

03

March 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,

Masonry teaches that every man begins his journey as a rough ashlar, imperfect and unfinished, but capable of being shaped by the lessons of the Craft. In March, our attention turns to the work of self-improvement – a labor that is never truly complete but always essential. The theme “Strength in Brotherhood, Service in Community” reminds us that strong Lodges and strong communities are made up of strong men. Our ability to serve, to lead, and to build depends upon the continual refinement of our own character.

This month, I encourage each Brother to reflect on the working tools of the Craft. The plumb teaches us to walk uprightly, the level reminds us of our equality with all men, and the square instructs us in virtue and morality. These are not abstract ideas but daily practices. When we govern ourselves by them, we become not only better men but also better husbands, fathers, neighbors, and Brothers. Let us recommit ourselves to this inner work, for in shaping our own ashlar more perfectly, we give greater strength to the structure of our Lodge and offer a more enduring gift to the community we serve.

Finally, I'd ask that you all RSVP for the Grand Master's Official Visit on April 7th. Brother Mark Canter is serving as this year's DDGM we have an opportunity to host the Grand Master of Virginia, the whole Grand Officers Line, and their wives right here in Lovettsville at the Game Club. Brother Bernd Kupferer, who has cooked for the Oktoberfest, is in charge of the food so it promises to be fantastic. If within the length of your cable tow come out on Tuesday 4/7 for a wonderful and memorable experience!

∴ Bill Hohl
Master 2026

Upcoming Stated Programs:

- March - The Morgan Affair with Brother Rhey Solomon
- April - *Tartan Night!* “Who was Robert Burns?” with the Kena Highlanders
- May - MAHOVA: Your Masonic Community with Brother Dejan Kocic
- June - A Special Presentation by Brother Eric LeHew
- July - "Build a Flag" with the Sojourners,
Also: July 3rd Freedom Day Family Picnic

From the West

Brethren,

As we approach the meridian of our Masonic year, my focus is on the Strength of our Lodge—a strength found not only within our tiled doors but in the youth who represent the future of our Craft.

On February 21, 2026, our District concluded the winter season of youth installations. With Grand Master Szramoski's own roots as a DeMolay, our commitment to these orders has never been more significant.

Why Our Presence Matters

While the Worshipful Master represents Wisdom, my station in the West represents the Strength to support the Lodge's endeavors. There is no greater strength we can provide than our presence.

Supporting these young leaders is a cornerstone of our Masonic duty. Seeing a room full of Master Masons provides these young men and women the confidence to lead with the integrity and virtue we prize in our own degrees.

A Legacy of Service

I am also proud to highlight the impact of our youth. On December 13, 2025, Ashburn DeMolay hosted a fundraiser for youth mental health and suicide prevention, raising an incredible **\$5,270.80** for Active Minds. This is the "Strength and Establishment" of our future in action.

Brad Westerman, Senior Warden

From the South

Brothers,

It has been a busy month for us in Lovettsville. A huge thank you to the Brothers that assisted in decorating the tree on the Squirkle. It seems like a silly thing to do, but there is now an advertisement that Masonry exists in Lovettsville for all the locals and commuters alike to see. Likewise, we are also hosting two LOVETtsville has HeART paintings in our display out front the Lodge.

Our next opportunity to participate in the Lovettsville community will be the Spring Cleanup and Mayfest, which will be held on May 16th. We intend to have a "booth" at the event, but also volunteer in assisting vendors to move their wares to and from the event.

We had a very successful dinner at Daughter Thai - our next Meet Up + Practice will be March 18th at Rodeos.

Dinner:

March will be an Irish delight provided by Worshipful Hirschhorn, as is tradition.

April is going to be a baked potato bar fund raiser for Bethel 52. Mark your calendar, last year we had a sparse showing - and likely cost them money for coming all the way up to our Lodge!

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

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>

March 2026



Mar 1 – 7

Fri
6

Freedom Lodge Dinner

7 – 8 PM

Freedom Lodge No. 118 AF&AM, 28 E...

Stated Communication

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

Mar 8 – 14

Sat
14

District Ritual School and Ashburn D...

8:30 – 10:30 AM

Ashburn-Sterling Masonic Lodge #28...

Mar 15 – 21

Wed
18

Freedom Lodge Meetup

5:45 – 7:00 PM at Rodeo's Mexican Gr...

Lodge practice

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

Sat
21

Freedom's Annual Lodge Stewardshi...

9 AM – 2 PM at Freedom Lodge No. 11...

Mar 22 – 28

Wed
25

Masonic District No. 2 Ritual School...

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

Join us for Stated on March 6 to hear about the Morgan Affair from Brother Rhey Solomon!



The Cable Tow

Brethren,

In Masonic instruction, the cable tow is one of our oldest and most meaningful symbols. The word *tow* signifies a line used to draw or guide. Mackey reminds us that the term is purely Masonic, likely derived from the German *kabeltauw*, meaning rope or cable, and appears in Masonic writings as early as the eighteenth century.

In its earliest use, the cable tow served a practical purpose—a physical means of control during initiation. This interpretation remains in the Entered Apprentice Degree, where it represents guidance and restraint while one takes his first steps in Masonry.

As a Brother advances, however, the symbolism deepens. In the Fellow Craft and Master Mason Degrees, the cable tow is no longer merely physical. It becomes symbolic of the covenant that binds all Freemasons together—a voluntary bond of duty, obligation, and mutual responsibility.

This symbolism echoes the words of Hosea: *“I drew them with cords of a man, with bands of love.”* The cable tow reminds us that our obligations are not enforced by force, but by conscience; not by compulsion, but by affection and shared purpose.

Ultimately, the cable tow teaches us that while Masonry may first guide us, it is our choice to remain bound—to our principles, to one another, and to the timeless ideals of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth.

Annual Lodge Stewardship Day

Brethren, this year we will be introducing our first Annual Lodge Stewardship Day – a day dedicated to preserving, improving, and honoring the place we call our Masonic home.

This will not simply be a cleaning day. It will be a morning of fellowship, shared labor, laughter, and pride in our Lodge. There will be opportunities for every Brother to contribute – whether through hands-on work, organization, mentorship, or simply good company.

Food will be shared. Stories will be told. And together, we will strengthen both our building and our Brotherhood.

Mark your calendars – you will not want to miss it.

Fun and fellowship all day:

9:00 AM to 2:00 PM 3/21

Come for all or part,

Coffee and breakfast, BBQ lunch

To see what you can do to pitch in or for more information see the Junior Deacon!

Lodge Swag

Are you interested in Lodge Bowling Shirts? It's been years since we've ordered lodge polo shirts! 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. Shirts will cost approximately \$55, less with a larger order.

Indicate your interest by going to

<https://forms.gle/14pTaUB9GMt7RRku8>

or scanning the QR code



Sweetheart Brunch

Freedom Lodge honored our wives, girl friends, and widows with a fantastic brunch at Market Table Bistro. Thank you for the care, patience, encouragement, and support you give us every single day. Masonry asks time and commitment from each of us — and that's only possible because of you.

The lodge was presented with Most Worshipful Lloyd Davis' hand-painted apron at the brunch. It has been lovingly framed and preserved in accordance with Lady Judy's wishes and will be on display in the lodge. We thank her for allowing us to keep such a special reminder of Brother Davis care and devotion to the craft.



Lady Casey Shapiro also celebrated her birthday with us!



We're looking forward to the next family event! Be sure to get the Grand Master's Official Visit Dinner on 4/7 and the 3rd of July Parade and Picnic Cookout on your calendars NOW!

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.



"I love the smell of dues payments in the morning"

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

Commemorative Items

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.



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!

Community Out Reach

This month we hosted local art and took to the Squircle to decorate a tree for the LOVETtsville Full of HeART Project!



Relief and Charity

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 the Senior Deacon with your thoughts

Masonic Birthdays in March



Garland Cooper, 03/28/1969

Mark Canter, 3/15/2014

George Facer, 03/26/2015

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 |
| J. David King | 2016 |
| 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/

threads.com/@glofva

tiktok.com/@glofva

Have you been wondering where the Traveling Gavel is? Check it out here: <https://www.vamasonidistrict2.org/where-is-the-district-2-traveling-gavel/>



What lodge should we visit next?



District 2 News

2026 District 2 Schedule

March District Bowling Event (Date TBD)

March 25 M&W (6:30p) + District School (7p)

April 7 Grand Master's Official Visit

\$30 per person, RSVP early

Upcoming:

District End of Summer picnic

Halloween Parade



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

Be on the lookout for information about a District Bowling Party scheduled for March 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



Girls aged 10 - 20

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

- Saturday, March 7 GV 1, 13, 22 at 2:00 pm Mount Vernon Masonic Temple
- Tuesday, March 10 Formal Meeting
- Thursday, March 12 Cochran Lodge Youth Night 6:30 pm - The Plains
- Saturday, March 14 GV 16, 24, & 52 at TBD pm Prince George Masonic Temple
- Tuesday, March 17 Reflection Service & Yoga with Mom Bev at HMT 7:30 pm
- Saturday, March 21 Event: Bethel 52 Paint Party, Time TBD
- Tuesday March 24 Informal Meeting
- Panda Express Fundraiser - Date TBD
- Friday, March 27 - Outdoor Movie
- Tuesday, March 31 5th Tuesday Fun Event TBD 7:30 pm



Bethel 52 Meetings

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

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 Eldon Street
Herndon, VA 22070



ASHBURN DEMOLAY

- 1 Mar, Sun Northern Region Initiation
- 11 Mar, Wed Ashburn DeMolay Meeting
- 14 Mar, Sat Ashburn Monthly Breakfast
- 14 Mar, Sat Roller Skating Fun Event
- 15 Mar, Sun Ashburn Chapter visit with Woodlawn
- 19 Mar, Thu Hamilton-Thompson Lodge Fundraiser Dinner and Presentation
- 21 Mar, Sat Northern Region Day of Service
- 25 Mar, Wed Ashburn DeMolay Meeting



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



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

