

5 September, 2005

Greetings Companions,

I would like to share with you some plans at the start of the new Royal Arch Chapter year which began for Manassas RAC #81 with installation of officers on September 1<sup>st</sup>. Incidentally, the next night at the monthly Manassas Blue Lodge Stated meeting where I briefly spoke about the Chapter's program plans for the year, I was delighted to comply with two Master Masons' request for petition forms for RAC #81 membership. We will be happy to oblige these gentlemen, and all others that may wish to join, with Degree work as needed throughout the year under the guidance and direction of the District Degree team.

We will continue to be serving dinner at 6:30 PM prior to all Chapter monthly 8:00 PM Stated meetings.

On Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup> from 4 P.M. until 6:30 at the Manassas Lodge, the Chapter will be hosting our 20<sup>th</sup> annual Royal Arch Ham & Oyster dinner to raise money for the Chapter Scholarship Fund. Tickets are available from RAC #81 members at \$16 for adults and \$6 for children 10 and under, with all money going too the Scholarship Fund. The scholarships will be awarded at the dinner preceding our August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2006 RAC meeting. In 20 years, over \$30,000 in scholarships have been awarded, with \$3,500 divided among 7 recipients this year alone. I hope to see as many as possible, Companions, and their families, and friends, enjoying the good food and fellowship at this November feast. As usual, all additional voluntary contributions to the Chapter Scholarship Fund will be gratefully accepted.

Following the Virginia Grand Chapter meeting in Williamsburg on November 17 - 19, our incoming District Deputy Grand High Priest, RAC #81 Companion "Van" Van Aalst, Jr., will have his investiture at our December 1<sup>st</sup> RAC #81 meeting, with the other District 17 Chapters as our guests.

On Saturday evening, January 28th, 2006, we plan to host a joint meeting with District 1 to receive the incoming Virginia Grand High Priest, Right Excellent Wayne S. Flora, at Manassas Lodge for his annual District visit. Dinner is planned for 6:00 P.M. with ladies welcome, followed by a closed meeting at 7:30. Entertainment for the ladies will be provided during the closed meeting. More on this later.

As a continuation of my predecessor Bill Edwards's very successful February Ladies Night dinner and entertainment, I hope to arrange a mid-February Saturday evening dinner and musical concert at the Lodge for all our Companions, their families and friends, and all Royal Arch widows residing close enough to attend. More about that in the next newsletter.

After the RAC #81 Chapter installation, I took the opportunity to talk briefly about the year's program plans. While considering the upcoming programs, it occurred to me that we have all participated in a "survey" of sorts of what we most desired in our Masonic activities. Therefore I have chosen, related to that "survey", a theme for the year, presented as a question; 'What is "More light"?' I am delighted to announce that a number of distinguished Past High Priests, District Deputy Grand High Priests, and a Past Grand High Priest have accepted invitations to speak on that theme. These presentations are planned to occur at each meeting during the year between now and August of next year. I will be sending out newsletters during the year giving updates on the speakers for these presentations each quarter.

For the remainder of this calendar year, the planned schedule is as follows:

6 October: "Benjamin Franklin", ..er, I mean.. Don McAndrews  
3 November: John Schroeder  
1 December: Dr. Edwin Elliott

All Companions from other Chapters in our District and other Virginia and surrounding Districts are cordially invited to attend all RAC #81 meetings to hear these distinguished speakers express their thoughts on

the year's theme. I personally am looking forward to hearing their presentations with great anticipation! If you are able to attend the pre-meeting dinner, please let me know if possible at 703-368-4997 so we can make sure to have enough food for all.

I look forward with great anticipation to a successful year of good fellowship and interesting activities and, as usual, I remain open to all suggestions and constructive criticisms.

Fraternally,

Bob Mayer  
Manassas RAC #81 HP, 2005-2006