



Trestle Board

Olive Branch Lodge 114
Leesburg, Virginia



February 2024

From The East



Greetings from the East. With January behind us, we are now settled in and ready to proceed to business. This year we are planning a few events that should keep us busy and giving back to our community. For several years, in the past, Olive Branch Lodge ran a blood drive. With our new parking lot in place, we are working on re-establishing blood drives. I will work with our Blood Coordinator, RW Greg Valker, and other lodge members to make this happen. Other efforts will be running a Clothing Drive, a Food Drive, a Winter Coat Program, Toys for Tots, and a Book Exchange Box. We need brothers in the lodge to work on any of these projects to get them underway and to see them succeed. Wor. Kevin Homan has started a Book Club; further details will be given at our next stated meeting.

Food for thought:

- Establish and fundraise for a small scholarship fund for students entering college
- Specific fundraising for our building fund
- Establish a program with either of our youth groups to help support their growth and development.

If any brother has other suggestions on how we can support our community please feel free to bring it forward.

Lodge Business:

Thanks to everyone who has submitted the annual dues for 2024.

With that being said, I ask for members to promptly submit their dues for this year as well as past dues. As you are all aware, a portion (\$55) of each member's dues goes to the Grand Lodge of Virginia. Olive Branch is assessed this amount each year based on our active membership roster. Olive Branch pays the total assessment out of our operating fund regardless of the number of members who have paid their dues.

As of this date, only half of our members have paid their dues for 2024. Seven brothers owe more than one year. If you have not paid yet, you can bring in or send a check to the lodge or you can pay directly to the Grand Lodge. Dues are \$205 for the year plus any past dues.

Wor. Gregory Alan Marks

From The West

I am pleased to serve the lodge as Senior Warden this year and to introduce myself.

I live in Leesburg with my wife, Kim. We moved here in 1999 when I took a job with Xerox at the international training center that was in Lansdowne. I now teach high math at Briar Woods High School and my wife teaches Spanish and French at Dominion High School. We both plan on retiring this June. We have two children. Megan is finishing a graduate program in global communications at the American University of Paris. She hopes to find a full-time job and stay in France after she graduates this May. Allan is a guitarist with the US Air Force Band of the West out of San Antonio. He has been traveling around the country and even played at the Chilean embassy in Santiago last July 4th. We also have a dog, Emma, who has more Instagram followers than I do.



My personal goal this year is to earn my Warden's certificate and be prepared to serve the lodge from the East next year. As Senior Warden, my focus is on helping WM Greg Marks run the lodge with an emphasis on helping to organize the business side of the lodge concentrating on implementing various collaboration tools. I have already established a Google calendar for tracking lodge events found on our website and also started using Google folders to organize and share key lodge documents.

I will be ordering lodge clothing once again. Look for more information soon. Another area I would like to focus on is finding opportunities for the lodge to participate in various town and county events. Last year, we partnered with Hamilton-Thompson on a food drive at a Purcellville Cannons game and we hope to do this again. Please reach out to me if you have local contacts or any thoughts on what else you would like to see the lodge do this year.

Brother Alex Fogelson SW

Fraternal Visits

Fraternal visits are crucial in Freemasonry for a few reasons such as getting to know brothers from other lodges, promoting events in our lodge, and finding out about events in other lodges. From a personal view...Fraternal visits are fun! A goal of mine is to attend a fraternal visit each month of the year. I would like to include visits to lodges outside our District 2. Any suggestions would be great

Fraternal Visit:

On 2/13/2024 Olive Branch did a Fraternal Visit to Metropolitan Lodge 161 in Leesburg. The visit was well attended by Wor. Gregory Marks, RW Reuben Martinez, Wor. Mark Cummings, Bro. Alex Fogelson, Bro. Vince Williams and Bro. Al Monica. We were joined by a fraternal visit from Ashburn/Sterling Lodge 288 and Patriot Lodge 1957. With three lodges doing a fraternal visit, Metropolitan Lodge was packed. There was great fellowship during dinner and following the meeting in their social hall.



Potential Fraternal visits:

March - Herndon Lodge No. 264

April - Ashburn-Sterling Lodge No. 288 (Grand Master of Virginia is Visiting)

May - Winchester Hiram Lodge No. 21 A.F. & A.M.

GGDM Official Visit

RW Jason Todd Wolfe, District Deputy Grand Master for the 2nd Masonic District, made his official visit on 2/5/2024. He presented the Grand Masters key initiatives for this year along with his goals for District 2.



Congratulations

As most of you know our Junior Deacon Brother James Weller received a job opportunity that has taken him and his family to Miami Fl. We wish them Success and Happiness. We look forward to seeing James in the future as he will always be a part of our Lodge family. Congratulations Bro. James

With the Junior Warden chair open, Bro. Albert Joseph Monica III was nominated and unanimously voted to fill that chair. Bro Al Monica was installed into that position during our February Stated Meeting. Bro. Al Monica has worked hard to learn different roles to support degrees and to fill chairs when brothers are absent from Stated Meetings. He is willing to jump in a support lodge events. We wish him well as he continues to seek more light in masonry. Congratulation Bro Al

Lodge Events

On 1/31/2024 Olive Branch Lodge 114 Initiated our newest EA Stephen Todd Sixbey Jr. Herndon Lodge 264 did a Fraternal visit and Wor. Ralph Choueiri attended. Bro John Rutan conferred the degree and did a great job. Welcome to the Craft Brother Sixbey.



Upcoming Events

We have implemented a Google calendar to share lodge events as well as important dates for the district. You can find the calendar on our [web page](#).

- 2/17/2024 DeMolay installation. Starting at 1:00 pm at Ashburn/Sterling Lodge.
- 2/24/2024 Family Dinner. Brothers, please bring your spouses for an outing at Loudoun Kitchen on Saturday, February 24, at 5:30 pm. We will be hosting widows and orphans for a casual evening with fellowship and dinner. Please reach out to anyone you would like to attend. This would also be a good opportunity to invite any friends and neighbors who might be a good match for the lodge to join us at a social event.
- 2/26/2024 Royal Arch Table Lodge. 6:30 - 9:00 pm at the Hamilton Fire Station
- 3/16/2024 Master Mason Degree. Olive Branch Lodge starting at 8:30 am

Lodge Information



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