



Trestle Board

Olive Branch Lodge 114
Leesburg, Virginia



April 2026

From The East

Greetings from the East! April Showers are supposed to bring May Flowers, but it seems April has turned into June. With that being said, hands off to our Brother Vince Williams for doing the initial mowing of 2026 – nicely done, Brother Vince!

In our April stated meeting, I read from Section III: CONCERNING THE BEHAVIOR OF MASONS AS MEMBERS OF A LODGE; Chapter 3. Of Behavior in the Lodge while open:

While the Lodge is open for work, Masons must have no private conversation or committees, without leave from the Master; nor talk of anything foreign or impertinent to the work in hand; nor interrupt the Master or Wardens, or any other Brother addressing himself to the chair; nor act ludicrously while the Lodge is engaged in what is serious and solemn; but every Brother shall pay due reverence to the Master, the Wardens, and all his Fellows, and put them to worship.

Every Brother found guilty of a fault shall stand to the award of the Lodge, unless he appeals to the Grand Lodge; but if the Lord's work be hindered in the meanwhile, a particular reference may be made.

No private piques, or quarrels about nations, families, religions or politics, must be brought within the doors of the Lodge, as being directly contrary to the rules already laid down—Masons being declared of the oldest Catholic religion, universally acknowledged as such and of all nations, bound to live upon the square, level and plumb with each other, following the steps of their predecessors in cultivating the peace and harmony of the Lodge, without distinction of sect or political party.



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

Fraternal Visits



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 3 April 2026, Olive Branch did a Fraternal Visit to Freedom Lodge #118 – and was the dinner ever delicious! This was well attended by Wor. John Rutan, Bro. Vince Williams, Bro. Al Monica, RW Greg Volker, and RW Chris Thompson. I remember visiting Freedom Lodge in 2011, as a young EA, to watch an EA initiation – Bro. David King kidnapped me on a beautiful Saturday Morning for my first visit to another Lodge – that experience was something else, as was enjoying fellowship with our Freedom brothers. Their red cushions planted a seed for what I would like to do in our lodge as well.

Potential Fraternal Visits:

May – Sharon Lodge #327, 14 May, in McLean

June - Hay Market Lodge #133 (tentative)



Lodge Events

WM John Rutan, RW Chris Thompson, PM Greg Marks, and PM Alex Fogelson attended the Grand Master's visit to the Lovettsville Game Club! Dinner was excellent – haven't had good pork schnitzel with red kraut in a long time!

Our Community Hot Dog Day, which coincided with the Leesburg Flower and Garden Show, was a great success – a lot of folks stopped by for the free food and drinks and to chat with our brothers. Even spoke with a young lady who went to school with my daughter! Small world!



Upcoming Events

4 May 2026, Olive Branch Lodge Stated Meeting at 8:00 P.M.

9 May 2026, DeMolay Breakfast/District School at A/S Lodge, #288.

31 May 2026, District-wide bowling tournament – tentative.

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

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

EA Tom Dayle – will be doing 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.

April Birthdays

Actual Birthdays

Besinger, Richard

Johnston, Todd

Pavan, Daniel III

Weller, James

Masonic Birthdays

Pfaff, Robert

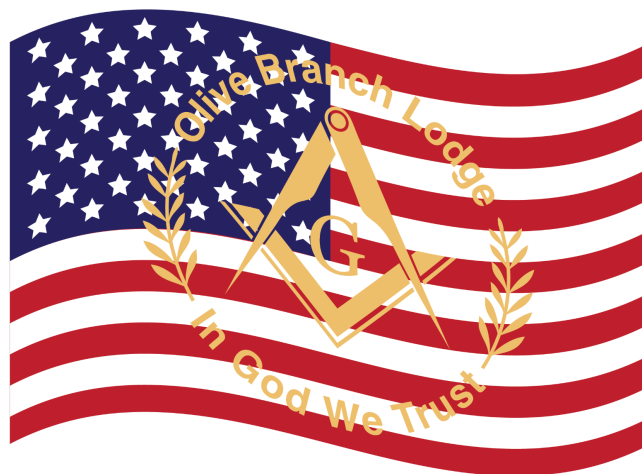
Sargent, Mathew

4/18/2016

10 years

4/29/2023

3 years



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:

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

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Leesburg, Virginia 20176

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

