

Companions,

I trust you and your loved ones had a pleasant and peaceful holiday season. This New Year presents us another opportunity to labor together in the quarries for the benefit of humanity. We have some important goals this capitular year and I trust everyone is ready to contribute as much as their individual cabletows' will permit.

We have just learned of the passing of Companion **John C. Werner**. Please take a moment to remember him and his wife.

On Saturday 12 January District 1, Royal Arch Masons of Virginia will receive our Grand High Priest, **Most Excellent Paul Stephen Newhall**. The venue is the George Washington Memorial in Alexandria beginning at 6:30 P.M. Contact the Chapter's High Priest, Secretary or Bulletin Editor **immediately** if you want tickets.

In February (7-9) an annual, national event "Masonic Week" will be held in Alexandria. For details on this very interesting event see www.yorkrite.org

Plan now to attend the 200th birthday of the Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons of Virginia to be held in Williamsburg on 16 and 17 May. Details to be announced as they become available.

S&F
John

"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

Remember, we serve refreshments at 6:30 before every meeting
9 Jan. 2008. Stated. Rt. Ex. Bullach will "Expound the Law". (see below)
12 Jan. GHP Visit to District 1
7-9 Feb. Masonic Week in Alexandria
7 Feb. Stated.

Did You Know:

Why do X's at the end of a letter signify kisses?

A: In the Middle Ages, when most people were unable to read or write, documents were often signed using an X. Kissing the X represented an oath to fulfill obligations specified in the document. The X and the kiss eventually became synonymous.

Capitular Birthdays

JANUARY

Walter W. Cosby Jr.	1955
Robert F. Brown	1958
Howard E. Pirkey	1961
George D. Gilbreath	1977
John D. DeMartini	1980
M. Mickey Ander	1986
Larry K. Bellos	1986
Sheldon H. Avenius	2002

Laugh of the month:

You think you are having a bad day?

A woman came home to find her husband in the kitchen shaking frantically, almost in a dancing frenzy, with some kind of wire running from his waist towards the electric kettle. Intending to jolt him away from the deadly current, she whacked him with a handy plank of wood, breaking his arm in two places. Up to that moment, he had been happily listening to his Walkman. (Reportedly a true story.)

EDUCATIONAL POINT

"Expound the Law"

At the January convocation Right Excellent John Bullach will present a talk on one of the words used in the ritual. This word has been misunderstood by many both within and outside the Craft. It is one of the primary

reasons that Masons are accused by religious groups of being evil, unbelievers. Using two sources published in England, he will offer some points to clarify this misunderstanding.

Reap What You sow

In a daily devotional book the author notes that one can not sow wheat seed and expect to grow rice. If you sow weed seed you will get weeds.

Likewise in the moral and spiritual "world", just like seed corn, good thoughts produce good actions while bad thoughts yield bad actions.

A Man's Word Matters

The psalmist connected the integrity of a man's word with his place in God's house. A PSALM OF DAVID. *LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?* (PSALM 15:1)

The godly person speaks the truth from the heart. He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and *speaketh the truth in his heart.* (PSALM 15:2)

The godly person will not let his work hurt another person. *He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour.* (PSALM 15:3)

The godly person cares more about his promise than about what it may cost him to keep that promise. In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the LORD. *He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not.* (PSALM 15:4)

From Right Excellent Rev. Dr. Edwin Elliott
PDDGHP (Manassas Chapter May 2005)

