



Nellie Custis Chapter No. 169

April/May 2023



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Praise the Lord, our Chapter is alive and well! When Brother Bob and I agreed to be the Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron for the upcoming year, everyone was ecstatic! It wasn't because WE were going to be in those positions, but that we were all going to be able to keep the Chapter open!

We would be remiss if I didn't mention that all the officers stepped up to keep the Chapter going. When they say "it takes a village" it is certainly true! We are a cohesive unit and each one of us is necessary to keep the Chapter going. We don't want to just keep it going though, we want it to keep going strong! We are so proud of our members who have stepped up to take a position or to offer to help. We even have as officers Sister Cheryl and Brother Terry Bledsoe, who will drive all the way from Virginia Beach to support the Chapter! That's dedication!

The Closed Installation of Officers for 2023-2024 was held on Wednesday, March 15th. Thankfully, we have a FULL corps of officers, and all except the Sentinel were Installed! He will be installed at the next stated meeting. The following is a list of the Installing team and Chapter Officers.

Installing Grand Officers:

Installing Grand Officer: Herndon Chapter No. 55	Paul E. Turner, PGP Herndon Chapter No. 55
Installing Grand Marshal	Stacey L. Phillips, PM Martha Washington Chapter No. 42
Installing Grand Chaplain	Donald G. Phillips, PGP Martha Washington Chapter No. 42
Installing Grand Organist	Mary Alice Baird, PM Hay Market Chapter No. 123
Installing Grand Warder	Frances E. Childers, PM Occoquan Chapter No. 59
Installing Grand Sentinel	Catherine E. Cronin, PM Nellie Custis Chapter No. 169

Officers for 2023-2024

Worthy Matron:	Anna L. Taylor, PM
Worthy Patron:	Robert J. Bartruff, Sr., PP
Associate Matron:	Grace E. Capuno, PM
Associate Patron:	Romulo M. Capuno, PP
Secretary:	J.D. Walker, PP
Treasurer:	Pamela S. Reid, PM
Conductress:	Susan L. Geisler, PM
Associate Conductress:	Jill B. Russell, PM
Chaplain:	Ruth E. Meagher, PM
Marshal:	Cheryl Bledsoe, PM
Organist:	Holly Hambley, PM
Adah:	Katherine B. Solenberger
Ruth:	Eugenia McGroarty
Esther:	Lisa Andrews
Martha:	Meredith E. Shin
Electa:	Fe Abarquez-Suaco, PM
Warder:	Terry Bledsoe, PP
Sentinel:	James J. Mocuiski
District 41 Assistant Lecturer:	Jill B. Russell, PM

We are planning to do things a little differently this year. The Ways and Means Committee will now consist of six members who will be charged with coming up with fresh (and hopefully new) ideas and events for our Chapter. Emphasis will be placed on ways to increase membership while engaging existing members in fellowship activities and events. STAYING ALIVE is our theme for this year; thus, it will also be our focus for the Ways and Means Committee. The committee consists of the following Chapter Members: Susan Geisler, PM, Chair; Lisa Andrews - Co-chair; Eugenia McGroarty, Meredith Shin, Katherine Solenberger, and Ellen Walker. These members are creative and full of fresh ideas. With this change, the burden doesn't fall on one or two people. Also, I'm positive each member is very creative, so keep your eyes posted for news on upcoming events. We're sure the committee would welcome any ideas from any member of the Chapter. Further, we are hoping to receive the vote of the Chapter to sell White House Ornaments and DELICIOUS pecans again this year. So, start thinking about the number of ornaments and bags of delicious pecans

you'd like to purchase. The White Ornaments are always pretty and quite a bargain! As I keep saying every year, the pecans are so fresh and tasty!

Since we were in the process of closing the Chapter when we collectively decided to keep the Chapter open, we did not have enough time to prepare our schedule of events for this year. Of course, the schedule won't change for the stated meetings, but other fellowship/fundraiser events are currently being discussed and planned by the Ways & Means Committee. We will keep you informed of any forthcoming events. Please do not discard the following schedule and future correspondence concerning fundraisers or fellowship events.

Schedule of Events
All Stated Meetings are held at 7:30 PM

April 15	School of Instruction (4:00 PM)
April 19	Stated Meeting (Celebrate Easter or Spring??)
May 17	Stated Meeting (Celebrate Mothers)
May 22-24	Grand Chapter in Harrisonburg, VA
June 21	Stated Meeting (Celebrate Fathers)
Sept. 2	School of Instruction 2:00 PM, Official Visit District 41
Sept. 9	Official Visit District 41, 1:00 PM GWNMM
Sep 20	Stated Meeting (Robert Morris Tribute)
Oct 18	Stated Meeting (Line Night)
Nov 15	Stated Meeting
Dec 13	Stated Meeting (Celebrate Christmas) w/dispensation
Jan 17	Stated Meeting (Friendship Night)
Feb 21	Stated Meeting (Committee Reports Due)
Mar 20	Stated Meeting (Annual Reports and Elections)

Committee Appointments 2023-3024

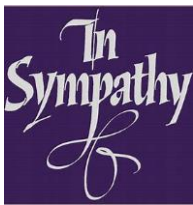
Audit (3)	Lisa Andrews 1 year Jill Russell, PM 2 year Meredith Shin 3 year
Bylaws (3)	Robert J. Bartruff, Sr., WP Grace Capuno, PM Janice Clark
Chapter Birthdays	Cheryl Bledsoe, PM
Chapter Directory	J.D. Walker, PP
Examining Committee	All PM/PP
Investigations Committee (3)	Robert J. Bartruff, Sr., WP

**Committee Appointments 2023-3024
(Continued)**

(1 Brother & 2 Sisters)	Diana A. Bartruff, PM To be determined
Joys & Concerns	Anna Taylor, WM
Masonic Liaison	Romi Capuno, PP
Pecan Sales	Anna Taylor, WM & Patricia Harrison, PM
Refreshments	Meredith Shin
Travel	Grace Capuno, PM
Trustees (3)	Susan Geisler, PM – 1 year Edna Apaga, PM – 2 year Robert J. Bartruff, Sr., PP – 3 year
Sickness and Distress	Anna Taylor, WM
Webmaster	J.D. Walker, PP
Ways and Means	Susan Geisler, PM - Chair Lisa Andrews - Co-chair Eugenia McGroarty Meredith Shin Katherine Solenberger Ellen Walker
White House Ornaments	Susan Geisler, PM

In addition to our theme of Staying Alive, our symbol for this year is The Rising Sun, which seems quite appropriate given the fact that we almost closed our doors a month ago! We also dedicate this year to the members of our Chapter. Our collective courage to keep this Chapter active in this jurisdiction in a time when participation is extremely low will be a challenge, but we will thrive!! However, that will only happen if we have the support and participation of all our members. Thank you for having the confidence in electing us as your Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron.

Fraternally and Sincerely,
Anna L. Taylor, Worthy Matron
Robert J. Bartruff, Sr., Worthy Patron



We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Ned L. Solenberger, II who passed away on February 20, 2023, in Fairfax, Virginia. Brother Ned, a Past Patron of Faith Chapter No. 177 and Secretary of our Chapter, was Initiated into the Order of the Eastern Star on June 24, 1986. An Eastern Star funeral was held on March 5, 2023, and was attended by several members of Nellie Custis Chapter No. 169. He was laid to rest in the Quantico National Cemetery on

March 6th. Brother Ned was an excellent Secretary who paid attention to detail! He is and will continue to be missed by all. Please keep Sister Katherine and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

Secretary's Corner:

Please make sure your current dues card is up to date for 2023. If not, please send a check for \$25.00 payable to Nellie Custis Chapter No. 169, OES, to our Secretary, J.D. Walker, PP, at 6718 Dorothy Giles Ct, Alexandria, VA 22315 or P.O. Box 24, Springfield VA 22150. If any of your information is incorrect in the 2023-2024 directory, please send the corrections to Brother J.D. via email at j.d.walker0519@gmail.com.

One last item of interest....

Our Brother Romi Capuno, Associate Patron, also known as Sir Knight Romulo M. "Romi" Capuno, KCT was installed as the Right Eminent Grand Commander in the Knights Templar of Virginia in May 2022. While his year is almost over, with the permission of the Chapter, we are planning a social/reception to celebrate his successful year. Please look for emails or newsletters concerning the date, but right now we are planning for early July.

APRIL

Grace E. Capuno	3
Meredith E. Shin	3
Holly M. Mamo	6
Patricia E. Harrison	8
Evelyn V. Cantrell	13
Victoria S. Facemire	16
Catherine J. Metzler	23
Nancy I. Reade	25
Carly I. Hauck-Everling	28
Mary Elizabeth Seip	30

MAY

Yolanda Baldonado	15
Pamela A. Horton	17
Doris D. Barber	18
J.D. Walker	19
Christina L. Bartruff	22
Steve Coupland	30
Norberto M. Chavez	21

