



M.W. Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia, F&AM, Inc.

THE BEEHIVE



APRIL 2009
ISSUE EIGHT

**The Official Publication of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand
Lodge of Virginia, Free and Accepted Masons, Incorporated**



Most Worshipful Grand Master,
Larry D. Christian # 253

“Letting Our Light Shine”



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Greetings to All Members of the Prince Hall Family

Masonic family, for six months we have toiled together, making a historical mark on Prince Hall Masonry in Virginia. However, with the consideration that our membership has been affected by necessary actions; still the light of the Masonic signet continues to shine on Prince Hall Masonry in the Jurisdiction of Virginia!

Thus far, we have made 22 District Council visitations, 45 Masonic Lodge visitations, and completed all Schools of Instruction as of March 7, 2009. We have visited the following Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodges: Oklahoma, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Maryland, MWGL of VA AF & AM, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Washington DC. The Grand Lodge of VA has participated in the 2nd Annual York Rite Convention, the Virginia Council of Deliberation & Assemblies including other appendant and concordant activities. Additionally, we have attended the Grand Chapter OES Leadership Training; the Grand Chapter OES Sweetheart Brunch, and many other Eastern Star functions.

The highlight of our travel was meeting PM Obediah Baker of the 8th Masonic District. PM Baker has 72 years in Prince Hall Masonry! Outstanding.....PM Obediah Baker.....May your light continue to shine!

We also had the honor of presenting two 60 year service pins to Brother Joseph Dixon, Jr. of Campbell Lodge No. 67 and Brother Norman D. Anderson of Triple River Lodge No. 253.

The MWPHGL of VA is committed to the success of the Knights of Pythagoras. Our Master Masons of tomorrow are our Knights of Pythagoras members today! All Master Masons can become a Sir Knight by donating \$5.00 to the J. Luvell Taylor Council, Knights of Pythagoras.

The Adopt-A-School Program has been supported by all of the District Councils. Contracts have been implemented through the Principals of the various schools. Consequently, the Districts have donated school supplies and sponsored tutoring activities.

Through God's Blessings, we were able to make a \$1000.00 donation to the Richmond Food Bank, which goes to the aide of several needy families in Virginia. Combining the hearts and funds with the Grand Chapter, Order of Eastern Star of Virginia, we gave \$2400.00 to the Sister to Sister Network for Breast Cancer research.

Brothers....let no motive therefore, make you swerve from your duty, violate your vows, or betray your trust, but be true and faithful, and imitate the examples of that celebrated artist whom we represent. As the Most Worshipful Grand Master, I ask that you “let your light shine that men may see your good works and glorify God in Heaven”

LARRY D. CHRISTIAN

Most Worshipful Grand Master
Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia

FROM THE GRAND SECRETARY

Greetings Brethren,

I hope this communication finds you well and in good health. Please read the below listed information regarding our 134th Annual Communication carefully. This will ensure that your registration experience is pleasant and without any inconvenience.



RWGS Isaac Hughes #314

134TH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION

In connection with the **134th Annual Communication** of the MOST WORSHIPFUL PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE OF VIRGINIA, FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS, INCORPORATED, the following information is provided for your attention and action:

PLACE OF COMMUNICATION

SHERATON RICHMOND WEST HOTEL
6624 WEST BOARD STREET
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23230
(804) 285-2000 or (800) 325-3535

DATE SEPTEMBER 17th – 19th, 2009

ADVANCE & ON-SITE/LATE REGISTRATION: The advance registration is **\$95.00** and on-site/late registration is **\$150.00** (\$150.00 is intended to be an incentive for submitting advance registration). The cut-off-date for advance registration is **3 August 2009 (advance registration must be post-marked no later than 3 August 2009)**. The registration form can be found on our web-site.

ANNUAL BANQUET: The Annual Banquet will be held on Friday evening, 18 September 2009, at 7:00 p.m. Seating will be by ticket only. One ticket is included with registration; extra tickets are \$40.00 each and must be ordered with each registration.

SPECIAL SPORTING EVENT: A special sporting event will be held on Tuesday, 15 September 2009. This special fun event is for your enjoyment and fellowship. All are encouraged to participate.

TREASURER & SECRETARY SCHOOL: The Annual Treasurer & Secretary School will be held on Wednesday morning, 16 September 2009, at 10:00a.m. This school will provide important information and answer your questions. All are invited, especially; lodge Worshipful Masters, Senior & Junior Wardens, Treasurers and Secretaries. Immediately following this school, a discussion of Grand Lodge initiatives will take place. Prince Hall Day program will be Wednesday evening, starting at 7:00 pm.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS -- IMPORTANT!!!! In order to be assured of room accommodations when you arrive for the 134th ANNUAL COMMUNICATION, it is necessary that you make reservations now with the Sheraton Richmond West Hotel, (804) 285-2000 or (800) 325-3535. The rate is \$92.00 plus tax (~\$12.00). All reservations must be guaranteed by credit card. The cut-off-date for accepting reservations is 15 August 2009.

SOUVENIR JOURNAL AD CONTRACT: Is on our web-site.

Isaac S. Hughes
Right Worshipful Grand Secretary

Grand Master Christian #253 and Family



From left to right: Bro. Travis Christian, Bro. Bradely Haliday, DDGM James Burrell, MWGM Larry Christian, Bro. Earl Haliday, and Bro. Michael Christian all of Triple River Lodge #253

On March 14, 2009 at Capital City Lodge#107's 3rd Degree Raising, Grand Master Larry Christian was afforded the opportunity to experience an occasion not shared by many Master Masons or Grand Masters, when he attended a Raising with several members of his biological family. During this event, he witnessed the raising of his son Bradley Haliday, in the company of his first cousin Travis Christian, son, Earl Haliday, who recently demitted from Texas, and his brother Michael Christian. Both of the Grand Master's sons are currently serving in the Armed Forces. Please keep them and our other brothers and sisters serving in the Armed Forces in your prayers!

Prince Hall Masons Make Donation to Virginia Food Bank



DDGM Larry Moody, members of the Sheba #17, Ms. Faye Boisseau, and Pastor Thomas E. Tucker, Jr. during Food Bank presentation

In March 2009, the MWPHGL of VA made a substantial donation of \$1000. to the Richmond Food Bank. Additionally, during a Devine Worship Service members of the 12th Masonic District presented the Food Bank of VA with a check for \$306.00 and six boxes of canned goods. This presentation was hosted by Zion Chester A.M.E. Church in Chester, VA. This demonstration of goodwill further exemplifies Prince Hall Masons of VA's commitment to community involvement!

Grand Master Christian and Brunswick #108



Grand Master Larry Christian #253 and members of Brunswick Lodge #108

By DDGM Willie M. Seward, Sr.
13th Masonic District

Most Worshipful Grand Master Larry D. Christian, along with his entourage visited Brunswick # 108 of Lawrenceville, VA on January 22, 2009. Deputy Grand Master, Herman Eggleston Jr. also graced the lodge with his presence.

Worship Master Frederick A. Harrison invited the GM to the East where Grand Honors were rendered, afterwards the gavel was given to the Grand Master and he addressed the Craft. After he had made clear the position of the Grand Lodge regarding the Shriners, all members understood and were in complete agreement with the position taken by our Grand Master. In his talk with the Craft, The Grand Master praised District Deputy Grand Master Willie Seward (a member of Brunswick # 108) for being named "Deputy of the Year - Small District" for two consecutive years. DDGM Seward's 13th Masonic District had also been recognized as " Small District of the Year" for the last two years. The Grand Master praised District Deputy Willie Seward for his accomplishments, and he in return, gave all the credit to having great **Brothers** to work with.

Joining Brunswick # 108 were members from Acme # 158, Emporia # 101, and Greenleaf # 287. Following a delightful meal and the departure of the Grand Master, you could hear brothers saying, "**THE MAN IS ALRIGHT !!!!**"

UPCOMING EVENTS

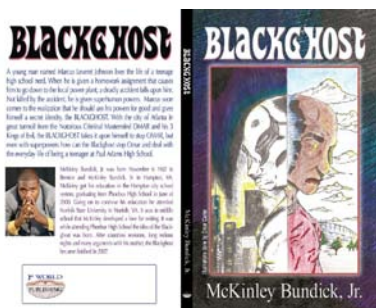
V.A. Hospital Visitation Place: Statewide Date: April 22, 2009	Founder's Day Place: Petersburg, VA Date: May 24, 2009	WHIT Sunday Place: Statewide Date: May 31, 2009	Golf tournament Place: Williamsburg Date: June 19, 2009	KOP Summer Encampment Place: Hampton Univ. Date: July 23-25, 2009
Dist. Deputy Workshop Place: Hobson #23, Rich, VA Date: May 9, 2009	St. John Baptist Day Place: Statewide Date: June 14, 2009	Pro Baseball Game Place: Washington Nationals Date: June 6, 2009	G. L. Charity Ball Place: Richmond, VA Date: June 20, 2009	KOP Youth Day Place: Norfolk Tides Date: July 11, 2009

Bro. McKinley Bundick, Jr. #94 Releases his First Novel



BLACK AMERICA PRODUCTION
1800 Nickerson Blvd., HAMPTON, VA 23663
(757) 851-8599 Mobile: (757) 848-8341

For Immediate Release



Contact: McKinley "Mac" Bundick, Jr.
Home Phone: (757) 851-8599
Cell Phone: (757) 848-8341
Email: m_bundickjr@yahoo.com

December 26, 2008

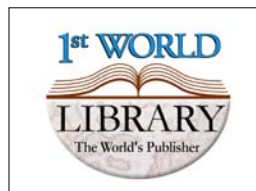
Just Published!

Blackghost "A New Breed of Superhero", is the story of a young man named Marcus Leveret Johnson who lives the normal life of a teenage high school nerd. A homework assignment causes him to go down to the local power plant where a deadly accident falls upon him. Not killed by the accident, he develops superhuman powers. Marcus soon comes to the realization that he should use his powers for good and gives himself a secret identity, the BLACKGHOST. With the city of Atlanta in great turmoil from the Notorious Criminal Mastermind Omar and his 3 Kings of Evil, the Blackghost takes it upon himself to stop Omar, but even with superpowers how can the Blackghost stop Omar and deal with the everyday life of being a teenager at Paul Adams High School. This is author, McKinley Bundick, Jr.'s, debut novel. This novel is for people of all ages who want to escape the harsh reality of the real world and live vicariously as a superhero.

McKinley Bundick, Jr. received his education in the Hampton City School System, graduating from Phoebus High School in June of 2000. Continuing his education, he attended Norfolk State University in Norfolk, VA. It was in middle school that McKinley developed a love for writing. It was while attending Phoebus High School the idea of Blackghost was born. After countless revisions, long tedious nights and many arguments with his mother, the Blackghost was finished in 2007.

If you would like to schedule an interview please contact McKinley Bundick, Jr. or Charles Powell at (757) 334-1904 Books are available online at www.amazon.com or www.barnesandnoble.com for purchase or

Author: McKinley "Mac" Bundick, Jr.
(757) 848-8341 m_bundickjr@yahoo.com
Publisher: 1st World Library www.1stworldlibrary.com



Please make every effort to support Bro. Bundick #94, by purchasing his debut novel, and encourage him to continue to pursue his dreams!

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Dr. Harold Jones III, #114

STROKE



I think it would be safe to say everyone has had a family member or know of someone who has suffered from a stroke. I think it is important that we should have a general understanding of what actually entails a stroke. A stroke is when an area of the brain is deprived of blood supply long enough to cause brain tissue to die. The same scenario occurs in the events leading to a heart attack. The blood carries oxygen to the cells in the brain and with the lack of oxygen, the cells die and a cascade of events follow that may lead to paralysis and even death.

Strokes kill over 143,000 people each year. It is the # 3 cause of death in the United States. Over 800,000 people suffered from strokes last year and roughly a stroke occurs every forty seconds.

The causes of strokes may entail a) arteries (vessels that carry oxygen-rich blood) that have become narrowed, stiffen due to atherosclerosis, plaque development due to cholesterol that do not allow blood flow to the brain, b) aneurysm which is a weakened spot on the artery that bursts and causes bleeding into the brain, and c) atrial fibrillation or an abnormal heart beat to the upper chambers of the heart that produces a blood clot that travels to the brain and prevents blood supply past the point of obstruction.

Medical conditions that increase the risks of stroke include high blood pressure, diabetes which doubles the risks of a stroke, and heart problems such as heart attack, congestive heart failure, atrial fibrillation as alluded above. It is important that you and your doctor maintain adequate blood pressure control and proper glucose (sugar) levels. Lifestyle modifications that may reduce the risk of stroke include smoking cessation, diet modification or reduction in salt and fatty foods, alcohol consumption, and inactivity or “couch potato”.

There are certain factors that cannot be controlled. They include race or ethnic background; African Americans are at a higher risk than Caucasians. The stroke death rate for 2005 showed blacks at 70 per 100,000 compared to whites 44 per 100,000. Other factors include Age – more common in individuals over 55, sex or gender – males more common than females, and hereditary – first-degree relative who had a stroke before age 50 are at a higher risk of developing a stroke.

The main aim of treating a stroke is to act fast to save the brain tissue by restoring the blood flow and if possible the cells to recover. So it is important to be knowledgeable of stroke and to activate the emergency medical system to improve the outcome. You should be aware certain hospitals are designated stroke centers and these facilities are better equipped to manage such emergencies.

For further information:

hjonesiii@msn.com

www.americanheart.org

www.stroke.org

District Deputy Grand Master Ronald Carter
 4th/33Rd Masonic District Virginia Beach, VA
 APPOINTED TO THE VIRGINIA BEACH
 HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

The Human Rights Commission exists to advocate for the rights of all residents in the City of Virginia Beach, and serves as a forum for the discussion of Human Rights Issues. It conducts studies and proposes solutions for the improvement of human relations in the city of Virginia Beach. The Commission spends the majority of its time educating residents on human rights issues that are affecting the community and/or the nation.

His appointment is for a term of 3 years. On February 16, 2006 the 33rd Masonic District was awarded the *Daniel M. Stone Humanitarian Award* by the City of Virginia Beach Human Rights Commission.

**PRINCE HALL GRAND COURT
 LADIES OF THE CIRCLE OF PERFECTION
 PRINCE HALL AFFILIATION**

**REBECCA ANN GRAVES
 ROYAL GRAND PERFECT MATRON**



Prince Hall Grand Court Ladies of the Circle of Perfection (LOCOP) is an auxiliary to the Prince Hall Grand Council, Royal and Select Masters, Prince Hall Affiliation.

Presently the Grand Court is under the leadership of its third Royal Grand Perfect Matron, Mrs. Rebecca Ann Graves of Richmond, Virginia.

The focus and mission of the organization is to further charitable acts and to impress upon the community and members alike to continue giving when there is a need and to make it our natural way of life. It is our responsibility to help others.

Some of the recent activities of the Prince Hall Grand Court include Children's Emphasis Month where the entire month is dedicated to the needs of children, Back To School Projects, Awarding Monetary Scholarships, Dress for Success Programs, Nursing Home Visits, Donating Thanksgiving and Christmas Baskets, and other activities that bring aid and benefit to the local community.

The existence of the Prince Hall Grand Court dates back to 2001 with the original union of four courts. Since that time we developed into a Grand body of eight subordinate courts: Hannah No. 1 of Norfolk, Lydia No. 2 of Richmond, Leah No. 3 of Hampton, Zibiah No. 4 of Richmond, Avery No. 5 of Northern Virginia, Alwina No. 6 of Fredericksburg, Sarah No. 7 of Madison Heights and Zipporah No. 8 of Petersburg.

**CHANGE:
 FACING IT AND ACCEPTING IT
 AS WE STRIVE TO TAKE THE ORGANIZATION TO ANOTHER LEVEL**

KING CYRUS GRAND CHAPTER HOLY ROYAL ARCH MASONS (PHA) OF VA

By
Right Excellent Grand Secretary Michael Hodges

King Cyrus Grand Chapter Holy Arch Masons (PHA) of Virginia open it's Past High Priest Council on 17 January 2009 in the City of Portsmouth, Virginia for the purpose of bestowing the Past High Priesthood Degree upon the newly elected Most Excellent High Priests and those Past High Priest who had not obtained the Degree.

The Council was open by the Most Excellent President Right Excellent Grand Lecture of the East John R. McDonald Sr. #15, assisted by the Right Excellent Grand King Rudy A. Baker #9, Past Most Excellent Grand High David L. Wilkerson, Jr. #9, Past High Ronald Johnson #4, Past High Priest Jesse Patrick #15, Past High Priest Samuel Rivers #74, and the Right Excellent Grand Secretary Michael Hodges #34.

Those Royal Arch Companions that were initiated into the Past High Priesthood were: Excellent High Priest Morris Mitchell #74, Past High Priest Paul E. Carter II #7, Excellent High Priest Hallie Oxley #2, Excellent High Priest Steven Leggette #72, Past High Priest William Christian #7, Excellent High Priest Ronald Vernon #4, Excellent High Priest Morris Hicks #18, Past High Priest Leonard Dilligard #18, Past High Priest Floyd Seaborne #74. Congratulations to all the new inductees.

The Grand Chapter is in the process of preparing for its 136th Grand Convocation of Holy Royal Arch Masons (PHA) of VA. Contact any Royal Arch Mason for an application to receive the "REAL WORD", in Prince Hall Masonry!!

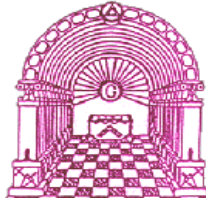
HOLY ROYAL ARCH MASONRY IN NORFOLK VIRGINIA



Pictured in red are Companions William Moore Jr. (on left) and Larry Ward Jr. at Greater Metropolitan Episcopal Zion Church

By
 Excellent High Priest Lorne Dennis #14

On January 18, 2009 at Greater Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in Norfolk Virginia, Cohesion Chapter #14 – Holy Royal Arch Masons, assembled in honor and commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. There were approximately 10-12 companions present along with other appendant and concordant bodies of the Prince Hall Family. Among the companions present were Excellent High Priest - Lorne Dennis #14, Right Excellent Captain of the Host - Robert Ambrose #14, and Right Excellent Grand King - Rudy Baker #9. The message for the sermon was, "Don't Park Here" and it was well received by all in attendance. This is just one of the few things that Cohesion Chapter #14 participates in annually. We look forward to seeing more from Cohesion Chapter #14 in the forthcoming editions of the Beehive.



**Prince Hall Grand Council
Royal and Select Masters
Jurisdiction of Virginia (PHA)
Organized 1998**



**Mathew McGuffey, #1
Arlington**

**James E. Fuller #2
Norfolk**

Hampton/Newport News #3

Richmond #4

Danville #5

Petersburg #6



**Dedicated to
preserving the tenets
of York Rite Masonry**

**In Cryptic Masonry,
your Faith is rewarded**

Ask, Seek and Knock

**Ronald E. Blakely, KYCH, 33°
Right Grand Thrice Illustrious Master
Julius Green, Grand Illustrious Treasurer
Andre Samuels. Grand Illustrious Recorder**



Ills. George M. Ellis, Jr. 33°
Deputy for Orient Virginia

United Supreme Council, 33°
Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry
Southern Jurisdiction, U.S.A., Prince Hall Affiliation
804-732-0161



SGIG George M. Ellis, Jr.
Deputy for Orient of Virginia

18 Edmond Avenue
Petersburg, Virginia 23803

"A GLIMPSE INTO HISTORY"

Operating under authority of the United Supreme Council 33°, A.A.S.R. of Freemasonry P.H.A., Southern Jurisdiction, United States of America, the Virginia Council of Deliberation (VCOD) exercises supervision over 9 consistories in the State of Virginia. Each Consistory has 3 subordinate houses called Councils of Kadosh, Chapters of the Rose Croix and Lodges of Perfection. Being organized to promote Scottish Rite Masonry of the 4th through 32nd Degrees and to foster charitable endeavors, the VCOD and its Consistories have sponsored blood drives, given assistance to the needy, contributed to disaster relief and scholarship programs.

Sovereign Grand Inspector General George M. Ellis, Jr. 33° of Petersburg Consistory #144 provides leadership and supervision over the VCOD and Its constituent Consistories. As Illustrious Deputy of the Orient, he is the Supreme Council's representative for Scottish Rite Masons in the State. In the past, it was generally held that the Rev. Bishop (SGIG) Howard Z. Plummer, 33° was the first Deputy for the State of Virginia, but recently it was discovered that SGIG John W. Barnes held that honor. Therefore, since its inception in 1924, stewardship over the VCOD has been exercised by SGIG John Henry Evans, Jr., SGIG Richard L. Jones, and SGIG George M. Ellis, Jr.

Other Scottish Rite Masons of VA who attained the title of Sovereign Grand Inspector General, 33°, include SGIG Roswell A. Taylor, Sr., who served as Budget Committee Chairman for the Supreme Council, SGIG Gilbert S. Reddings who currently serves as Illustrious Grand Treasurer-General, H.E., and SGIG Michael A. Parris, a member of the Finance and Investments Committee. It should be noted that GIG Andre' F. Samuel, Sr., and GIG Alan Thornton also served as Grand Recorders for the Supreme Council and that the late Thurgood Marshall, 33°, a U.S. Supreme Court justice, was a member of the Orient of Virginia.

The VCOD currently has 1,002 Sublime princes on its rolls, 235 are General Inspector Generals, 33°, and four are Sovereign Grand Inspector Generals, 33°. Whereas, Consistories and their subordinate houses confer the 4th through 32nd Degree on eligible Scottish Rite Masons, the Supreme Council confers the 33rd Degree on deserving nominees who are selected from the ranks of Sublimes Princes. We are proud to report that at the 122nd Annual Session of the Supreme Council, held in Tulsa, Oklahoma on October 10 through 13 2008, thirteen Sublime Princes from Virginia from Virginia were coroneted as Grand Inspector General 33rd Degree. They are as follows: MW Grand Master Larry D. Christian, #22, RW Deputy Grand Master Herman G. Eggleston, J. #105, RW Senior Grand Warden Shelton Riddick #9, RW Senior Grand Deacon Paige Cherry #9, Ill Kenneth Samuels #22, Ill. George C. Hundley #40, Ill. James Fudd #156, Ill. Steven Legette #346, Ill. Paul L.R. White #346, and Ill. Larry Miller #9

Consistories and Locations: *Alpha and Omega Consistory #9-Norfolk, VA, Richmond Consistory #22-Richmond, VA, John W. Kirby Consistory #40-Hampton, VA, Acron Consisttory #103-Roanoke, VA, Constantine Consistory #105-Lynchburg, VA, Petersburg Consistory #144-Petersburg, VA, Shadrack Jackson Consistory #156-Alexandria, VA, Warren Consistory #315-Warrenton, VA, Fredericksburg Consistory #346-Fredericksburg, VA*

*Beehive Publication
Committee*

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be sent to:

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kworld81@hotmail.com

Copies of this newsletter can
be obtained at:

<http://www.mwphgl-va.org>



MESSAGE FROM THE BEEHIVE EDITOR



Greetings Prince Hall Masonic Family,

As your humbled and honored Editor, I would like to recognize those individuals selected to serve on your Publication Committee: *DDGM Raymond Sutton, PM Aaron Allen, PM Jake Woodie, PM John Edwards, and WM George Bowser (consultant)*. The Publication Committee remains steadfast in its attempt to provide you with pertinent information regarding our time ordered institution, while recognizing your individual and collective accomplishments. In order to accomplish this goal, we respectfully request that each lodge designate a representative responsible for forwarding your newsworthy efforts to the Beehive at kworld81@hotmail.com. As we face uncertain times economically, professionally, and personally, I paraphrase the optimistic words of the late Robert Kennedy, who said, "Some look at things as the way they are and ask why, I dream of the way things can be and ask, why not?" ***Finally, the Publication Committee would like to wish you and your family a safe and enjoyable summer!***

May peace and brotherly love prevail from now, henceforth, and evermore!

Fraternally yours,

PM Kenneth L. Ragland #81
Editor
Beehive Publication Committee

MWPHGL OF VA
P.O. Box 14646
Richmond, VA 23221

