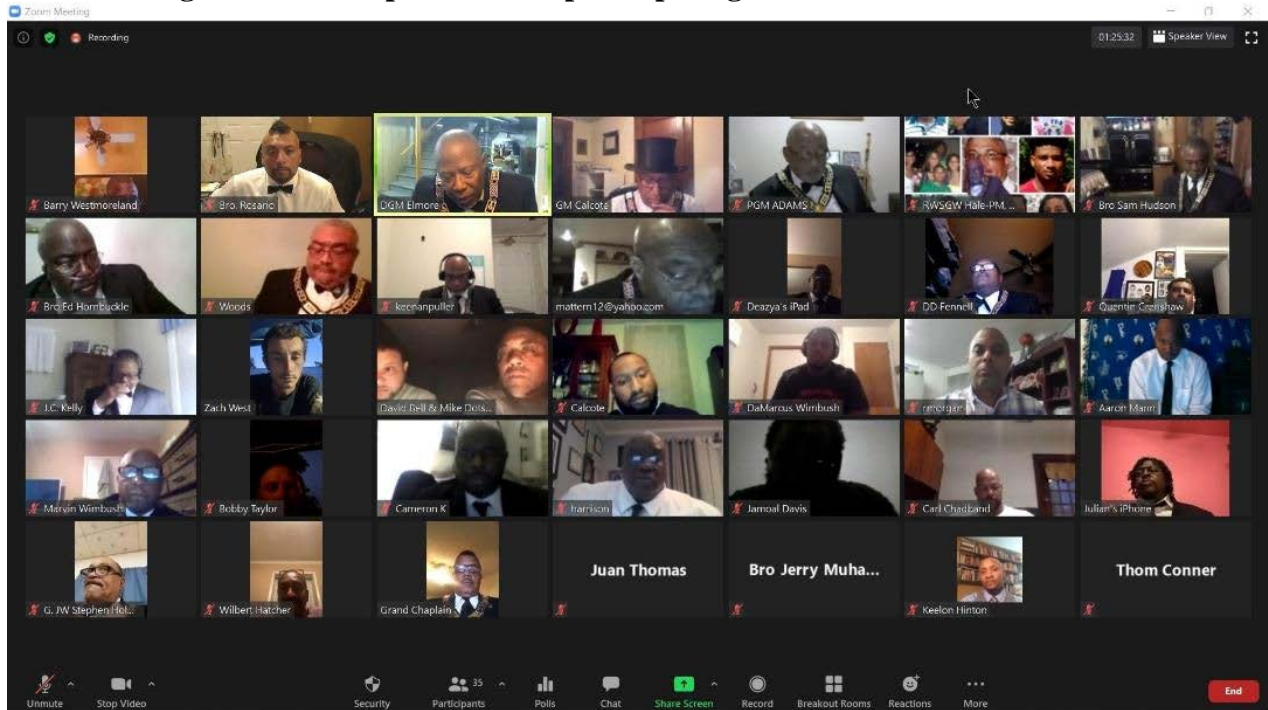
I also want to recognize the Jurisprudence committee. They have met and made recommendations to upgrade our constitution. There are also a few proposed amendments that will be circulated and voted on at our 2021 Grand Communication next June.

As I occasionally sit in on the weekly Zoom classes and meetings, I realize that the individuals who regularly participate are truly dedicated to our organization. It has become apparent that these few committed Masons are the future leadership of Prince Hall Masonry in West Virginia.

I pray that this pandemic ends soon with minimal damage to our family and friends, and that we will return to normalcy. Until then, May God continue to Bless you all.

Hon. Jeffrey M. Calcote
MWGM

The Honorable M W Grand Master Jeffrey M. Calcote, Sr. obligated 14 new Master Masons during a MWPHGL of WV, F & A M, Inc. Virtual Lodge on Saturday, September 26, 2020. The following screenshot captured those participating.



The newly obligated Master Masons were: Jamoal Keron Davis & Carl T. Chadband of Washington Lodge #4, F & A M; Jeffrey Calcote, Jr. of King Solomon Lodge #5, F & A M; David Jerome Bell, Michael Dotson, Bobby Taylor, Cachery West, Wilbert Hatcher of Williamson Crown #16, & A M; Aaron Mann, Harrison Graves, Julian Holly, and Kenyon Cameron of Brothers of Harmony #42 F & A M; DaMarcus Wimbush & Richard Morgan of Bluefield Lodge #43 F & A M.

Those in attendance were: MWGM Jeffrey Calcote #5; RWDGM Kelvin Elmore #34; RWSGW Kenneth L. Hale, Sr #4; RWJGW Stephen Holmes #42; RWGT/MWHPGM Ray B. Woods, Jr #4; RWGS Keelon Hinton #2; MWPGM Phillip Adams #42; MWHPGM Edmond L. Hornbuckle III #2; WGS Steward Curtis McGhee #5; WG Chaplain Carl Johnson #16; WG Director of Communication Paul Rosario #42; 1st DDGM Bernard Fennell #42; 4th DDGM Quentin Crenshaw #43; 5th DDGM Thom Conner III #4; SW Samuel Hudson #4; WM Keenan Puller #42; and WM Jerry Muhammad #4; WM Juan Thomas #43; WM Barry Westmoreland; and PM J C Kelly #2.



MWGM Jeffrey Calcote, Sr. poses with his son, Master Mason Jeffrey Calcote, Jr. after being duly obligated into the fraternity.



RWDGM Kelvin H. Elmore 32°

To all of my Brethren and Sisters of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall of West Virginia, I bid you good day. This will be my article for the Fall Bulletin. This pandemic has placed us in a situation that has never been suffered by any of our Elders in my lifetime. We can't sit and converse with one another nor can we just sit and hug someone and shake their hands. We are suffering something that strikes directly at our core values and is to love one another. But we must continue to strive to hold ourselves together and make our way to the other side. This too shall pass and we have to stay prepared.

During this time we haven't been able to travel unless it was absolutely necessary and we are holding to that. I haven't been able to do my normal visiting, but some things call for you to step out of your comfort zone. We lost our "Beautiful and Loving Sister Dionne Dee Dee Brown" and I had to travel to see her final Rites performed. Dee Dee traveled this state and beyond and showed her love for the Chapters and it stretched over to the Brothers. I am going to so miss my Sister and greeting her while out there on the road.

My article will be short because there have been few things that we can do in this pandemic. I can say that we have had Zoom Meetings for the Cabinet Meetings and we have had a few virtual Lodge meetings. We conducted Zoom Lessons on our upper Degrees in which we brought in a few Brothers. I am at a loss for words for this article because I do everything that I can to promote our Craft. If you are able, please pick up any reading material such as the MWPHGL of WV Ritual, Constitution and Bylaws, and the Protocol and Procedures. Stay sharp in this time of darkness.

Thank you,

RWDGM K.H. ELMORE



RWSGW Kenneth L. Hale, Sr. 33°

Blast from the Past

If I were to ask you, Brethren the question which is most in your upperminds on this auspicious occasion I think I should meet with the almost unanimous response, that your presence here indicates your love and zeal for Masonry.

From all over this broad commonwealth you have come as the proud representatives of the one of the oldest and most highly regarded fraternities known to men; an institution that the peasant loves and the nobleman patronizes; one that knows no distinction, practices no deception, one that has endured because of its worth and the blessings it has brought to the human family. If in life you have no other claim upon the gratitude of men, if fame passes you by, if fortune does not linger, but nods carelessly and is gone, if you have been the recipient of the arts and mysteries of Masonry and the boon that it confers, and have

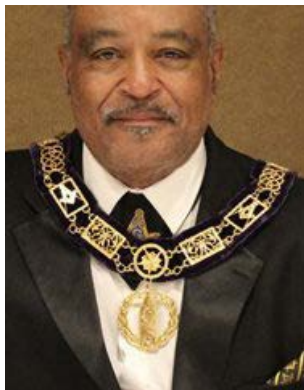
lived up to its magnificent teachings, have practiced its tenets, and have tried to inculcate its true religious spirit and principles, you may proudly boast of the fact that you are Master Masons.

Now, we are meeting again.....to renew friendships, comingle in expression of brotherly love and affection, and to bring forward plans and designs for the upbuilding of the Craft, to oversee the work and to render an account of our trust. In selecting the beautiful city (?) for the scene of our labors, I believe you made a wise selection. Here, many brothers are inspired to be zealous and devoted all of their lives to Masonry. The Lodge in this city (?), is justly regarded as one of the best in our jurisdiction. It always sends as representatives to the Grand Lodge spokesmen who are wise in the jurisprudence of Masonry, and its history seems to be familiar to all of them. The interest they display from year to year is certainly gratifying., and we should always come here with the feeling that we are to receive not only a cordial welcome and splendid hospitality, but we are to receive a blessing as well.

Looking into your faces now, and as I passed through the streets on this fair and delightful morning, the words of Charles Mackey come ringing into my ear. You must remember he said in his poem: “Tubal Cain”

“Old Tubal Cain was a man of Might,
In the days when the earth was young,
By the fierce red light of his furnace bright,
The strokes of his hammer rung,
Till the sparks rushed out in scarlet showers,
As he fashioned the sword and spear,
As he sang—hurrah! for my handiwork;
Hurrah for the hand that shall wield them well,
Hurrah for the spear and sword
For he shall be King and Lord”

Brethren, let us endeavor by our hands to wield well the working tools of Masonry as did Tubal Cain.



RWJGW Stephen Holmes 32°

Historical Event

It was an honor to have participated with the current and past Grand Lodge Officers, Constituent Lodge officers, members and candidates. It was a blessing to assist with the honor of bestowing three masonic degrees upon our candidates desiring to follow in the footsteps of those of those who have laid the foundation for the MWP HGL F & AM Inc.

of West Virginia. We want our new Master Masons to enjoy the blessings and experiences as we have from those who laid the masonic foundation for us.

We continue to overcome obstacles resulting from the COVID19 pandemic. In unity, we continue to procure ways of progression to provide light from one of the greatest fraternities in the world. This historical event was an illustration of love for and about our fraternity. I wish to thank the leaders and all brothers for fulfilling their responsibilities to our jurisdiction and the candidates. My prayers are for continued qualitative growth of our jurisdiction and new Master Masons.

The Road (by Carl H. Claude)

So many men before thy altars kneel
unthinking to promise brotherhood
so few remain humbly to kiss the rood
with ears deafened to thy mute appeal
so many find the symbols less than real.

Their teachings are mystic, hard to understand,
so few there are in all thy far flung band
to hold thy banner high and draw thy steel
and yet immortal and most mighty thou
what hath thy lore of life to let it live
what is thy vital spark hid in thy vow
thy millions learned as thy dear paths they trod
the secret of the strength though hast to give
I am a way of common men to God.

Personal Accomplishments

Chaired and participated in various Jurisprudence Committee meetings; Renewed my Jefferson County NAACP Membership; Attended the Jefferson County Event on Racial Injustice; Attended weekly Masonic training sessions; Continued to head up the weekly area food distribution project; Attended the BOH #42 initiation for five candidates receiving the Entered Apprentice Degree; Participated in the Virtual Degree work and presentation for the E.A., F.C., and Master Mason Degrees conducted by the MWPHGL F & AM Inc., of the Jurisdiction of West Virginia; Attended the Homecoming Celebration for OES Sister Dee Dee Brown; and Will attend the MW Grandmaster's Cabinet Meeting October 17, 2020

GWM Angelia Russell



Greetings:

We are still prayerful that all sisters and brothers are staying safe and well doing Covid-19. It is my wish that we continue to pray for each other doing this difficult time.

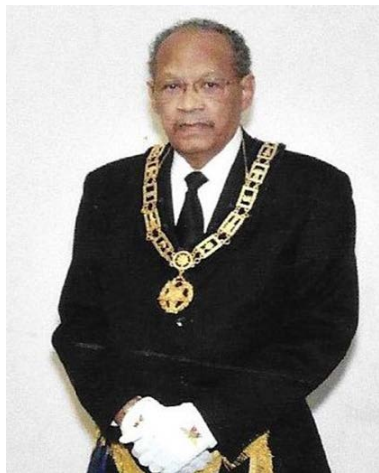
I'm grateful for the Chapters that are keeping the line of communication open of their intentions to move our organization forward.

WE HAVE COME THIS FAR BY FAITH

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he

shall direct thy paths.

GWP Raleigh L. Collins, Sr. 32°



I greet you in the name of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Recognizing the adverse limitations the pandemic has placed on every aspect of our daily activities, since February 2020, it is my prayer that your family and friends have not been adversely affected.

Our Eastern Star Chapters, not meeting person-to-person, because of the pandemic have been offered the opportunity to meet virtually via zoom.

May we continue to look forward, maintaining our faith in our Lord and Savior.

From the Desk of the Grand Secretary



Sisters and Brothers, I bring you greetings. I hope and pray that you and your families are doing well during this COVID-19 pandemic.

I had the opportunity to have zoom meetings with Grand Worthy Matrons and Past Grand Worthy Matrons throughout the county and Canada. They are in the same situation as we are, and struggling with decisions on how to conduct the business of the Grand Chapter and Subordinate Chapters. Most Grand Chapters are meeting by zoom and some Subordinate Chapters are as well. I will be having these meetings monthly in order to stay connected.

Our Grand Chapter lost two dedicated Eastern Star members that can never be replaced; PGWM Cadaris B. Woods and GAC Dionne "DeeDee" Brown.

When Truth Chapter #2 came back to the Grand Chapter after several years of being inactive, PGWM Woods was Grand Worthy Matron. She welcomed our members with open arms and was

always ready to help and assist our Chapter. She made an effort to attend our district functions. I personally will miss her kind words of encouragement and loving spirit. GAC Dionne "Dee Dee" Brown was always willing to help wherever she could. I recall when I was Grand Worthy Matron, I asked her to organize a play for our visiting Jurisdiction. She went above and beyond to make it special. They still talk about it. Her laughter, kindness and cakes will be greatly missed.

My hope and prayers are that we will be able to see each other soon and carry out the good work of Electa Prince Hall Grand Chapter.

Hope everyone stays safe and we remember, we are "Fairest Among Thousands, Altogether Lovely."

Angelina Calcote, PGWM
Grand Secretary

FIRST DISTRICT

Bernard Fennell 1st DDGM
Gail Rhodes 1st DDGWM



Congratulations to Nicholas Manning. son of Sister Nikki Manning of Deborah Chapter #38, OES. Nicholas received the Tuskegee Airman, Inc award, ribbon and certificate. This award is for Sustained superior performance in the cadet corps exemplified through outstanding leadership, AFJROTC participation, academic performance and service to the community, school and unit.

THIRD DISTRICT

Maurice Clemmons 3rd DDGM
Cora Hairston 3rd DDGWM



Brothers from Williamson Crown Lodge #16 attending Brother Rev. David Bell's Homegoing Services (I am my Brother's Keeper). L-R Michael Johnson, George Childress, Doug Starghill, Carl Johnson, PJ Wright II, Henry Moore, Marvin Brown and David Jones.



Brothers of the 3rd District ready to work and receive their wages. SMIB

**Past Master Lacy Smith of Guyan Valley #21 Celebrating his 100th Birthday.
Pictured with him is PGWM Betty Smith of Queen of Sheba #8**



FOURTH DISTRICT

**Quentin Crenshaw 4th DDGM
Lydia Joyce 5th DDGWM**

Greetings from the 4th District consisting of Kimball Lodge #13; Keystone Lodge #12; and Bluefield Lodge #43. The covid-19 pandemic has made it impossible for our Subordinate Lodges to meet in the traditional form. I am encouraging the Brothers of the 4th District to accept the value of virtual meetings. Their participation in regular scheduled virtual meetings will maintain our organization's health as a whole. The lifeblood of any organization is to maintain its ability to communicate, conduct lodge business, and obligate new members.

The WV Prince Hall Grand Lodge successfully raised 14 new candidates virtually, on Saturday, September 26, 2020. Two of whom are now members of Bluefield Lodge #43. This increased our membership from 6 to 8. Bluefield began operating on November 17, 2018 under a Dispensation from the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of WV, F & A M, Inc. Our two new newly obligated Brothers bring new energy and life to the table. The excitement of discussions, questions, and learning the art of freemasonry, has ignited a new fire under our Brothers. With that being said, Bluefield Lodge has accepted the new normal and hope the rest of the District will follow. Also, the 4th District thanks Grand Worshipful Master Jeffery Calcote, and the Grand Lodge Officers for making the bold decision to perform the virtual degree work, and having the ability to make the necessary changes that these trying times have bestowed upon our fraternity. **Quentin Crenshaw 4th DDGM.**

Worthy Matron Phirstina Williams Marie Chapter #49, Order of the Eastern Star

Reflections

Marie Chapter #49, Order of the Eastern Star, an Affiliate of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of West Virginia, Free and Accepted Masons Inc.

Though 78 (seventy-eight) years have come and gone, Marie Chapter #49 Order of the Eastern Star located in Kimball, West Virginia continues to thrive. Our journey as Eastern Stars began in 1942. The Jurisdiction of West Virginia was the driving force in getting us organized.

Grand Worthy Matron, Marie Davis and Grand Worthy Patron, Charles E. Taper were the organizers. The meeting was held at the First Baptist Church in Kimball, West Virginia. The elected officers were Sister Fannie S. Brown, Worthy Matron; Rev. J.R. Brown Worthy Patron; and Sister Mildred Arnold Secretary.

A new journey was about to take place and we were moving in the direction of acquainting ourselves with the work that needed to be done in this new adventure. There were errors and misguidance yet, our goals were to make Marie Chapter #49 worthy of its name.

Marie Chapter has been blessed with great leadership during our 78 years of service within our communities. The **Worthy Matrons** were: Sister Inez Young; Sister Anna Edwards, Sister Ella Harris; Sister Marzet Slade; Sister Mildred Arnold; Sister Bessie Mae Collins; Sister Lela Dickerson; Sister Mary Oatneal; Sister Annie Johnson; Sister Willie N. Weaver; Sister Geraldine Eubanks; Sister Lula Murrell; Sister Lydia Joyce; Sister Pamela George; and Sister Brenda Farmer. Our **Worthy Patrons** were: Rev. J.R. Brown; Rev. H.L. Robinson; Brother Leonard McClanahan; Brother Willie Wilkins; Brother Randolph DeLoatch; Brother Aaron Smedley; Brother Sidney George; and Brother Robert Redd .

Some of our Officers were elected to a seat in the Electa Prince Hall Grand Chapter. Worthy Matron Annie Johnson became Grand Worthy Matron; Worthy Matron Willie N. Weaver served as District Deputy Grand Worthy Matron and Grand Trustee; Worthy Patron John E. Collier served as District Deputy Grand Master and currently serves as a Right Worshipful Grand Trustee; and PWM Lydia Joyce Jones currently serves as the 4th District Deputy Grand Worthy Matron.

Our membership as of September 2020:

Worthy Matron Phirstina Williams; Worthy Patron John E, Collier 32°; Associate Matron Brenda Farmer; Associate Patron Robert Redd; Conductress Rosa Smith; Associate Conductress Myrtle Woody; Secretary Michelle Hargrave; Treasurer Willie N. Weaver; Ada Debra Preston; Ruth Pamela George; Esther Margaret Nemore; Martha Rita Gravely; Electa Laura Smedley; Sister Lula Murrell (shut-in); and 4th District Deputy Grand Worthy Matron Lydia Jones Joyce.

We, the members of Marie Chapter #49, Order of the Eastern Star, are committed and will continue to be committed to our past, as we travel this journey by faith and remember our motto “LOVE ONE ANOTHER.”

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.” **Prov. 3:5.**

FIFTH DISTRICT

Thomas Conner III 32° 5th DDGM
PGWM Jacqueline Hornbuckle 5th DDGWM

A Brief History of Alexander Freeman Lodge # 2

Alexander Freeman Lodge # 2 is the second oldest lodge in the jurisdiction of the state of West Virginia. It was chartered on the 6th day of October 1951. History relates to us that our Lodge inherited its name from two individual Lodges that were presently operating in the City of Huntington.

Alexander Lodge # 2 was organized in the year of 1924. Freeman Lodge # 4 was organized in year of 1881.

At the Seventy-Fifth (75th) proceedings of the Grand Lodge of West Virginia on June 10, 1952 the Grand Master read the petitions from Alexander Lodge # 2 and Freeman Lodge # 4 of Huntington, was signed by the Officers of both Crafts and a joint committee and were merged on May 15, and was known from that point on as Alexander-Freeman Lodge # 2, which began with a membership of 102 members.

Alexander Freeman Lodge Veterans



Willis Carter ARMY Vietnam



Charles Newsom ARMY RESERVES



Willie Kates – ARMY



Detroit Lewis ARMY



Detroit Lewis ARMY



Edmond L. Hornbuckle III A/F



Michael Hornbuckle A/F

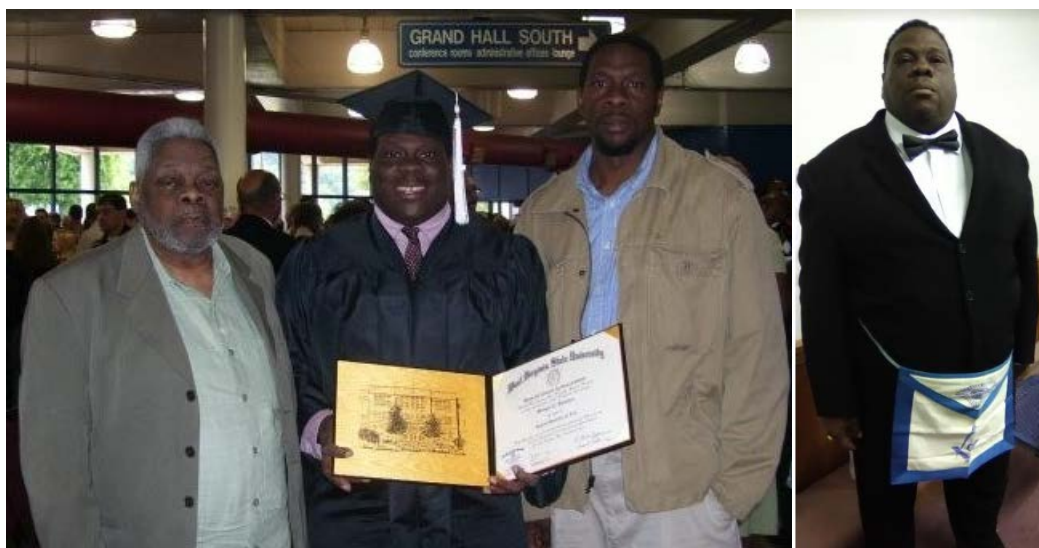


Brian Hornbuckle A/F



Dannie Ewing MARINES

During Uncertain Times, Fahe Provides Quality Experiences for Appalachia's Future Leaders



Students left college campuses abruptly in the spring (of 2020), and their experience for the fall remains unknown. While many campuses suspended internship programs, Fahe found ways to pivot and provide safe learning opportunities. We are proud to announce the Fahe Appalachian Internship Program has kicked off its 2020 summer term.

We are excited to introduce our 2020 summer intern **Steven Stewart** (Washington Lodge #4), a graduate student at West Virginia State University who is participating in the Fahe Appalachian Internship Program's 10-week internship began May 18. Steven's internship is located at Fahe Member Religious Coalition for Community Renewal (RCCR) in Charleston, WV. Steven's placement is our first internship from West Virginia State. We are excited to deepen our partnerships with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and this is due in part to Wells Fargo's generous funding of the Appalachian Internship Program.

Steven is currently a graduate student seeking a Master's of Public Administration at WVSU, where he also received his undergraduate degree in 2009. Steven applied to Fahe's Appalachian Internship Program to participate with RCCR for the summer term of 2020. He anticipates the experience and hands on learning of the internship will help him better understand his course work in Public Policy and Human Resource Management.

Originally from East Cleveland, Ohio Steven moved to West Virginia in 1985 to enroll at West Virginia State College.

Steven has nearly 25 years of experience providing home improvement services as a property manager. He also has experience helping participants obtain non-subsidized housing via the Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) program under Charleston Housing.

Steven is involved in the community as a member of Washington Lodge #4, Prince Hall Affiliated, and worships at Faith Community Church on the West Side of Charleston.

Urban Agriculture in Growth Mode



Brother Ture' Johnson #4, Assistant Manager and Lead Educator, of Paradise Farms, leaves a greenhouse with a container of freshly harvested kale

A project of the nonprofit Kanawha Institute for Social Research and Action (KISRA), spawned by nearby Ferguson Memorial Baptist Church, Paradise Farms began to take root eight years ago. The idea was to provide the public with access to fresh, locally grown produce by selling vegetables from Paradise Farms to restaurants involved in the budding farm-to-table movement, and nearby farmers markets.

Another key goal of Paradise Farms is to provide training and jobs in urban farming to people transitioning into the workforce from incarceration or rehabilitation. Due to the pandemic, that program is on hiatus. About 75 people had taken part in the training before the pandemic arrived, according to Ture' Johnson, Paradise Farms' assistant manager and lead educator. (This is an abbreviation of an article published in the August 9, 2020 Sunday Gazette-Mail).

The First United Methodist Church of South Charleston and First Church's United Methodist Men presented a letter of appreciation and a book with 365 devotions titled "Strength for Service" to representatives of South Charleston's first responders during a recent ceremony at South Charleston City Hall.

The letters and books were to be distributed to all of the city's 93 police officers and firefighters as well as the city's humane officers. In the picture below, Fire Chief Virgil White who is Worshipful Master of Morgan Lodge #10, F & A M, is standing to the far left in the front row. (This abbreviated article was taken from the 9/23/20 Metro West).



The following was submitted by **Worshipful Master Jerry Muhammad** of Washington Lodge #4, F. & A M

THE ATONEMENT & DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTER

8 STEPS OF ATONEMENT

1. Someone must point out the wrong
2. Acknowledgement of wrong
3. Confess the fault; first to Allah (God), then to those offended
4. Repentance; a feeling of remorse or contrition or shame for the past conduct which was wrong and sinful
5. Atonement; meaning to make amends and reparations for the wrong
6. Forgiveness by the offended party; to cease to feel offense and resentment against another for the harm done
7. Reconciliation and restoration; meaning to become friendly and peaceable again
8. Perfect union with Allah (God) and with each other

Worthy Matron Patrice Williams Naomi Chapter #10, Order of the Eastern Star

February 14, 2020 Naomi Chapter #10 participated in the annual Valentine's Day party at the Montgomery General Elderly Center. The Valentine's Day King and Queen were crowned. Cookies, punch and goodie bags were enjoyed along with fellowship in song.

August 1, 2020 Attendees at Sister Dionne "Dee Dee" Brown's Funeral



Bright Hope Lodge #9

GWP Raleigh L. Collins, Sr.; WM Alfred Martin, Jr.
PM Alfred Martin, Sr.; PM James Betts; PM Donald White
SW Joel Acey

Washington Lodge #4

PM James Ivy; SW Sam Hudson; Thomas Conner, III, 5th DDGM

Grand Lodge Representatives

RW Deputy Grand Master Kelvin H. Elmore 32°; RW Junior
Grand Warden Stephen Holmes 32°

Naomi Chapter #10

GWM Angelia Russell; AC Sinette Reynolds

Nazarene Chapter #20

WM Suzanne Washington & PWM Pinkie Claytor

August 2020 Naomi #10 donated to the Mountaineer Food Bank in Fayette County, serving Fayetteville, Summerville, Ansted, and Oak Hill; donated to Feed the Hungry Food Bank in Kanawha County; and donated school supplies to "Fill the Bus."





Naomi #10 has been very vocal throughout the community reminding family, friends, and neighbors to get out and VOTE on 11/3/2020. If you do not have the ability to go to the polls you may request an application for an absentee ballot from the Voters Registration Office. The application MUST be returned on or before 10/15/2020. Early voting for Kanawha County is 10/21/2020 -10/31/2020.

SIXTH DISTRICT

Anthony S. Green 6th DDGM
PGWM Angelina Calcote 6th DDGWM

“From Protest to Table Talk” Forum to Spark Change in the Black American Community – June 25, 2020



“From Protest to Table Talk” is a series in which the WV State NAACP Conference of Branches participated, under the leadership of State President Owens Brown #5.

Approximately 30 people attended the event. Many of them were leaders in the black American Community. It was a two-hour-long table talk that participants hope will show others how much the black American community is thriving. MWGM Jeffrey Calcote #5 represented the MWPHGL of WV, F. & A. M., Inc.





Nelson Jordan Center a Place of Refuge

Ron Scott Jr.

September 22, 2020



Weelunk is committed to telling Wheeling's story. Our goal is to encourage conversation and engage everyone in what's happening here. As city officials are determining what the future holds for the Nelson Jordan Center, it's important to understand the value that the Nelson Jordan Center adds to our community. We're pleased to help bridge the gap by providing a glimpse into the work folks like Rod Lee are doing to ensure the future of this important community institution.



Picture this:

You're a high school junior. It's winter break. Not just in name, the weather is bad enough to cancel anything anyone had planned. You remember your coach saying that "serious" players need to work out over the break, in order to make the team.

If you were a young man from East Wheeling, Grandview Manor or Lincoln Homes in the '90s or early 2000s; this presents a problem. Not a problem without a solution, but a problem nonetheless. So, for a young person fitting or falling into this description, the description looks something like this:

Wake up early.

Begin making calls.

The order doesn't matter but the names remain the same. Rod, Ronnie Sr., Jayloni and Puff. These men are the unofficial gatekeepers of the Nelson Jordan Center. The NJC is the recreation center hidden away in East Wheeling. It was founded during the time of segregation for African Americans to have a place to exercise and spend their time for social, recreational and educational activities for youth and families. Back then, the city's hands-off approach to the NJC, made it feel like ours. The Black community's. We cleaned it, repaired it and utilized it.

Rod Lee aka Coach Rod was the official/unofficial director of the NJC. He answered all questions, handled all problem and made the place what it was to all of us. He didn't do it alone. There were several in the community with a stake in the center's success. No one was as giving as Rod though. He gives time, money, temperament and patience. But like anyone else, he had a life and job separate from the NJC. So that meant he couldn't be at our beck and call.

So, if you needed in the center to work out on a cold winter morning, you had to make some calls. At any given time, there may be as many as five men that you could call to gain access to the NJC.

All men that Rod trusted, that had a vested interest in the NJC, and men who he could rely on not to abuse the sacred space. Let's say you made your calls, and you lucked out and found someone who was off work that day and didn't mind getting out of bed on a cold morning to let you in. That's step one.

Step Two.

Once you got in the building, you had to make sure it was warm enough to work out. As you take off your coat, you notice that you can see your breath. Before you take your sneakers out of the gym bag, you read one of the series of hand-written notes that Coach Rod has left all around the center.

It says, "Heaters are upstairs." You then remember the convo that led to that sign being posted. Coach Rod was sick and tired of the "jet engine" heaters that were fire hazards waiting to happen. He went out and bought a bunch of smaller space heaters. The kind that automatically shut off if they get too hot or tip over. He bought them out of his own money. You hook up a couple of the heaters as you get dressed and start to warm up and shoot around. You only hook a few up because you figure that if you're still cold after you get started, you must not be doing it right.

Step 3: The Equipment

After scouring the building, you realize that you forgot to ask that the equipment room be unlocked. It must stay locked because since everyone can't always be there, balls tend to just walk off. You brought your own ball, but you've had that thing forever and the tread and grip are almost gone. It doesn't matter to you though. Coach said to get a workout in, and that's exactly what you're going to do. The ordeal to gain entrance, the issues with the heat or cold, the lack of or inaccessibility to equipment; none of those are of issues to you. You can't get to the newly built Howard Long Wellness Center. No one is going to ride you all the way up Park hill.

You got to work with what you have. A normal motto in our community. There are several words that others in Wheeling use to describe the NJC: "a blight," "in deplorable condition," "sad" or "neglected." For us, the people who use the center. For those who care for the center. For those who love and protect the center. There is only one word that we use to describe it. Only one word that matters in reference to the Nelson Jordan Center.

Open. (Worshipful Grand Commissioner of Education Rod Lee is a Member of King Solomon Lodge #5, F & A M in Wheeling, WV).

AROUND THE JURISDICTION



Dumas Psychology Collective, Robert Dunlap & Associates and
Heart of God Ministries

Would like for you to join in a:

Solidarity Candlelight Vigil

In remembrance of George Floyd

This event was held Sunday, May 31, 2020 in Beckley, WV. Brother Hal J. Dumas, Jr. #4 said, "The event was a HUGE success! I (we) are overwhelmed with gratitude for the attendance and representation of men and women whom we hold in high regard and thought it not robbery to lend their support to an honorable cause. Our voices have been heard by local and state officials, yet this is only the beginning for true change for our city, state and nation. The news reported that approximately 350 people were in attendance to include local and state elected officials from all branches of government. This was accomplished within TWO (2) days of planning. There is nothing that we can't achieve when we have a single focus and unity. If you feel a response is required do not respond all."



The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge and The Electa Prince Hall Grand Chapter were present at the Candlelight Vigil in Beckley, WV for George Floyd. Left to right are RWGT John Collier; Worshipful Master Phillip Hickman; Grand Associate Conductress Dionne "Dee Elekta" Brown; RWDGM Kelvin Elmore; Brother Hal Dumas; and Worshipful Master Thomas Jones. It was a great gathering. There were many beautiful and inspiring words spoken there.



RWSGW Kenneth Hale,
Brother Jay Dumas,
RWDGM Kelvin Elmore,
and Worshipful Master
Thomas Jones after the
Candlelight Vigil held in
Beckley, WV.



PM. J.C. Kelly visited
WG Lecturer Emeritus
Donald L. Smith on
07/01/20. Also
pictured are Brother
Smith's sister and
caregiver. Bro Smith
has an illustrious
history in the Scottish
Rite and Blue Lodge.



JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Hosted By



Ronald L. Jones



Dr. Keelon Hinton

A virtual panel of Black men discussing identity.

FRIDAY, JULY 24 | 7:00 PM



A Homegoing Service was held for Sister Dionne Brown on 08/01/20. In attendance above were Grand Worthy Matron Angelia Russell #20, JW Calvin Burks #42; RWJGW Stephen Holmes #42; and RWDGM Kelvin Elmore #34. Not pictured were 5th DDGM Thomas Conner III #4; PM James Ivy #4; and SW Samuel Hudson, Sr. #4.

Zoom The New Normal



Thoughts from the Director of Communication Brother Paul Rosario:

In Loving Memory of Sister Dionne “Dee Dee” Brown, member of the Communication Team.

2020 has become the year of ‘Darkness’... Whether this becomes permanent is still up for debate. We are in a shifting of norms, not only in our Freemasonry walk but in life in general... Our current reality is to ‘Social Distance’ and wear mask and for a segment of us – meet virtually... Back in June of 2018 we introduced the idea of virtual meetings/trainings and in 2019 we were utilizing Zoom in our appendant training/meeting sessions and in our Symbolic lodges special team meetings occurred. In 2020 by the direction of Most Worshipful Grand Master Jeffrey M. Calcote, Sr., Zoom was authorized as an acceptable Lodge meeting option for the local lodge and has become the new normal for meetings throughout the world. That said, below are some tips, and remember you can reach out to anyone on the Communication Team if you wish to know more on how to Zoom. If you want to become part of the Communication Team, or wish to see how we can help your local Lodge, Chapter or District – contact myself at paul.rosario1@gmail.com and/or 304.261.028.



ZOOM CHEAT SHEET FOR BEGINNERS

If you've never used ZOOM before, here are a few easy steps to get you started.

If you don't have a hyperlink:

1. Open up your web browser and log into [Zoom.com](https://zoom.us)
2. Click on join a meeting
3. Type in the meeting ID and click join
4. You may need to click on (open.zoom.us), especially the first time
5. Click join with computer audio

If you were given a hyperlink:

1. Click on the link and it should take you directly to the meeting.
2. Follow steps 4 & 5 as stated above.

Helpful Tips:

1. Your microphone and video controls are in the bottom left corner. Please keep on mute unless you are speaking.
2. If you are accessing Zoom from a tablet or your cell phone, you will need to first download the Zoom app.
3. At the top of the page, you will see other participants.
4. Please be respectful of others speaking and wait your turn.

Zoom Meeting

Do

- Arrive on time to meeting.
- Sit in a quiet spot in your house with limited distractions/noises.
- Keep yourself on MUTE until it is your turn to speak.
- Make sure family members know not to interrupt you at this time.
- Dress appropriately.
- Be yourself!
- Raise your virtual hand to speak.

Don't

- Walk around with your device. Make sure to stay in one spot during our meeting.
- Don't eat or drink during our meetings, please.
- Don't interrupt your friends when they are speaking.
- Don't turn on music or the television during the meeting.
- Don't forget to smile and be happy that we are still a learning community.

Special Note To Parents: Zoom Meetings are a special time for the teacher to connect with the students. Feel free to help your child with any technical difficulties. If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to the teacher through email or Class Dojo. Thank you!



The following information was provided by W. Grand Junior Deacon James W. Ivy, Jr., who is Chief of the Handley, WV Police Department:

Safety Tips

Students and community members are encouraged to adopt the following street safety tips:

- Be aware of your surroundings and walk with confidence.
- Trust your instincts; if a situation makes you feel uncomfortable to get away as quickly as possible.
- Travel in groups of two or more (the buddy system).
- Let a roommate or friend know where you are going and when you will return.
- Be aware of pickpocket situations, such as crowded areas like trains and buses.

- Carry handbags on a short strap and close to the body. Carry wallets in a front pants pocket.
- Avoid wearing headphones and using personal electronic devices.
- Travel in well-lit, populated areas and avoid short cuts.
- When traveling, plan your route in advance and do not carry large amounts of cash.
- Consider using public transportation.
- If a car approaches you and asks for directions, speak with the occupants from a safe distance no matter what.

Secure Your Residence

- Lock your door, even if you are leaving for a few minutes. Do not prop open doors. When you leave, be sure to lock your windows as well.
- Consider purchasing renter's insurance to cover damages to or theft of your personal belongings.
- Before you leave for an extended period of time, such as during break or for vacation, stop newspaper delivery, have a neighbor pick up your mail and set your phone ringer to the lowest volume.
- Do not admit any unknown persons into your building, apartment, or room. Use a peephole to confirm a visitor's identity. Don't buzz a visitor into the building unless you are certain who it is.

Violent Intruder

It's important to know what to do if you find yourself in a potentially threatening situation. Putting time and distance between you and the threat is the best way to enhance your safety. The Department of Homeland Security provides the following guidance:

RUN – Escape the situation, if you know you can safely evacuate without coming in contact with the threat.

HIDE – If escaping is not an option, barricade access to your space, hide, silence your devices, and stay as quiet as possible.

FIGHT – As a last resort, and only if the above two strategies fail, act aggressively toward the person or persons creating the threatening situation using whatever weapons are available to you at that time.

The above strategies are not sequential. Use whichever option enhances your safety the most given your circumstances.

Jail overcrowding a matter of life and death (Opinion)

Sunday Gazette-Mail September 6, 2020

By Owens Brown, Gail Henderson-Staples, Barbara Evans-Fleischauer and Tim DiPiero

At Southern Regional Jail in Raleigh County, as reported by the *Register Herald* on Aug. 8, a pregnant woman had to sleep on a cement floor. She was one of four women in a tiny cell. When the toilet in that cell overflowed and soiled another woman's mat, no replacement mat was offered.

Built to house 468 people, the jail had 727 inmates on Aug. 7. This is not new. Nor is it unique. Last fall, Betsy Jividen, commissioner of the state Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR), told the legislature that the state's regional jails were "bursting at the seams."

Despite a decline in the state's population and crime rates, West Virginia's jail population has exploded from 1,581 people in 1999 to 5,168 people in March 2020. On any given day, nearly every one of the 10 jails across the state is over capacity.

Lawrence Messina of the Department of Homeland Security said that "[a] large part of the jail's overcrowding problem is because of the number of pre-trial defendants." He's right. More than half of the people stuck in those jails have not been convicted of a crime. When the Pretrial Justice Institute created a state-by-state report card grading pretrial procedures, West Virginia received an F.

The COVID-19 pandemic makes matters worse. Social distancing is not an option inside overcrowded jail cells. And people without symptoms can spread the virus. Two months ago, Huttonsville Correctional Center saw the number of positive COVID-19 cases jump from one person to 121 people within two weeks. Another outbreak emerged recently at South Central Regional Jail in Charleston, where one out of 10 inmates tested positive for the virus, and a man who was incarcerated there has now died from COVID-19. Now there's also an outbreak at Mount Olive Correctional facility with over 140 positive cases.

The Journal of American Medical Association reported that "[t]he COVID-19 case rate for prisoners was 5.5 times higher than the U.S. population case rate" and the death rate was three times higher than the general population.

This threatens all of us. The people who work in our jails and return home to their families and communities; the judges, attorneys and courthouse employees who must continue to provide due process to those awaiting hearings and trials; and all of us who expect our health care systems to be available when we need them.

Epidemiologists have warned that outbreaks inside jails "require mass transfers to local hospitals for intensive medical and ventilator care...[and each] severely ill patient coming from corrections who occupies an ICU bed will mean others may die for inability to obtain care," as Conor Friedersdorf wrote in *The Atlantic*, continuing, "People who have never seen a city jail could die because too many others were kept in one."

In addition to the health implications, incarcerating so many people awaiting trial has enormous fiscal implications for counties. Every day a person is held in pretrial detention costs a county approximately \$50. Many people are held weeks and months prior to their trial date, resulting in

hefty jail bills. As counties experience worsening fiscal crises as a result of the pandemic, these high costs will be an even greater threat to county budgets.

Thankfully the state Legislature and Gov. Jim Justice have given us a tool we need to fight COVID-19 and the strain on county budgets. A new law aimed at reducing the number of people awaiting trial in jail requires a magistrate to hold a hearing if a defendant is unable to post bail within 72 hours.

This is important because it is the first time the magistrate gets to hear from the defendant's attorney. Laws like this work by giving someone who cannot afford bail the chance to be heard.

Unfortunately, most West Virginia magistrates are either ignoring the law, or only applying it to people facing misdemeanor charges – even though the law clearly applies to felonies too. A law to reduce the pretrial jail population must apply to felony charges in order to be effective. On the day the new bail law went into effect, people facing misdemeanor charges represented only 7% of the people in jail.

The practice of pretrial detention is not only an issue of public health and fiscal responsibility but is a moral issue as well. The United States Supreme Court has held that “liberty is the norm, and detention prior to trial or without trial is the carefully limited exception.”

That's because people jailed prior to trial are more likely to be convicted and more likely to be sentenced to jail or prison. The men and women who are charged by the criminal system are overwhelmingly poor and disproportionately Black. Many are living paycheck to paycheck, and incarceration pretrial can lead to job loss and eviction. No system that delivers unequal punishment for the poor can be called just. And in the era of COVID-19, incarceration is a matter of life and death.



Owens Brown is the president West Virginia NAACP (and Member of King Solomon Lodge #5, F & A M.)

Gail Henderson-Staples is president of the Mountain State Bar Association.

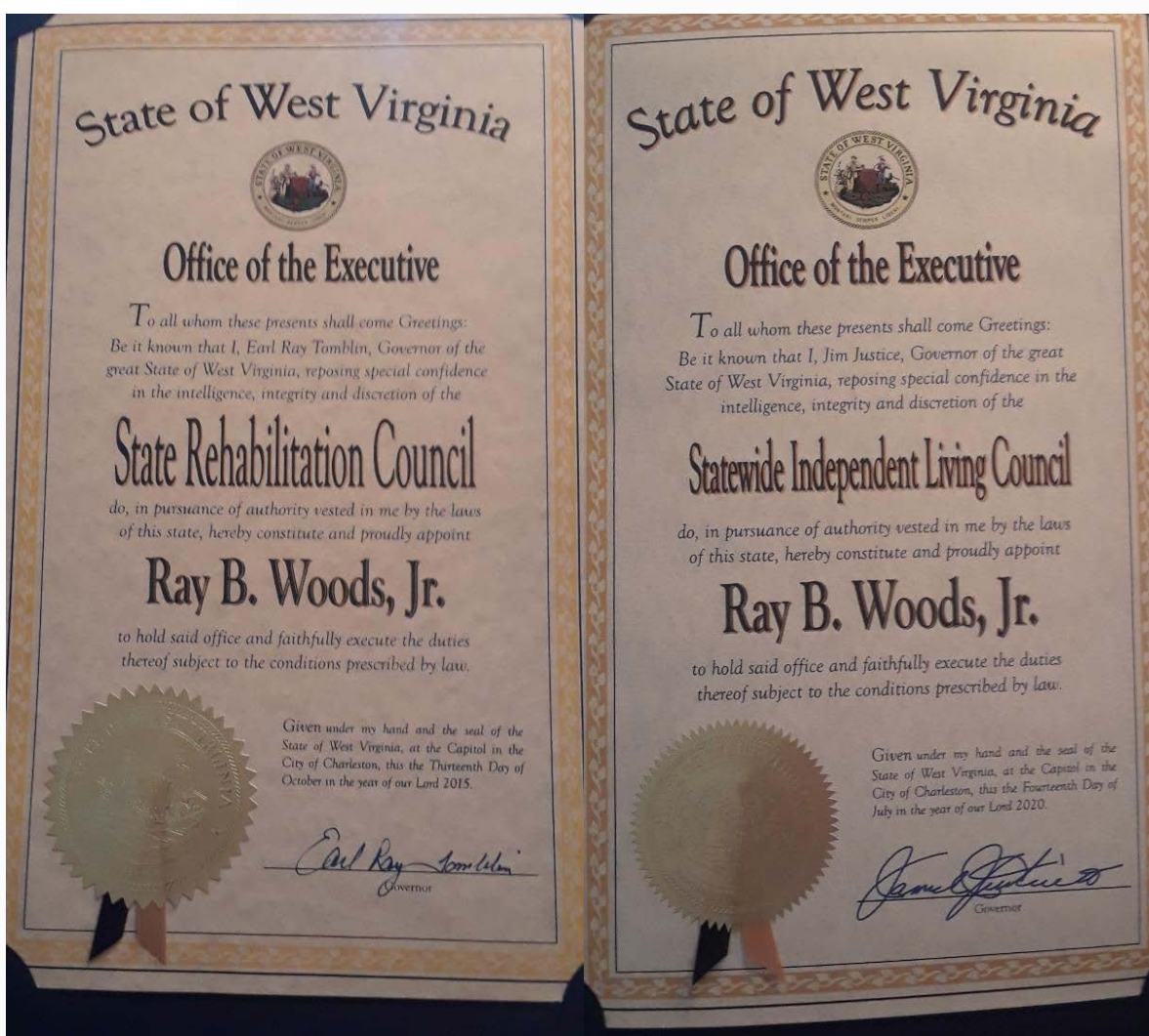
Barbara Evans-Fleischauer, D-Monongalia, is a member of the House of Delegates representing the 51st District.

Tim DiPiero is a Charleston attorney with DiPiero, Simmons McGinley & Bastress PLLC.

FOCUS ON A BROTHER



RWG Treasurer/MWHPGM Ray B. Woods, Jr. 32° #4, was appointed to the West Virginia State Rehabilitation Council in 2015 by then Governor Earl Ray Tomblin. He currently serves as President of the Council. Governor Jim Justice appointed Brother Woods to the Statewide Independent Living Council this year. Both organizations focus on Individuals with disabilities.



Brother Woods received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Industrial Relations and Labor Studies with Minors in Economics and Political Science, from West Virginia Institute of Technology. He later earned a Master of Legal Studies Degree from West Virginia University College of Eberly College. After retiring from the State of West Virginia with 35 years tenure, he continues to actively participate in community affairs as a Past Master of Washington Lodge #4, F & A M, and Worthy Patron of Nazarene Chapter #20, Order of the Eastern Star. Other activities include volunteering with the Center for Organ Recovery and Education (CORE); Treasurer of NAACP Charleston

Branch #3226; Treasurer of Kanawha Consistory #73; Charleston Job Corps Center Community Relations Council; Chair of several Grand Lodge Committees; and President of the Saint Paul Missionary Baptist Church Men's Auxiliary – The Brotherhood.

RWG Treasurer/MWHPGM Woods is a widower after being married to Past Grand Worthy Matron Cadaris B. Woods, MA for 37 years. They are the proud parents of Cadaris Luberta Woods, MA, a Staff Scientist with TRIAD Engineering and Erika Rae Woods, MA, a Special Education and Technology Teacher with Kanawha County Schools.

A Look at DISABILITY in West Virginia

West Virginia has the
HIGHEST RATE
of people with disabilities
IN THE NATION

1 THAT'S
IN 5

Among those who have disabilities...
Over **HALF** have an ambulatory disability.

AGING POPULATION

2 out of 5 West
Virginians
65+ have a disability
3rd highest rate of
seniors in the country



POVERTY
74.6%
unemployed

31.2%
of
working-
aged
West
Virginians (18-64 year
olds) with disabilities
live in poverty*



Adults with

Disabilities in WV



Have had
Arthritis **60.2%**



Currently have
Diabetes **18.8%**



Are
Obese **46.5%**

Currently
Smoke **40.6%**

Have had
High blood pressure **46.4%**

**MENTAL &
EMOTIONAL
HEALTH** **49.4%**
Have had Depression

*Poverty - "The U.S. Office of Management and Budget in Statistical Policy Directive 14 sets the standards for which poverty is calculated. The U.S. Census Bureau uses a set of dollar value thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine who is in poverty." Page 104 of 2016 Annual Disability Statistics Compendium.

Annual Disability Statistics Compendium: 2016
National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. West Virginia Health Topics by Disability Status State Profile. <https://dhs.cdc.gov/profiles/profile?profileid=24&geoTypeid=1&geoids=54>



John C. Kelly 33° Deputy for the Orient of West Virginia
1339 9th Ave. Huntington WV. 25701-2927
James S. Carper Council of Deliberation
Planning for the Future 2020-2021

First of all, I want to give all honor and glory to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Greetings Sovereign Grand Commander and Brothers of the Orient of West Virginia. I come to you today with the report from the Orient of West Virginia. To begin I would like to say I am honored to serve another year as the Deputy for the Orient of West Virginia.

The Orient of West Virginia is growing. We are faced with obstacles this year as the Coronavirus Pandemic has halted all face to face meetings since March. In talking with the CIC's and other Brothers of the Consistories in the Orient and the Grand Master of West Virginia, we decided not to let this stop us from Training and Communicating with our Brothers in West Virginia. A lot of Brothers got involved and we decided to communicate by Zoom Meetings. Before the Pandemic there were three Brothers from the Blue (Symbolic) Lodge that joined the Consistory. Their training had stopped. On April 7, 2020 The Council of Deliberation had the First in West Virginia Scottish Rite Training Zoom Meeting. This is a way we can view each other, putting a face with a name and continue to train new candidate brothers in Masonry, without face to face meeting. There are two classes. There three Candidates from two Consistory's currently going through degree work once a week in the first class. This sparked the interest of six more Brothers. On 05/06/2020 we started another class. We scheduled them for different days of the week. At present we are have two classes going through their degree work with the help of Council of Deliberation, Eagles Club, The Grand Master, Past Grand Masters and other Sublime Princes, this looks to be the learning tool for the future for West Virginia. I am excited about the participation we are getting and The Grand Master and his Cabinet has started a Blue Lodge School of Instructions. They meet twice a month. I also want to give special thanks to Grand Secretary Marvin D. Chambers for his support.

New Candidates: They are as follows:

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Alfred Martin | From: King Solomon Evers # 305 |
| 2. Joel Acey | From: King Solomon Evers # 305 |
| 3. Perry Wright | From: Tri State # 168 |

This sparked a lot of attention for more brothers to want to go through the training. They like the first class, having one degree a week. We started a second class on May 6th 2020. To date they are in their 14th Degree. They are as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Ed Green | From: King David # 47 |
| 2. Johnathan Hughes | From: King David # 47 |
| 3. Lawrence Sewell | From: King David # 47 |
| 4. B.A. Anderson | From: Thornton A. Jackson # 75 |

5. Calvin Burks From: IM Carper # 192
6. Tony Grant From: IM Carper # 192

We hope to have more candidates when the first class completes their training. I want to give recognition and special thanks to all the elder Brothers helping to get these Brothers trained in each Degree and are participating week after week. This is a first step for West Virginia and all of our Consistories to join in together and learn from one another.

Our Consistory Members: We have six Consistories in West Virginia, they are as follows:

King David # 47 Eleven Members and Three new Candidates

Commander In Chief:.....SP Anthony Green
First LieutenantGIG Rudolph I Jefferson Sr.
Second Lieutenant:.....GIG Charles C. Blue Jr.
Treasurer:SP Michael Mitchell
Secretary:SP Michael Mitchell
SGIG:Donald L Smith
GIG:Eugene Burney
GIG:Paul A. Mitchell
GIG:David L. Yates Sr.
GIG:James T. Thomas
SP:Kenneth R. Stevens
SP:Thad Law II

New Candidates going through Degree work:
Ed Green, Johnathan Hughes and Larry Sewell

Kanawha # 73

Seventeen Members

Commander In Chief: .SP Phillip Forrest
First Lieutenant: SP-Jerry Muhammad
Second Lieutenant: .. SP-Samuel Hudson Sr.
Treasure: SP-Ray B. Woods Jr.
Secretary: SP-Calvin H. Woods
GIG: Leonard L. Claytor
GIG: Michael A. Claytor
GIG: Kenneth L. Hale Sr.
SP: Thomas Conner III
SP: Hal Dumas Jr.
SP: Charles Easton
SP: Kenneth Hopkins
SP: James Ivy Jr.
SP: Julius Jackson Jr.
SP: Hughlen J. Jones
SP: Lawrence E. Moore
SP: Bernard Pates



Phillip Forrest CIC



Kenneth L. Hale 33°

Thornton A. Jackson # 75

Fourteen Members and One new Candidate

Commander In Chief: .SP-Demetrius Lathon
First Lieutenant: GIG-David F. Hilliard
Second Lieutenant: SP-Thomas L. Jones
Treasure: SP-William Curenton
Secretary: SP-Rod D. Lee
GIG: King Basking
GIG: Jeffrey M. Calcote Sr.
SP: David A. Coles
SP: Ralph Edwards
SP: Kelvin Elmore
SP: Larry Goodwin
SP: Amos Gregory
SP: Fred Hocker Sr.
SP: Curtis C. McGhee



Jeffrey M. Calcote Sr.

New Candidates: Going through his Degree work: Bryant A. Anderson

Tri State # 168

Sixteen Members and One New Candidate

Commander In Chief: .SP-Willis Carter
First Lieutenant:SP-Keenan Rhodes
Second Lieutenant: ..SP-Berry Westmoreland
Treasure:SP-Charles Newsom
Secretary:SGIG-John C. Kelly Sr.
GIG:George C. Childress Jr.
GIG:Nash Cunningham III
GIG:Edmond L. Hornbuckle
GIG:Willie F. Kates
GIG:Detriot Lewis
GIG:Donald G. Simms Sr.
GIG:Calvin Washington
GIG:.....Douglass Starghill
SP:Timothy Cunningham
SP:Keelon Hinton
SP:Lionel Hope Jr.



IM Carper # 192

Twenty-Six Members and Two New Candidate

Commander In Chief: .GIG-Phillip Adams Sr.
First Lieutenant:SP-Christopher Brown
Second Lieutenant: ..GIG-Robert Holmes
Treasure:SP-Paul S. Rosario
Secretary:SP-Harold E. Stewart
GIG:William W. Buckner
GIG:Charles L. Ferguson
SP:John Birckhead
SP:Clarence Branson
SP:Michael Branson
SP:Douglass M. Brown
SP:Keenan Puller
SP:Bernard Fennell
SP:Miguel Greer
SP:Steven E. Hill
SP:Stephen Holmes
SP:George R. Jackson
SP:Silas Johnson III

Continued: IM Carper # 192

SP:John W. Jackson
SP:Charles N. Kidrick
SP:Dante Kimble
SP:Wendell R. Dixon
SP:George C. Rutherford
SP:John Stevenson
SP:James C. Taylor
SP:Darryl Young



Brother Paul
Rosario and
Deputy J. C.
Kelly

New Candidates: Going through their Degree work: Calvin Burks, Tony Grant

King Solomon Evers # 305

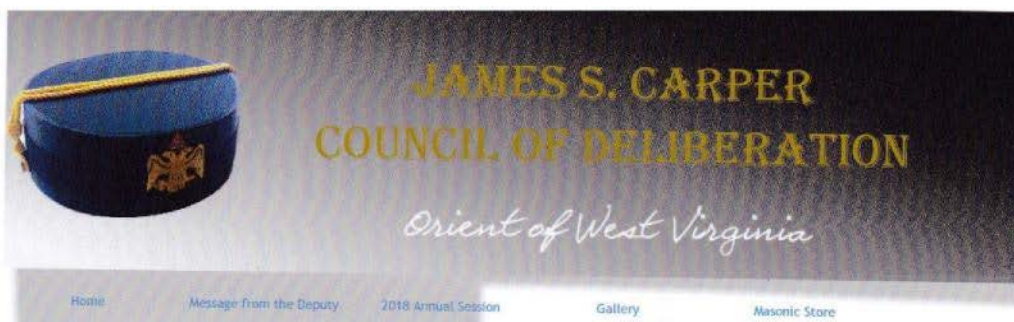
Eight Members and Two New Candidate

Commander In Chief: ..SP-John E. Collier
First Lieutenant: SP-Vacant
Second Lieutenant: .. SP-Vacant
Treasurer: SP-Danny Farmer
Secretary: SP-Juan Thomas
GIG: John M. Radford
GIG:Lawrence E. Washington
SP: James Betts Jr.
SP: Jay Dejarnette
SP: David D. Foster

Congrats to the first virtual class of Sublime Princes for their 32nd Degree achievement on September 1, 2020. Brothers Joel Acey, Perry Wright, and Alfred Martin. Well done on your achievements within the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry.







Eagles Club: The Eagles Club is made up of 32° Masons from our six Consistories that have given support and are active in assisting me in the Scottish Rite Zoom Meeting Training to continue to grow our Consistories.



Eagles Club

Donald Smith Inaugural Class of 2017

"Que se miser parare aquilae"

					
Sublime Prince James W Ivy Jr, 32° President Kanawa #73	Sublime Prince J. C. Kelly, 32° Vice President Tri-State #168	Sublime Prince Paul Rosario, 32° Secretary I. M. Carper #192	Sublime Prince Miguel Greer, 32° Treasurer I. M. Carper #192	Sublime Prince Phillip Forrest, 32° Sergeant At Arms Kanawa #73	Sublime Prince Anthony Green, 32° Chaplain King David #47

The Eagles Club has long been synonymous with excellence throughout domain of the United Supreme Council, Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Prince Hall Affiliated, Southern jurisdiction - Memphis, Tennessee. It represents a very exclusive proving ground, where the *"best of the best"* receive detailed instruction in Scottish Rite history, philosophy & esoteric, rituals, strategic planning and leadership. The training regimen is both extensive and challenging; personally offered by some of the brightest minds in masonry to include such notables as Grand Inspector General Damien Jack, 33°, Assistant Director of Training for the United Supreme Council, Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Prince Hall Affiliated, Southern jurisdiction, and author of nine (9) instructional Masonic books; and Grand Inspector General Cardell Worlds, 33°, author of *"A Training Program For The Sublime Prince Of The Royal Secret"*, and Co-Founder of the Florida Exhibition Team. Membership into the Eagles Club, in a sense, constitutes entry into Scottish Rite University of the Orient of West Virginia, where Masonic scholars are produced. Members also serve on the Orient's Degree Team, and participate in charitable & fundraising events. In addition, the Eagles Club functions as a pathway to the thirty-third degree. One cannot ask to join the Eagles Club. A recommendation and invitation must be extended by an active member.



**Sovereign Grand Inspector General Donald Smith, 33°
Active Emeritus**

Sovereign Grand Inspector General Donald Smith, 33, has been an icon of Scottish Rite Freemasonry in the Orient of West Virginia for well over forty years, where he diligently served as Deputy for the Orient. He is both highly respected and beloved; not only by members of the Scottish Rite community, but by all masons throughout the *"wild and wonderful"* state of West Virginia. His wisdom, Masonic knowledge and charitable works are legendary, and a sterling example for all Fraters to emulate.

2019 Council of Deliberation



GIG James Thomas & Deputy Kelly



GIG Leonard L. Claytor; SP Calvin H. Woods; GIG Kenneth L. Hale, Sr. & SP James Ivy, Jr.



Purple = Royal & Select Masters for York Rite - Royal & Select Masters - Purple House; Royal Arch Masons - Red House; and Shrine graduation class



The following was submitted by Right Excellent Grand Secretary & Past Most Excellent Grand High Priest Kenneth L. Hale, Sr.



Not Easily Broken

From a grip to a span, from a span to a grip. As Virtual Past Masters, which we have the honor to be, we have learned that in order to execute the grip of a Virtual Past Master we must go from a grip to a span. As always it's important to understand the meaning behind everything that we do, so the first question that comes to mind is why do we go from a grip to a span?

In order to make sense of this, it is necessary to comprehend the meaning of a span. A span is a term of measurement and distance. According to Webster's Dictionary a span "the distance between the tip of the thumb and the tip of the little finger when the hand is fully extended." It is also defined as "a unit of length corresponding to this distance, commonly taken as 9 inches." During his instruction, God informed Moses how to construct the Breastplate, which was a part of the clothing of the High Priest. Exodus 28:16 states "It is to be square--a span long and a span wide--and folded double." In 1 Samuel 17:4 Goliath was introduced as the champion from the Philistine camp and was said to have been six cubits and a span tall, or 9 feet 9 inches.

When you think of a span being 9 inches, it doesn't seem to be much. It makes me think of the Sr. Warden during Last Sad Rites when he says, "Our life is but a span long, the days of our pilgrimage are few and full of evil." But the importance of a span can be found in Isaiah 40:12 which states, "Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, And marked off the heavens by the span, And calculated the dust of the earth by the measure, And weighed the mountains in a balance And the hills in a pair of scales?" This passage of scripture alone shows that by the mere measurement of his hand, God created the heavens and the earth. As Isaiah 48:13 proclaims "Mine hand also hath laid the foundation of the earth, and my right hand hath spanned the heavens: when I call unto them, they stand up together."

We now have an understanding of the meaning of span, but it still does not give the reasoning of a grip to span and a span to a grip, so let's dive deeper. First let's realize that as we recite these words we are going from something to something, meaning we are dealing

with a transition. The transition that you witness is going from two to three, or as it is mentioned from a two-fold cord to a three-fold cord.

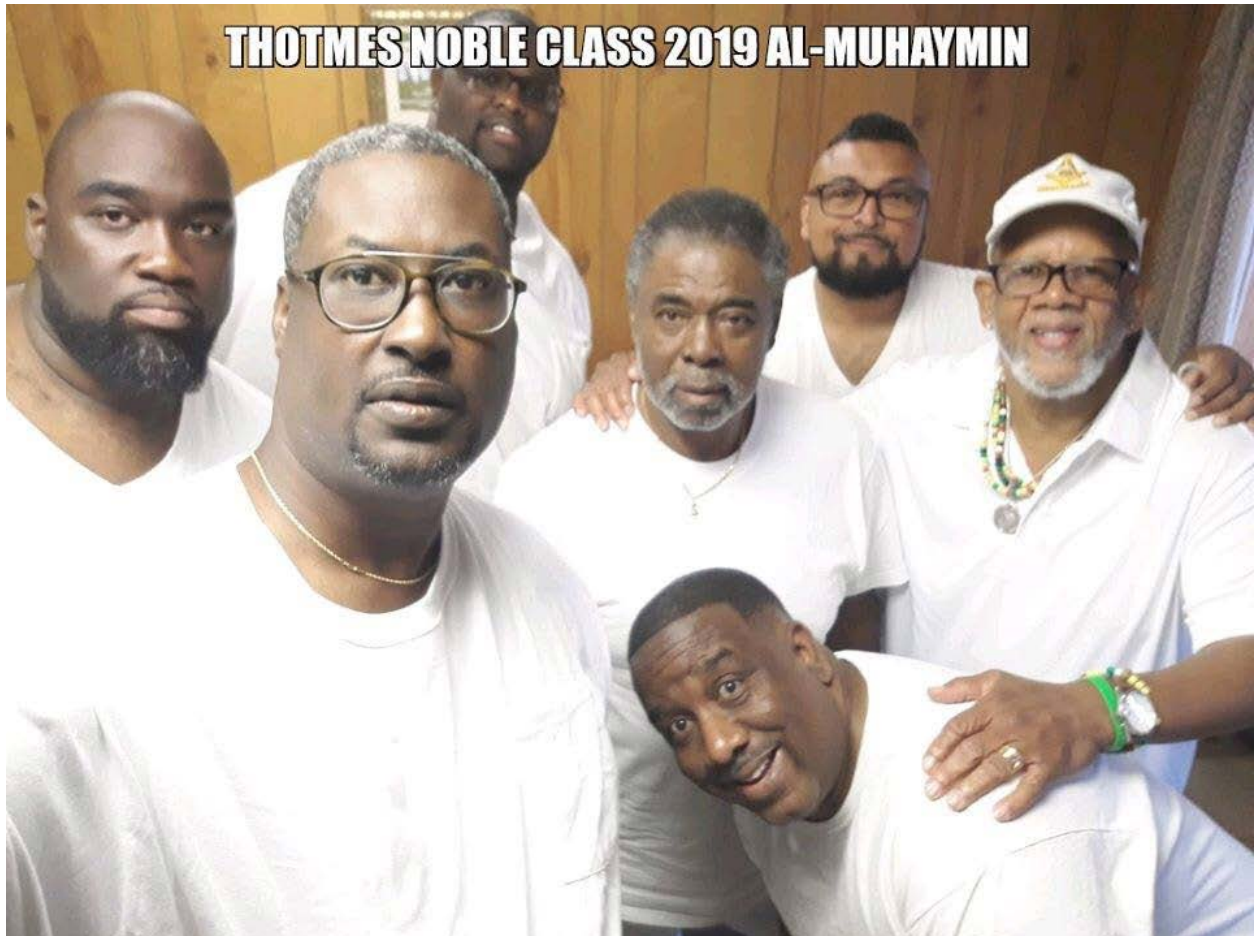
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 states, “Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble. Likewise, two people lying close together can keep each other warm. But how can one be warm alone? A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a three-fold cord is not easily broken.”

From these passages of scripture we learn that in life there that we cannot accomplish things on our own. We could not have joined the ranks of Masonry without the help of a faithful friend. With a grip we learned to recognize each other and therefore be there to the help those in need. With a grip you developed a two-fold cord, a physical bond with your brother who would be there with you when needed. Now we transition from a grip to a span and from a span to grip. We have transitioned from the physical realm to the spiritual realm. This is evident in the emblem of a Past Master, the Compass and the Quadrant. With the quadrant opening the compass at 60 degrees, it symbolizes the angle of an equilateral triangle which signifies perfection. So in essence we have gone from completeness to the pursuit of perfection.

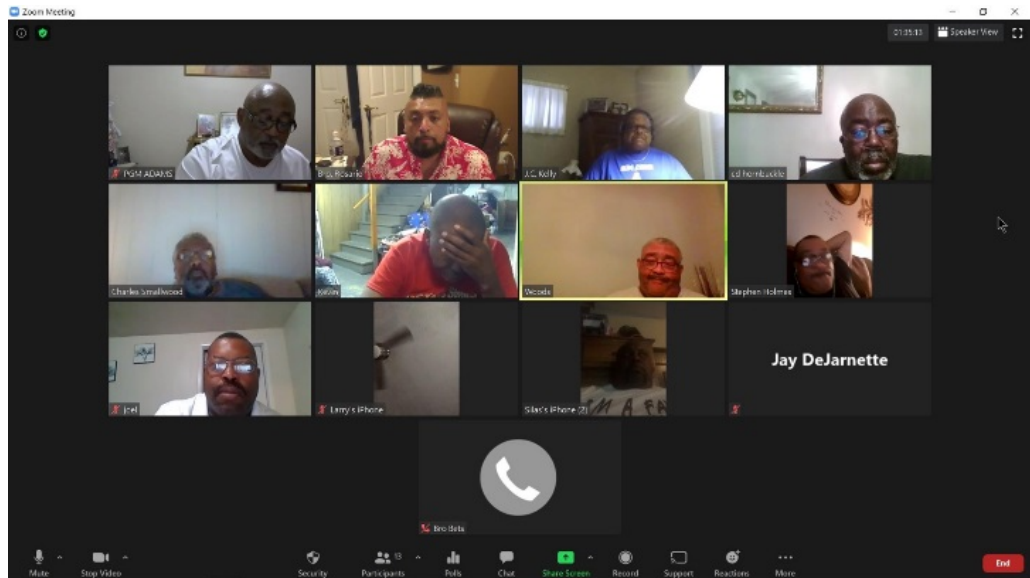
As Virtual Past Masters it is our duty to take this knowledge that we have acquired spread it amongst our Craft, hence the reasoning for the sun being in the midst of the Compass and Quadrant. In the ceremonies of initiation, we’re congratulated on being elected to preside in the chair, but we cannot do it alone. A three-fold cord is not easily broken; there is strength in unity. There’s strength in Faith, Hope and Charity, there’s strength in the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Even with the wisdom of King Solomon, the Temple could not have been built without the strength of Hiram, King of Tyre and the Beauty of GMHA.

From a grip to a span, from a span to grip. What God gives to you, you should return to him, or as the saying goes, “As Above, So Below.” So now when you look at a span, do not measure it by man’s hands. We have already been taught to place our dependence on God for support, protection and deliverance. Ultimately when your trust in Him, you can accomplish anything and no matter the trial you cannot easily be broken.

Holiness to the Lord



Zoom Class #1



Zoom Class #2

Masonic Mirth

by WB Greg O'Neal



UPCOMING EVENTS

March 19 – 21, 2021 – (Tentatively scheduled) The Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference will convene at the Holiday Inn, 301 Foxcroft Avenue in Martinsburg, WV.

June 24 – 26, 2021 – (Tentatively scheduled) 143rd Annual Grand Communication of the MWP HGL of WV, F. & A. M., Inc. and 103rd Annual Grand Session of EPHGC, OES/PHA in Wheeling, WV. Details forthcoming.

SICKNESS & DISTRESS

PGWM Betty Smith #8
Sister Ernestine Hill #8
PGWM Jacqueline Hornbuckle #43
MWPGM Nash Cunningham #33
PM Gilbert Johnson #33 (104 y. o. a.)

PM Lacy Smith #21
PWM Daisy Richardson #8
PM Larry C. Moore #4
PWM Julia Downing #38
PGWP Edmond Hornbuckle III #2

PM Antonio Williams #10
Sister Dorothy Knight #2
PM John Radford #9
Bro. David Johnson #9
PM Alan C. Dorcas #4
Thomas G. Allen #16
PWM Rosenell Townes #26
RWGT Emeritus Raymond P. Smith #17
Bro. Thomas Allen #16

MWPGM Rev. Homer H. Davis #4
Sister Helen Coles #2
PM Julius Jackson #10
Sister Arline Williams #20
Brother Robert L. Blair #4
Rev. Bro. David Bell #16
Sister Wanda Joplin #26
RWGT Demetrius Lathon #5

IN MEMORIAM



April 29, 1950 ~ April 28, 2020 (age 69)

Reverend David Jerome Bell Sr. was born on April 29, 1950 to the union of the Late Reverend J.W. Bell and Dorothy Coleman Bell. He was the youngest child of 13 siblings. David received his formal education in the Matewan, West Virginia area schools. In 1968, he received his Bachelor of Science degree from Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia; and received 15+ hours toward a Master in Special Education. He taught for approximately 20 years at several area schools. While as a school teacher, he coached Midget League basketball, football and baseball teams. Also, he was the

assistant basketball coach for the Matewan Junior High School team. He considered the members of these teams as ‘his’ children also.

David advanced from a salesman to General Manager of the area Mountain View Memorial Gardens until he became disabled. In his leisure, he enjoyed his grandchildren as they participated in various activities; such as church functions, academics and sports. He was their greatest fan. David volunteered his services to the Mingo County Child Advocacy Center. He was a member of the Williamson Crown Lodge F&AM #16 and the Williamson Chapter of the NAACP. In 2015, he received the “Believe Achieve Succeed Award” for Outstanding Service and Dedication in conjunction with the Southern West Virginia Technical Community College and the local NAACP.

David loved spending time at the Williamson Area Senior Citizens where he taught bible class on Tuesdays. He loved dressing up for the senior citizens on special days. He was considered a “social butterfly” at the South Williamson Dialysis Center while receiving services. As everyone who knew David, he was a die hard “Cleveland Browns” fan.

David was baptized at an early age and became a member of Striving Valley Baptist Church which his father pastored. He later was ordained as a Deacon at the Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church where he served as Superintendent of the Mt. Lebanon Sunday School before he accepted the call to the Ministry. He has served as a Minister/Pastor for over 40+ years. During his pastoralship, he served as Pastor and Moderator of the Guyan Valley District Association. He currently served as Vice

Moderator of the Tug River District Association. He participated in both Guyan Valley and Tug River District Auxiliaries.

Reverend Bell currently served as President of the West Virginia Baptist State Convention (WVBSC). He was involved in the various auxiliaries of WVBSC, especially the Minister's and Deacon's Union, Sunday School Congress and Laymen's Auxiliary. He received a diploma in Pastoral Studies from the WVBSC Seminary Extension. He served as Camp Pastor and Young Adult Bible Teacher during the Abram Price Encampment for many years. He loved to travel to the Annual meetings of the National Baptist Convention, Inc. and Auxiliary Sunday School Congress in the various states. He has served as Pastor of the Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church for over 15 years. He was known for his keen sense of humor and infectious smile, but he was adamant about "winning souls to Christ and living a Godly life". He never stopped learning more about God and teaching others. He never met a stranger.

After battling health issues for years, he went from labor to reward on April 28, 2020 at the Pikeville Medical Center in Pikeville, Kentucky. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by 11 siblings.

He leaves to cherish his memory, his lovely wife of 45 years, Eileen Donald Bell; his four magnificent children; David Jerome Jr., Demeris Jeannette (Ron) Joplin, Erica Denise (Rodney) Joplin and Tabitha Marie Bell (Mike Dotson); his 18 grandchildren: Michael Jerome Joplin, Dazia Marie Joplin, Ciera Jade Harrison, Deonte Malik Joplin, Nakiya Alexis Bell, Michael Liam Dotson, Amya Desiree Bell, Jace Michael Dotson, Maliyah Nicole Martin, Christopher Caleb Joplin, Isaiah Nicholas Joplin, Caraline Renee Joplin, Marshawn Christopher Joplin, Zion David Martin, Christian Dwight Joplin, Kaylin Jenae Joplin, Davion Jerome Joplin, and Kyson Atlee Dillard-Bell; his only living sibling, Evie Bell McCoy, Norristown, Pennsylvania; he will be missed by his "adopted in love" children; Nicole Blackwell Akers, including her family and Chris Hairston; he loved and cherished his relationship with his former daughter-in-law, Cortney Bell; a host of nieces and nephews that he loved as his own children; a host of other relatives and friends will miss him as his family.

Funeral Services will be held on Saturday, May 9, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. at Logan Street First Baptist Church in Williamson, West Virginia. Revered Frank Jones will officiate. Visitation will be held on Friday, May 8th from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the church. Burial will follow in Mountain View Memory Gardens in Maher, West Virginia. Pallbearers will be friends of the family. Social distancing must be practiced and masks must be worn.



Ms. Dionne "Dee Dee" Alissa Brown was born July 13 1968 in Montgomery, WV to Kenneth Hamilton and Paulette Siggers Brown. She entered eternal rest Saturday, July 25, 2020 at CAMC Memorial Division after a short illness.

Dee Dee attended Kanawha County School and graduated with the East Bank High School Class of 1986. Dee Dee was active in the marching band and girl's basketball team. Dee Dee was often the life of the party, always standing by with a quick one-liner. After high school she attended West Virginia Institute of Technology. Dee Dee began her career in telecommunications at AT&T in Charleston, WV.

Dee Dee sought excitement and better employment opportunities and soon moved to Virginia Beach, VA eventually relocating to Baltimore, MD where she continued to work in telecommunications for over 20 years. After returning home in 2011, Dee Dee had the opportunity to pursue her goal of a college degree and enrolled in WVUIT until its closing. At the time of her illness, Dee Dee was enrolled at West Virginia State University.

Dee Dee was an active and passionate member of Naomi #10 Order of Eastern Star having served as Past Worthy Matron. At the time of her passing, Dee Dee held the position of Grand Associate Conductress Electa Prince Hall Grand Chapter Order of Eastern Star Jurisdiction of West Virginia. Dee Dee accepted Christ at an early age having joined St. John Missionary Baptist Church and was a member of the Gospel Chorus. Dee Dee was a member of the Brown Singers where she continued to praise God through song.

Dee Dee unselfishly operated in her Gift of Helps. Always ready and willing to lend a helping hand to get it done. She was often called upon to make cakes for various family and church gatherings.

Preceding her in death are her father, Kenneth Brown; paternal grandparents, Joel and Josephine Brown; maternal grandparents, Ephriam "Jerry" and Annie Siggers; uncles, Ephriam "Sig" Siggers, Reuben Siggers, Rodney Brown and Larry Brown; aunt, Lucille Brown-Haymer; cousin/sister, Alberta Murray-Casey and cousin, Carl Brown, Jr.

Left with awesome memories are mother, Paulette Siggers Brown; son, Chase Hamilton Tucker; sister, Joyce Brown; brother, William "Spunky" (Cindy) Barron and a host of cousins and friends. Dee Dee LOVED family and was blessed to have two extended families that loved her greatly. Her love and adoration for them reached beyond to their children and grand-children: the Barrons, Geraldine, Maxine (Pinky), Cindy (Big Sister), Linda, Karen, Eleanor, Lisa and Raymond, Daphne Jett and LaTisha Terry and the Murray Seven, Bishop Calvin, Tina, Marshal, Bishop Thomas Jr., Kathy and Stacy.

Dee Dee cultivated special relationships throughout the years. These special relationships include: the Davis Family, the Williams Family, Tesa Mimms, Tami Lewis, Jackqueline "Sissy" Williams, Rita Wattie Bohanna and Shirley Jones-Wooding.

The family would like to humbly thank everyone for each act of kindness, prayer and encouraging words during Dee Dee's illness.

We extend a special thank you to Bishop Bruce Hogan and the Brookside Ministries COGIC for their compassion and helpfulness, Lennie and Cheryl Powell and the Ritchie & Johnson Funeral Parlor staff for your professionalism and patience. Words cannot express our gratitude towards you. May God richly bless you and the work you do for the Kingdom.

Funeral service will be 1:00PM Saturday, August 1, 2020 at Brookside Church of God In Christ 18419 Deepwater Mountain Road, Mount Carbon, with Bishop Thomas R. Murray, Jr. officiating. Burial will follow 11:00AM Monday, August 3, 2020 in Kanawha Valley Memorial Gardens, Glasgow, WV.

Masonic Bulletin Submissions

If you have email, please send your articles in electronic format as a Microsoft Word (.doc) document or as a notepad (.txt) document. The Masonic Bulletin will be published two times a year.

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