

EVENING STAR CHAPTER #228

HISTORY

Order of the Eastern Star of Virginia

Prince Hall Affiliate

6714 James Lee Street

Falls Church, VA 22042



Worthy Matron – **Marion V. Allen**

Worthy Patron – **James A. Collier**

District #26

Grand District Deputy Organizer –Regina Tanner

Grand Worthy Matron - Mrs. Jacqueline Sutton

Grand Worthy Patron - Mr. Albert Ruffin

Most Worshipful Grand Master - The Honorable Beverly “Butch” Morgan

Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia

Free and Accepted Masons, Inc.

Mission: Promote sisterly love within the Chapter and ensure that others outside of the Order see the glow of our Star in the community and abroad, demonstrating the love exemplified by the five heroines.

Evening Star Chapter #228

HISTORY

Worshipful Past Master of King Tyre Lodge #292, J. Sidney Holland, envisioned starting an Eastern Star Chapter in Falls Church, Virginia. He worked with past District Deputy Organizer, Helen Gee, to accomplish his dream and goal to start a chapter.

The chapter was established Under Dispensation on December 5, 1959, with 14 ladies and six men, by the Past Grand Worthy Patron David L. Muckle and other Grand Chapter officers at Second Baptist Church in Falls Church, VA. The chapter remained under Dispensation until October 22, 1960, at which time it was consecrated, chartered, and given the number 228.

First Officers:

Worthy Matron - Anna Costner
Worthy Patron - J. Sidney Holland
Associate Matron - Otrich Jackson
Associate Patron - Joseph A. Minor
Secretary - Helen M. Walker
Treasurer - Evelyn L. Whitmore
Conductress – Sardie Jones
Associate Conductress – Correan Thomas
Warder – Mary F. Reed
Sentinel – Cornelius Jones
Adah – Azilee Wilson
Ruth – Emma Bush
Esther – Erminie Stewart
Martha – Emily Henderson
Electa – Grace Smith
Marshal – Helen Hamilton

Evening Star Chapter #228

History (cont.)

Charter Members: The 20 charter members of Evening Star Chapter #228 were: Sister Grace Broadus, Sister Emma Bush, Sister Anna Costner, Brother Thomas M. Gordon, Sister Helen Hamilton, Sister Emily Henderson, Brother J. Sidney Holland, Sister Otrich Jackson, Brother Cornelius Jones, Sister Sardie Jones, Brother Joseph A. Minor, Sister Mary F. Reed, Brother Allan Saunders, Sister Grace Smith, Brother Norman Smith, Sister Erminie Stewart, Sister Correan Thomas, Sister Helen M. Walker, Sister Evelyn L. Whitmore, and Sister Azilee Wilson. Sister Sardie Jones, the last living charter member passed in December 2017 at the age of 101.

Past Matrons and Past Patrons: The chapter has been served by 26 Worthy Matrons and 8 Worthy Patrons.

Past Matrons: Sister Anna Costner, Sister Otrich Jackson, Sister Sardie Jones, Sister Mabel Honesty, Sister Lola Sandra, Sister Elva Jane Smith, Sister Correan Thomas, Sister Mary F. Reed, Sister Emma Bush, Sister Evelyn Bowles, Sister Elaine Lightfoot, Sister Evelyn Murphy, Sister Hilda Tillery, Sister Deloris Rucker, Sister Joyce Brown, Sister Carolyn Smith, Sister Gloria Lee Gordon, Sister Brenda Jones, Sister Mary Suter, Sister Vineather Timmons-Ellis, Sister Annie Stark, Sister Gloria Costner, Sister Yvette Collier and Sister Candida Johnson. Many of these Matrons served two and three terms, except Sister Gloria Lee Gordon, who served for 10 years. Sister Yvette Collier was elected WM again in 2016 and served until June 2019. Sister Collier ~~and~~ served for a total of 5 years. Sister Vineather Timmons-Ellis was elected as Worthy Matron again in June 2019 -2021 and served the Chapter during the Covid-19 pandemic. Sister Yolanda Peterson Jones was elected as Worthy Matron in ~~from~~ 2021, and served until June 2023. Sister Marion Allen was elected as Worthy Matron in June 2023, and reelected in June 2024 for a second term.

Past Patrons: Brother J. Sidney Holland served for over 30 years until his health began to fail and the honor was bestowed upon him as Past Patron, Emeritus. Brother Vaughn Keene served for two years and Brother Shirley Smith served for

more than 10 years. Brother Wallace Costner served from 2004- 2009. Brother Reggie Clark served several terms as Worthy Patron 2009-2015. Brother Wallace Costner served again 2015-2016. Brother John Collins was elected as Worthy Patron in July 2016 and officially installed in August 2017. James Collier was elected as Worthy Patron in June 2018 and served until June 2021. Past Grand District Deputy Grand Master James Gordon was elected as Worthy Patron in 2021 and served for one year. James Collier was re-elected as Worthy Patron again June 2022 and, continues to serve to date.

Past Secretaries: Sister Helen Walker was elected and installed as the first Secretary of the Chapter. She served in that position for more than 42 years, consecutively. Sister Walker turned over her role in 2002 to Sister Maritza Marshall. Following Sister Marshall's tenure, Sister Gloria Gordon was elected and served as Secretary for the chapter; then, Sister Brenda Cunningham-Jones, who was followed by Sister Yvette Collier, then Sister Mary Suter. In June 2015, Gloria Costner became the Secretary. In February 2017, Sister Yvette Collier appointed Sister Mirenda Hall to serve as Assistant to the Secretary. Sister Mirenda Hall was elected Secretary in June 2017 and Sister Yushika Tinner-Hare was appointed as the Assistant to the Secretary. Sister Mirenda Hall served as Secretary from June 2017 - 2023. PWM Yvette Collier was elected as Secretary and PWM Constance Mullins was appointed as Assistant to the Secretary in June 2023.

Past Treasurer: Sister Evelyn L. Whitmore—was elected and installed as the first Treasurer for Chapter #228.—She served in that position for more than 41 years, consecutively, until her passing on November 21, 2000. Sister Hazel Gooden served as Treasurer from November 2000 until June 2017. On April 10, 2017, Worthy Matron Collier appointed Sister Daretta Jackson to serve as Assistant to the Treasurer. In June 2017, the Chapter elected its third Treasurer, Sister Daretta Jackson, who served from 2017-2023. In June 2023, Sister Tanja Spicer was elected as Treasurer and PWM Annie Stark was appointed as Assistant to the Treasurer.

Significant Grand Chapter Membership Accomplishments: Honorary Past Matron honors were bestowed upon Sister Helen M. Walker and Sister Evelyn L. Whitmore. Sister Hazel Gooden was selected to receive the title of Honorary Past

Worthy Matron in June 2017. This honor was bestowed upon these three faithful Sisters for their longevity and the quality of service they gave to the Chapter as Secretary and Treasurers.

In 2006-2008, PWM Gloria Gordon was appointed as Grand District Deputy Organizer for District 26.

In 2019, PWM Yvette Collier was appointed as Grand Electa, serving under Grand Worthy Matron G. Sylvia Jackson. In 2021, PWM Yvette Collier was appointed as Grand Esther and PWM Candida Johnson appointed as Grand OES Flag Bearer under the leadership of Grand Worthy Matron, Sandra A. Wilson. In June 2023, PWM Yvette Collier was appointed as Grand Ruth under Grand Worthy Matron Jacqueline T. Sutton and PWM Yolanda Peterson Jones was appointed to Committee on Work.

In June 2023, Evening Star Chapter #228 was awarded the most outstanding Chapter of the Year for their charitable contributions. This honor was bestowed upon the Chapter at Grand Master Donald Wilson's Charity Ball. Newly installed Worthy Matron Marion Allen was asked to receive this honor.

Programs/Activities: The chapter makes annual contributions to elderly persons at Christmas, contributions to the Clark Muckle Memorial Fund, serves families in distress, support the African Doll Fund (helping Black children in Africa identify a positive image of themselves), Loudon County Abused Women's Shelter, Lamb Center Homeless Shelter, INOVA Children's Wish list, Bethany House, Haiti Relief Project, Lott Carey School in Liberia Africa, Toys for Tots, Online Scholarship Auction, support for mothers in the Fairfax County Social Services Dept, New Hope Housing and Golden Living Nursing Home, as well as other charitable organizations.

In 2017, the new members brought new ideas and a progressive way of thinking. The Chapter was able to accomplish the following:

- ✓ *Cook and feed clients at the Lamb Center Homeless Shelter in Fairfax*
- ✓ *Partner with King Tyre Lodge #292 for our First Friends and Family Cookout*
- ✓ *Co-host our First Joint Ball with King Tyre honoring 4 Past Worthy Matrons*
- ✓ *Serve-the James Lee Community Thanksgiving Feast*
- ✓ *Serve at the Breakfast with Santa event at James Lee Community Center*

- ✓ *Support the INOVA Wish List Project for Children at Fairfax Hospital*
- ✓ *Host the First Mother's Day Brunch*
- ✓ *Host Three Soul Food Dinners*
- ✓ *Hold Gas Card Drawing*
- ✓ *Tour the George Washington Masonic Memorial*
- ✓ *Visited Other Chapters*
- ✓ *Develop and print First Pictorial Directory*
- ✓ *Reestablish the Scholarship Fund*
- ✓ *Purchased additional 8 missing Jewels*
- ✓ *Purchased Evening Star Shirts*
- ✓ *Establish First Website*

Scholarships

The Chapter gave two scholarship awards in 2005, which was a first. In 2006, 2007, and 2008, the Chapter awarded two scholarships per year. In 2017, the Chapter instituted a Scholarship Committee which gave two scholarships in 2019 and three in 2020. In 2022, the Chapter received 14 applications from students around the country and were blessed to provide a scholarship to each applicant. This was the first time in the Chapter's History that we were able to provide a scholarship to all applicants.

In 2022, the Scholarship Committee recommended that the Scholarship be named, "The Hazel B Gooden Scholarship", in honor of the late HPWM Hazel B Gooden, a trailblazer.

In 2023, the Scholarship Committee awarded three scholarships. In 2024, the committee awarded 7 scholarships.

King Tyre Evening Star (KTES) Joint Banquet Program

It was the goal and aspiration of PWP Wallace Costner that the Lodge and Chapter would unite and host an annual ball to recognize the Worshipful Past Masters and Past Worthy Matrons that had served their positions faithfully. To that end, the Lodge and Chapter joined together and established a core set of operating guidelines to govern the process, KTES Operating Guidelines. The guidelines were approved and adopted in June 2023. The KTES also established a Joint bank account for this event.

- ❖ First Banquet was held at Kena Shriners Temple in Fairfax, VA, in October 2018. Four Past Worthy Matrons were honored: PWM Joyce Brown, PGDDO/PWM Gloria Gordon, PWM Mary Suter and PWM Brenda Jones.
- ❖ Second Banquet was held at the Hilton Springfield, VA, in October 2019. Two Past Worthy Matrons and one Past Worthy Patron were honored: PWM Gloria Costner, PWM Candida Johnson and PWP Wallace Costner.
- ❖ Third banquet was held at Hilton Springfield, VA, in October 2022. PWM Vineather Timmons Ellis 2022, PWP Reginald Clark and PWP John Collins were honored.
- ❖ Fourth Banquet was held at the Hilton Springfield, in November 2023 where PWM Annie Stark was honored.

Historical Events

October 2016, the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Paige Cherry issued an edict that stated, *“The Jurisdiction of Virginia would have an open window to recruit new non-bloodline members, beginning January 1, 2017, and ending March 31, 2017.”* Grand Worthy Matron Ivery B. Knight gave specific guidelines on how the process must occur during the 90-day period. She instructed that the candidates would be recruited, investigated, and initiated before March 25, 2017. Five Chapters in District 26 united to conduct one large initiation: Esther Chapter #23, Pride of Fairfax Chapter #225, Evening Star Chapter #228, Grace Chapter #239 and Lincoln Chapter #242.

A monumental initiation event was held March 11, 2017 at Kena Shriners Temple in Fairfax, VA, where 71 candidates from across the District were initiated. Evening Star Chapter #228 inducted 23 of the 71 candidates. A second initiation was held on March 18, 2017 at Evening Star Chapter in Falls Church where 7 additional candidates were initiated, 5 of which were Evening Star members. To that end, Evening Star brought in a total of 28 new members, the largest initiation in the Chapter’s history. These new members helped to revitalize the Chapter. Prior to the initiation, the membership was at an all-time low. Special care was given to ensure that the new recruits were ladies found worthy of the OES honor. The investigation revealed that most of them are from Masonic families.

In March 2017, the Chapter voted to adopt 12 Committees that were written by Worthy Matron Collier:

- Audit Committee*
- Investigation Committee*
- Hospitality Committee
- Sick and Distressed Committee*
- Scholarship Committee
- Information Technology Committee
- History and Archives Committee
- Community Outreach Committee
- Calendar Committee
- By-Laws/Constitution Committee
- Club 228
- Joint Venture Committee

On April 10, 2017, Worthy Matron Collier officially appointed some of the new members to fill the vacant positions in the Chapter. For the first time in many years, all 24 positions were filled.

The Chapter continues to foster good citizenship, and morale building, making our community a better place to live.

January 2019, The Most Honorable Grand Master, Richard D. Townes, issued an edict, *“The Jurisdiction of Virginia would have an open window to recruit new non-bloodline members for 120 days, beginning February 1, 2019, and ending May 31, 2019.”* Grand Worthy Matron G. Sylvia Jackson supported this edict and encouraged the members to move forward with recruitment, investigation and initiation of qualified candidates. Evening Star brought in 14 new members, which set the second highest record for initiation. The initiation was held at The Scottish Rite Temple on Braddock Road in Alexandria, VA. Though not part of the recruitment, one Master Mason was obligated making the total membership for May 2019, 15 members. Grace Chapter #239 also brought in one new member that was initiated with our 15 new members. These new members resulted in

Evening Star having 61 members, the highest number of active members in the history of the Chapter.

November 2022, The Most Honorable Donald S. Wilson issued an edict, “*The Jurisdiction of Virginia would have an open window to recruit new non-bloodline members for 120 days, beginning November 1, 2022, and ending February 28, 2023.*” Grand Worthy Matron Sandra A. Wilson supported this edict and encouraged the members to move forward with recruitment, investigation and initiation of qualified candidates. Evening Star investigated and recommended 7 ladies for membership. On the night of balloting, all 7 ladies were rejected, and Evening Star did not bring in any new members. This was the first time in the Chapter’s history where such a tragic event had occurred, and all candidates were blackballed.

OES and Chapter Operational Information

Evening Star Chapter #228 meets the second Monday of each month at 7:00 pm.

At each meeting, members should always be in possession of the following:

- White attire – no hats
- OES Financial Card
- OES Ritual
- White gloves
- OES Badge

Dress code for Meetings and other functions

Sisters: Always wear white dresses or suits, hosiery, gloves, shoes, and purse. White hats are worn at Sunday services and funerals **only** and not at monthly meetings.

Brothers: Masonic Attire - no aprons.

Funerals: April through September- Sisters must wear white regalia - dress/suit gloves, hat, shoes, hosiery, and purse. October through March, Sisters must wear black dress/suit, hat, shoes, hosiery, purse, and white gloves.

Notifications: Members are required to notify the Worthy Matron when they cannot attend a chapter meeting. The Worthy Matron and the Sick and Distress chairpersons should be notified about any sickness or death of chapter members or family members. The Secretary should be notified when there is a change of address, phone number, marital status or beneficiary.

Worthy Matron Chronology

1960-Present

1960-1962 Sister Anna Costner
1962-1964 Sister Otrich Jackson
1964-1966 Sister Sardie Jones
1966-1968 Sister Mabel Honesty
1968-1970 Sister Lola Saundra
1970-1972 Sister Elva Jane Smith
1972- 1974 Sister Correan Thomas
1974-1976 Sister Mary F. Reed
1976-1978 Sister Emma Bush
1978-1980 Sister Evelyn Bowles
1980-1982 Sister Elaine Lightfoot
1982-1984 Sister Evelyn Murphy
1984-1986 Sister Hilda Tillery
1986-1988 Sister Deloris Rucker
1988-1990 Sister Joyce Brown
1990-1992 Sister Carolyn Smith
1992-2002 Sister Gloria Lee Gordon
2002-2004 Sister Brenda Jones
2004-2006 Sister Mary Suter

2006-2007 Sister Vineather Timmons-Ellis

2007-2009 Sister Annie Stark

2009-2011 Sister Vineather Timmons-Ellis

2011-2013 Sister Gloria Costner

2013-2015 Sister Yvette Collier

2015-2016 Sister Candida Johnson

2016- 2019 Sister Yvette Collier

2019- 2021 Sister Vineather Timmons-Ellis

2021- 2023 Sister Yolanda Peterson Jones

2023 – Present Sister Marion Allen

**Worthy Patron Chronology
1960-Present**

1960 – 1992 J. Sidney Holland

1992-1994 Vaughn Keen

1994-2004 Shirley Smith

2004-2009 Wallace Costner

2009 -2015 Reggie Clark

2015-2016 Wallace Costner

2016 – 2017 John Collins

2017- 2021 James Collier

2021-2022 James Gordon

2022- Present James Collier

God is awesome!