November, 2026 Issue # 6026.11

# 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

The season of harvest reminds us of the principle of sowing and reaping. As Masons, the seeds we sow are fellowship, charity, and service, and the harvest we seek is the betterment of ourselves, our Lodge, and our community. Our goal to build bonds of brotherhood and to build community is especially fitting this time of year, as it calls us to reflect on how our labors have impacted those around us. Have we built a stronger Lodge through our efforts to work side by side with our brothers? Have we built a stronger community through our service?

November is also a season of gratitude, and it offers us the chance to reflect on the blessings of Brotherhood and the opportunities we have to serve. Let us show our gratitude not only with words but with action: by supporting charitable causes, offering relief where it is needed, and demonstrating the Masonic virtues in our daily lives. Each act of kindness, each effort at service, is a seed planted for future generations. As a Lodge, let us ensure that our harvest is abundant, not only in the strength of our fellowship but in the impact we leave on Lovettsville and beyond.

For many the holiday season is not a time of joy but one where loneliness and loss lay especially heavy. Take time to reach out to a Brother, a family member, a neighbor, a childhood friend; a simple phone call can mean a lot.

### From The West

This time of year, the leaves change to show their support for Virginia Tech, Let's go Hokies! The change of season makes us aware of the closing of another Masonic year. November is traditionally a time of transition and reflection in the West. This month, as we approach our annual elections, we will have several brothers assuming new roles of leadership and maybe some familiar ones.

As a former fat kid with gravy in my veins, November equals Thanksgiving. I want to express my deepest gratitude to WM Hohl and his ability to remain steady in a emotional heavy year. Also, thanks to the brothers who have continuously stood on the sidelines, supported our degrees, and stepped up whenever called upon this year. I would be remiss if I didn't speak to the loss of Phil Brooks. I was watching a documentary on Norm MacDonald who summed it up best "waging a courageous battle" against illness. He argued that if a person dies, the cancer dies at the exact same time, which makes the outcome a tie rather than a defeat. Phil gave it hell.

GPT states that a Lodge's true strength relies entirely on the harmony and commitment of its members. Let us keep our working tools close to our hearts, squaring our actions and plumbing our intentions as we wrap up this year's labors.

Fraternally from the West,
Senior Warden,
Brad Westerman

### From The South

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 on December 5th (11am-6pm), **this is another unique opportunity to bring the community to our doorstep and raise money for our Lodge!** Freedom 118 will be featured on the map as a location to get hot cocoa and receive a sticker for their passport. I am working on perfecting a recipe and gathering the requisite materials for service. We will need volunteers to serve cocoa, and help decorate the Lodge!

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 November



| | |
|---|---|
| Shannon Stong, | 11/1 |
| Larry Frye, | 11/11 |
| Ghorley Gregg, Jr., | 11/11 |
| Michael Cooper, | 11/12 |
| Ralph Cavalieri, | 11/20 |
| Blake Gillenwater, | 11/22 |
| Romano Bolkovic, | 11/23 |
| Matthew Duley, | 11/26 |

*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?

### November Events

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

2 Nov Fri 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
Provisional Lodge of Past Masters
@ Henry Lodge, No. 57 Fairfax, VA

4 NovWed Through 7 Nov Sat
Grand Annual Communication
@ Richmond, VA

13 Nov Fri 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Freedom Lodge Dinner
@ Freedom Lodge

13 Nov Fri 8:00 PM - 9:30 PM
Stated Communication
@ Freedom Lodge

14 Nov Sat 8:30AM - 10:30AM
District Ritual School & Ashburn Demolay Breakfast
@ Ashburn Lodge, Ashburn, VA

18 Nov Wed 5:45PM - 6:45PM
Freedom Lodge Meetup
@ Daughter Thai, Lovettsville

18 Nov Wed 7:00PM - 8:30PM
Lodge Ritual Practice
@ Freedom Lodge

19 Nov Thurs 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Interment of Bro. Loyd Davis, PGM
@ Arlington Nat'l Cemetary

25 Nov Wed 6:30PM - 8:30PM
District Master's and Warden's Meeting & Ritual School
@ Olive Branch Lodge, Leesburg

4 Dec Fri 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Freedom Lodge Dinner
@ Freedom Lodge

4 Dec Fri 8:00 PM - 9:30 PM
Stated Communication
**Officer Election & Installation**
@ Freedom Lodge

5 Dec Sat 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Lovettsville Cocoa Crawl

### Upcoming Stated Programs

**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)




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

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November, 2026

# Trestle Board
## Freedom Lodge No. 118

## From the Sr. Deacon

### Blood Drives

The next Lovettsville Game Club and Freedom Lodge blood drive is October 14. 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!

## 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

### We've Got Heat!

Many thanks to Bro. McGarrah and Bro. Kirk for scheduling the delivery and ensuring the fuel tank was filled! Fuel oil is one of Freedom's highest expenses each year and is a necessity.

### 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.

## Trunk - Or - Treat

On Saturday, October 24 brothers decorated a table at the Lovettsville Trunk - Or - Treat.




**ABOVE: Brother Colonel Sanders was in attendance portrayed by Bro. Harris McGarrah**

## MAHOVA Day: A Celebration for the Whole Family

***By Bro. Franklin Leon***

From children laughing at the games to families gathering for lunch and Masons marching together in the parade, this year's MAHOVA Day showed Virginia Freemasonry at its most welcoming. Held on the grounds of MAHOVA, the Masonic Home of Virginia, the event brought people of all ages together for fellowship, food, shopping, and a closer look at the institutions that make the campus such a meaningful place.

For families with children, the free games were a particular highlight. Young visitors enjoyed a variety of activities staffed by members of Masonic youth organizations, including the Rainbow Girls, Job's Daughters—affectionately known as "Jobies"—and DeMolay. Their participation helped create a welcoming, enjoyable atmosphere while demonstrating the service and leadership these organizations encourage.

There was something especially rewarding about seeing young people help other young people enjoy themselves. Parents could watch their children play, meet the volunteers, and learn more about organizations that offer opportunities for friendship, personal growth, and community involvement. The games provided entertainment while also introducing families to another valuable part of the Masonic community.

The farm animals were another memorable attraction. Children and adults alike enjoyed getting close to goats, pigs, and ponies, with opportunities to pet the animals and observe them firsthand. For youngsters whose everyday surroundings rarely include farm animals, these encounters added a special sense of discovery. Along with the games, they helped make the occasion an enjoyable family outing with plenty to see and do.

## MAHOVA (Cont.)

Visitors could also gather for lunch, making the day an opportunity not only to explore but also to relax and enjoy fellowship. Sharing a meal gave families, friends, and Masons from across the Commonwealth time to reconnect, meet new people, and experience the welcoming spirit of the event.

The craft vendors added another enjoyable dimension to the celebration. Their booths featured fun, distinctive, and useful items, offering something for every member of the family. Whether visitors were searching for a special gift, a unique keepsake, or simply something entertaining to take home, the vendor area provided plenty to browse and enjoy.

The main highlight of MAHOVA Day, however, was the Masonic Parade. All the Masonic bodies represented on the grounds participated, creating a colorful and memorable display of the breadth of Virginia Freemasonry. The parade brought the various organizations together in a shared celebration of fellowship, service, and tradition.

The Grand Master of Masons of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Matthew Szramottsk, also appeared to greet attendees and help promote this special Masonic event. His presence added significance to the celebration and underscored MAHOVA Day's importance as an occasion that brings the Masonic family together.

Beyond the activities, MAHOVA Day offered visitors an opportunity to appreciate the campus itself. The grounds are home to the Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M., of Virginia, as well as the York Rite building, associated with the appendant Masonic bodies of York Rite. They also represent many other important Masonic organizations, including Scottish Rite bodies, the Grand Commandery, and Shriners International. Together, these institutions make the campus an important destination for anyone interested in exploring Virginia's Masonic heritage.

The campus is also home to the MAHOVA retirement community, where the fraternity's commitment to caring for others takes a lasting, practical form. Seeing the community helps connect the charitable ideals discussed in lodge with the people and place those ideals support. Family Day gives visitors a chance to better understand that connection.

These institutions offer different perspectives on the same Masonic family: its leadership, continuing traditions, charitable work, and care for older generations. During Family Day, interested guests could explore the campus and take advantage of visiting opportunities without an admission charge. Those planning a return trip should contact the appropriate offices beforehand to confirm hours, access, and tour arrangements.

Perhaps the greatest benefit of the day was the opportunity to share an experience across generations. Children enjoyed games and animals, families gathered for lunch, shoppers explored the craft vendors, and visitors watched the Masonic Parade while learning more about the many organizations represented on the grounds. The setting encouraged families to spend time together while discovering something meaningful.

MAHOVA Day left visitors with more than souvenirs, photographs, or memories of a parade. It offered a living picture of Virginia Freemasonry as a community built on service, tradition, care, and fellowship. Children found new adventures, families found time to reconnect, and guests discovered a campus where those values continue to shape lives. In that way, MAHOVA Day was not simply an event on the calendar—it was a reminder that the strongest Masonic traditions are those shared from one generation to the next.

## From the Secretary

As a reminder, the Grand Lodge Assessment will be increasing by $15 on January 1, 2027 as a result of the resolution passed at the 2025 Grand Annual Communication. Accordingly, **for 2027 you will have $270.00 due in January unless you are exempt**. Payment of your annual dues at the *beginning* of the Masonic year when they are **due in January** help your lodge to maintain its operating status and pay our bills.

Members who have not paid dues they owe for this year will become eligible for Suspension on January 1st.

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

## Family Of Freemasonry

### Scottish Rite

This Fall, the Alexandria Scottish Rite had a very successful Reunion with 20 candidates becoming 32° Masters of the Royal Secret! This year, our production of the 31st degree featured artwork by Meghan Duley (Wor. Matt's daughter) that she worked all summer on to produce! The degrees you receive in the Blue Lodge should have piqued your interest in Masonry, and inquisitive minds should continue to seek more light. The Scottish Rite offers that through conferring or communication a collection of degrees. We are now accepting petitions for our Spring Reunion, which will occur over the course of two weekends: Saturday, April 17th and Saturday, April 24th. Please see Wor. Matt Duley or another Scottish Rite member to request a petition. See https://www.alexandriascottishrite.com/ to learn more!



**Above: Who is your favorite historical Freemason?**