



# Trestle Board

Olive Branch Lodge 114  
Leesburg, Virginia



March 2026

## From The East

Greetings from the East! Spring is in the Air, and our lawn is greening up nicely. On Saturday, 28 March 2026, we enjoyed fellowship, donuts, and gave our lodge a nice Spring Cleaning.

In our February meeting, I began discussing topics from the Presentation Volume of the Grand Lodge, Ancient, Free & Accepted Masons of the Commonwealth of Virginia. I read from Section IV: CONCERNING THE BEHAVIOR OF MASONS IN THEIR PRIVATE CHARACTER; Chapter 5. Of Behavior behind a Brother's back as well as before his face:

*Free and Accepted Masons have ever been charged to avoid all manner of slandering and backbiting of true and faithful Brethren, with all malice and unjust resentment, or talking disrespectfully of a Brother's person or performance. Nor must they suffer any others to spread unjust reproaches or calumnies against a Brother behind his back, nor to injure him in his fortune, occupation or character; but they shall defend such a Brother, and give him notice of any danger or injury wherewith he may be threatened, to enable him to escape the same, as far as is consistent with honor, prudence, and the safety of religion, morality and the state, but no further.*

In our stated March stated meeting, I read from Section III: CONCERNING THE BEHAVIOR OF MASONS AS MEMBERS OF A LODGE; Chapter 1. Of Attendance:

*Every Brother ought to belong to some regular Lodge, and should always appear therein properly clothed, and in clean and decent apparel, truly subjecting himself to all its by-laws and general regulations. He must attend all meetings, whether stated or emergent, when duly summoned, unless he can offer to the Master and Wardens such a plea of necessity for his absence as the said laws and regulations admit.*

*By the ancient rules and usages of Masonry (which are generally adopted among the by-laws of every Lodge), no plea was judged sufficient to excuse any absentee, unless he could satisfy the Lodge that he was sick, lame, in confinement, upwards of three miles from the places of meeting, or detained by some extraordinary and unforeseen necessity.*



## Lodge Business:

Thanks to everyone who has submitted their 2026 annual dues. I've attempted to contact 18 brothers who are currently behind, several of whom I'll need to research as their phones are no longer in service; 5, though, have submitted their dues – thank you very much.

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 via GrandView. Dues are \$205 for the year, plus any past dues.

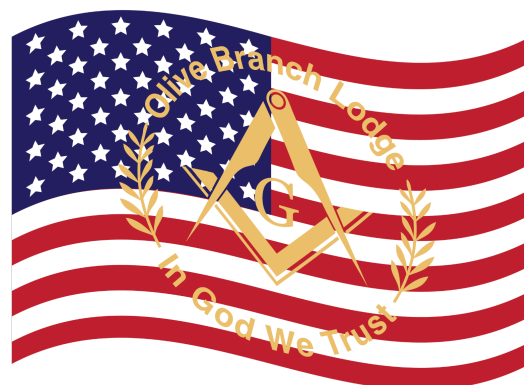
Wor. John Leonard Rutan

## Spring Cleanup

**Before:**



**After:**



## From The South

Brothers,

Like many others, I joined this group for a few simple reasons: camaraderie, building real friendships, and giving back to the community.

After the first meeting at Olive Branch Lodge No 114, it was clear that this isn't just a group, it's a team of people who care about each other and want to be part of something meaningful.

What makes this group strong isn't just what each of us brings individually, but what we build together. The relationships we create here matter. They build trust, improve morale, and give us a support system we can rely on. That doesn't just happen on its own; it takes effort, showing up, and being involved.

Looking ahead to this year, as the appointed Olive Branch Lodge Czar of Fun, one of my main goals is to help create more opportunities for us to come together. That could be through events, fundraisers, get-togethers, or team-building activities that give us a chance to connect and strengthen those bonds. These moments might seem simple, but they go a long way in building a strong and united group.

At the same time, I really want us to focus on giving back. That's a big part of why I joined, and I'm sure others feel the same. I think we have a great opportunity to make a real difference in our community. I'd like to help organize and support efforts where we can all get involved, whether it's volunteering, supporting local causes, or finding ways to help where it's needed.

I'd also encourage everyone, no matter what lodge you belong to, to take part in whatever way they can. Whether it's showing up to an event, supporting someone else, or stepping up to help out, it all makes a difference. The more we put in, the stronger impact we'll have on each other and our communities.

I'm looking forward to working with all of you this year to build stronger connections, increase participation, and make a positive impact both within masonry and in the community."

Bro. Al Monica



## Fraternal Visits

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It's my goal, this year, to visit as many lodges as possible and to possibly complete a Masonic Passport or two! It's also my goal to ensure that the Traveling Gavel isn't sitting in the East, come December!

### Fraternal Visits:

On 10 March 2026, Olive Branch did a Friendly Masonic Visit to Metropolitan Lodge #161 – we were one brother short. This was well attended by Wor. John Rutan, RW Reuben Martinez, Bro. Vince Williams and Bro. Joe Schwarz. We enjoyed dinner and fellowship with our brothers; I also extended that our lodge is their lodge (we have their charter), especially if they need more room for degree work.



On 26 March 2026, I visited San Francisco Lodge #120; enjoyed dinner and participated in their Master Mason degree practice ritual – I was the candidate. I'll be looking forward to attending their stated meeting in April 2027.

### Potential Fraternal Visits:

April – Freedom Lodge #118 (3 April)

May – TBD – looking at either Hay Market Lodge #133 or Sharon Lodge #327 in McLean.

## Lodge Events

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WM John Rutan, Bro. Vince Williams and Bro. Al Monica attended the DELC in Waynesboro, VA, on 7 March 2026.



## Upcoming Events

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6 April 2026, Olive Branch Lodge Stated Meeting at 8:00 P.M.

7 April 2026, Grand Master's visit; Lovettsville Game Club; Social at 5:00 P.M., Dinner at 6:00 P.M.

9 April 2026, Lafayette DuPont Lodge, #19 EA Degree.

11 April 2026, DeMolay Breakfast/District School at A/S Lodge, #288.

18 April 2026, Hot Dogs outside with Community; coincides with the first day of the Flower and Garden Show.

Late April 2026, District-wide bowling tournament – date TBD.

May 2026, Pre Mother's Day Breakfast with brothers and children – date TBD.

## Congratulations

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Bro. Vince Williams gave his Master Mason catechism return – great job!

## Practice and Fellowship

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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 working diligently to learn their Catechism. Thanks to all the brothers who spend time meeting with these brothers, teaching catechism, or just talking to them and answering any questions they may have.

EA Tom Dayle – will be going down the alternate route.

EA Alex Zenor – with a new baby, he started his Catechism Learning.

EA Tym Kaywork – is doing great with his Catechism Learning, picking up quickly with very good retention; starting the obligation.

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

## March Birthdays

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### Actual Birthdays

Laude, Heinz Gerd  
Sixbey, Stephen Todd Jr.  
Valker, Gregory Martin  
Ayoub, David Albert Jr.  
Snell, Douglas  
Riordan, Christopher Wilson

### Masonic Birthdays

Valker, Gregory Martin	3/5/2005	20 years
Gibbs, John Paul Jr.	3/10/1973	52 years
Lancio, George Henry	3/10/1973	52 years
Bensinger, Richard Bruce	3/25/2019	5 years
Schwarz, Joseph Patrick	3/16/2024	2 years

## Staying in Touch with the Lodge

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

## 2026 Lodge Officers

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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 Riordan, PM  
Senior Steward - Stephen Sixbey  
Junior Steward - Mahmood Sory  
Marshall - Joe Garrone  
Tiler - Don Walker

## Lodge Information

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### **Contacts:**

Wor. John Leonard Rutan  
[master@olivebranch114.org](mailto:master@olivebranch114.org)

Sec Wor. Jon Stecker  
[secretary@olivebranch114.org](mailto:secretary@olivebranch114.org)

### **Location:**

Olive Branch Lodge #114  
108 Cornwall Street NE  
Leesburg, VA 20176

### **Mailing Address:**

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P.O. Box 3239  
Leesburg, Virginia 20176

**Website:** <https://www.oliveanch114.org/>

