



The Olive Brancher

89 Years of Brotherhood

December 2015



From the East

By David Thomas
Worshipful Master

Greetings from the East!

My time serving in the East has come to its end. It has been a fantastic experience serving as Master of Olive Branch Lodge #542. This experience could have not been possible without the never ending help of the Wonderful Brothers of this Lodge. I am so Thankful for their help which made my year in the East so easy. I was surrounded by smart, talented, motivated Brothers that went out of their way to assist.

My sincerest "Thank You" goes out to all of the active brothers for making our Masonic Year ever so enjoyable. Special thank you to WB Chris Morgan for his

continuing involvement at all levels of Lodge function and as Marshal, to WB Gil Strachan as Secretary, WB Doug Simpson as Treasurer and Entertainment, WB Paul Johnson as Raffle Chairman and assistant Secretary, Br. Marv Anderson for being the best "Number One" in the Craft, Br. Wade Tabor as Junior Warden, Br Tyrone O'Neal as Senior Deacon, Br Geary Mayer as Senior Steward, Br. John Paepke as Junior Steward, and to MWB Dean Barr, Chaplain, for all of the addresses to the Deity on behalf of everyone in Lodge, and WB Don Buxton for always offering to help at the expert level. The Lodge was tiled by WB Jeff Goldberg who kept us safe from unauthorized intrusion.

I also would to mention that the Officers of Olive Branch Lodge are looking forward to much more interaction with the Brothers of Dearborn Lodge #172. It is hoped that we can continue to support each other for years and years to come.

Congratulations to the newly Elected Officers

Congratulations go out to Worshipful Master Elect; Brother Marv Anderson. May your Year as Master be trouble free and productive. Congratulations to our newly elected Senior Warden Brother Wade Tabor; may your year in the West be trouble free and knowing your personality we will never see a Brother go away dissatisfied. Congratulations to

Trestle Board

December 2015

Dec. 3rd @ 7:00pm
Temple Board Meeting

Dec. 4th @ 7:30pm
Regular Communication

Dec. 5th @ 4:00pm
Annual Installation of Officers
TICKET REQUIRED FOR DINNER PORTION

Dec. 19th – DARK
No Meeting

Dec. 26th – DARK
No Meeting

January 2016

Jan. 1st – DARK
Happy New Year! (No Meeting)

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

Jan. 8th @ 7:30pm
Regular Communication

Jan. 15th @ 6:30pm
Entered Apprentice Degree

Jan. 22nd @ 6:30pm
Social Event – Dinner with the Worshipful Master

Jan. 29th @ 6:30pm
Officer Meeting & Degree Rehearsal

February 2016

Feb. 7th @ 4:30pm
Super Bowl Party

Feb. 19th @ 6:30pm
Senior Warden's Dinner

Retirees Luncheon
Second and Fourth Monday
11:00am

our newly elected Junior Warden Brother Tyrone O'Neal; may your year in the South be trouble free and the skies at noon are cloudless every time. Congratulations to Brothers Mike Zimnicki accepting the Senior Deacon position and John Paepke for accepting the Junior Deacon position, may you year at these places be trouble free too, please know that all of the Officers are so pleased to call both of you our Brothers. Thank you WB Jeff Goldberg for continuing as Tyler, WB Doug Simpson as Treasurer, WB Gil Strachan as Secretary, WB Paul Johnson as Assistant Secretary. Thanks to WB Chris Morgan Tyler, Br. Kris Thorsrud Junior Steward, Br. Angel Raices Senior Steward and Thank you Br. Geary Meyer, Br. Sam Hantosh, Br. Maurizio (Mo) Digiandomenico , and Br. Marcus Allen for offering to be Stewards.

No Cost Parking Near Lodge

The City of Dearborn removed the pay for parking meters across the street from the Lodge. There is "FREE" parking near our Lodge, another reason to put attending Lodge back on your Friday night schedule. The weather is still decent; parking is free, so PLEASE attend your Lodge as soon as possible.

Oktoberfest Lodge Raffle benefitting Olive Branch Lodge, Held October 23rd, 2015.

The October 23rd, 2015 Raffle benefitting the Olive Branch Lodge Operating Fund was a great success thanks to the efforts of Worshipful Brother Paul

Johnson, and everyone who purchased a ticket. We fell short of the 200 ticket goal, and as such the raffle became a 50/50 drawing.

The 1st place prize of \$2,550.00 was awarded by drawing to; **Donna Piwok**. There was no second place prize.

Congratulations to **WB Todd Harper** for winning the \$100.00 gift card for ticket sales.

The Lodge members owe an enormous amount of thanks to WB Paul and to those who assisted in this raffle event, Lady Darlene the Master of her Mason WB Doug Simpson, Lady Chelsea the Master of her Mason WB Chris Morgan, Br. Larry Patch. The Shrine Sportsman Raffle was assisted also by WB Wayne Mueller, and was well attended. The result of the Shrine Raffle added over one thousand dollars to the Lodge operating account, and \$1,584.00 from the Oktoberfest Raffle, brings the total to just over \$2,584.00. Thanks again to everyone that assisted these endeavors.

Reminder – Installation of Officers will soon be upon us.

Saturday December 5th, 2015 has been chosen for the Installation of Officers at Olive Branch Lodge this year. Mark your calendars for this date and notify your lodge by November 20th, 2015 of your intention to attend. Headcount needs to be established in order to notify our caterer so he can prepare the required meals. Cost to attend is \$20.00 dollars. This is a public

installation and the public should arrive by 3:30 P.M. The Officers are expected to be on-site so pictures can be taken to mark this event no later than 1:45 P.M. The camera shutter will click at 2:00 P.M. sharp.

December Holiday Party Update

After many discussions and much contemplation among the Officers we have decided to implement a change to our traditional Blue Lodge Holiday programming. This year we will not be holding a Holiday Party event at Olive Branch Lodge. Diminishing turnout over the last few years have resulted in the Officers discussing alternatives. A strong desire by the Officers to make an impact on our community has warranted a change in how we approach the Holiday party. In place of the Lodge Holiday Party, we are planning to make a donation to a local community shelter (Vista Maria) in order to give back to the Community and provide gifts to those of us who are less fortunate. This is a second year continuation of this program which started in 2014. If you and your family would like to make a contribution to be dropped off at Vista Maria, please contact the officers via email at:

OBL542-Officers@GoogleGroups.com

Donated items for this program need to be dropped off at Olive Branch Lodge on December 5th, after 2:00 P.M., which is the day of the Installation of Officers, there will be Brothers on hand to assist with your drop-off, and the building will be open.

As a friendly reminder, remember charity can extend beyond the event listed above. If you know of a Brother whose family is struggling this holiday season, please contact us and let us know. We will work diligently to determine if there is anything we can help with, or the organization at large can do to help.

Also planned this holiday season is our second annual monetary contribution to be presented at the John Dingle Veterans Hospital in Detroit. If you would like to make a monetary contribution send your contribution to the Lodge before December 5th, and it will be delivered when we visit later in the month of December. Keep a close eye on an upcoming article in the December Olive Brancher from our newly Installed Worshipful Master Marv Anderson, which should indicate the date and time of the Lodge's visit in the month of December 2015.

The Duties YOU Owe to your Lodge...

The results of the November election for officers can be found throughout this edition of the Olive Brancher. If you would like to get involved and serve on a committee, please contact Worshipful Master-elect, Br. Marv Anderson.

In addition, there are positions available on the Masonic Temple Association or MTA. The MTA is the group that oversees the operations pertaining to the building, including Hall Rentals and building maintenance projects. The Association meets once per month on the 1st Thursday of the month preceding the Regular Communication. The MTA typically meets year-round including the summer months when the Lodge is dark in their continuing efforts to maintain our building. Please contact current President, Worshipful Brother Lance Eicher if you are interested.

Olive Branch Lodge Donor Club

This program is aimed at generating revenue from our membership, and reciprocally rewarding you for your contribution. The tiered structure encourages each Brother to consider making a small donation to help Olive Branch offset costs associated with Lodge operations (including our scholarship program and building). Over time, these donations will hopefully increase and allow the Lodge more freedom to pursue enhancements to membership programming, Masonic education, and renovations to building facilities.

All donations are **NOT ELIGIBLE** for a tax deduction. Donations are tallied on a cumulative basis. This means that each year you donate earns you credit towards a higher sponsor tier level! Recognitions will only be given once per sponsor level.

Donor Club Donor Levels		
Donation Amount	Donor Level	Acknowledgement
\$50 - \$99	WB Jack Elliot Level	Letter of gratitude from the Worshipful Master
\$100 - \$249	Bronze Plumb Donor	Same as WB Jack Elliot Level -Plus- Acknowledgement on the website and social media (Facebook, Twitter)
\$250 - \$499	Silver Level Donor	Same as Bronze Plumb Donor -Plus- Acknowledgement in an addition of The Olive Brancher
\$500 - \$999	Gold Square Donor	Same as Silver Level Donor -Plus- Acknowledgement in the Annual Installation Program AND an Installation Program signed by all of the officers
\$1,000 +	Platinum Trowel Donor	Same as Gold Square Donor -Plus- Plaque on the Donor Wall

A Reminder about Life Membership Requests

On behalf of the Membership Committee, I would like to remind each Brother that you must submit a request in writing to request a Life Membership.

Please remember, as of January 1st 2015, you must have **FIFTY (50) years** of service and be in good standing with the Lodge to be eligible for consideration of this request. You may contact the Lodge Secretary to ascertain your years of service. This submitted request is then to be forwarded to and reviewed by the Membership Committee who will present their findings to the Lodge at a Regular Communication.

In addition to your dues, it is my sincere hope that you consider donating to such a program if you are able and willing to do so.

Reminder – 2016 Dues Notices

Just a friendly reminder that 2016 dues notices were distributed this fall. Your 2016 dues are due by January 1st, 2016. If you have not received your dues notice, please contact the Secretary and let him know. It's possible that the address we have on-file for you is incorrect.

Prompt attention to your dues is always appreciated and have a direct impact on Lodge operations. We had a few instances this year where it was necessary to make a motion to remove a substantial amount of money from the bank account to pay the bills, which would not have had to occur if the total membership had submitted their dues payments.

PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES.

I would also like to mention how unenviable it is to the officers of the delinquent dues committee to be thrust into the role of bill collector and just how much of

their uncompensated time they have to expend attempting to contact by letter, telephone, or by driving their personal vehicles to each delinquent Brothers home in an attempt to collect lodge dues payments.

If you are having difficulty paying dues because of a legitimate hardship, communicate this to the Junior Warden or the Senior Deacon by the telephone numbers listed in this publication. Remember it is **your obligation** to remit your dues payment; you should contact them or the Lodge, not the other way around.

Pay the Craft Their Wages

**By Marv Anderson
Senior Warden**

What a Year!

As we reflect on 2015, let us send a big thank you to all of the Brothers and family who helped make it a great year. I have tried to thank everyone along the way in articles each month. Let me say it one more time, though, because we would be nowhere without the

dedication and hard work of our active members and their families.

Just a few highlights of the year include the following, but this is in no way an exhaustive list. Some of the things we did are traditions continued from years past. We gave a scholarship to a Dearborn Public School student to help them pay for college. We threw a fantastic Super Bowl party with some delicious chili. One WB Chris Morgan was crowned the winner of the chili cook-off, but all deserved accolades. Our annual summer picnic took us to Crowley Park in Dearborn, where we enjoyed the bright sun, good food, and great fellowship.

We also tried some new things this year. Thanks to the diligent efforts of WB Paul Johnson and many others, we raffled off a set of golf clubs at the Moslem Shrine Sportsman's Raffle in August. WB Paul and his crew also organized an Oktoberfest raffle dinner that happened in October (oddly enough). Those events put some needed funds into our coffers. Many thanks again to all who made these things and more possible.

On a personal note, I want to thank the Brethren of Olive Branch for continuing to support me and show confidence in me by electing me to serve as Worshipful Master next year. I hope to serve our Lodge and the Craft at the high standards set by our past masters. They are some big shoes to fill, but I know with the assistance of the past masters, the other officers, and all of you, we will make 2016 another great year at Olive Branch!

From Labor to Refreshment

By Wade Tabor
Junior Warden

Greetings Brethren from the South! This is to be my final article as Junior Warden. As many of you may know, I will be moving up to the office of Senior Warden. I'm looking forward to taking on duties required by the office. It's going to be a fun and exciting year.

Congratulations to all my fellow officers that are advancing in the officer line as well. I'd also like to congratulate Brother Mike Zimmicki for stepping up into the Senior Deacons' role. Let's all come out and support Brother Mike in his new role.

If you're planning on attending the Senior Wardens Dinner currently planned for Friday February 19th, 2016, please contact me. We need to get a good head count to ensure for the event.

Election & Appointment of Officers on Friday November 6th, 2015

Congratulations and thank you for your fraternal commitment goes out to the Elected Officers of Olive Branch Lodge #542, Free and Accepted Masons for the Masonic Year of 2016. Officers elected to their offices are as follows:

Br. Marv P. Anderson	Worshipful Master
Br. Wade Tabor	Senior Warden
Br. Tyrone O'Neal	Junior Warden
Br. Mike Zimmicki	Senior Deacon
Br. John Paepke	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
Br. Angel Raices	Senior Steward
Br. Kris Thorsrud	Junior Steward
Br. Geary Mayer	Steward
Br. Mo DiGiandomenico	Steward
Br. Sam Hantosh	Steward
Br. Marcus Allen	Steward

You all have been very helpful and supportive in my role as Junior Warden. I wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you and I look forward to your continued guidance and support.

Upcoming Events

Thursday, Dec 3 @ 7:00pm
Temple Board

Discussion focused on Temple maintenance and upkeep.

- ♦ -

Friday, Dec 4 @ 7:30pm
Annual Communication

Join us for a bowl of soup before the start of the annual meeting at 7:30pm. We will be voting on the incoming Worshipful Masters budget, and providing annual reports appertaining to the 2015

Masonic Year. Afterwards there will be coffee and donuts for all Brothers.

- ♦ -

Saturday, Dec 5 @ 4:00pm
Annual Installation of Officers

Save the date for our annual installation of officers. This event is open to the public. Following the installation ceremony, join us for a meal to celebrate the evening. Tickets are required for the dinner portion and will cost \$20.00 per person.

- ♦ -

Saturday, Dec 12 @ 10:00am
Vista Maria Gift Donation

The newly installed Officers, and any interested Brothers are invited to drop-off our donation to

the Vista Maria woman's shelter. We'll meet at Leon's Family Dining (23830 Michigan Ave, Dearborn, MI) at 8:30 am, then head over to Vista Maria.

- ♦ -

Friday, Jan 1 - DARK

Happy New Year (No Meeting)

The Regular Communication is rescheduled to Friday January 8th. Have a safe and enjoyable holiday!

- ♦ -

**Thursday, Jan 7 @ 7:00pm
Temple Board**

Discussion focused on Temple maintenance and upkeep.

- ♦ -

**Friday, Jan 8 @ 7:30pm
Regular Communication**

Join us for a bowl of soup before the start of the meeting at 7:30pm. Afterwards there will be coffee and donuts for all Brothers.

- ♦ -

**Friday, Jan 15 @ 6:30pm
Entered Apprentice Degree**

Join us as we initiate and welcome a new Brother into the craft. Currently we are planning (1) candidate for the evening. Dinner and fellowship to follow the degree conferral.

If you're interested in joining the Entered Apprentice Degree team, please contact the Lodge and leave a message for Worshipful Brother Chris Morgan indicating your desire to join.

- ♦ -

**Friday, Jan 22 @ 6:30pm
Dinner with the Master**

Plans are currently underway for this MASONS ONLY social event.

Join the Worshipful Master at Buddy's Pizzeria on Michigan Ave. Stay tuned for more details including pricing and attire. It will prove to be a fun night of fellowship to start the New Year.

- ♦ -

**Friday, Jan 29 @ 6:30pm
Officer Meeting/Degree Rehearsal**

The Officers will be meeting to discuss upcoming events, as well practice for the upcoming month's ritual work. All members interested in assisting with the planning of events or improving themselves in ritual are encouraged to attend.

- ♦ -

**Thursday, Feb 4 @ 7:00pm
Temple Board**

Discussion focused on Temple maintenance and upkeep.

- ♦ -

**Friday, Feb 5 @ 7:30pm
Regular Communication**

Join us for a bowl of soup before the start of the meeting at 7:30pm. Afterwards there will be coffee and donuts for all Brothers.

- ♦ -

Sunday, Feb 7 @ 4:30pm

Superbowl Party & Chili Cook-off

Join us for an Olive Branch annual tradition as we watch the big game together. Plans are underway to continue the tradition of the Chili Cook-off, with the winner receiving bragging rights for the ensuing year.

Cost: \$15.00 per person or \$20.00 for two; \$15.00 waived from admission if entering the Chili Cook-off.

- ♦ -

**Friday, Feb 12 @ 6:30pm
Fellowcraft Degree**

If you have not experienced an Olive Branch Fellowcraft Degree conferral, you are truly missing out. The current schedule indicates we could have at least (1) Brother being passed to the degree of Fellowcraft that evening. Join us after the degree conferral for food, refreshment, and fellowship.

If you're interested in joining the Fellowcraft Degree team, please contact the Lodge and leave a message for Worshipful Brother Paul Johnson indicating your desire to join. -

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 to improve ourselves in Masonry?

Please send your questions, thoughts, and suggestions to:

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

Annual Installation of Officers



The Brothers and Officers of Olive Branch

Lodge #542

Free and Accepted Masons invite you to the

Annual Installation of Officers

held **Saturday December 5th, 2015**

at the **Olive Branch Masonic Temple**

located at **1170 Mason Street, Dearborn, MI**

Installation starts at 4 PM.

Appetizers at 5:30 PM.

Dinner at 6 PM.



The Installation Ceremony is **FREE** to attend.

Cost of dinner segment is \$20.00 per person.

RSVP were due by Monday Nov. 30th, 2015

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

2015 Olive Branch Officers

Worshipful Master
David Thomas

Senior Warden
Marvin Anderson

Junior Warden
Wade Tabor

Treasurer
Douglas Simpson

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

Assistant Secretary
Paul Johnson, PM

Olive Branch Lodge # 542
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OLIVE BRANCH TEMPLE ASSOCIATION

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Vice-President
Larry Kelsey

Secretary
Douglas Simpson, PM

Treasurer
Tyrone O'Neal

Hall Manager
Larry Patch
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THE OLIVE BRANCHER

December
2015

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C/O Olive Branch Lodge #542
1170 Mason St.
Dearborn, MI 48124-2801

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