



# NELLIE CUSTIS CHAPTER NO. 169



## APRIL 2026 NEWSLETTER

Anna L. Taylor, Worthy Matron    Terry L. Bledsoe, Worthy Patron

Another Chapter year has begun, and we are pleased to welcome a new corps of officers. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the Chapter for electing Brother Terry and me to serve as Worthy Patron and Worthy Matron.

Our Installation on March 28 was a complete success, and we are grateful to all who attended and supported the occasion. For those who were unable to join us, Brother Paul Turner, PGP, served as Installing Grand Officer, accompanied by Sister Ruth Meagher, PM, as Installing Grand Chaplain; Sister Stacey Phillips, PM, as Installing Grand Marshal; and Sister Fran Thompkins, PM, as Grand Organist. Each of them performed their roles beautifully, and we deeply appreciate their contributions to making the ceremony so memorable. I would be remiss if I did not also mention the beautiful rendition of "I Believe," sung by our own Chapter member, Janice Clark. Her performance added a special and memorable touch to the ceremony.

We held our first meeting of the new Chapter year on Tax Day, Wednesday, April 15, and it was a great success. Everyone did an outstanding job in remembering their parts, which is a testament to the preparation and dedication of our members. Much of the credit goes to our Assistant Lecturer, Sister Susan Geisler, PM, who conducted an excellent School of Instruction on the Saturday prior to the meeting. Now in her second year in this role, she continues to do a truly tremendous job.

As many of you know, our Worthy Patron, Brother Terry Bledsoe, currently serves as Grand Sentinel for the Grand Chapter of Virginia. While his term will soon conclude in May with the installation of a new corps of Grand Officers, the good news is that the Bledsoes will continue their travels throughout the Commonwealth. Sister Cheryl Bledsoe will assume the office of Grand Electa for the Kellogg-Kendrick Grand Family in May. Who knows—perhaps they will follow in the footsteps of our current Worthy Grand Patron, Carl Peacock, and his lovely wife, Judy. One can't help but wonder!

We'd like to share a couple of updates about the upcoming year.

We will once again be selling White House ornaments. Since this year marks our country's 250th birthday, I understand the ornaments will be especially meaningful. Sister Susan Geisler will be placing an order soon. We hope to offer the ornaments at the same price as last year—\$23 each. We won't know the exact cost until the order is placed, but we expect to do so soon.

I mentioned at the Installation that my focus this year is fun and fellowship. With that in mind, we're planning a Karaoke Night and Ice Cream Social at the lodge on Friday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 PM. We're really hoping for a great turnout and a whole lot of fun. And remember—you don't have to sing to enjoy yourself!

We plan to have another Paint Party on Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, from 4:00 to 7:00 PM. Sister Jill Russell is coordinating the event with the artist who will be leading the

session. Everyone who attended last year had a wonderful time, and you absolutely don't need to be an artist to join in.

The next item on the agenda is our new Dinner Group, which will meet once a month—or every other month—at a different restaurant. Sister Susan Geisler, Dinner Group Chair, is organizing a dinner at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, April 28th, at Milanos Restaurant in West Springfield. It's not fancy, just a chance for us to get together and enjoy each other's company outside the Chapter.

Sister Lisa Andrews is organizing a dinner at Spartans Restaurant in Burke. The gathering will also serve as a fundraising event, with the restaurant donating a small percentage of its sales to our Chapter based on the number of Chapter members who eat in or carry out on a specific date. Sister Lisa Andrews will provide more information on the date and time.

The Grand Chapter Session will take place next month, from 18 to 20 May, at the Hilton Richmond Hotel & Spa, Short Pump in Richmond. Since our May meeting conflicts with the Session, we have submitted a Dispensation to the Grand Chapter requesting permission to reschedule our meeting to Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 PM.

The Official Visit for District 41 will be held at our lodge on Saturday, August 15th, at 2:00 PM. In preparation for the Official Visit, Sister Susan Geisler will hold a District School of Instruction at our lodge on August 8<sup>th</sup>, from 4:00 to 6:00 PM. We request all officers attend this important School.

We will send an update on future events. We're thinking about having a Chili Cook-off and a Game Night, but that's not set in concrete yet. We'll provide details at a later date.

Star love,  
Anna Taylor, Worthy Matron, and Terry Bledsoe, Worthy Patron

### **FROM THE WORTHY PATRON:**

I encourage every active member to connect with those who are less involved, see how they're doing, and remind them that their presence is valued and missed. Check our current roster for nearby members who no longer attend. If so, call them and briefly ask whether they have any issues attending Chapter Meetings and Events. Ask them if any members live nearby who could help bring them to meetings and events. They may not be able to attend every meeting, but one is better than none. I'm sure that we have members who would appreciate our contacting them!



## **OFFICERS FOR 2026-2027**

Worthy Matron	Anna Taylor, PM	Marshal	Pamerla Reid, PM
Worthy Patron	Terry Bledsoe, PP	Organist	Holly Hambley, PM
Associate Matron	Grace Capuno, PM	Adah	Fe Suaco, PM
Associate Patron	Romi Capuno, PP	Ruth	Jill Russell, PM
Secretary	Bob Bartruff, PP	Esther	Lisa Andrews
Treasurer	Susan Geisler, PM	Martha	Janice Clark
Conductress	Eugenia McGroarty	Electa	Cheryl Bledsoe, PM
Associate Conductress	Sue Baker, PM	Warder	Katherine Solenberger
Chaplain	Ruth Meagher, PM	Sentinel	Vacant

## **COMMITTEES FOR 2026-2027**

<b>ACCENT ON YOUTH</b> Grace Capuno, PM	<b>DINNER GROUP</b> Susan Geisler, PM
<b>AUDIT</b> Grace Capuno, PM (Chair) Sue Baker, PM (2 Year) Diana Bartruff, PM (3 Year)	<b>TRUSTEES</b> Barbara Davis-Flanagan, PGM (Chair) Romi Capuno, PP (2 Year) Eugenia McGroarty (3 Year)
<b>CHAPTER BYLAWS</b> Terry Bledsoe, WP <b>HOSPITALITY</b> Cheryl Bledsoe, PM	<b>REFRESHMENTS</b> Katherine Solenberger (Chair) All Members
<b>JOYS AND CONCERNS</b> Anna Taylor, WM	<b>PECANS</b> Anna Taylor, PM <b>WHITE HOUSE ORNAMENTS</b> Susan Geisler, PM

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

<b>May 13</b>	7:30 PM	Stated Meeting – Honoring Mothers
<b>May 18-20</b>		Grand Chapter of Virginia
<b>June 17</b>	7:30 PM	Stated Meeting – Honoring Fathers and the Flag of our Country
<b>July 10</b>	6:00 PM	Karaoke and Ice-cream Social
<b>August 9</b>	6:00 PM	District 41 School of Instruction
<b>August 15</b>	2:00 PM	District 41 Official Visit
<b>September</b>	TBA	School of Instruction
<b>September 16</b>	7:30 PM	Stated Meeting – Rob Morris and Obligation
<b>October 21</b>	7:30 PM	Stated Meeting – Honoring Chaplains
<b>November 18</b>	7:30 PM	Stated Meeting – Honoring Veterans
<b>December 16</b>	7:30 PM	Stated Meeting
<b>January 20</b>	7:30 pm	Stated Meeting – Honoring Past Matrons and Past Patrons
<b>February 17</b>	7:30 PM	Stated Meeting – Valentine’s Day
<b>March 17</b>	7:30 PM	Stated Meeting – Election of Officers