



The Olive Brancher

89 Years of Brotherhood

January 2014



From the East

By Christopher Morgan
Worshipful Master

It's January of the New Year. A time whereby we set goals for ourselves to be a better person and live a fuller life. I can think of no better time of year than the present to lay out the goals of our Fraternity and Lodge for the New Year.

From discussions with various Masonic Brethren and Officers, the following goals are posed for Olive Branch Lodge #542 F.&A.M. for the 2014 calendar year:

1. Revamp meeting schedule to balance Fraternity, Business, Education and Ritual Work

Lives in the 21st century are increasingly busy. From the time we open our eyes in the morning to the time we lay our heads down at night our days are full and somewhat hectic. Workers & retirees all have family, work, and social obligations that we intend to keep. In addition, Fraternal organizations must work harder to capture the attention of new Brothers,

and provide ample time to get to know them and their family. As such, the Degree schedule has been revamped for 2014 on a trial basis. Candidates will require two months to attain their Master Mason degree. In that time period, we hope to offer them copious opportunities to engage in social events (hopefully along with their family members) as well as experience the Business portion of our Fraternity.

- 1st Friday – Regular Communication [BUSINESS FOCUSED]
- 2nd Friday – Fellowcraft Degree [RITUAL FOCUSED]
- 3rd Friday – Social Event [FRATERNITY FOCUSED]
- 4th Friday – alternates between Entered Apprentice Degree and Master Mason Degree [RITUAL FOCUSED]

A complete schedule of events is available online at www.olivebranchlodge542.com. Additionally, the upcoming 2 months of work will be laid out in each issue of the Olive Brancher monthly newsletter. You may also contact me or any of the Officers at any time with questions.

2. Reduction of Member Delinquency Due to Financial Challenges

It is my intention that our Lodge move forward into the 21st century by implementing a system whereby electronic payments can be made to cover costs ranging from your membership dues to dinner / event reservations. This system will supplement and not replace the existing system where members can pay with CASH or CHECK. It is simply a 3rd alternative that may help some of those Brothers who have difficulty setting aside the necessary funds to fulfill their financial obligations.

Trestle Board

JANUARY 2014

- Jan 2nd @ 7:00pm**
Temple Board Meeting
- Jan 3rd @ 7:30pm**
Regular Communication
- Jan 10th @ 6:30pm**
Fellowcraft Degree
- Jan 13th @ 11:00am**
Retirees Luncheon
- Jan 16th @ 6:30pm**
Officer & Committee Meeting
- Jan 17th @ 6:00pm**
Festive Board
- Jan 19th @ 1:00pm**
Spaghetti Dinner
- Jan 24th @ 6:30pm**
Entered Apprentice Degree
- Jan 27th @ 11:00am**
Retirees Luncheon
- Jan 31st @ 6:30pm**
Northeast Corner Night

February 2014

- Feb 2nd @ 5:00pm**
Super Bowl Party
- Feb 6th @ 7:00pm**
Temple Board Meeting
- Feb 7th @ 7:30pm**
Regular Communication
- Feb 9th @ 1:00pm**
Spaghetti Dinner
- Feb 10th @ 11:00am**
Retirees Luncheon
- Feb 14th @ 6:30pm**
Fellowcraft Degree
- Feb 20th @ 6:30pm**
Officer & Committee Meeting
- Feb 21st @ 6:00pm**
Fellowship Event TBD
- Feb 24th @ 11:00am**
Retirees Luncheon
- Feb 28th @ 6:30pm**
Master Mason Degree

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3. Implement a Plan Towards a Balanced Budget

Along the same lines, the current funding of Lodge operations needs to be better balanced. This can be accomplished through a variety of means and should be investigated carefully. While we begin working to implement a reoccurring fundraising system (2nd Sunday – Spaghetti Event), other means to fund our endeavors within and without the Outer Door of the Lodge will be necessary. A committee to research Membership Dues, solicitation of Donations from the Brethren, and a return to advertising may all be an integral part in creating a sustainable organization now and into the future.

4. Institute an Entered Apprentice (EA) Degree Team

It is my desire that each member of Olive Branch, being desirous of a chance to actively participate in the conferral of Degrees, be given such an opportunity. WB Don E. Buxton has been hard at labor to breakdown the 2nd Section of the EA Degree. These parts will range in difficulty such that a newly made Brother or a Life Member and Master Ritualist can participate and share in the rewards of the work.

5. Increase Opportunities for Leadership Development & Training

Oftentimes it is the work of a single Brother which can be attributed to the success of an event. Events which have an outcome that is less

desirable should be looked at as an opportunity to learn, and to share in those teachings with others. Each of the Officers will be granted the opportunity to plan for one of the Social Events hosted on 3rd Friday. Through these events, it is hoped that event planning skills are strengthened.

In addition, there is a plan to make use of the Grand Lodge sessions as an Officer retreat. During this retreat it is my hope to share in the learnings of the preceding five months and make adjustments for the remainder of the year. Additionally, steps will be taken to ensure proper planning for the 2015 years and beyond to build greater continuity between myself, the Senior Warden and Junior Warden.

6. Provide Masonic Educational Activities

We have the largest Masonic Temple in the world located in our backyard. We should encourage all members to visit and gaze upon the beauty that is the Detroit Masonic Temple and hear about the many men who have contributed to the Craft before us. A trip is being tentatively planned for summer 2014. I certainly hope whether you're a new member or a veteran guide of the Temple that you will consider joining me and the Officers on what will prove to be an Educational Day.

A trip to the Masonic Home in Alma, MI – the crown jewel of Michigan Masons will also be made available to any interested Brethren. Mark

your calendars as a trip to visit the George Washington Masonic National Memorial is also being planned for August 2014. Did you know that \$1.00 of your annual dues goes to support this monument to recognize the accomplishments of our 1st Commander-in-Chief.

7. Strengthen Olive Branch Presence Among the Masonic Community

What better way to strengthen the Olive Branch Lodge presence in the Masonic Community than to extend a warm hand of friendship at another Lodge as a visitor? I would like to see Olive Branch officially visit five Lodges during the 2014 year. It is my hope that by visiting these Lodges we can learn from our fellow Brothers and improve ourselves in Masonry together. Who knows, maybe these visitations will result in less available seating on the sidelines at Olive Branch Lodge.

In addition, I am working to extend an offer to host a Lodge/School of Instruction event as well as the Lodge of Research at Olive Branch Lodge #542 in the upcoming year.

While I will admit the goals are ambitious, I hope that you will join me in this laudable undertaking to make Olive Branch Lodge #542 the preferred Lodge of choice in the state, and a clear beacon for our Fraternity in the community.



Have You Paid Your Dues Yet?

2014 dues payments were due on January 1, 2014

Unless you have not done so already, please send in your payment.

If you are experiencing a hardship, please contact the Lodge.

We are here to help.



Mystery Trip 2014



It's on the bus we go! To Where?

Only Hope & Don know.

The date is October 11 & 12, 2014.

The cost is \$376.00 Per Couple or \$188.00 Per Person.

Double occupancy is required unless you pay more for the bus & room.

What does this include?

The Bus & Room, Two breakfasts & Two Dinners, Three Side events.

What will cost extra?

You will be on your own for Two Lunches.

A \$200 deposit per couple or \$100 deposit per person is required at the time of reservation.

Contact Worshipful Brother Donald E. Buxton if you would like to make a reservation.

No refunds unless we can sell your trip.

The West Gate

By Dave Thomas
Senior Warden

I would like to congratulate Worshipful Master Christopher S. Morgan and his suite of Elected and Appointed Officers for the 2014 Masonic Year at Olive Branch Lodge #542. The Work required to run Olive Branch Lodge will be professionally performed because of your and their dedication to the Craft.



Left to right: WB Paul Johnson, WB Mark Lazar, Marvin Anderson, WB Gil Strachan, Larry Patch, WB Doug Simpson, WM Chris Morgan, and Wade Tabor at the Officer Installation for Royal & Select Masons, Monroe #1.

Members of Olive Branch are traveling towards the East in many of the Masonic bodies. Congratulations to Brother Larry "Homer" Patch on being elected to the office of Thrice Illustrious Master, Royal & Select Mason, Monroe #1. Several brothers from Olive Branch attended Brother Larry's installation ceremony on December 11, 2013. We know Brother Larry will make us proud.

Three Brothers of Olive Branch have reached a milestone in their travels by becoming life members. Congratulations and thank you to the following Brothers for 40 years of dedicated service to the craft.

Michael E. McKeown
Tom Cherup
Ronald D. Ryan

A Special Thank You for Your Services to the Lodge:

Worshipful Brother Gilbert H. Strachan for the preparation of the installation program. On a personal note, Thank you for installing me as Senior Warden this year. This is an Honor I will never forget, nor will I ever forget all the good council I have received from you throughout the years.

Worshipful Brother Donald E. Buxton for his tireless efforts Performing Perfect Ritual. Also, for his latest efforts heading up the Special Communication dedicated to the Conferral of Degree Work for an Active Duty Marine who is the Grandson of an Olive Branch member. This conferral of Degrees was done at Olive Branch Lodge Monday December 16th, Wednesday December 18th, and Friday December 20th, 2013.

Brother Wade Tabor for his work restoring the Regalia Room and all of the improvements he has performed to the Lodge.

Worshipful Brother Douglas S. Simpson and his Wife Darlene for their tireless efforts preparing the delicious food we enjoy after the Degree Work and for their work making the Holiday Party a special event every year.

Thank you to all of the Dedicated, Knowledgeable Past Masters for making this year's installation of Officers a Most Solemn and Dignified Event.

A hearty thank you must also be said to all of the Brothers and visitors who came out to support the new officers of Olive Branch at the annual Installation of Officers.

Finally, I would like to say that I am Honored and Thankful that I have been elected to serve as your Senior Warden and I fully expect that we

will all be part of a productive Masonic year at Olive Branch Lodge.

The Work

By Brother Montford C. Holley

The gavel sounds
and all is still:

The Master speaks,
proclaims his will:

Each one obeys,
takes up his tools.

Inspects the plan,
consults the rules:

With trowel and level,
plumb and square,

Each stone is set
exactly where

The plan provides,
the drawing shows

And day by day
the Temple grows:

The porch is finished,
pillars placed;

The strands of net-work
interlaced;

The chambers furnished,
pavement laid,

The sacred vessels
all displayed:

The walls are standing
straight and true;

The roof is on,
the labor through:

The Master speaks,
The work is done:

The gavel sounds,
God calls us home.

From Labor to Refreshment

By Marvin Anderson
Junior Warden

Consider it High Twelve, my Brothers! Labor is a necessary part of Masonry, of course, but remember our lesson on the twenty-four inch gauge. We were taught to divide our time into equal parts. One of those parts being refreshment and rest. It is only right, then, that our Lodge provide opportunities for such occasions.

We have events planned every month to keep the fellowship exciting, interesting, and fun, something for which the OBL is well known. Before we jump into some of those events, please allow me to congratulate the newly installed officers of Olive Branch Lodge #542. You all exemplify the high standards which we have come to expect in Masonry. On a more personal level, I thank my Brothers of Olive Branch, or the OBL Boyz as I like to call us, for entrusting me with a leadership role as Junior Warden. As I look at the future of Olive Branch, I am confident that her officers will lead us all steadily on the path to become better men and better Masons.

Speaking of new leadership, Olive Branch held our annual installation of officers on December 14th. Installation is always a good time and this year was no exception. The February issue of the Olive Brancher will be dedicated to Installation and the new officers, so make sure you check that out next month.

I am sure many of you turned directly to this page looking for the new Junior Warden's article, but make sure you read the article by Worshipful Master, Chris Morgan. In it he lays out some of his plans and goals for the year. One new development is a change to our schedule. The Master wants to allow

for more fellowship and educational opportunities, so the third Friday of each month will now be devoted to gatherings such as these. Some of them will be Mason's only, but many will be open to families and friends as well. I hope you will join us for these events and if you have suggestions for activities, please let one of the officers know.

The next few weeks kick things off and let us hit the ground running. Come on out to one of the following get-togethers and enjoy some fellowship with the rest of the OBL Boyz.

Festive Board January 17, 2014

The first Friday fellowship night will be held on January 17, 2014. This event will be MASON'S and CANDIDATES ONLY as we engage in the time-honored tradition of a festive board. The festivities will begin at 6:30pm. Dinner and beverages will be provided and the cost will be \$20. Whether you have not yet experienced a festive board or are an experienced glass raiser, do not miss this one. Brother Randy will prepare the meal, which is enough reason to be there by itself.

Sunday Spaghetti Dinner January 19, 2014

On January 19th, Olive Branch will hold the first of our new monthly spaghetti dinners from 1:00-4:00pm. These gatherings will typically be held on the second Sunday of every month. Yes, January 19th is the third Sunday of January. We had to hold January's on this date due to a previous event planned on the 12th. Don't worry about getting confused, these dinners will be announced on the Trestle Board each month in the Olive Brancher. Sunday spaghetti dinners are open to all, so bring friends and family to the Olive Branch Hall for a relaxed Sunday afternoon gathering. As a bonus, you do not need to worry about paying for parking. It's free on Sundays!

Northeast Corner Night January 31, 2014

January is generous enough to throw an extra Friday in for us. That means an additional opportunity for fun and how can we pass that up? On January 31st, therefore, we will hold a special event at Olive Branch called Northeast Corner Night. It 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. We are Masons, so of course 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 afore mentioned Masonic arts, parts, and points. After that, we will join the guests downstairs for some shared fellowship. This is the first time we are trying this and, hopefully, it will become an annual event to which we all look forward. While this is geared towards the newer Brothers, all members of Olive Branch are welcome and encouraged to attend. There will be no charge for Brothers raised in the last three years and their guests. We do ask, however, that others pay \$10 for the evening.

Super Bowl Party February 2, 2014

Football, chili, and brotherhood. What more do you need on a Sunday evening? Olive Branch will have all of those at our annual Super Bowl party on February 2nd. The game will be on the big screen. Wings, chips, dip, beverages, and more will be out for us to munch on. Save room for chili, though. The chili cook-off will be back again this year, so whip up a pot of your special recipe and see if it has what it takes

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to win you the trophy and bragging rights for the year. Contact me or Doug Simpson if you would like to enter the cook-off.

Whether it's been days, weeks, or years since your last visit to Olive Branch, join us at some of the meetings and events throughout the coming year. We are always ready to welcome Brothers with open arms.

Do you have an idea for an event or activity that the Brethren might enjoy? Please contact me or the Worshipful Master with your suggestions.

Past Masters' Corner by **WB Lance Eicher**

I hope all of you had a wonderful and safe holiday season. I would like to congratulate the incoming Olive Branch Officer Line for the year 2014. As many of the Officers know and realize, Olive Branch Lodge has quite a history, steeped in tradition, involving hard, but fun work. And many of the Past Masters have seen how Olive Branch has grown and changed over the years. I personally believe we are headed in a very positive direction, with many new and interesting changes ahead.

I think anyone who has worked in a specific industry over a period of time has noticed, as time progresses, change is inevitable. And as some know, it is Human Nature to resist change. But as the future is upon us and drawing closer each day, let's try to not resist what the future brings us, but rather embrace it, and let's adapt to the changes.

Almost every industry will adapt to change, and work on new and

expanding markets. This is how companies and businesses stay open and flourish. And Masonry is no different. We need to think about moving forward, but let us not forget about our past, because, our past is what makes us who we are.

I would also like to thank everyone who voted for me to be the new President of the Temple Board. I have to say, Worshipful Brother Doug Simpson has done a tremendous amount to keep and maintain our Temple over these past years. He has put in a lot of blood, sweat, and tears, and his hard work and dedication should really be noted. I will say I have very big shoes to fill. And I hope that the other Brothers on the Temple Board, as well as myself, will be able to follow in his footsteps with the same amount of energy and zeal for Our Temple, and make Olive Branch Masonic Temple a place to be proud to call my home. The Temple Board has several projects that we would like to work on and complete, and we will again be doing Clean Up and Maintenance Days in the Spring, Summer, and Fall. So if you want to come out and see some of the improvements, or if you feel like lending a hand, read the Olive Brancher, or call one of the Lodge Officers, and see when we have something scheduled.

Again Brothers, thank you for allowing me to serve as your Temple Board President. I will do my best to keep our home a place of which we can be proud. And remember, the future is now, and we must look to ourselves to be able to adapt, and be part of the ever changing world we all live in today.

Each month we will feature words of wisdom from a past master of Olive Branch. If you would like to share some your knowledge as one of the previous leaders, please contact the editors and publishers.

Thirty Years at 1170

Did you know that 2014 marks the 30th anniversary of Olive Branch at our current location. A lot has happened since then. Here is a look back at what happened in 1984.

- US Bell System (AT&T) is broken up.
- Michael Jackson's hair caught on fire while filming a commercial.
- Soviet Union boycott the Summer Olympics in Los Angeles
- President Ronald Reagan, unaware he is on a live mic, joked, "My fellow Americans, I'm pleased to tell you today that I've signed legislation that will outlaw Russia forever. We begin bombing in five minutes."
- The Detroit Tigers won the World Series!!!!
- Our Worshipful Master celebrated his first birthday
- President Reagan was re-elected in a landslide over Walter Mondale.
- *Terms of Endearment* won the Oscar for Best Picture.
- The longest game in Major League Baseball history is played between the Milwaukee Brewers and Chicago White Sox. It lasts 25 innings, taking just over eight hours.
- "Where's the beef?" was asked for the first time in a Wendy's commercial.
- Apple Computers released the Macintosh personal computer.
- Famous births
 - Scarlett Johansson, actress
 - Katy Perry, singer
 - Prince Harry Windsor, royal
- Famous deaths
 - Marvin Gaye, singer
 - Andy Kaufman, comic
 - Truman Capote, writer

Test Your Masonic Knowledge

1. What number constitutes a Lodge of Entered Apprentices?
2. What are the names of the pillars at the entrance of King Solomon's Temple?
3. What is meant by "Low Twelve?"
4. Are metal implements allowed in a Lodge? Why, or why not?
5. What are the working tools of a Fellow Craft?
6. Who sits in the West and what are his duties there?
7. What is the ancient and symbolic penalty of a Master Mason?
8. What are the wages of a Fellow Craft?
9. Which is the Masonic symbol of industry?
10. Where were you first prepared to be a Mason?

Answers can be found in your ritual book and by asking a Brother.

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

Assistant Secretary
Paul Johnson, PM

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