

Companions,

Happy Holidays! The end of the year is a time for us all to take a few moments and reflect where we are, where we were headed and where we want to be. Thinking about our New Year's resolutions, spending quality time with our friends and family, starting or finishing (according to how early you started) our holiday shopping and recharging our batteries are all high on most of our December "To Do" lists. Your officers and I encourage each of us to spend a little time thinking about Capitular Masonry and where Arlington #35 is right now.

We have some forward momentum going right now; however, we really need to energize our members and raise the number of Companions at our monthly meetings. I am open to any and all suggestions on how we might do this.

If you missed our November Convocation you missed a real treat - **Most Excellent Jim Smith** did a fantastic job on expounding the law. His 30 minute presentation on the Chapter tied back many familiar topics to the volume of sacred law. We've asked ME Jim to provide a copy of his talk (he wants to polish it up) so our membership can study it in-depth.

How about a Joint Convocation in December in lieu of our regular stated? Annandale #77 has agreed to a Joint Convocation so that means we will meet at Annandale #77 on Wednesday **19 December**; vice our normal meeting on the 2nd. Wednesday. I've asked our Secretary to request a Dispensation from the Grand High Priest (through the District Deputy Grand High Priest). This is Annandale's annual Holiday Party. That means a very quick business meeting followed by **pot-luck** and a **gift exchange** (\$10-15 Maximum); bring male gift if you are male; female gift for the ladies that want to participate - this ensures everyone gets a gift back).

Long range look-out - I'd like to get together with a group of Companions and attend the Alzheimer's Walk this year (12 April 2008). If anyone is interested in attending, please let me know!

Grand Chapter is past and one of the two recipients of the John Dove Medal is our own **Hamilton E. "Buck" Pape!** Congratulations Buck and many thanks for all you do. The other recipient was **Right Excellent Randall W. Johnson** the Grand Lecturer. Congratulations Randy.

Our new Grand High Priest is Most Excellent Paul Stephen Newhall, and his theme is listed below and will be on each of our subsequent Trestleboards. Elected into the bottom of the Grand Line was **Right Excellent Donald L. McAndrews**, our neighbor in District 17.

Finally, look around your lodge the next time you are there and see if there isn't at least one Brother that would benefit from completing his York Rite journey by joining the ranks of the Royal Arch. Then, simply pull out that petition and give it to him - solicitation is not only permissible, it is highly recommended! S&F

John

John W. Pearson, High Priest
Arlington RAC No. 35

"200 Years of Royal Arch Excellence"

Fifty Year Members

<i>John P. Funkhouser</i>	1949
<i>David H. Graham</i>	1950
<i>Elgin B. Kirby</i>	1950
Henry J. Bausili	1952
Oscar L. Buchanan	1945
Robert A. Kelly	1949
Elwood S. Nichols	1949
William T. Guise	1950
James W. Brown, Jr.	1951
Robert L. Connor	1951
John E. Wise	1952
John G. Dudley Jr.	1953
Walter W. Cosby Jr.	1955
Wilbert Kahoun	1954
Cleveland F. Oliver	1955
James W. Smith	1956

Trestle board

Refreshments at 6:30 before every meeting
12 Dec. Stated. Grand Chapter review and memorial for departed Companions
19 Dec. Fraternal Visit to Annandale Chapter
9 Jan. 2008. Stated

Capitular Birthdays

DECEMBER

John E. Wise Jr.	1952
Wallace D. Thompson	1956
Charles H. Rowell	1958
Blaine M. Williams	1960
John C. Werner	1967
Jeffrey C. Trimble	1994

Did You Know:

Q: Why do men's clothes have buttons on the right while women's clothes have buttons on the left?

A: When buttons were invented, they were very expensive and worn primarily by the rich. Because wealthy women were dressed by maids, dressmakers put the buttons on the maid's right. Since most people are right-handed, it is easier to push buttons on the right through holes on the left. And that's where women's buttons have remained since.

Montana's first cattle brand was a square and compass. No one knows when it was first used, but it was before 1872 when it became necessary to date and register brands then in use. It was first owned by Poindexter T. Orr of Beaverhead County, Montana Territory. (source The truth Is Stranger Than Fiction by Alphonse Cerza, Masonic Service Association 1990)

We all know of Brother Paul Revere's ride, but did you know that Robert Newman the Sexton of Christ Church who hung the lantern in the belfry to give the signal was also a Mason? (Source: same as above.)

Laugh of the month:

Here are some Christmas party pointers:
Avoid carrot sticks. Anyone who puts carrots on a holiday buffet table knows nothing of the Christmas spirit. In fact, if you see carrots, leave immediately. Go next door, where they're serving rum balls. Do not have a snack before going to a party in an effort to control your eating. The whole point of going to a Christmas party is to eat other people's food for free. Lots of it.

As for mashed potatoes, always ask if they're made with skim milk or whole milk. If it's skim, pass. Why bother? It's like buying a sports car with an automatic transmission. Drink as much eggnog as you can. And quickly. Like fine single-maltscotch, it's rare. In fact, it's even rarer than single-malt scotch. You can't find it any other time of year but now. So drink up! Who cares that it has 10,000 calories in every sip? It's not as if you're going to turn into an eggnog-aholic or something. It's a treat. Enjoy it. Have one for me. Have two. It's later than you think. It's Christmas!

A little old lady goes to the Merrifield post office to buy stamps for Christmas cards. She asks the clerk, "May I have 50 Christmas stamps?" The clerk asks, "What denomination?" She replies, "Heaven help us! Has it come to this? Give me 6 Catholic, 12 Presbyterian, 10 Lutheran and 22 assorted Northern Virginia Baptists."

"Tis the season to remember "... as you do unto the least of these . . ." so take advantage of the opportunities that present themselves during this time of year!

Companions the error in dues cards for 2008 has been corrected by Grand Chapter. You corrected cards will be arriving in your mail box very soon.