

05

May 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,

May brings with it a sense of energy and labor. Farmers turn to their fields, builders to their tasks, and communities come alive with activity. For us as Masons, this is a fitting season to reflect on our duty to the world beyond our doors. The motto “Building Bonds, Building Community” reminds us that our service to one another is not complete unless it is also extended to our neighbors. The Square teaches us fairness, the Level teaches us equality, and the Plumb teaches us integrity – and when these tools are applied in daily life, they shape not only our own conduct but the character of the community in which we live.

This month, I ask each Brother to consider how we might show Masonry at work in Lovettsville, Loudoun County, or wherever we may be laboring. Sometimes this takes the form of organized projects: charity drives, public service, or education. Other times, it is simpler: offering help to a neighbor, volunteering with local organizations, or wearing the square and compasses with integrity in our workplaces and homes. Let us remember that we are not only building ourselves into better men, but also shaping the world around us through service. A Lodge that shines outward is a Lodge that fulfills its true purpose.

At the recent Grand Master’s Official visit, Most Worshipful Matt Szramoski made note of Freemasonry’s lasting values. As he said, what other organization has stood up against the erosion of societal pressures? Where else, in this time of darkness, might we find light? Brethren, you can be the beacon of light for someone else in this time of darkness.

∴ Bill Hohl
Master 2026

Upcoming Stated Programs:

- 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 lessons we learn within the Lodge are meant to be carried outward into the world. This month's program from Bro. Kocic on the Masonic Home of Virginia offers us a clear example of how our working tools are applied beyond symbolic instruction.

MAHOVA stands as a testament to what our Fraternity can accomplish when we commit to caring for others. It reflects the very best of who we are: compassion, responsibility, and brotherly love extended beyond the Lodge.

Through MAHOVA, we see the plumb expressed in upright care, the level in equality and dignity, and the square in just and compassionate action. It is a living embodiment of what it means to practice Masonry in its fullest sense.

We also extend our sincere thanks to Job's Daughters Bethel No. 52 for providing our meal. Their service reflects the same spirit of dedication and reminds us that the strength of our Masonic family lies in its unity across generations.

May we take this opportunity to reflect not only on what we believe, but on how we act—ensuring that our work continues to benefit those who rely on the principles we uphold.

Fraternally,
Brad Westerman
Senior Warden

From the South

Brothers,

Lovettsville's Mayfest will be on May 16th - please come join us, this is an excellent opportunity to be present in the community! We will be looking for volunteers to assist in setting up or taking down for other vendors. Please see my email from April 9th titled

Looking forward to July 3rd - we will be entering the parade again this year. Afterward we will be sticking around to have a BBQ and enjoy the fireworks which are easily visible from the back parking lot with some obstruction (or from 1836's parking lot without obstruction).

Dinner:
May: The Baked Potato fund raiser for Bethel 52! Please bring cash to donate and make it worth Bethel's efforts to treat us to a spud-bar.
June: I will likely fire up the smoker and make pulled pork and traditional BBQ sides, unless there is a volunteer who would like to share their cuisine with us.

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>

Dinner will be a fundraiser for Bethel #52. Come hungry!

Fri
1

Freedom Lodge Dinner
7 – 8 PM
Freedom Lodge No. 118 A.F. & A.M., 28 E...

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

Sat
2

Bourbon & Cigars
2 – 7 PM
233 Tyson Dr, Berryville, VA 22611, USA

Sat
9

District Ritual School and Ashburn D...
8:30 – 10:30 AM
Ashburn-Sterling Masonic Lodge #28...

Sat
16

Lovettsville Mayfest
10 AM – 4 PM

Wed
20

Freedom Lodge Meetup
5:45 – 7:00 PM
Freedom Lodge No. 118 A.F. & A.M., 2...

CALLED COMMUNICATION - Entere...
7 – 9 PM at 28 E Broad Way, Lovettsvill...

Wed
27

Masonic District No. 2 Ritual School...
6:30 – 8:30 PM at Olive Branch Lodge...

Sat
30

Fraternal Visit to Warren Lodge in C...
6 – 9 PM at Warren Lodge #310 of the...

Action Items This Month:

- Sign up for the May Fest (see Bro. Dell)
- Pay your 2026 dues if you haven't!

Masonic Education



Masonic Reflection — Time, Purpose & Moral Work

Freemasonry teaches us to value time wisely and to consider our purpose under Heaven. The “season” metaphor in Ecclesiastes is a powerful Masonic tool for reflection because:

1. Life’s Cycles Are Universal:

Each Mason encounters times of growth, struggle, reflection, and renewal. Just as the lyric tells us there is “a time to plant, ... a time to dig up that which was planted,” we are reminded that the Craft encourages us to build and cultivate our character with patient diligence.

2. Balance Is a Central Virtue:

The lyrics move through opposites — weeping and laughter, mourning and dancing — underscoring that the pursuit of virtue includes reconciling life’s tensions. This mirrors the Masonic ideal of equilibrium: to walk uprightly between extremes.

3. Purpose Under Heaven:

The song repeats “a time to every purpose under Heaven,” reminding us that our labors — in Lodge and beyond — are not random but part of a larger moral design. In Masonry, we learn to see our duties not as burdens but as seasonal opportunities for growth and service.

4. Peace and Transformation:

The final line of the song, “a time for peace, I swear it’s not too late,” is Seeger’s own addition and hints at hope and social conscience — an appeal to embrace peace even amid conflict. Similarly, Masonry teaches harmony: in ourselves, in our Lodges, and in our communities.

Applying the Message in Lodge Life

Here are practical points for Masonic reflection:

- Self-Examination: Recognize your current season — are you building strength, repairing damage, weeping, or rejoicing? Acknowledge it and grow through it.
- Service to Others: There is a time to speak, and a time to be silent — learn when to guide others and when to listen.
- Enduring Hope: Just as Ecclesiastes cycles toward peace, we as Masons work toward harmony and universal benevolence in all seasons.

Conclusion — Lessons from the Song and Scripture

Turn! Turn! Turn! resonates across generations because it echoes an ancient wisdom: life is a series of appointed times and purposes. For Masons, this reminds us that our moral and spiritual labors are seasoned by experience and guided by reason and virtue. May we use our time wisely — building, healing, and pursuing peace under Heaven.

CALLED COMMUNICATION

Brethren,

On Wednesday, May 20, 2026 there will be a called communication to confer the Entered apprentice degree. Lodge will open promptly at 7:00 PM. Jacket and tie required. The degree will be preceded by dinner at Freedom Lodge starting at 5:45 catered by Andy's in Lovettsville.

Fraternal Fellowship

Bourbon & Cigars

- Saturday May 2nd, 2pm - 7pm (day after our May Stated)
- 233 Tyson Dr., Berryville VA 22611
- Rain or Shine. We have a covered back deck and a covered front porch.
- Closed to 118 Brothers only (EA's/FC's/MM's/Honorary) and their family. Please bring your spouse!
- Menu includes pork butt, mac & cheese, and some ham sliders
- Bring lawn chairs

Questions? See RW George Shoemaker

Fraternal Visit to Collegeville, PA

We're visiting a moon lodge in Pennsylvania! Warren Lodge #310 meets the Saturday on or before the full moon.

- Saturday, May 30: Dinner at 6PM, lodge opens at 7PM
- 453 E Main St, Collegeville, PA 19426
- The Hampton Inn & Suites Valley Forge / Oaks, PA is highly recommended
- RSVP with WM Bill Hohl and Wor. Matt Duley as the lodge Secretary will request a letter of introduction from Grand Lodge
- **Bring your masonic passports!**

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!

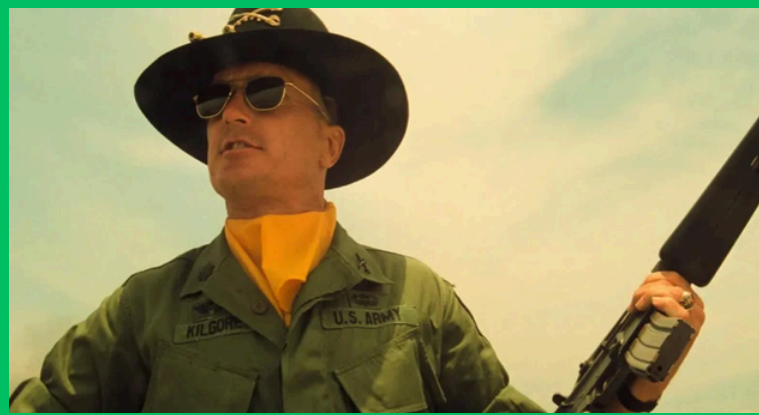
See this link on our homepage:

<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

Lovettsville Mayfest

Brethren,

Mayfest will be on May 16th, from 10:00AM to 4:00PM. We will be setting up a booth and need Brothers to come enjoy a fine spring day and be visible in the community! The more of us that are at the booth, or are simply present at the event the better. Last year was an excellent time, and as a side effect earned us a petitioner who will be initiated in the coming months.

If you have any interesting ideas to attract attention to our booth, we could use a few additional attractions/giveaways to give us opportunities to talk to interested men. Worshipful Matt has begun putting together an excellent attraction to guess if historical figures were Masons or not - based on last year's conversations, this will be an excellent game!

In addition to 'manning the booth' - the Town of Lovettsville has requested volunteers to assist with various tasks before, during, and after the event.

Contact SW Jeff Dell to RSVP!

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 next charity support? A group we've helped before? A new need you've heard of? Contact the Senior Deacon with your thoughts

Commemorative Items

Honed marble stone tokens, crafted by a brother Mason. Each one is unique and has its own special character. \$10 each. Please see the Secretary to purchase stone tokens.



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

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>



Lodge Polo Shirts

2-tone navy/white and can be customized with your name on the right. \$55 (or less with a larger order) Order by going to <https://forms.gle/14pTaUB9GMt7RRku8> or scanning the QR code



Masonic Birthdays in May



Reginald V. Sanbower, 5/11

Ryan Packard, 5/22

James Crunk, 5/23

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



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

District 2 News

2026 District 2 Schedule

May 9 - District Ritual School and Ashburn DeMolay Monthly Breakfast

May 27 - M&W (6:30p) + District School (7p)

June 12 - Purcellville Cannons Game

September 12 - Kenneth O. Shelton Area Ritual School

August - District End of Summer picnic

Halloween Parade

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, May 1 Baked Potato Dinner at Freedom
- Tuesday, May 5 Line Officer & Council Meet
- Saturday, May 9 Make-up fun event at the Udvar-Hazy Center
- Tuesday, May 12 Formal Meeting 7:30pm
- Saturday, May 16 Grand Bethel Meeting & Grand Bethel Line Oral Recitation and Statewide School of Instruction
- Tuesday, May 19 Practice/Session Planning/Fun
- Wednesday, May 20 Panda Express Fundraiser
- Saturday, May 23 Nature walk & Photography
- Tuesday, May 26 Informal Meeting 7:30 pm.
- May 30-31 H.I.K.E. and Beach Day at Yorktown



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

- 9 May Ashburn Monthly Breakfast
- 9 May Tri-Youth Event at MAHOVA
- 13 May Ashburn DeMolay Meeting
- 16 May Laser Tag Fun Event
- 23 May Ritual Competition Practice, & Athletic Practice
- 27 May 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 Fall reunion. 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

