

Freedom Lodge #118 Trestleboard

From the East;

Brethren,

I hope that this finds you enjoying a respite from the frigid temperatures of the past couple of weeks.

I apologize as well for the very basic Trestleboard that's going out this month. Will try for a more visually pleasing version for next month.

I want to thank all of you again for your faith and trust in my to lead our lodge to a successful 2025 and look to each of you to support that mission. I will tell you that it will be very difficult to follow Bro. Duley's term in the East but I will try my best to deliver a close facsimile.

The arrangements for our Sweetheart Brunch have been finalized! We will be back at Tuscarora Mill on Sunday, Feb. 16 in their wine cellar where we were in 2023.

Please bring your checks for \$50 for singles or \$100 per couple to the event.

Please make them out to me personally or you can Venmo me at @wes-hirschhorn. I'm looking forward to a great event and seeing all of you!

Speaking of which, please make arrangements to attend either the Manassas session, now located at Mayfield Intermediate School, 9400 Mayfield Ct, Manassas, VA 20110 beginning at 6pm. In a change from previous years, the Alexandria DLC will be held at the George Washington Masonic Memorial rather than the Alexandria Scottish Rite. The start time is still at 8am. We have been assured by our Grand Lodge that, due to the delays in getting the 2025 dues cards out, that we will be able to present our 2024 dues cards for registration. While these events are not "mandatory", every brother is strongly encouraged to attend. There are other editions of these events elsewhere in the state if these two dates are just not possible for you but I believe that the next closest ones are in Richmond. Even though I have attended a number of these over the years I still find some nugget of information that is useful.

Wes Hirschhorn
Worshipful Master

The View From the West

February is a very busy month for Freedom Lodge! February 7th in Manassas and February 8th in Alexandria the Grand Lodge is hosting Division Leadership Conferences. DLC events will utilize rotating multiple breakout sessions with Grand Lodge Officers facilitating each of the sessions. All officers must attend and all brothers are encouraged to attend this gathering. In years past, we've heard from the Grand Master about his focuses and themes for the Masonic year as well as joining discussion on community service, the meaning and action behind fraternal ties, and how we can better support Masonic Youth organizations.

Because one of the February DLCs overlaps our regular First Friday Stated Communication, our Stated Communication has been changed to Monday, February 10th. Join us for dinner, the lodge meeting and a masonic education talk.

The Freedom Lodge Sweetheart Brunch Sunday February 16th. This event is one of the best times during the year to invite your sweetie to join us and to get to know all your brothers! On a personal note, the Sweetheart Dinner was the first event my wife and I attended after submitting my petition, even before its second reading. It was her first introduction to the Fraternity and really helped her understand how important having a brotherhood is. I thank the brethren for such a warm welcome years ago and hope to revitalize that sense of family in 2025!

The Mid-Month Meet-Up is on the third Wednesday each month! February 19th at 5:45 PM we will meet at Velocity Wings for dinner and fellowship then continue to the lodge at 7:00 PM for Ritual Practice. This month's focus will be on opening and closing a Master Mason's Lodge. March's focus will be on the Entered Apprentice Degree Ritual.

Bill Hohl
Senior Warden

February Masonic Birthdays;

Wor. Gary Robert Ing

Bro. Daniel Roy Little

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						Feb 1
Feb 2	Feb 3	Feb 4	Feb 5	Feb 6	Feb 7 Manassas DLC 8p Midvale MS	Feb 8 Alex DLC 8A GW Mem
Feb 9	Feb 10 Freedom Stated	Feb 11	Feb 12	Feb 13	Feb 14	Feb 15
Feb 16 Sweetheart Brunch 11a Tuscarora Mill	Feb 17	Feb 18	Feb 19 Freedom Lodge Meet-up 1836	Feb 20	Feb 21	Feb 22
Feb 23	Feb 24	Feb 25	Feb 26	Feb 27	Feb 28	