

Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Virginia



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October 2024

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MAHOVA The Jewel of Virginia Masonry

As Grand Commander, one of my duties is to serve on the Board of Govenders for the ***Masonic Home of Virginia*** (MAHOVA). We are one of only four States in the nation that has a facility to provide Mature Living, and Health Care for our Brother Masons and their Spouses. I have been a Mason for forty-four years, and it wasn't until I served on the Board, that I realized what we had here in our humble State. The Chief Executive Officer Brother Randy P. Smith, has a deep appreciation for the importance of caring for our residents and families, by overseeing day-to-day operations, mentoring future leaders, and helping chart the strategic course for the organization.

The Board Members are comprised of the Head of the Dependent Bodies (ie: Grand Commander, Grand High Priest, and Sovereign Grand Inspector General) all of whom serve for a one-year term. The Elected Board Members serve for a three-year term. Together, we work to improve the Home, and build for the future. We have sessions wherein we discuss and plan for Finance, Building Maintenance, Grounds, Personnel, and Future Plans.

The Village is an independent living community within the grounds of MAHOVA. This is for residents who are able to live without the need for round-the-clock care.

Requirements are:

- Ability and desire to live independently
- Minimum age of sixty
- Husband of a couple, the Widow of a deceased brother, or the Widower who has lost his spouse. Direct Masonic affiliation is required.
- Wives must have been married to the Mason for at least five years prior to application
- Widows must have been married to the Mason for at least five years prior to his death and must not have remarried

The Assisted Living Unit is for Residents who need medical care because of age, infirmity, or disability. They have access to 24-hour health care services, and supervision.

Requirements are:

- Meet the resident's physical, mental, emotional, psychosocial, and spiritual needs,
- Promote the resident's highest level of functioning,
- Provide protection, guidance, and supervision,
- Promote a sense of security, self-worth, and independence,
- Promote the resident's involvement with appropriate programs and community resources based on the resident's needs and interests

The Memory Support Unit was specifically designed for older adults who have a primary diagnosis of Dementia, and a need for a secured environment as identified by a primary care physician. nursing staff to assist your loved ones with 24-hour care. The memory unit has a dedicated Activities Coordinator providing various types of unique and resident centered activities.

One of the most popular activities at MAHOVA, is the **Masonic Home Day (Family Day)** which is observed on the First Saturday in October. The festivities start with a parade by all the bodies in Virginia Masonry, namely Job's Daughters, Rainbow Girls, DeMolay, Shrine Units, Scottish Rite, Royal Arch, Knights Templar, and the Grand Master. The parade is then followed by a Free BBQ, sponsored by Amelia Lodge for all the residents, and guests. Another popular event is the **Knights Templar Christmas Observance**, which is held in the dining hall. It is on the third Saturday in December, and is open to the

residents. It starts off with a Christmas Meal, followed by a toast, and then the singing of Christmas Carols.

The Masonic Home of Virginia is entirely funded through generous donations predominately made by our Masonic Brothers. This is why we hold charity fundraisers for MAHOVA. Wills and property donations are always welcome, but the majority of donations come from us through our fundraising efforts. The following are the fundraisers for MAHOVA:

- The Grand Masters Appeal
- Family Day Vendor Sponsorship
- Evergreen Campaign
- New Century Fund
- Outreach Program
- Stan Johnson Golf Tournament

The Outreach Program is widely used in Western, South-West, and South-Central Virginia. This program allows Masons to have specialized medical care without leaving their home. This appeals to people that have family members close by, and people that just don't want to leave their homes. They are afforded Home Health Care Nurses who come to their homes, and help in their treatment or rehabilitation. All this is coordinated by and sponsored by MAHOVA.

Please make a commitment to attend Family Day in October, or the Knights Templar Christmas Observance in December. You can take a tour of the facilities and grounds, and see how the residents love the Home. Listen to their testimonies, and see first-hand how they live and enjoy their time there. Once you have seen the care that is given to our Brothers and Sisters and the smiles on their faces like I have, you will want to be part of - and support - this wonder facility as well.

RE Scott L. Fielding

Grand Commander KT of Virginia

