

**SUMMARY - GRAND LODGE – 2011**  
**233rd GRAND ANNUAL COMMUNICATION**  
**HILTON RICHMOND HOTEL & SPA, 12042 WEST BROAD STREET**  
**RICHMOND, VIRGINIA**  
**NOVEMBER 11 - 12, 2011**

Most Worshipful John Mason Chambliss, Jr., Grand Master greeted the Brethren and distinguished guests.

**OFFICERS**  
**GRAND LODGE, A.F. & A.M., OF VIRGINIA**  
**2010 - 2011**

MOST WORSHIPFUL JOHN MASON CHAMBLISS, JR. .... *Grand Master*  
RIGHT WORSHIPFUL WILLIAM TALBOTT ELLISON, JR. .... *Deputy Grand Master*  
RIGHT WORSHIPFUL LOUIS KERFORD CAMPBELL..... *Grand Senior Warden*  
RIGHT WORSHIPFUL PAUL DAVID SLEEPER ..... *Grand Junior Warden*  
MOST WORSHIPFUL WILLIAM LEE HOLLIDAY ..... *Grand Treasurer*  
MOST WORSHIPFUL ALAN WAYNE ADKINS ..... *Grand Secretary*  
RIGHT WORSHIPFUL WAYNE SAWYER FLORA ..... *Grand Senior Deacon*  
RIGHT WORSHIPFUL REESE EDWARD CARROLL, JR. .... *Grand Junior Deacon*  
RIGHT WORSHIPFUL DAVID NATHAN SILVER..... *Administrative Assistant to the Grand Master*  
BROTHER ROBERT WAGNER DAY ..... *Grand Marshal*  
RIGHT WORSHIPFUL GEORGE WILLIAM THOMAS, JR. .... *Associate Grand Marshal*  
RIGHT WORSHIPFUL EDWIN CLIFTON WHITLOCK..... *Grand Chaplain*  
RIGHT WORSHIPFUL HOEN McGUIRE EDWARDS, JR. .... *Grand Lecturer*  
RIGHT WORSHIPFUL WALTER WINCHELL YOUNG ..... *Grand Provost*  
RIGHT WORSHIPFUL STEVEN WELDON SANFORD ..... *Grand Pursuivant*  
BROTHER GARY DWIGHT HUFFMAN..... *Grand Purveyor*  
RIGHT WORSHIPFUL JOHN QUINTON SHEPPARD..... *Grand Senior Steward*  
RIGHT WORSHIPFUL JOHNNIE CLIFTON DODSON ..... *Grand Junior Steward*  
WORSHIPFUL FRANCIS REED BROWN ..... *Grand Organist*  
WORSHIPFUL SAMUEL MOSELEY JONES ..... *Grand Physician*  
BROTHER FRAN ERIC TURNER ..... *Grand Tiler*

**OFFICERS EMERITUS**

RIGHT WORSHIPFUL EDWARD CLEVELAND BARDEN, JR..... *Deputy Grand Secretary*

The Grand Master proceeded to open the 233rd Grand Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Virginia.

Friday morning's session included the ADDRESS TO GRAND LODGE of Most Worshipful John Mason Chambliss, Jr., as well as a memorial service conducted by Most Worshipful Charles Franklin Shuler, P.G.M.

James Noah Hillman Awards and Seymour Jonas Levy Awards will be presented to those Lodges, which qualified by the District Deputy Grand Masters when they officially visit the Lodges during 2012.

The Perfect Ashlar Award was presented to Brother Harry Glenn Harvey, a member of Edward N. Eubank Lodge No. 262.

John Blair, Jr. Awards were presented on Friday morning to Brother Donald Lewis Ratliff of Big Stone Gap Lodge No. 208 and Right Worshipful Edwin Clifton Whitlock of Lake Drummond Lodge No. 178. The George Washington Distinguished Service Medal was also presented to Most Worshipful Edmund Cohen of Henry Lodge No. 57.

The Grand Master's Award of Excellence for the Outstanding Sponsoring Body of a Virginia Chapter of the

International Order of DeMolay was presented to Herndon Lodge No. 264 by Right Worshipful Michael Earl Williams, Executive Officer in Virginia.

During Friday afternoon's session Most Worshipful Brother Chambliss recognized his distinguished guests as well as the Past Grand Masters of Masons in Virginia. The Report of the Board of Governors of the Masonic Home of Virginia was presented and approved. Committee meetings were held 3:30 P.M., and a banquet for the delegates and distinguished guests was held on Friday evening at 6:30 P.M.

The Grand Master called the Craft from Refreshment to Labor at 8:00 A.M. on Saturday morning, November 12, 2011.

Saturday's agenda included a report from the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, which submitted the following resolution: "*Be it resolved that the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M. of the Commonwealth of Virginia, shall extend fraternal recognition to the National Grand Lodge of Azerbaijan, the Grand Lodge of Maritius, and the National Regular Grand Lodge of the Principality of Monaco.*" **This resolution was adopted.**

The Grand Master appointed a special commission to study the feasibility of implementing a Background Investigation Program. The Chairman of the Commission submitted a report on their findings and recommendations to the delegates at the November 2011 Grand Annual Communication. The report was approved by the delegates.

The booklet of Committee Reports was adopted as printed. The report of the Finance Committee was given and the budget for 2012 was presented and approved. The Report of the Past Grand Masters was presented by Most Worshipful Charles Franklin Shuler and adopted. Resolutions 11-01 through 11-06 were acted upon with the results as listed elsewhere in this summary. Most Worshipful James Dean Cole conducted the election of Grand Lodge Officers with the following results:

**OFFICERS  
GRAND LODGE, A.F. & A.M., OF VIRGINIA  
2011 - 2012**

MOST WORSHIPFUL WILLIAM TALBOTT ELLISON, JR. ....	<i>Grand Master</i>
RIGHT WORSHIPFUL LOUIS KERFORD CAMPBELL.....	<i>Deputy Grand Master</i>
RIGHT WORSHIPFUL WAYNE SAWYER FLORA .....	<i>Grand Senior Warden</i>
RIGHT WORSHIPFUL REESE EDWARD CARROLL, JR. ....	<i>Grand Junior Warden</i>
MOST WORSHIPFUL JOHN MASON CHAMBLISS, JR. ....	<i>Grand Treasurer</i>
MOST WORSHIPFUL ALAN WAYNE ADKINS .....	<i>Grand Secretary</i>
RIGHT WORSHIPFUL JAMES EDWARD LITTEN .....	<i>Grand Senior Deacon</i>
RIGHT WORSHIPFUL VERNON STUART COOK. ....	<i>Grand Junior Deacon</i>
RIGHT WORSHIPFUL JOHN KIRBY CRAFT.....	<i>Administrative Assistant to the Grand Master</i>
RIGHT WORSHIPFUL JACK KENT PURVIS.....	<i>Grand Marshal</i>
RIGHT WORSHIPFUL LONNIE LEE GODFREY.....	<i>Grand Chaplain</i>
RIGHT WORSHIPFUL HOEN McGUIRE EDWARDS, JR. ....	<i>Grand Lecturer</i>
RIGHT WORSHIPFUL WALTER WINCHELL YOUNG .....	<i>Grand Provost</i>
RIGHT WORSHIPFUL SAMUEL EMMITT DUNN.....	<i>Grand Pursuivant</i>
RIGHT WORSHIPFUL PAUL WESLEY PENNYBACKER .....	<i>Grand Purveyor</i>
RIGHT WORSHIPFUL DONALD ELLIS STREHLE .....	<i>Grand Senior Steward</i>
RIGHT WORSHIPFUL HOBERT McKINLEY BOWERS .....	<i>Grand Junior Steward</i>
WORSHIPFUL FRANCIS REED BROWN .....	<i>Grand Organist</i>
WORSHIPFUL SAMUEL MOSELEY JONES .....	<i>Grand Physician</i>
RIGHT WORSHIPFUL EMORY HUGHES MERRYMAN, JR.....	<i>Grand Tiler</i>

**OFFICERS EMERITUS**

RIGHT WORSHIPFUL EDWARD CLEVELAND BARDEN, JR. .... *Deputy Grand Secretary, Emeritus*

The newly elected Grand Master, Most Worshipful William Talbott Ellison, Jr., announced his appointments to the Board of Governors of the Masonic Home of Virginia for a three-year term. They are Most Worshipful Alan Wayne Adkins, Right Worshipful Gordon Hector Sprigg, Jr. and Right Worshipful Harris Trail Luscomb, III.

The Committee on Credentials gave its report. There were 255 Lodges represented with 1,237 registered by the Committee.

A motion was entertained and passed to pay the bills of this Grand Lodge.

At the conclusion of all business, the Grand Lodge of Virginia was closed in Ample Form until the Friday preceding the second Monday in November 2012 unless sooner convened in emergent or special communication at the will and pleasure of the Most Worshipful Grand Master.

The Installation of District Deputy Grand Masters and Grand Lodge Officers were held at 4:30 P.M. in the ballroom of the Hilton Richmond Hotel & Spa. The newly elected Grand Master, Most Worshipful William Talbott Ellison, Jr. gave an address outlining his goals for the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan W. Adkins', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Alan W. Adkins  
Grand Secretary

AWA:ksm

## **SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED AT 2011 GRAND ANNUAL COMMUNICATION**

### **RESOLUTION NO. 11-01 — ADOPTED**

This resolution would change Section 1.102 of the Methodical Digest to amend the name of Region I to its current usage of “Southwest” Region.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 11-02 — ADOPTED**

This resolution would change Section 2.95 of the Methodical Digest to insert the role and the responsibility of a Recommender to present the petition when it is to be considered by the Lodge for balloting. It also states the requirement that a Recommender who belongs to a Lodge in another Grand Jurisdiction must have his Good Standing verified by the Lodge Secretary through Grand Lodge channels.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 11-03 — REJECTED**

This resolution would change Section 2.147 of the Methodical Digest to add other methods of making contact with a delinquent Brother prior to issuing a citation for non-payment of dues.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 11-04 — REJECTED**

This resolution would change Section 2.16 of the Methodical Digest to remove the prohibition of no public ceremonies, except the Masonic funeral service, being held on Sunday to support the spirit of a day of rest as is established in our ritual and custom, without establishing a particular day, which is confined to one religion or denomination of religion.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 11-05 — WITHDRAWN**

This resolution would change Section 2.05(a) of the Methodical Digest to clarify the ambiguities of the opening and closing of a Lodge of Sorrow, which are found in the Manual of Ceremonies, Presentation Volume, and the Methodical Digest by having a Lodge of Sorrow opened and closed in a Master Mason’s Lodge, either at a called or stated communication.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 11-06 — ADOPTED**

This resolution would change Section 3.08 of the Methodical Digest concerning the use of alcohol in a Lodge and by whom.