



Trestle Board

Olive Branch Lodge 114
Leesburg, Virginia



February 2026

From The East

Greetings from the East! My year isn't quite starting the way I would have hoped – another brother has laid down his working tools – RW Thomas “Mickey” A. Finn, on 17 February 2026. This is on top of Brother Don Walker – whom I neglected to mention in last month's Trestle Board; his Funeral was well represented by 10 Brothers from Olive Branch 114, of which 6 were Past Masters, on 6 January 2026, and George Atwell, 17 January 2026.

I also neglected to pass on a well-written piece from our Senior Warden, Vince Williams:



On behalf of Olive Branch #114, Leesburg, Virginia, I would like to be the first to extend a Masonic wish to everyone: a very happy, prosperous, and productive New Year! I extend a continuance of friendship and brotherly love. I extend an Olive Branch in hopes that you will cherish and nourish our fraternal relationship into the New Year and beyond.

Worshipful, and I would like to make numerous visits this year, exploring various lodges around VA, MD, PA, and D.C. If you would like to host our visit, please send POC and address to my cell (210) 548-1518, so that we can add your temple to our schedule. Additionally, we will once again hold our annual “Gavel and Gravel” in the quarry during September. You are all pre-invited!

Lastly, our district has two additional events that may be of interest:

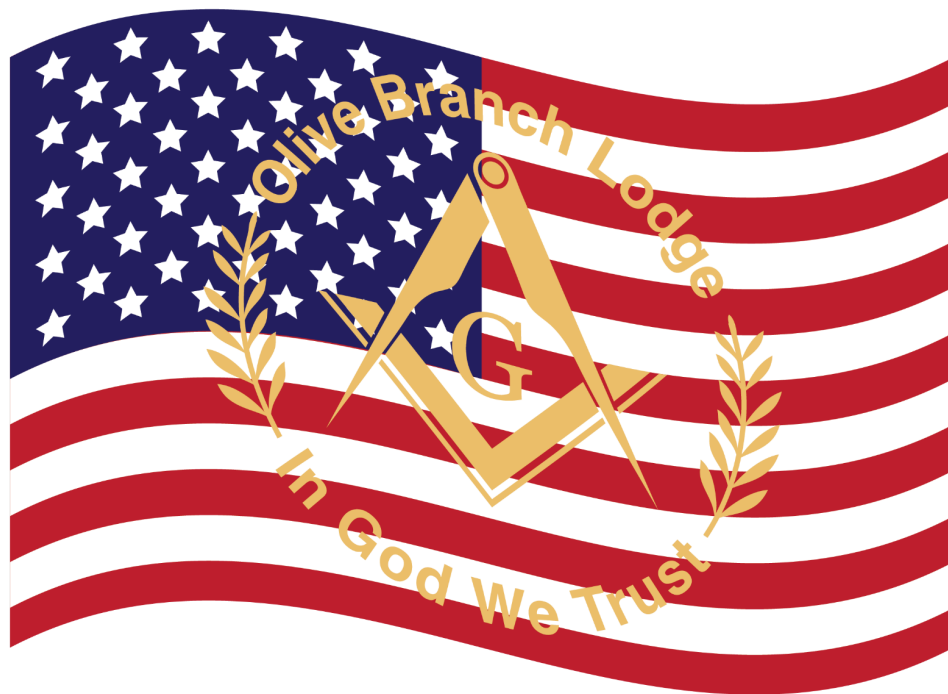
- 1) Hamilton-Thompson Lodge of Low Vale, which is held in the woods after a steak and potato dinner (usually in October).*
- 2) Annual District Picnic, which is held at Franklin Park during the Summer. Typically, an on-site BBQ, with more than enough food and drinks to feed a small town, plus games like cornhole and music. This is also open to family members.*

*Let's make 2026 the year of spreading the cement of brotherly love and affection!
Hope to see you soon!*

Thank you to everyone who has submitted their annual dues for 2026. That said, I ask members to promptly submit this year's and 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 from our operating fund, regardless of the number of members who have paid their dues. As of this date, about 2/3 of our members have paid their 2026 dues; 18 haven't. If you have not paid yet, you can bring in or mail a check to the lodge or pay directly to the Grand Lodge. Dues are \$205 for the year, plus any past dues.

Wor. John Leonard Rutan



From The West

Brothers,

When we come together like this, we bring many voices, many experiences, and many perspectives. We don't all share the same views on faith or politics — and that's perfectly fine. What matters is that we remain a true Band of Brothers, connected by trust, honesty, and friendships that stand the test of time.

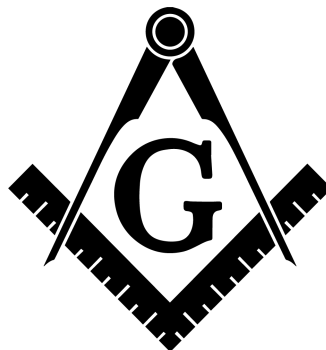
I was drawn to this fraternity because it spoke to something real: not everyone becomes a Mason, and it's an honor to be counted among those chosen. Not every man is a "good man," and some believe they've already reached their peak. But I've always believed there's room to grow — that good men can become even better. I wanted to stand among men who shared that belief, men committed to improving themselves and lifting each other up along the way.

Brotherhood grows in the simple moments: sharing a meal, raising a glass, telling stories, and learning from one another. In this space, differences aren't just tolerated — they're respected. No judgment, no criticism. Just genuine fellowship. And that spirit extends beyond us, because we look out for each other's families as well.

As Senior Warden, my role is to support the Worshipful Master in guiding the lodge. But it's also my responsibility to look after the well-being of our members and the relationships that make this lodge strong. That means staying connected with the other Senior Wardens in our district, planning ahead for the year when I take the East, and showing up at district events to build real connections with the Brothers around us.

Everything we do — every handshake, every conversation, every shared moment — is about making good men better and strengthening the bonds of friendship and brotherly love.

Bro. Vince Sean Williams



Fraternal Visits

On 19 February 2026, Olive Branch had a Fraternal Visit to Hamilton-Thompson Lodge #37. This was well attended by Wor. John Rutan, RW Chris Thompson, RW Greg Schwarz, Wor. Alex Fogelson, Wor. Chris Rierdon, Wor. Fred Bishopp, Bro. Vince Williams and Bro. Joe Schwarz. RW Greg Schwarz also gave a presentation on George Washington and Freemasonry. It was my first time visiting this beautiful lodge. I was impressed with the architecture and the number of veterans present – Wor. Jon Hermann was a fellow U.S. Army Veteran, and we trained at the same location, albeit a few decades apart!



Potential Fraternal Visits:

- March – Metropolitan Lodge #161 (10 March)
- April – Freedom Lodge #118 (3 April)
- May – TBD – looking at either Hay Market Lodge #133 or Sharon Lodge #327 in McLean.

In March, I'll also be visiting San Francisco Lodge No. #120, again, while attending a Conference – looking forward to it!

Upcoming Events

- 2 March 2026, Master Mason Degree, Olive Branch Lodge, starting at 8:30 P.M.
- 14 March 2026, DeMolay Breakfast/District School at A/S Lodge, 288.
- 28 March 2026, Day of Service, Olive Branch Lodge at 8:30 A.M.

Congratulations

Our newest EA, Bro. Alexander Zenor on the birth of his Son, Xavier (Xavi) Alexander Zenor

February Birthdays

Actual Birthdays

Bishopp, Fred Thomas Jr.

Gibbs, John Paul Jr.

Keitt, Richard Ellis

Moles, Joseph B. Jr.

Williams, Vince Sean

Caston, Kenneth Edward

Masonic Birthdays

Douglas Snell

Daniel David Pavan Jr.

Albert Joseph Monica III

Matthew William Lankenau

2/19/2013 13 years

2/17/2018 8 years

2/25/2023 3 years

2/25/2023 3 years

Practice and Fellowship

We will continue to meet on Saturday & Sunday mornings for study, practice, and fellowship. We will gather at the lodge at 8:30 am for fellowship and start working around 9:00 am. Special recognition to our Lodge Brothers, who are working diligently to learn their Catechism. Thanks to all the brothers who spend time meeting with these brothers, teaching catechism, or just talking with them and answering any questions they may have.

EA Tom Dayle – with work requirements, he'll most likely look to go with the Alternate Route in his Journey.

EA Alex Zenor – with a new baby, he hasn't started his Catechism learning.

EA Tym Kaywork is doing great with his Catechism learning, picking up quickly and retaining very well.

JW Al Monica – working on his Warden's Certificate and preparing to sit in the East for the next FC Degree.

SW Vince Williams – will soon be doing his MM Return and will have his Warden's Certificate in a few months.

Staying in Touch with the Lodge

Our primary method of reaching out to members is email. Please contact our secretary at secretary@olivebranch114.org if you are not receiving our emails.

2026 Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master - John Rutan
Senior Warden - Vince Williams
Junior Warden - Al Monica
Treasurer - Fred Bishopp, PM
Secretary - Jon Stecker, PM
Senior Deacon - Matt Lankenau
Junior Deacon - Joe Schwarz
Chaplain - Chris Riorden, PM
Senior Steward - Stephen Sixbey
Junior Steward - Mahmood Sory
Marshall - Joe Garrone
Tiler - Don Walker

Lodge Information

Contacts:

Wor. John Leonard Rutan
master@olivebranch114.org

Sec Wor. Jon Stecker
secretary@olivebranch114.org

Location:

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108 Cornwall Street NE
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Website: <https://www.olivebranch114.org/>

