



**Trestle Board**  
**Olive Branch Lodge 114**  
**Leesburg, Virginia**



*January 2025*

**From The East**



Welcome, Brothers, to a new year. Thank you for entrusting me with the leadership of Olive Branch. I look forward to serving the lodge this year and to keeping us strong and growing.

First, I want to thank Wor. Greg Marks for a fantastic 2024. Last year, the lodge engaged new members, stabilized our finances, improved our building, and earned the Morlock and Hillman awards. We are better now because of his leadership.

My priorities for this year are to continue strengthening the lodge's finances while growing our membership, increasing our public presence, and expanding our social activities. I truly believe we can become one of the prominent civic groups in Leesburg and Loudoun County.



Thank you for allowing me to serve as Worshipful Master of Olive Branch Lodge #114 for 2025!

Worshipful Master Alex Fogelson

## Lodge Finances

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We enter 2025 with a strong financial plan. We have reduced our yearly assessment to the Grand Lodge and minimized our operating expenses. We have been able to invest in the lodge building and contribute to various charities. Our bills are paid, and we are well-positioned to maintain financial stability. A big shout out to our Treasurer, WM Fred Bishopp, for his guidance.

If you have not already paid your dues, please submit this as soon as possible. Our major expense of the Grand Lodge assessment and insurance payments are all due in the first quarter of the year. To help us maintain a positive cash flow, we need to collect our membership dues this quarter. With your financial support, we will be able to pay our operating expenses and fund various actions, such as charitable donations and lodge activities.

## Building Update

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We completed several updates to our lodge this past year. We finalized our agreement with the county for compensation for the extended time we could not access our yard while the courthouse was being built. This agreement will allow us to replace our back stairs this coming year. We also installed shelving in the basement, replaced the display cases, replaced the roof, and painted the outside. Projects for 2025 include new signage, continued work on the basement to add a study room, and replacing the carpet in the lodge room.



## Masters and Wardens Meeting

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Masters and Wardens from across our district meet on the first Wednesday of each month to discuss activities, initiatives, and concerns. We gather for a potluck dinner at 6:30 at Olive Branch. After the short meeting, we move to the lodge room for ritual practice.

## Lodge Events

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We have several events on our calendar for 2025, with more being added each month. Our lodge calendar is updated regularly, and the calendar is on our website: <https://www.olivebranch114.org/calendar>

I hope to see you there. Please reach out if you need a ride to any of our meetings or activities.

Date	Event	Description
1/20 8:30 am	MLK Parade	We will gather with our Loudoun Masons for breakfast at King Street Tavern before proceeding to the parade at the courthouse. Remember to wear your apron and the jewel of your position.
2/1 8:00 am	MM Degree	Please support our newest Master Mason by attending his raising. We will have donuts at 7:30, with the degree beginning at 8:00.
2/3 8:00 pm	Stated Meeting	We will welcome our DDGM, RW Eric LeHew, who will also deliver our program for the evening. Dinner begins at 6:30.
2/7 6:00 pm	DLC	The District Leadership Conference will be held at the Mayfield Intermediate School in Manassas. All brothers in a seat are requested to attend a DLC this year.
2/8 8:30 am	DLC	For those who cannot attend the DLC on Friday 2/7, there will be another opportunity at the GW Memorial
3/14 7:00 pm	BOTB	Our own Demolay, Nick Stecker, will be performing at the Battle of the Bands at Tally Ho. Please bring the family out to support him and the other talented student musicians.
6/6 6:00 pm	Grandmaster Visit	The Grandmaster of Virginia will be visiting our district, and all masons and their families are invited. The event will be held at the Ashburn Firehouse.

We are working to add many social activities and outings to our schedule. These will include brother-only outings and events for spouses and families. Brother John Rutan and Brother Vince William are taking the lead on our social programs and are soliciting ideas. What would you and your family like to do this year?

## Ongoing Programs

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### **Clothing and More Drive**

Brothers, join us in making a difference by supporting our community! Our lodge is coming together for an ongoing donation drive for Hope's Treasures. During this drive, we collect clothes, bags, and shoes in the blue bin in our lodge's lobby.

The proceeds from our donations will support those in need in Leesburg by providing meals, shelter, or clothing for the homeless. Every donation counts, no matter how big or small. Together, we can spread hope and kindness to those most in need. Join us today and be part of something meaningful!!! "

### **Food Drive**

We continue to collect dry foods for Loudoun Hunger Relief. Boxes will be positioned in the lodge to collect food, regularly taken to Loudoun Hunger Relief.

Please bring canned food (veggies, soup, beans, etc.), cereal boxes, hygiene items (soap, shampoo, toothpaste, etc.), rice, pasta, and peanut butter. A complete list will be provided at the lodge. We have a challenge this year to donate 1,000 pounds of food to needy families in our community

### **Other charities**

Our lodge also supports several other groups and charities, including MAHOVA and the various Masonic youth organizations. We will continue this support for 2025. But we can do more. If you are involved in a charity that needs donations, please contact Wor. Alex Fogelson to discuss how Olive Branch can help them

### **Practice and Fellowship**

We continue to meet on Saturday and Sunday mornings for study, practice, and fellowship. We gather at the lodge at 8:30 am for fellowship and start working around 9:00 am.

A few potential petitioners have attended our Saturday and Sunday morning get-togethers. This has been a great way to get to know potential candidates and introduce them to our fraternity. If you know someone who is interested, bring them on Saturday/Sunday mornings.



## January Masonic Birthdays

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Fredd Thomas Bishopp	25 years
Todd Lee Johnston	31 years
Gregory H Schwartz	41 years
James McHenry Stevenson	27 years



## Lodge Information

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### Contacts:

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Sec Wor. Jon Stecker  
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### Location:

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### Mailing Address:

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