

07

July 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,

The height of summer brings us to the sun at its meridian, a symbol rich in Masonic meaning. Just as the sun gives its light and warmth to all equally, so too are we reminded that the bonds of Brotherhood are meant to shine upon every man within the Lodge. Building Strength in Brotherhood through Service in Community begins first with the strength we find in one another. When we gather together, whether in labor or refreshment, we build up that treasured fellowship that gives Masonry its true vitality.

The Lodge is not only a place of ritual but also a place of friendship, counsel, and support. In moments of need, a Brother can lean upon the strength of the Lodge; in times of joy, we celebrate together as family. July is a time of gathering, of picnics, festivals, and community events. Let us take this opportunity to draw nearer to one another – to renew our bonds, welcome our newer members, and strengthen the cement that unites us. A Lodge that invests in Brotherhood is a Lodge that endures.

Over the past few weeks, my family has had the opportunity to travel throughout New England, visiting Boston, Portland, Acadia National Park, and Montreal. Along the way, we toured the Grand Lodges of Massachusetts, Maine, and Quebec, and I had the privilege of attending an Entered Apprentice Degree in Maine.

What struck me most throughout our travels was not the architecture or the history, but the Brothers themselves. Every Lodge welcomed us with genuine warmth and kindness. In today's world, it has become increasingly uncommon to meet a stranger and take the time to truly know him. It is even more unusual to sit beside someone with whom you may have many differences and simply listen – not to prepare a rebuttal or search for a "gotcha" moment, but because you sincerely want to understand him.

That, to me, is one of the greatest beauties of Freemasonry. No matter where I have traveled, I found men striving to become the best versions of themselves. Different backgrounds, different occupations, different opinions; but united by the same obligations, the same principles, and the same desire to improve themselves and serve others. It reminded me that the Brotherhood we enjoy here at Freedom Lodge is part of something much larger. The lessons we practice within our Lodge truly do extend around the world.

The Lovettsville annual July 3rd parade and our picnic is just around the corner with special guests from the Heroes of '76 Sojourners. I hope you'll join us – not only to celebrate our nation's independence, but also to celebrate the friendships that make our Lodge strong. Bring your friends and family; I look forward to seeing you there.

∴ Bill Hohl
Master 2026

From the West

Brethren,

The June Stated Communication of Freedom Lodge was visited by the spirit of our first Secretary, Luther W. Slater, who returned to tell us the remarkable story of his life and the founding of our Lodge. Through a first-person portrayal, we followed Brother Slater from his service as a Union officer in the Loudoun Rangers during the Civil War, through his recovery, marriage, and service as Postmaster of Lovettsville, to the founding of Freedom Lodge in 1865. More than a history lesson, it was a reminder that our Lodge was born in the aftermath of one of the most divisive periods in our nation's history by men who believed that Brotherhood could accomplish what conflict could not.

Brother Slater's message remains as relevant today as it was more than 160 years ago. He reminded us that Freemasonry calls men from different walks of life to meet upon the level, laying aside the divisions of the outside world in pursuit of friendship, virtue, and mutual improvement. Every degree we confer, every meeting we hold, and every act of relief we extend continues the work that Brother Slater and our founders began. Their legacy is not found only in the pages of our minute books, but is also found in the way we live our obligations and strengthen the bonds of Brotherhood for generations yet to come.

Fraternally,
Brad Westerman
Senior Warden



From the South

Brothers,

One of the great joys of serving as your Junior Warden is seeing our Brothers gather—not only in the Lodge room, but throughout our community. Over the past month, we've shared fellowship at the Purcellville Cannons game, cared for one of our widows by helping with yard work, and celebrated the accomplishments of local students as Brother Westerman presented gift cards to outstanding fifth graders at Lovettsville Elementary School. These moments remind us that Freemasonry is lived as much outside the Lodge as it is within its walls.

As we look ahead, I hope you'll continue that spirit of participation. Join us on July 3rd for our annual parade, cookout, public "Building the Flag" presentation, brief Stated Communication, and fireworks. We also continue to collect food for the Western Loudoun Food Pantry and will soon begin gathering individually packaged snack items for New Jerusalem's Back-to-School event on August 8. Whether you can spare an evening of fellowship, a few canned goods, or a helping hand, every contribution strengthens our Lodge and blesses our community. I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events and continuing the good work that makes Freedom Lodge such a special place.

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 Valke, 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)

July 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...

Jul 5 – 11

Sat
11

District Ritual School and Ashburn D...

8:30 – 10:30 AM

Ashburn-Sterling Masonic Lodge #28...

Jul 12 – 18

Wed
15

Freedom Lodge Meetup

5:45 – 7:00 PM

Rodeo's Mexican Grill, 26 E Broad Wa...

Lodge practice

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

Jul 19 – 25

Jul 26 – Aug 1

Wed
29

Masonic District No. 2 Ritual School...

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

Action Items This Month:

- Sign up for the July 3rd Freedom Feast (see Bro. Dell)
- Pay your 2026 dues if you haven't!

Upcoming Stated Programs:

- July - "Build a Flag" with the Sojourners, **Also: July 3rd Freedom Day Family Picnic**
- August - Joe Martinez
- September - Bro. Wes Hirschhorn: Hawaiian Shirts and Celebrating the Masonic Legacy of Hawaii's Last King

Stated Summer Attire:

- Jacket and Tie not required through the September Stated
- Collar shirts required
- Long pants required



Freedom Lodge No. 118

The Southern Least Lodge in Virginia

**Invites our friends and family to join us for a
Day of Celebration on Friday, July 3rd 2026**

Schedule of Events



4:00 - Gather at Lodge to prepare

5:30 - Annual 3rd of July Parade

6:30 - Cookout at the lodge

Join us for hotdogs, hamburgers, and a cookout!

(Pot-luck sides!)



7:00 - Sojourners/Heroes of 76 Public Presentation

“Building The Flag”

Sojourners in colonial uniform explain some of the flag’s special features, and answer many intriguing questions about our Flag as it literally takes shape stripe by stripe and star by star before your very eyes. And, if you listen closely, you will even hear a beautiful soliloquy known as “Old Glory Speaks.” This is a wonderful program for those of all ages and particularly the youth of our Nation to gain new insights about the flag to which we are so privileged to pledge our allegiance.

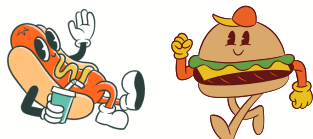
8:00 - Brief Stated Communication

9:30 - Fireworks

The favor of an RSVP is requested to a lodge officer!

28 East Broad Way, Lovettsville, VA 20180

<https://www.freedomlodge118.org/>



From the Secretary

Brethren,

Concerning dues:

If you have not already paid your 2026 dues, they are now *overdue* and you will see it reflected in your Grand View profile. Payment of your annual dues at *the beginning* of the Masonic year help your lodge to maintain its operating status and pay our bills. Members who still have yet to pay dues for any preceding year will be reported to the Grand Lodge by August 1st, as per the Methodical Digest.

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.

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 as we may be able to offer some relief.

Concerning the Grand Lodge Grand View application:

Those of you who have *not yet* registered to use the Grand View application (and have an email address on file with us) have been sent a registration email via Grand View so check your email for it. We are attempting to get folks connected who did not sign up during the program rollout so that you feel connected to Virginia Masonry. In order to receive notifications from the Grand Lodge, as well access to the variety of Masonic resources available to you, you have to sign up. It is especially important that every officer of the lodge be registered. If you need help completing this, or guidance on where to find a particular resource, please let me know and I will be happy to help. Please note that while you can access some content via your mobile phone, the best site experience is via a desktop web browser.

Matt Duley, PM
Freedom 118 Secretary

Commemorative Items

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



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 July



Harris McGarrah Jr, 7/13
 Chuck Wyant, 7/13
 Al Erickson Jr, 7/17
 Edward McKimmey, 7/23
 Jesse Lee Shannon, 7/23
 Phil B Brooks, 7/26
 Dejan Susic, 7/31

*Reach out to Brother Sagors to wish
 him 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



District 2 News 2026 District 2 Schedule



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

July 11 - District Ritual School and Ashburn DeMolay Monthly
 Breakfast
 July 29 M&W (6:30p) + District School (7p)
 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

