



FREEDOM LODGE NO. 118 TRESTLEBOARD

The Southern Least Lodge in Virginia

CONTACT US

VISIT US ONLINE

[HTTPS://FREEDOMLODGE118.ORG/](https://freedomlodge118.org/)

From the East

Brethren,

Firstly, I would like to thank all of you for our support and accommodations this year while I've dealt with various physical issues and the recovery from them. The accommodation for doing lodge in the social hall is very much appreciated! I have tried to provide an active and engaging calendar for the lodge but am fully aware of its shortcomings due to my inability to participate in many of them.

We will be doing our election of officers during our December stated and hope that you all will be able to attend and participate. A closed installation will follow immediately afterwards.

Please make every effort to attend our Called Communication on Dec. 17 at 7p for the purpose of conferring the Entered Apprentice Degree on Mr. Samuel James Colston. As he is the first new EA in a long time, let's show him all of the support that we can!

As your Worshipful Master missed the sign-up date for Toys for Tots, we will not be doing that event as we did previously. For this year, please bring your donations to the lodge and we will have them taken over to the community center for collection after our December stated meeting. If we can be as generous as we were last year it should be quite a donation!

Please also reach out to your brothers and neighbors to see if any need assistance in clearing their leaves or downed branches. Remember that service to others is one of the hallmarks of our fraternity.

For those of you who are still behind on your dues, please make every effort to get current before the next Masonic year starts and the new dues are due. The dues notices for 2026 have just gone out. If you are struggling to stay current, please contact your Worshipful Master or the lodge secretary to see what avenues are available to you to assist you.

Wes Hirschhorn, PM

Worshipful Master

The View from The West

Each year, the Grand Master has a theme to help focus on what's important to him. I was proud to be one of your representatives at Grand Lodge in November, to see Brother Matthew Todd Szramoski installed as Grand Master and hear his installation address charging each brother that, "One of the best ways we add value to membership in the Masonic fraternity is by '*Living Our Obligations.*'"

As our 2025 Masonic Year comes to an end we look to the future as much as we look to the past. This year needs to be about reconnecting as Brothers to strengthening the ties within the Lodge and making Freedom Lodge visible in Lovettsville again through real service and presence. When we begin the 2026 Masonic Year, I'd like to do so under the theme "*Strength in Brotherhood, Service in Community*" and with the motto "*Building Bonds, Building Community.*" This is more than an alliterative slogan, it is a call to action for each of us as Masons and as members of Freedom Lodge No. 118. The strength of the Lodge has always rested upon the ties of fellowship that bind Brother to Brother. Without unity, we are but individuals laboring separately; with unity, we become a Lodge, working together with harmony of purpose.

The December Holiday Season is an ideal time to renew those bonds. I encourage each Brother to reach out; whether by attending Lodge, checking in on a Brother, or extending a word of encouragement. The cement of Brotherly Love must be applied regularly, or else the stones of our fellowship can loosen over time. Let us use this month to draw nearer to one another, to share refreshment, conversation, and labor, and to remind ourselves that in true fellowship lies the strength we need for the work that awaits us in the months ahead.

Living Past Masters	
Brother	Year(s) Served
Larry D. Frye	1983, 2005-2007
Roy Harris McGarrah, Jr.	1992-1995, 2011
Clifford S. Free	1996-1999
Richard A. Phillips	2000-2003
Gary R. Ing	2004
George M. Shoemaker, Jr.	2008-2010
Philip Brooks	2012, 2014, 2023
Thomas W. Brierton	2013
J. David King	2016
Chuck Wyant	2017
Wes Hirschhorn	2018, 2025
Mark Canter	2020-2021
Matthew T. Duley	2022-2024

2025 Freedom Lodge No. 118 Officers

Worshipful Master: Wes Hirschhorn, PM
 Senior Warden: Bro. Bill Hohl
 Junior Warden: Bro. Brad Westerman
 Treasurer: Bro. David Kirk
 Secretary: Matt Duley, PM
 Senior Deacon: Bro. Cameron Gore
 Junior Deacon: Bro. Al Ericson
 Chaplain: Bro. Dan Sucic
 Tiler: Greg Valker, PDDGM

Lodge Instructor of Work (LIW): Harris McGarrah, PDDGM
 Lodge Education Officer (LEO): Phil Brooks, PDDGM

Lodge MAHOVA Ambassador:	Bro. Dejan Kocic
Blood Coordinators:	Greg Valke, PDDGM (regional) Bro. David Kirk (local)
District Education Officer	RW Rhey Solomon
District Instructor of Work	RW Chris Thompson

Masonic Birthdays;

Joseph Thomas Evans	12/17
Fred Lee George III	12/19

District 2 News

District 2 ritual schools will be held in conjunctions with and immediately following the D2 Masters & Wardens meetings which are held on the first Wednesday of the month (which are scheduled to start at 7:00pm following a 6:30pm potluck).

All Master Masons are welcome to attend the Ritual Schools, and all Line Officers are specifically encouraged to attend *as many as they can*. As a reminder, Line Officers are expected to be proficient in all three degrees in order to earn your Warden's Certificate which is required in order to assume the office of Worshipful Master.

As a reminder, Freedom Lodge has its own ritual schools on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. We meet at a local dinery for a meal and fellowship, then repair to the lodge for ritual work. I heartily encourage each of you to attend either ours or the District's schools for work. A reminder for the line officers that each of you must be able to open, close and execute the degree ritual for all three degrees in order to obtain your Warden's Certificate which is required in order to assume the Master's station in the East.

Upcoming Events:

DATE	LOCATION	TIME
Dec 1	Olive Branch 114 Stated Meeting	7:00 pm
Dec 4	Hamilton-Thompson 37 Stated & Installation	7:30 pm
Dec 5	Freedom Stated & Installation	8:00 pm
Dec 6	Herndon Open Installation	10 am
Dec 6	Olive Branch 114 Open Installation	6:00 pm
Dec 9	Ashburn-Sterling 288 Stated	7:30 pm
Dec 13	Ashburn-Sterling 288 Open Installation	11 am
Dec 15	Herndon 264 Stated	7:00 pm
Dec 16	Ashburn-Sterling 288 Called MM Degree	7:30 pm
Dec 17	Freedom 118 Called Communication EA Degree	7:00 pm

2025 Grand Master

Most Worshipful Matthew Todd Zamoski



2026 District Officers

DDGM: RW Mark Joshua Canter

DIW: RW Christopher Conway Thompson

DEO: to be named



THE SCOTTISH RITE IS ONE OF THE APPENDANT BODIES OF FREEMASONRY THAT A MASTER MASON MAY JOIN FOR FURTHER EXPOSURE TO THE PRINCIPLES OF FREEMASONRY.

IN THE UNITED STATES, THE SCOTTISH RITE IS OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED BY GRAND LODGES AS AN EXTENSION OF THE DEGREES OF FREEMASONRY. THE SCOTTISH RITE BUILDS UPON THE ETHICAL TEACHINGS AND PHILOSOPHY OFFERED IN THE CRAFT LODGE, OR BLUE LODGE, THROUGH DRAMATIC PRESENTATION OF THE INDIVIDUAL DEGREES

SCOTTISH RITE CREED

HUMAN PROGRESS IS OUR CAUSE,
LIBERTY OF THOUGHT OUR SUPREME WISH,
FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE OUR MISSION,
AND THE GUARANTEE OF EQUAL RIGHTS TO ALL PEOPLE EVERYWHERE OUR
ULTIMATE GOAL.

Reunions to bring in new members are held in April and October each year to communicate and confer the Scottish Rite degrees at the conclusion of which you will be a 32nd degree Mason of the Royal Secret. The Scottish Rite Representative for Freedom Lodge is currently Wor. Matt Duley. Brochures with more information are available in the dining hall for more details, or visit <https://www.alexandriascottishrite.org/>

