



Trestle Board

Olive Branch Lodge 114
Leesburg, Virginia



July 2025

From The East

Brethren,

My wife, Kim, and I visited my father-in-law the other week in Naples, Florida. Bill is a 50-year plus mason and a very good man. His condominium is a short drive from the ocean. As we were walking on the beach looking for pretty shells, I started noticing our footprints. This got me wondering, who will ever see them? Will they wash away before the next person walks by? Will the next person wonder who left them? This intrusive thought led me to this month's topic.

Will you leave your footprints in wet sand or wet cement?*



Within the secure walls of Olive Branch Lodge, the teachings and symbolism of Masonry are passed down to new generations of Masons.. The importance of building, not just structures, but strong character and a better society, is a focal point of our discussions. As Masonic knowledge is pursued and the effort to make good men better continues, a question arises: what will be the lasting impact of lives? Will the mark left be fleeting, like footprints in wet sand, or endure, like impressions in solid cement?



Consider the choice presented by the image of wet sand versus wet cement. Footprints in wet sand are easily washed away by the tide, fading into anonymity. In contrast, impressions in wet cement, once hardened, become permanent features, leaving a lasting testament of the traveler. This distinction highlights the importance of the legacy we leave behind, not only for our families but also for our community, and even the nation as a whole.

Freemasonry emphasizes a holistic approach to personal growth and betterment. Rituals, allegories, and symbols are not mere exercises, but tools to shape, smooth the rough ashlar of our character, and instill virtues like fortitude, prudence, temperance, and justice. We hope that our personal development translates into a positive impact on the community as we become more ethical leaders and engaged citizens. Through charitable giving, volunteerism, and promoting moral integrity, we, the brothers of Olive Branch 114, contribute to the betterment of Leesburg and beyond.

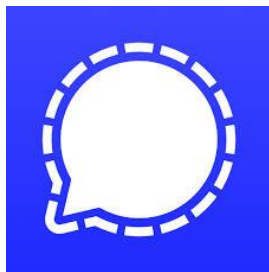
Strive to be men whose lives leave an indelible mark on the world, a mark of positive change and lasting impact. May our footprints be etched in the cement of our communities, inspiring others to build a more just, compassionate, and enlightened future for all.



Fraternally Yours,

Worshipful Master Alex Fogelson

Staying in Touch with the Lodge



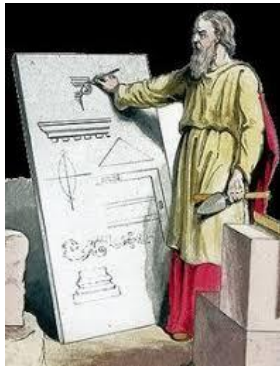
Our primary way to reach out to members is via our email list. Reach out if you are not getting our emails to our secretary at secretary@olivebranch114.org. We also use the app Signal to send out messages that are more time sensitive such as reminders and information about our weekend meetups. If you would like to be invited to our Signal group, contact our secretary at the address above.

June Stated Meeting



The program for our June meeting was on MAHOVA, the Masonic Retirement Community in Richmond. I urge you to take a look at what they offer and consider if MAHOVA is right for your long term plans. You can learn more at <https://www.mahova.org/> As a lodge, we made a donation last month to MAHOVA

The program for the August meeting will be a presentation on Osteopathic Medicine and Masonry presented by Brother Mahmood Sori. Please reach out if you need a ride.



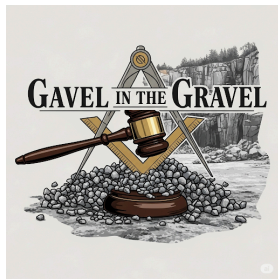
Future Trestle Boards

Consider submitting an article for future Trestle Boards. Share your masonic journey, your role in the lodge, or anything else you think other brothers should know about you. Send your submissions directly to me at master@olivebranch114.org. *The article this month utilized AI for writing assistance. Feel free to use any help you like.



Building Update

We completed another lodge project thanks to Brothers Greg Marks and Fred Bishopp. The back stairs and portico were replaced, giving us an easy and safe passageway to the basement.



September State Meeting

Our September meeting will be held at the Luck Stone Quarry on Monday, September 8 (the first Monday of September is Memorial Day). Dress will be blue jean casual. Dinner starts at 6:30, with the meeting starting at 8:00. We are asking for a \$20 donation for the meal. We had an extraordinary evening last year, and you will not want to miss it this year. Parking will be at the top near the entrance, and we will carpool down to the site.

Luck Stone Quarry
20210 Luck Lane
Ashburn, VA 20147

Be sure to check our lodge calendar for all events. It is updated regularly and can be found on our website at <https://www.olivebranch114.org/calendar>.

Ongoing Programs

Clothing and More Drive

Brothers, join us in making a difference by supporting our community! Our lodge is hosting an ongoing donation drive for Hope's Treasures. During this drive, we collect clothes, bags, and shoes in the blue bin in the 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, regardless of its size. Together, we can spread hope and kindness to those who need it most. Join us today and be part of something meaningful!!! "

Food Drive

We continue to collect dry foods for Loudoun Hunger Relief. Boxes will be placed in the lodge to collect the 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. This year, we are challenging ourselves to a 1K where we donate either 1,000 pounds of food, \$1,000, or any combination thereof.

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 a.m. for fellowship and begin work around 9:00 a.m.

A few potential petitioners have attended our Saturday and Sunday morning get-togethers. These events have been great ways to get to know potential candidates and introduce them to our fraternity. If you know someone interested in becoming a Mason, bring them on Saturday or Sunday mornings.



July Masonic Birthdays

Edwin Hoeltzel Jr.	33 years
Kevin Homan	18 years
Fred Meyer	57 years
Theodore Miller	19 years
Daniel Paven III	6 years
Joel Roberson	60 years

Lodge Information



Contacts:

Wor. Alex Fogelson
master@olivebranch114.org

Sec Wor. Jon Stecker
secretary@olivebranch114.org

Location:

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

Mailing Address:

Olive Branch Lodge #114
P.O. Box 3239
Leesburg, Virginia 20176

Website: <https://www.olivebranch114.org/>