

04

April 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,

As the season turns to spring, we are reminded of renewal, growth, and the bonds that hold creation together. In the same way, our Lodge is renewed when we focus on the cement of Brotherly Love that unites us. Our goal of Strength in Brotherhood, Service in Community calls us to remember that our first duty as Masons is to one another. When fellowship is strong, all other labors – ritual, charity, and service – flow naturally and effectively. Through this we're able to reach out to the community and bring more men to Masonry.

The ancients spoke of the Lodge being supported by the three great pillars of Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty. These are not merely architectural metaphors but reminders that each of us contributes something essential to the whole. One Brother may bring wisdom, another strength, another beauty and together they uphold the Lodge. I encourage each of you to ask this month: what am I contributing to the support of Freedom Lodge? Am I sharing my gifts, my time, my encouragement with my Brothers? When we do so, we create a Lodge that is truly a sacred retreat of friendship and virtue, where men find strength not in isolation, but in unity.

This month, reach out to a brother that you haven't spoken to in a while. If you haven't been to lodge in a while, reach out to one of the officers or to me. We miss you and would like to see you!

∴ Bill Hohl
Master 2026

Upcoming Stated Programs:

- 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
- August - Joe Martinez

From the West

The Historical Connection:

The superstition is widely believed to have originated on Friday, October 13, 1307, when King Philip IV of France ordered the simultaneous arrest of thousands of Templars, including their Grand Master, Jacques de Molay.

The Motive: King Philip was deeply in debt to the Templars and sought to seize their wealth and eliminate his financial obligations.

The Charges: The knights were accused of heresy, blasphemy, and obscene rituals—charges largely extracted through intense torture.

The Outcome: The order was eventually dissolved, and De Molay was imprisoned for seven years before being executed.

On March 18, 1314, Jacques de Molay was burned at the stake. According to popular legend, as he died, he cursed King Philip and Pope Clement V, summoning them to appear before God's judgment within a year.

The Result: Remarkably, both the Pope (who died of illness) and the King (who died in a hunting accident) passed away within months of De Molay's execution.

The Superstition

While historians note that Friday was already considered unlucky in Christian tradition (due to the Crucifixion) and the number 13 carried negative biblical associations, the "Black Friday" of 1307 is often cited as the event that solidified Friday the 13th as a day of ultimate betrayal and misfortune.

Brad Westerman, Senior Warden

From the South

Brothers,

Mark your calendars for May 16th - Lovettsville's Mayfest. Brother Kirk was kind enough to book us a booth at the event. There will be a cleanup effort the week leading up to this event, once I have more details we will determine if we have enough interest to participate in both events.

The more folks we have participating at the booth the better; last year we had a number of curious minds stop by - some sincere, others to be cheeky. Either way, it is a great opportunity to mingle with the community.

We **will** be participating in the set up and break down of the vendor tents.

Dinner:

April: In honor of the Burns night, I will be attempting Scottish cuisine. I wish you all luck.

May: The Baked Potato fund raiser for Bethel 52 has been moved to May. 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: Bro. David Kirk (local)
Bro. Franco Aguillon(District)

Lodge Calendar

<https://tinyurl.com/yckzjc4j>

April 2026

Fri
3

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...

Tue
7

Grand Master Official Visit

Sat
11

District Ritual School and Ashburn D...

8:30 – 10:30 AM

Ashburn-Sterling Masonic Lodge #28...

Wed
15

Freedom Lodge Meetup

5:45 – 7:00 PM at 1836 Kitchen and Ta...

Lodge practice

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

Wed
29

Masonic District No. 2 Ritual School...

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

Join us for Stated
April 3 to hear about
Bro Rabbie Burns
from (tartan
welcome but not
required!)

Action Items This Month:

- Sign up for the Grand Master's Official Visit (see Bro. Canter)
- Put your shirt size on the Swag list!
- Pay your 2026 dues if you haven't!

Masonic Education



Spiritualist and Rationalist Symbolism in Freemasonry

From its modern formation in the eighteenth century, Freemasonry has stood at the meeting point of two great currents of thought: the spiritualist and the rationalist. At first glance these perspectives appear opposed, yet together they have shaped the rich symbolic language of the Craft.

The spiritualist tradition views Masonic symbols as vessels of deeper, transcendent truths. To those who approach the Craft in this way, the working tools of the Lodge are far more than instruments of operative building. The Square, the Compasses, and the Chisel become gateways to moral and spiritual insight. Each emblem points beyond itself, revealing timeless virtues—justice, balance, discipline, and perfection. The Mason, in this view, is an interpreter of a sacred language, learning to read the symbols as keys that unlock spiritual growth and moral elevation.

By contrast, the rationalist perspective—shaped largely by the spirit of the Enlightenment—understands these same symbols as powerful teaching devices rather than mystical signs. The Square is not a talisman, but a clear illustration of upright conduct. The Compasses remind us of the human capacity for measurement, reason, and restraint. From this standpoint, Masonic symbolism serves as a philosophical method of instruction: a visual and experiential way of transmitting ethical principles and universal truths.

What makes Freemasonry remarkable is that these interpretations have never excluded one another. Instead, they have coexisted within the rituals and teachings of the Craft. The mystically inclined Mason may perceive spiritual revelation within the symbols, while the philosophically minded Mason may see lessons in morality and reason. Both readings are possible, and both enrich the experience of the initiate.

Perhaps this duality is one of the great strengths of Freemasonry. Our symbols form a language that is intentionally open—capable of speaking to both the spirit and the intellect. Each Mason is invited to contemplate them, to wrestle with their meaning, and to apply their lessons according to his own understanding.

In this way, the Craft has endured across centuries and cultures. By allowing room for both contemplation and reason, Freemasonry preserves a living tradition—one that continues to guide men in the pursuit of wisdom, virtue, and self-improvement.

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.

Order by going to

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

or scanning the QR code

Order NOW!!!



Show your pride!

What other lodge or Masonic gear are you interested in?

- T-shirts (short or long sleeve)?
- Hoodies or crewnecks?
- Hats?
- Jackets?
- Kitchen style aprons?
- Coins?
- Pins?
- Water Bottles?
- Coffee mugs?
- Travel mugs or tumblers?
- Pint glasses, Whiskey glasses, Glencairn glasses, Shot glasses....?
- Stickers or car decals?

There are so many more choices and we want to know what you'd want!

Drop a line to any of the officers!

Annual Lodge Stewardship Day

Brethren,

What we accomplished together was more than just work – it was a reflection of who we are.

To all the Brothers who showed up, gave their time, their energy, and their hands – thank you.

You demonstrated what stewardship, pride, and true brotherhood look like in action.

The lodge didn't just get cleaner – it got stronger.

To those who were not able to join us, you were missed – but the door is always open. There will always be another opportunity to stand side by side and contribute to something greater than ourselves.

This is how traditions begin.

This is how a lodge grows.

Well done, Brethren.

Dejan SUSIC



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!

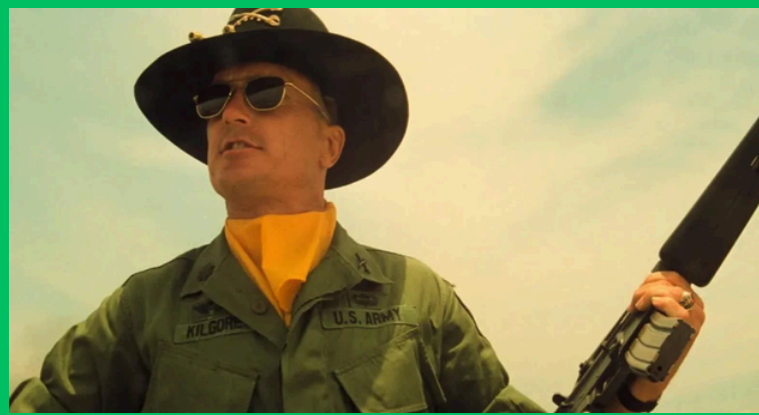
See this link on our homepage:

<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!

Masonic Birthdays in April



David Kirk, 4/5
 Cameron Gore, 4/24
 George Shoemaker, 4/24
 Dick Phillips, 4/27
 Dejan Kocic, 4/29
 Bernd Kupferer, 4/29
 David Lang, 4/29
 Nebojsa Todorovic, 4/29
*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

Have you been wondering where the Traveling Gavel is? Check it out here: <https://www.vamasoni.cdistrict2.org/where-is-the-district-2-traveling-gavel/>

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



What lodge should we visit next?



District 2 News

2026 District 2 Schedule

- April 7 Grand Master's Official Visit
\$30 per person, RSVP early
- April District Bowling Event (Date TBD)
- April 29 M&W (6:30p) + District School (7p)

- 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 April or May 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.

- Friday, April 3 Baked Potato Dinner Fundraiser at Freedom Masonic Temple
- Tuesday, April 7 Line Officer & Council meeting 7:30 pm
- Saturday, April 11 Park View Craft & Vendor Show 10:00am-3:00pm
- Tuesday, April 14 Formal Meeting - Robes and Regalia
- Friday - Sunday, April 17-19 Leadership Weekend at Camp Piankatank
- Tuesday, April 21 - Practice, HMT, 7:30pm
- Saturday, April 25 HQWAMC Ball, 7:00pm at Khedive Shrine
- Tuesday, April 28 Informal Bethel Meeting - Nice Casual; Presentation Night



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

- 6 Apr, Mon Olive Branch Lodge Fundraiser Dinner and Presentation
- 8 Apr, Wed Ashburn DeMolay Meeting
- 11 Apr, Sat Ashburn Monthly Breakfast & Lodge Spring Cleanup
- 16 Apr, Thu Ashburn Chapter visit with Herndon Chapter
- 20 Apr, Mon Grand Master Visit VFW in Luray
- 22 Apr, Wed Ashburn DeMolay Meeting
- 25 Apr, Sat MCHQWA Ball



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

