

02

February 2026

FREEDOM LODGE NO. 118 TRESTLEBOARD

The Southern Least Lodge in Virginia

Freedom Lodge No. 118
28 E Broad Way,
Lovettsville, VA 20180

[CONTACT US](#)

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

From the East

Brethren,

In February, our theme calls us to look outward as well as inward. Masonry is strongest when the light we kindle within the Lodge is allowed to shine in the community around us. Just as the builder joins stone to stone to raise a temple that will stand for generations, so we are called to join together in the work of building a better society. The motto "Building Bonds, Building Community" reminds us that the two are inseparable: our fellowship provides the strength, and our service provides the purpose.

This month, I encourage each of us to consider where our Lodge can be most visible and most useful in Lovettsville and Loudoun County. Whether through organized charitable efforts, participation in town events, or even the small acts of kindness and integrity that mark us as Masons, every action builds upon our reputation as a Lodge of service. Let us not forget that the working tools of Masonry – the square, the level, the plumb – are not merely symbols for the Lodge room but instruments for daily life. When we apply them in the world, we show that Masonry is alive, relevant, and devoted to the well-being of our neighbors. The officers are looking for opportunities for Freedom Lodge to reach out and be present in the community. I encourage you to talk to one of the officers about what you're already passionate about as well as what needs you see around you.

Finally, I hope to see every brother and his Love at our Sweetheart Brunch. Please contact me if your finances are tight and this might prevent you from joining us, I've been approached by brothers offering to offset your costs, just let me know!

∴ Bill Hohl
Master 2026

From the West

Brethren,

The 2026 Division Education Leadership Conference (DELC) sessions that are closest to us are the ones in Front Royal and Alexandria. As the Front Royal event occurs during our Stated Communication, the only really viable local option is the next day in Alexandria. All Lodge Officers and the LEO should attend this session in Alexandria if at all possible. If you can't attend the Alexandria session contact the Worshipful Master. Please let the Secretary know which one you went to.

- February 7 DELC at Alexandria at 9a. George Washington Masonic National Memorial

There will be a monthly District Ritual School the second Saturday of the month, Feb 14 in conjunction with the Ashburn DeMolay breakfast fundraiser which begins at 8:30 AM, all brothers are welcome.

Last month we were able to visit every lodge in our district. It would be great to keep that momentum up and visit at least one other loge every month! Where should we visit next? Let me know when you're available and we'll do some traveling together!

Brad Westerman
Senior Warden 2026

From the South

Brothers,

As we are still on the front end of our 2026 adventures, I want to emphasize the importance of community building. Masons often wonder why their fund raisers fail, or their events are sparsely attended; it has been this way in every Lodge I have had the privilege of sitting in. There are many reasons for these, but predominantly it is because Lodges have become reclusive introverted organizations. We have to make a concerted effort to become part of Lovettsville once again.

On Monday January 12th I met with Sarah Moseley, the Community Outreach Coordinator for the town of Lovettsville. We discussed the various ways that Freedom 118 can re-introduce itself to the community. I say this because Sarah, who handles community outreach and works heavily with the civic organizations in town, had only recently learned the Lodge's location. Sarah and I reviewed her 2026 calendar of events to help create awareness for the Lodge. Many of these events are free and only require 3-4 Brothers and their families to make an impact. We will discuss these opportunities in Lodge and I will send more information out as we decide where to invest our energy.

The first event that Sarah is promoting will be the **LOVEttsville full of heART** event. This event showcases the local elementary school's art projects in Lovettsville businesses, post office, library, and other places throughout town. We have volunteered our outdoor display case, "Hiram," for this event. In addition to celebrating the little one's art, the civic organizations of Lovettsville are invited to decorate a tree in the Squirkle with hearts. Each tree will have a sign and QR code for the organizations. This event runs from February 2nd to March 2nd. Start thinking of creative heart themed Masonic decorations for the tree, more details to come.

The **Sweetheart's Dinner** has been scheduled and the invitation sent last week. As a reminder: we will be meeting at **Market Table Bistro on February 21st at 12:00PM**. The chef will be serving a plated brunch, so please arrive promptly! The price will be \$60 per person, tip and alcoholic beverages are not included! I will accept cash at our February Stated, or you can Zelle me the money at any time. Don't forget to throw some money into the Widows Fund as well.

Please contact me to RSVP no later than February 16th.

Our menu for Stated is still pending, if the temperatures are favorable I will throw something on the smoker and whip up some sides. Whether the weather cooperates or not, we will have a home cooked meal to enjoy before Lodge.

Sincerely and Fraternally,
Jeffrey Dell
Junior Warden

Freedom Lodge No. 118 Officers

Worshipful Master: Bro. Bill Hohl
Senior Warden: Bro. Brad Westerman
Junior Warden: Jeff Dell, PM
Treasurer: Bro. David Kirk
Secretary: Matt Duley, PM
Senior Deacon: Bro. Al Erickson
Junior Deacon: Bro. Dejan Susic
Chaplain: Wes Hirschhorn, PM
Tiler: Greg Valker, PDDGM
Marshall: Bro. Cameron Gore



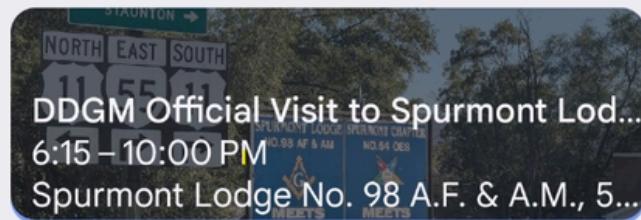
Lodge Instructor of Work (LIW): Harris McGarragh, PDDGM
Lodge Education Officer (LEO): Phil Brooks, PDDGM
Lodge MAHOVA Ambassador: Bro. Dejan Kocic
Blood Coordinators: Greg Valker, PDDGM (regional)
Bro. David Kirk (local)

Lodge Calendar

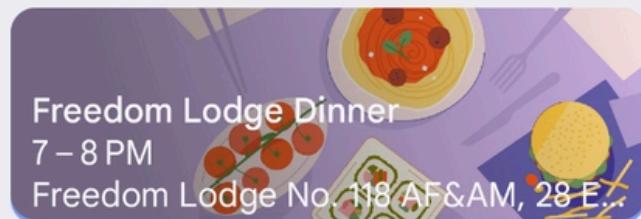
<https://tinyurl.com/yckzjc4j>

Feb 1 – 7

Mon
2



Fri
6



Stated Communication

8:00 – 9:30 PM at 28 E Broad Way, Lo...

Sat
7

DELC at Alexandria

9 AM – 12 PM at The George Washingt...

Feb 8 – 14

Feb 15 – 21

Wed
18

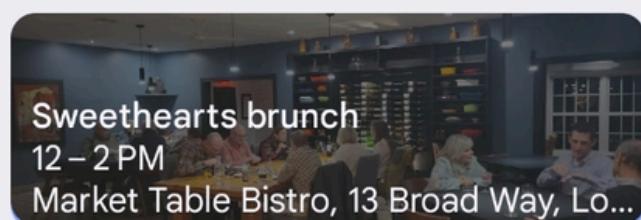
Freedom Lodge Meetup

5:45 – 7:00 PM at Daughter Thai, 19 E...

Lodge practice

7 – 9 PM at 28 E Broad Way, Lovettsvill...

Sat
21



Feb 22 – 28

Wed
25

Masonic District No. 2 Ritual School...

6:30 – 8:30 PM at Olive Branch Lodge...

Join us for Stated on Feb 6
to hear about Bourbon
Masons from Brother
George Shoemaker!



Drop by Drop Upon the Heart

Brethren,

Nearly twenty-five centuries ago, the ancient Greek tragedian Aeschylus, in his play **Agamemnon**, gave voice to a profound and sobering truth:

“He who learns must suffer. And even in our sleep, pain which cannot forget falls drop by drop upon the heart, until, in our own despair, against our will, comes wisdom through the awful grace of God.”

These words are not gentle. They speak of an inexorable law: wisdom is rarely the fruit of ease or mere study. Knowledge may be acquired in the Lodge or the library, but true wisdom—the kind that tempers the soul and fits us for the Greater Light—is frequently hammered out on the anvil of adversity.

As Freemasons, we understand this intimately. Our rituals teach that the rough ashlar does not become a perfect cube by gentle persuasion alone. The common gavel, the chisel, the gauge—each tool is firm, even severe. They strike, they cut, they measure, removing what is superfluous until only that which is square and true remains.

So it is with the trials that Divine Providence permits to visit us: loss, disappointment, failure, the silent grief that no one else sees. These are not punishments, but working tools of a higher order. Pain has a memory; it drips, drop by drop, even into our rest, wearing away pride, softening the heart, and—against our natural resistance—instilling humility, patience, and understanding.

This is the awful grace of which Aeschylus speaks—not grace as soft comfort, but grace as **correction**, as the stern yet loving hand of the Great Architect shaping us for the spiritual temple we are called to build.

Brethren, when the dark hours come—as they will to every man—let us not waste them in complaint or rebellion. Let us meet them with the Masonic virtues: humility to receive the lesson, reflection to discern its meaning, and fortitude to endure until the purpose is revealed.

In this way, what seems affliction becomes instruction; what feels like loss becomes gain. From the crucible of suffering, by the awful grace of God, emerges the wiser, more polished stone—better fitted to take its place in that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

May we so bear ourselves in every trial, learning with submission, growing in wisdom, and ever striving to be more worthy of our sacred calling.

Add a brick to our Walk of Masonry!



Order using the form at <https://www.freedomlodge118.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Walk-of-Masonry-Order-Form-v7.pdf>

We're looking to place an order so they can be installed for the Spring so get your orders in ASAP!

Fraternal Visits



Olive Branch #114



Ashburn-Sterling #288

Freedom Lodge was
proud to accompany
Most Worshipful
Mark Cantor in his
official visits around
District 2!



Herndon #264



Hamilton-Thompson #37

We received very
warm welcomes from
our brothers around
the district and really
enjoyed our visits.

Where should we visit next??

From the Secretary

Brethren,

Your 2026 dues are now due. Payment of your annual dues at the beginning of the Masonic year help your lodge to maintain its operating status and pay our bills.

Your timely attention is appreciated.

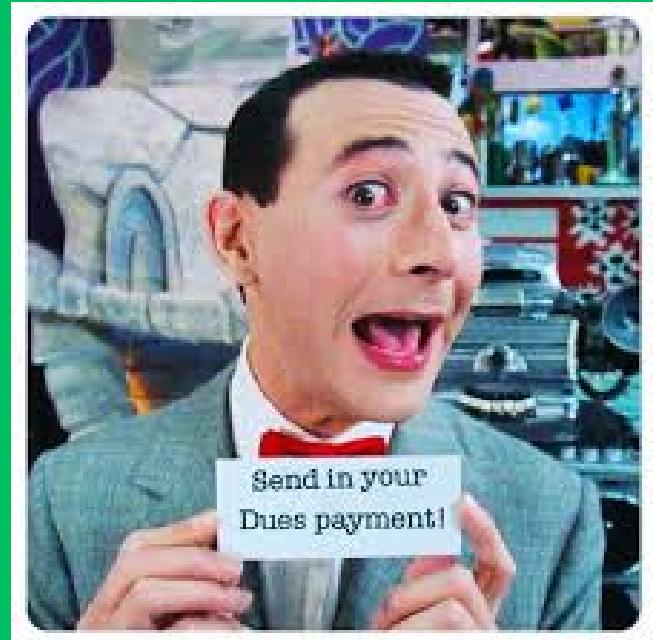
In addition to paying your dues via check or money order (preferred), you can also pay your 2026 dues online!

See this link on our homepage:

<https://www.freedomlodge118.org/pay-your-2026-dues-online/>

Payments mailed to the lodge should be sent to the lodge PO Box listed on your dues notice.

Please note that paying electronically via our online option does add a significant fee. We are looking into other options for the future, but this is what we have available at present.



Grand Lodge has requested that EVERY MASON verify his information on GrandView prior to January 31, 2026! Contact me if you have trouble logging on!

Please also note that the electronic payment option only covers your 2026 dues. For those select few of you that still owe some or all dues for 2025, that must be paid by December 31st of this year as noted on your Dues Notice.

I will have Dues Cards available for distribution in person at each of our Stated Communications. Dues cards will be mailed to those who are unable to attend lodge regularly once your payment is received.

As a reminder, if you are in financial distress and cannot complete your moral obligation, please reach out directly to the Worshipful Master.

Matt Duley, PM
Freedom 118 Secretary

Lodge Swag and Commemorative Items

Are you interested in Lodge Bowling Shirts? It's been years since we've ordered lodge polo shirts, please contact Bill Hohl with your interest! These shirts will be very similar to the 2-tone navy/white shirts previously ordered and can be customized with your name on the right



As a fundraiser for the Lodge, Bro Duley has purchased 200 of these stone tokens, which were crafted by a brother Mason. Instead of a standard lodge coin, we have something that really stands out and reflects the connection to operative Masonry. They are made of honed marble, so each one is unique. They are \$10 each, and 100% of the profit will go directly to Freedom Lodge. Please see the Secretary to purchase stone tokens.



MakersHandsWorkshop

Shop Masonic Gifts, Freemasonry Collectibles, and Apparel by MakersHandsWorkshop located in Lexington, South Carolina.

 [Etsy](#)

Relief and Charity

Freedom Lodge participates in many community outreach events and supports many charities throughout the year! We're in the process of scheduling our "End of Winter" outreaches.

Some of the charities we've supported in the past include:

- Poet's Walk Leesburg — Our memory care program, Along The Journey, focuses on more than just physical well being. We are tailored to provide the utmost comfort & support for your cherished family member.
- Masonic Teddy Bears — Donated to the Pediatric department of the Inova Loudoun Hospital in Lansdowne
- Toys for Tots — A program through the Marine Corps which Gives Disadvantaged Children Hope and a Reason to Believe in Their Future.
- UpsideDown Moments — Based in Hamilton, VA and supporting children in foster care, at risk youth, and youth who have aged out of the system by providing clothing and essentials to children entering foster care, at-risk children, and young adults in transition.

We continue to support:

Western Loudoun Food Pantry

Freedom Lodge continues our support of the Lovettsville local food pantry. We're continuing our collection efforts throughout 2026. **Remember that hunger is a need that begins again each morning and doesn't go away at night.**

Pick up a few extra cans or cash in those rewards points at the grocery store each month to keep the food pantry stocked. Please check out their site for what they need most at any given time:

<https://www.njlclovettsville.org/food-pantry>

We continue to collect regularly. if within your cabletow, be sure to bring something to each stated to donate!

What should our spring charity support? A group we've helped before? A new need you've heard of? Contact an officer with your thoughts

Masonic Birthdays in February



Daniel Little, 2023
Gary Ing, 1999

*Reach out to these brothers to wish
them a happy Masonic Birthday!*

Living Past Masters	
Brother	Year(s) Served
Larry D Frye	1983, 2005, 2006, 2007
Harris McGarrah	1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 2011
Clifford S. Free	1996, 1997, 1998, 1999
Dick Phillips	2000, 2001, 2002, 2003
Gary R. Ing	2004
George M Shoemaker, Jr.	2008, 2009, 2010
Phil Brooks	2012, 2014, 2023
Chuck Wyant	2017
Wes Hirschhorn	2018, 2025
Mark Canter	2020, 2021
Matt Duley	2022, 2024

Are you on Social Media? So are we!
Check out:

facebook.com/groups/freedomlodge118/

And add the Grand Lodge:

facebook.com/GrandLodgeVirginia/

x.com/GrandLodgeofVA

youtube.com/user/GrandLodgeofVirginia

[instagram.com/glofva/](https://instagram.com/glofva)

threads.com/@glofva

tiktok.com/@glofva

Have you been
wondering where the
Traveling Gavel is?
Check it out here:
<https://www.vamasonicdistrict2.org/where-is-the-district-2-traveling-gavel/>



In accordance with the procedure to nominate the DDGM established in the methodical digest and with the tradition of rotating that nomination around the district; at our February Stated Communication, Freedom Lodge will review the recommendations made by 2 fellow district 2 lodges. We will discuss which lodge is in line for the rotation, and vote to concur with their choice of nominations.



<https://www.vamasonicdistrict2.org/>

District 2 News

2026 District 2 Schedule

February 6 DELC Front Royal (6:30p)
February 7 DELC at George Washington Masonic National Memorial; Alexandria, VA (9a)
February 14 8:30 AM Ashburn DeMolay Breakfast and 9 AM Ritual School
February 25 M&W (6:30p) + District School (7p)
March District Bowling Event (Date TBD)
March 25 M&W (6:30p) + District School (7p)

April 7 Grand Master's Official Visit

Upcoming:

District End of Summer picnic
Halloween Parade

Be on the lookout for information about a District Table Lodge scheduled for the last week of February in Leesburg!

Join us for the D2 Ritual Schools. This year the schools will be held in conjunction with the Ashburn DeMolay Breakfast and immediately following the D2 Masters & Wardens meetings (which are scheduled to be on the *last Wednesday* of each month start at 7:00pm (potluck dinner 6:30).

All Master Masons are welcome to attend the Ritual School, and all Line Officers are specifically encouraged to attend as many as they can.

Attendance is highly encouraged for those seeking a Warden's Certificate.



Grand Master

Most Worshipful Matthew Todd Szramoski

District Officers

DDGM: RW Mark Canter
DIW: RW Christopher Thompson
DEO: Wor. Eric J. LeHew
District MAHOVOA Ambassador: James Cromer
District Blood Coordinator: Franco Aguillon
District Membership Coordinator: Gregory Schwarz



The Family of Freemasonry

Bethel #52



Job's Daughters
INTERNATIONAL®

Girls aged 10 - 20

This wide age range allows for members to learn skills alongside their peers and mentors.



[Bethel 52 Meetings](#)

2nd & 4th Tuesday
Herndon Masonic Temple
820 Elden St. Herndon, VA 20170



The International Order of the
Rainbow for Girls

Ashburn Assembly #11 International Order of the Rainbow for Girls meets each month in Ashburn. If you would like more information about how to join, please email us at

ashburn@virginiarainbow.org

February 2026

- 7 – Springfield Installation @ 2 pm
- 7 – Murder Mystery and Dessert Auction
- 14 – Virginia Grand Court of the Amaranth Installation of Officers (Mom Ange & Dad Clancy's Big Day – Virginia Beach)

Cmdr William L Herndon Chapter

Order of DeMolay

Herndon DeMolay is dedicated to serving their community and faithfully improving the young men of the chapter. They build themselves upon ideals which our nation is prone to forget.

Cmdr W L Herndon

1st & 3rd Thursdays
7:30 pm
Herndon Masonic Lodge
820 Elden Street
Herndon, VA 22070



ASHBURN DEMOLAY

- 11 Feb, Wed 7:30pm Ashburn DeMolay Meeting
- 14 Feb, Sat 8:30pm Ashburn Monthly Breakfast
- 14 Feb, Sat 5pm Sweetheart Dance & Fancy Dinner Fun Event
- 21 Feb, Sat 2pm Ashburn Chapter DeMolay Installation of Officers
- 25 Feb, Wed 7:30pm Ashburn DeMolay Meeting



**ORDER OF THE
EASTERN STAR
VIRGINIA**



Herndon Chapter #55 was chartered in 1914 and has enjoyed a rich history of Masonic fellowship, community outreach, charity fundraising, social gatherings, fun activities, and much more.

We meet on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 7:30 PM and there are no meetings in July and August.



The Alexandria Valley of the Orient of Virginia is now accepting petitions for our April reunion. This year, the Spring Reunion is a two-day event on Saturday, April 18th, and Saturday, April 25th.

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 Master of the Royal Secret.

Each year we also traditionally host a Blue Lodge night in which non-Scottish Rite Masons are welcome to attend and enjoy a meal. Stay tuned for the date of that event.

The Scottish Rite Representative for Freedom Lodge is currently Wor. Matt Duley.

Brochures with much more information are available in the dining hall for more details, or visit <https://www.alexandriascottishrite.org/>

Below are members of Freedom Lodge who can sign a petition for those Master Masons interested in joining.

Matt Duley
Cameron Gore
Romano Bolkovic
Gary Ing
David Kirk
Dejan Kocic
Jim Krunk
Dan Little
Josip Sapunar
Nebojsa Todorovic
Shannon Stong