



The Olive Brancher

89 Years of Brotherhood

December 2014



From the East

By Christopher Morgan
Worshipful Master

Greetings Brethren and Happy Holidays from the East

I pen this last article as Worshipful Master with a range of emotions. It has been a pleasure and a great privilege to serve all of you during my time in the East. We have made a great deal of progress in operations, organization, and ritual execution at Olive Branch to which you should all be proud of. We have tackled the rough ashlar with all the tools that each of us possesses, and the resulting ashlar is closer to perfection. But there is still much work to be done my Brothers, and one ashlar does not make a finished temple.

As I complete my 5th year in the Craft, I want to share with you a bit of insight that I have learned during the study and practice of

the tenets of our noble order. I look back on all that I have accomplished and all that I have learned with excitement at which the future holds. The pinnacle of my knowledge is not having been raised as a Master Mason a few years ago. Additionally, it is not at the culmination of my year having served the Craft in the East as Worshipful Master. The search for light is a never-ending journey, and one that I am happy to share with each of you.

The Man Makes the Title

Oftentimes, whether in industry, volunteerism, academics, or more, a person acquires a specific title. Perhaps you have risen to the point of the senior technician, manager, director, or engineer. Perhaps within our mystic circle you have risen to the rank of a Grand Lodge Officer, the leader of one of our appendant bodies, or more. However, the beautiful thing about Masonry is the lessons reminding each of us that everyone is on the level. The title of Worshipful Master is one that is worn simply for a year. It is subsequently removed, and your day to day responsibilities return as they were. Sometimes a person allows the position to change the way they interact with the world. While it is possible to "grow into a position", I must caution you Brothers! If that title is suddenly stripped of you due to term limits, career changes, infirmity, or strife, it's important to remember the man you were.

Trestle Board

December 2014

Dec 4th @ 7:00pm
Temple Board Meeting

Dec 5th @ 7:30pm
Regular Communication

Dec 13th @ 4:00pm
Annual Installation
of Officers

January 2015

Jan. 8th @ 7:00pm
Temple Board Meeting

Jan. 9th @ 7:30pm
Regular Communication

Jan. 16th @ 6:30pm
Entered Apprentice Degree

Jan. 23rd @ 6:00pm
Euchre Tournament

Jan. 30th @ 6:30pm
Fellowcraft Degree Practice

February 2015

Feb. 1st @ 4:00pm
Superbowl Party & Chili Cook-off

Feb. 5th @ 7:00pm
Temple Board Meeting

Feb. 6th @ 7:30pm
Regular Communication

Feb. 13th @ 6:00pm
Fellowcraft Degree
Senior Warden Night

Feb. 20th @ 6:30pm
Northeast Corner Night

Feb. 27th @ 6:30pm
Master Mason Degree Practice

Retirees Luncheon
Second and Fourth Monday
11:00am

Once a Steward, Always a Steward

I'm reminded of a quote so often mentioned in idle jest among senior Lodge officers as they assist in the clean-up of a recent event. "Once a steward, always a steward." Whether you have served for a year, a dozen years, or have yet to don the apron adorned with the cornucopia we are all stewards of our Craft. A steward of the Craft is one who labors to promote the positive aspects of the Fraternity, and who works to improve and strengthen areas that are viewed as frail.

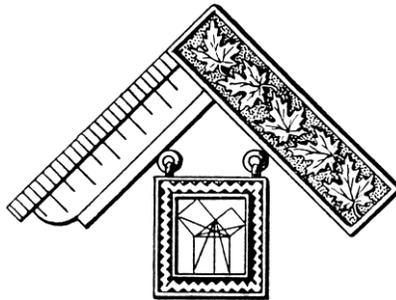
Labor of Love

Presiding over the membership is definitely a serious task and as the officers can attest to, I'm quite the task-master. I continue to stand by my original goal of making sure that Olive Branch Lodge is the Fraternity of choice in the state of Michigan. This ambitious goal requires more than just words and quite a bit of elbow grease to succeed. Through the fraternal business plan, we were able to outline key areas which reflect how Olive Branch Lodge #542 is viewed in the Masonic and non-Masonic communities alike.

To be identified as a Fraternity of choice, we must often lead the way and pioneer new means to engage the Craft, to promote lifelong learning, and always keep in mind the tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth.

No One Person Can Do it Alone

Our greatest strength is that we are a fraternity of men. The very definition of "fraternity" is a state or feeling of friendship and mutual support within a group. The key word mentioned is "group." Sometimes pride and an "I can do it best" attitude blind us to the world around us, and cause us to turn inward when the goal/task/challenge could be accomplished by the support of the many. Reciprocally, do not forget that as a fraternity we have an obligation to each other. While it is easy and nearly automatic for us to extend a hand to help a distressed Brother, it is equally important to lend a hand to encourage and strengthen the resolve for those engaged in great undertakings.



Perfection is a Great Goal...

...so long as it's understood that it's rarely achieved. It's okay to strive for perfection. It means that you have a desired outcome in mind, and you're going to work diligently to achieve that goal. But one must understand that even if you miss the target, that you can and usually do achieve excellence. The pursuit of perfection is a noble quest, and one which we can all work to

strive for so long as we ever bear in mind that we might not attain it.

Embrace Failure as an Opportunity to Grow

Don't let the pursuit of the ultimate solution dissuade you from introducing an idea. You can always refine it as you go along. Sure, you may not have 100% of the details, but do you have the critical ones? While working through the minutest of details, sometimes the sense of the larger picture is missed. That is quite alright so long as you take the time to step back at the end, reflect on the overall goal, and make notes for future activities to improve their overall quality. We have done that this Masonic year with our Event Planning Forms, which ultimately will help improve each of our events in the future.

United by Strength

While the Senior Warden typically is the one to acknowledge those that have contributed during the course of the year, I would be remiss in my duties as Worshipful Master if I did not offer a few remarks of my own to compliment his article.

To the Officers of Olive Branch Lodge #542 – I appreciate the countless sacrifices that you have made throughout the course of the year in the name of duty. My never-ending pursuit of perfection has lead us tantalizing close to achieving excellence. I hope that each of you walks away this year with improved leadership skills, and that you hold your head tall

knowing that we gave it our all. Together we have accomplished a great many things this year, and put in place a number of measures that will hopefully assist each of you in your future Masonic officer career.

To the Past Masters of Olive Branch Lodge #542 – thank you for the willingness to try new ideas, and some ideas borne previously which may not have been successful but for which I felt was necessary to return to again. Your guidance and support provided a framework from which we could build a successful temple.

Finally, to the love of my life, Chelsea. You not only stood by me throughout this entire year but also donned an apron when needed in the kitchen, provided a sounding board for ideas, traveled as my companion to Washington DC on a trip that was primarily focused on Masonry, and provided all of us with a bit of fun and laughter (who knew Masons liked “Say Yes to the Dress?”)

Pay the Craft Their Wages

By Dave Thomas, Senior Warden

Greetings from the West!

Special recognition for this year of service to Olive Branch Lodge #542 as Master of the lodge is due with the Greatest Appreciation and goes to Worshipful Master Christopher

Sean Morgan. As all Brothers of this lodge will attest, everyone has been witness to his relentless drive for perfection. Under his leadership Br. Chris has made the deepest dive into every aspect of Lodge function with the ultimate goal of making Olive Branch Lodge a continuing presence, and for those desirous of Masonic Membership, THE LODGE OF PREFERENCE, in the State of Michigan. Thank You WB Chris, mission accomplished. It is my sincerest wish that you will continue to be this source of strength for Olive Branch Lodge for many years to come, and I would certainly consider it my honor if I can call upon your knowledge and secure your help when necessary as I continue my Masonic journey as Master of Olive Branch Lodge.

A special **Thank You** for your years of service as Treasurer / Secretary for the Temple Board of Olive Branch Lodge go to Worshipful Brother Don Buxton. Your many years of dedicated service to this endeavor are greatly appreciated. WB Don has laid down both pens of these offices and will retire from these duties at the end of this calendar year.

A Special Thank You for your years of service to Olive Branch Lodge as the lone investment strategist for the Lodge Portfolio’s goes to Worshipful Brother Tom Zubick. Your many years of dedicated service to this endeavor are greatly appreciated. WB Tom retired from these duties this year and the task of portfolio

management has been passed to the members of the finance committee and was spearheaded by WB Paul Johnson, WB Chris Morgan, WB Gil Strachan, and WB Mark Lazar II. Thank you all for implementing this important change.

Fellowcraft Degree Friday, October 17th, 2014

A special thank you to all the Brothers that attended the Fellowcraft Degree and helped with the degree conferral for the candidates. Our candidates were impressed with the ritual of this degree. Also in attendance and willing to help out with the degree work was: WB Leonard Davis RGL, travelling with WB Leonard from Allen Park Lodge was their Junior Warden. The dinner enjoyed by all after the conferral of this degree was expertly provided by Lady Darlene and Lady Chelsea Butera (Baked Chicken & stuffing, potato salad, Desert roll). Clean-up after dinner was staffed by Lady Chelsea Butera, Br. Tom Radford, Br. Marv Anderson, Br. Chris Morgan, thank you all for your tireless efforts supporting the Lodge.

Plymouth Whalers Hockey Game, October 24th, 2014

Members of Olive Branch Lodge convened at the Compuware Arena to watch the Plymouth Whalers –vs- Mississauga. This outing was a scheduled Social Event to build fraternal strength for the members of Olive Branch Lodge. Thanks go to Br. Marv Anderson for being Captain of Suite 1, and to WM Chris Morgan

for being Captain of Suite 2. Everyone in attendance had a wonderful evening and enjoyed cheering the hometown team to a 5 – 0 shutout victory!

November Olive Brancher Assembly on Friday November 7th, 2014

Thank you to a loved one who assembled the Olive Brancher for the Month of November during our Regular Communication - Miss Chelsea Butera. Thanks to WB Paul Johnson for assisting with the sorting/labeling and WB Gil Strachan for delivering them to the Post Office.

Spaghetti Sunday Fundraiser held Sunday November 9th, 2014

Congratulations and a hearty thank you go out to Worshipful Master Chris Morgan and Lady Chelsea Butera, who both again were Chef's in Charge and again the sauce was terrific. Thank you Worshipful Master Chris Morgan and his Lady Chelsea Butera, for making this ongoing fundraiser a success. Thanks to all of the Brothers and Visitors who attended and made monetary contributions for dinner. WB Doug Simpson and Lady Darlene were both feeling ill and were not able to attend this event.

Senior Warden's Plea to the Brothers

A request for help from the membership to staff and assist the lodge fundraising spaghetti dinners continues at this time. Please take notice of these

Election & Appointment of Officers on Friday November 7th, 2014

Congratulations and Thank you for your fraternal commitment goes out for the Elected Officers of Olive Branch Lodge #542, Free and Accepted Masons for the Masonic Year of 2015. Officers elected to their offices are as follows:

Br. David L. Thomas	Worshipful Master
Br. Marv P. Anderson	Senior Warden
Br. Wade Tabor	Junior Warden
Br. Tyrone O'Neal	Senior Deacon
Br. Larry Patch	Junior Deacon
Ill.-WB. Gilbert Strachan	Secretary
WB Paul Johnson	Asst. Secretary
WB Doug Simpson	Treasurer
MWB Dean Barr	Chaplain
WB Chris Morgan	Marshal
WB Jeff Goldberg	Tiler
WB Robert Krawczyk	Organist
Br. Geary Mayer	Senior Steward
Br. John Paepke	Junior Steward

We still have a need for stewards! Contact Worshipful Master-elect, Br. Dave Thomas if you are interested!

dates and times listed in the Olive Brancher and please help out any way you can. The proceeds from these events will be used to pay for operating expenses. Money must be removed from savings to pay for the operation of the lodge. Donations from the members are another way to shore up the operating account of the lodge.

If a member cannot assist at the fund raising dinners, please find it in your hearts to make a donation to the Lodge Operating Fund.

Thank you Brothers for all of your help.

From Labor to Refreshment

By Marv Anderson, Junior Warden

Regular Communication – Dec 5th

The incoming Worshipful Master's 2015 budget has been presented and will be voted on at the Regular Communication. There will be time to discuss, as well as hear any concerns or items to note from our Finance Committee during this meeting.

Annual Installation of Officers – Dec. 13

The Brothers and Officers of Olive Branch Lodge #542 Free and Accepted Masons invite you to the Annual Installation of Officers held Saturday December 13th, 2014 at the Olive Branch Masonic Temple located at 1170 Mason Street, Dearborn, MI. This event

is open to the public and starts at 4 PM. There is no cost to attend the ceremony. Afterwards, please join us for appetizers and dinner at a cost of \$20.00 per person. RSVPs are required, and are due by Monday December 1st, 2014.

To make reservations contact the Worshipful Master-elect, call the Lodge, or email the Entertainment Committee at:

OBL542-Entertainment@googlegroups.com

Euchre Tournament – Jan. 23

Mark your 2015 calendars now for a date you will not want to miss. Food, prizes, fellowship and fun. The event is planned to start at 6 PM. Food, refreshments and fellowship for \$20.

Northeast Corner Night

February 20th, 2014

On February 20th, we will hold a special event at Olive Branch called Northeast Corner Night. This second annual event will

start at 6:30pm. This is an opportunity for the newer Brothers to meet more members and to brush up on the finer points of Masonry. All the Brothers raised in the past three years are encouraged to attend and bring their significant other or guest.

There will be tours of the Olive Branch Temple, a presentation by the Master on the upcoming year, question and answer session, and much more. Food and beverages will be available as well. While the visitors adjourn downstairs for some special entertainment, the officers and Past Masters will review the aforementioned Masonic arts, parts, and points.

After that, we will join the guests downstairs for some shared fellowship. While this is geared towards the newer Brothers, all members of Olive Branch are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Kentucky Trip – July 2015

Save the date and let us know if you're interested in traveling to Salyersville Kentucky at the end of July 2015 for their outdoor degree. The planning committee is in the early stages of determining the projected costs for this trip. Please indicate your intent to travel with us at your earliest convenience. Brothers from Myrtle Lodge #89 in Belleville, Michigan will assist the planning of this trip by providing information that will allow OBL to make the choices of lodging (Hotel, Motel), mode of transportation, and other key incidentals. After obtaining an accurate head count a more accurate cost of this trip can be determined, SO, Please let Olive Branch Lodge know your intent to be part of this trip to allow the cost discovery phase to begin in earnest.

We Want to Hear From You!

How can Olive Branch help you get the most out of being a Mason?

Do you have a question that you need answered?

Would you like to make a suggestion for an event, activity, or anything else?

Please send your questions, thoughts, and suggestions to:

Worshipful Master
Olive Branch Lodge #542
1170 Mason St.
Dearborn, MI 48124

You can also email them to:

OBL542-Officers@GoogleGroups.com

EUCHRE NIGHT



Friday, January 23rd, 2015 at 6:00pm

Bring your family and friends to a fun night of Euchre

Food and Refreshments will be provided

\$20 per person to enter the Tournament

\$1 per Euchre

Adults only please.

Limited to first 40 players

1170 Mason St. Dearborn, MI 48124

**If you have any questions or would like to RSVP,
please contact:**

OBL542-Entertainment@GoogleGroups.com

Senior Warden Dinner

February 13th, 2015
At Olive Branch Lodge #542



A delicious meal of corned beef and cabbage is planned!

\$20/person

Contact the Entertainment Committee to RSVP
OBL542-Entertainment@GoogleGroups.com

or call the Lodge at 313-565-2538

— *You must RSVP by January 15th* —

Doors open at 6:00pm
Fellowcraft Degree Conferral Planned

The Olive Brancher is a monthly news magazine for the members, families, and friends of Olive Branch Lodge #542 Free and Accepted Masons

2014 Olive Branch Officers

Worshipful Master
Christopher Morgan

Senior Warden
David Thomas

Junior Warden
Marvin Anderson

Treasurer
Douglas Simpson

Secretary
Gilbert Strachan, PM
Office: 313-565-2538

Assistant Secretary
Paul Johnson, PM

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OLIVE BRANCH TEMPLE ASSOCIATION

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Lance Eicher, PM

Vice-President
Douglas Simpson, PM

Secretary-Treasurer
Donald Buxton, PM

Hall Manager
Larry Patch

Editors and Publishers
Gilbert H. Strachan, PM
Doug Simpson, PM
Marvin Anderson



THE OLIVE BRANCHER

December
2014

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