October, 2026 Issue # 6026.10

Trestle Board

Freedom Lodge No. 118

The Southern Least Lodge in Virginia

Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Virginia
https://FreedomLodge118.org

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

From The East

As autumn deepens, we are reminded of the cycles of time and labor. Masonry teaches us that from labor to refreshment, and refreshment back to labor, we are united in a *common purpose*. In October, our theme brings us once more to the heart of our Craft — the bonds of Brotherhood that sustain us through every season. Our theme "Strength in Brotherhood, Service in Community" rests firmly on these ties of fellowship, for without them, our Lodge would lack both harmony and strength.

The working tools of the Craft remind us that unity does not happen by chance — it requires effort, patience, and love. Just as a wall is only sound when each stone is carefully joined to the next, so a Lodge is strong only when each Brother is bound to the others by the cement of Brotherly Love.

In September, we were reminded of those bonds as we met to remember a dear Brother as came together to work side-by-side for common purpose at the Lovettsville Oktoberfest.

This month, let us take time to renew our bonds, not only through ritual but through fellowship: by supporting one another, mentoring our newer members, and strengthening the sense of family that makes our Lodge a sacred retreat. In so doing, we ensure that the bonds we share will endure well beyond the length of our own labors.

I'm trying a new format for the Trestle Boards this month in hope that it can be printed and mailed to some of the brothers who don't access the internet as readily. This format is based on a number of newspapers I've looked at. It is my hope that the Trestle Board gets out to as many brothers as possible to keep connected, even when far apart.

Left: Brothers hosted Open House tours of the lodge during the Oktoberfest Grill on Sept. 26

From The South

By the time we sit in Lodge on October 1st, the town's Oktoberfest will have come and gone. However, be sure to come out to the Lodge on September 26th to visit or help with the event!

With Fall comes exceptionally busy weekends with the good weather and countless activities/festivities. Wear your Masonic attire with pride, and also look for opportunities for the Lodge or District to engage in the community. I have seen quite a number of civic organizations with information booths set up at festivals, and as we have learned, it is a great way to attract one or two quality individuals to our Fraternity.

The next event on the horizon will be the Coco-crawl in December, this is another opportunity to bring the community to our doorstep. More details to come as I get them from the Town!

Meals: If you have a favorite Fall/Winter dish you'd like to prepare, please contact me. Otherwise, you are at mercy of my menu planning.

Masonic Birthdays in October

William Hohl, 10/3
Adam Smith, 10/3

Reach out to these Brothers to wish them a happy Masonic Birthday!

Back to Formal Attire

With the October Stated begins our **regular Stated dress code** which includes a jacket, tie, and long pants.

November Stated & Annual Grand Communication

The first weekend of November is the Grand Lodge of Virginia's Grand Annual Communication in Richmond. Because of this, our ***November Stated is moved to Friday, November 13***.

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):
George Shoemaker, PDDGM
Lodge MAHOVA Ambassador:
Bro. Dejan Kocic
Blood Coordinators:
Bro. David Kirk (local)
Bro. Franco Aguillon(District)

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 Shoemaker, Jr.	2008, 2009, 2010
J. David King	2016
Chuck Wyant	2017
Wes Hirschhorn	2018, 2025
Mark Canter	2020, 2021
Matt Duley	2022, 2024

Coco Crawl

In December, Lovettsville is hosting a Coco Crawl where we'll be selling Hot Chocolate. What are your favorite recipes? Send them in!

Halloween

We'll be participating in the Lovettsville Community Center Trunk-or-Treat as well as handing out candy right from the lodge building on Halloween night! What will you dress up as for Halloween this year?

October Events

See the calendar at
https://tinyurl.com/yckzjc4j

2 Oct Fri 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Freedom Lodge Dinner
@ Freedom Lodge
2 Oct Fri 8:00 PM - 9:30 PM
October Stated Communication
@ Freedom Lodge
5 Oct Mon 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
OktoberFest Fraternal Visit
@ Olive Branch Lodge, Leesburg
10 Oct Sat 8:30AM - 10:30AM
District Ritual School & Ashburn Demolay Breakfast
@ Ashburn Lodge, Ashburn, VA
18 Oct Sun 2:00PM - 4:00PM
Memorial Service for Bro. Phil Brooks
@ Herndon Lodge, Herndon, VA
21 Oct Wed 5:45PM - 6:45PM
Freedom Lodge Meetup
@ Daughter Thai, Lovettsville
21 Oct Wed 7:00PM - 8:30PM
Lodge Ritual Practice
@ Freedom Lodge
28 Oct Wed 6:30PM - 8:30PM
District Master's and Warden's Meeting & Ritual School
@ Olive Branch Lodge, Leesburg
31 Oct Sat Time TDA
Lovettsville Trunk-or-Treat
@ Lovettsville Community Center
31 Oct Sat 6:00PM-9:00PM
Trick-or-Treat on the Streets,
Handing out candy @ Freedom Lodge

Upcoming Stated Programs

October

District Education Officer Eric LeHew is visiting us!

November

Our very own Brother Matt Duley is presenting

December

Lodge Officer Installation

Have you ordered your Lodge Polo?

2-tone navy/white and can be customized with your name on the right. $55 (or less with a larger order)

FREEDOM LODGE No. 118 Lovettsville, VA

Order by going to https://forms.gle/14pTaUB9GMt7RRku8 or scanning the QR code

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Trestle Board
Freedom Lodge No. 118

Memorial of Bro. Phil Brooks

On Saturday, September 19, many Masons gathered to open a Lodge of Sorrow and bestow the Last Masonic Funeral Rites upon R.W. Philip Brooks. Phil was laid to rest near his father at the Old Stone Church in Winchester, in a peaceful and bucolic spot overlooking a farm field. It is remarkable to consider how deep an impact one man can have in just 22 short years of Masonry. Phil's legacy lives in the many men he supported, encouraged, mentored, and uplifted - and in the lives they, in turn, will touch. The ripples of that influence will continue for many years to come.

Those ripples were evident in the Brothers who came to say goodbye. Brothers from Freedom Lodge, Herndon Lodge, throughout the District, and the Grand Line gathered together. Some who have moved away traveled considerable distances to be there. Each knew Phil in his own way, and each will feel his loss differently. Before and after the ceremony, there were stories everywhere: funny stories about experiences with Phil or a time he had ribbed someone, memories of traveling with him to another Lodge, and plenty of stories about Phil helping a Brother learn his ritual. There was sadness, certainly, but there was laughter too. That seemed especially appropriate for a man who taught many of us that we can enjoy the fellowship and humor of Brotherhood while still appreciating the importance and gravity of our Craft.

For me, one of the most moving parts of the service was the Grand Honors: "his spirit to God, his memory to our hearts, his body to the earth." Standing there among so many men whose lives Phil had touched gave those words particular weight. Though his body is committed to its final resting place, his memory still stands all around us: in the Brothers he mentored, the friendships he formed, the ritual he helped teach, and the stories that were already being passed from one Brother to another.

After the ceremony, I stayed for a while and talked with Brothers I had not seen in a long time. As others did the same, I realized there was something wonderfully fitting about it. Phil loved traveling to Lodges, meeting new Brothers, making introductions, and strengthening the bonds of our Fraternity. Even in his passing, Phil had brought us together again. Old friendships were renewed, Brothers reconnected, stories were shared, and bonds that had grown a little distant were strengthened. Perhaps that is one of the greatest legacies a Mason can leave behind: not simply that he was loved and will be missed, but that the bonds he spent his life building remain and continue bringing Brothers together after he is gone.

Oktoberfest

On Saturday, September 26 Freedom Lodge and the Lovettsville Game Protective Association joined together to serve the community and fund raise. With Brother BK as head Chef, Brother Dell and Brother Erickson lead the charge to organize and execute a very successful event.

The lodge was able to be present in the community, hosting the sale of Brats and other food and drinks as well as hosting lodge tours.

Special thanks also goes to Brother Fred George for the tents and area behind the lodge that we served from.

From the Sr. Deacon

Blood Drives

The next Lovettsville Game Club and Freedom Lodge blood drive is October 10. Please remember to report your donation (and the donations of your friends and family that participate) to our secretary.

UpsideDown Moments

UpsideDown Moments is a Virginia nonprofit dedicated to helping children in foster care, at-risk youth, and young adults aging out of foster care. Through essential resources, mentoring, education, transportation, and housing support, we help vulnerable youth build stable, independent futures.

Every year UpsideDown Moments is able to help *over **1000 kids** who have just entered the foster care system*. They are in great need of **toiletries and luggage**.

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!

Above: Bro. Dell manning the grill at the Oktoberfest Grill

Left: Bro. McGarrah and Bro. BK at the Okteberfest Grill

Right: A view of the set-up for serving at the Okteberfest Grill

MAHOVA

Freedom Lodge was presented the Morlock Award for our support of the Masonic Home of Virginia

Interment for Bro. Loyd Davis

The interment for Ill. Loyd Davis will be at Arlington National Cemetery on **Thursday, November 19th.**

Members should be present by 2:00pm. Dark suit, white apron and gloves.

He laid down his working tools on June 20, 2025. His Home Lodge is listed as Occoquan Lodge No. 310 located in Woodbridge, VA.

Lodge Building and Upkeep

Air Conditioning

The lodge is seeking quotes for installing AC. It is important that we are open to all options and prefer to acquire at least 3 quotes. If you have a relationship with any AC company, please secure a quote and contact Senior Warden, Brad Westerman.

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. Current year dues payments not received by December 31st will be reported to the Master as being eligible for Suspension. 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.

Online dues payments have been suspended pending the implementation of a new solution. All dues payments should be sent via check or money order to the lodge. Cash is accepted for in person transactions at the lodge. Payments mailed to the lodge should be sent to the lodge PO Box listed on your dues notice.

All members are reminded that if you wish to Demit from the Lodge and no longer pay dues, you must both submit the Request to Demit form in writing with your signature AND be current on your dues to be considered by the lodge before such a request can be considered. Members can request the form from me.

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.

Matt Duley, PM
Freedom 118 Secretary

Many thanks to Bro. Duley for donating the informational sign to be added to Hiram