



# The Olive Brancher

89 Years of Brotherhood

January 2015



## From the East

By David Thomas  
Worshipful Master

### Happy New Year & Greetings from the East

It my sincerest wish that everyone had a Joyous Holiday Season. Olive Branch Lodge starts another Masonic year and it is my Pleasure to have been elected to serve as Master of OBL for 2015.

I am going to reprint portions of the out-going Master Chris Morgan's article "To the officers and Brothers of Olive Branch Lodge" because there are very important requests that have not been answered.

*"Freemasonry has and will continue to exist into the future. However, the days of the explosion of membership growth are behind us, and instead*

*replaced by a smaller stream of highly qualified men desirous of being a part of something larger. We need to labor to our fullest ability to make sure that retention of these men are at the highest possible rate.*

*The world today is more interconnected than ever before. Our membership is spread across the US, and the previous four Masters of Olive Branch (myself included) were not residents of Dearborn. Many of us resided in a different county, and at least one had to travel through 2 counties just to arrive at OBL. Such is the dedication of those who have served the highest pinnacle of the Blue Lodge. This was done at great costs in time, fuel and wear and tear to each of us because we felt an obligation and need to serve.*

*I firmly believe that the best of man, and by associative property the best of Freemasons, are not made by our actions and activities during the best of times. They arise out of necessity during the most ardent of times. Olive Branch Lodge is now, or will soon be, arriving at a most critical juncture as yet seen in our storied 88 years. We are faced with both a membership and fiscal test. I'm asking you to take a stand and face these challenges together. We cannot continue to postpone the mounting challenges that are compounding against our organization. I believe we can meet these challenges head on, and by doing*

## Trestle Board

### January 2015

Jan. 2nd

DARK – No Meeting

Jan. 8th @ 7:00pm

Temple Board Meeting

Jan. 9th @ 7:30pm

Entered Apprentice Degree

Practice @ 5:30pm

Regular Communication

Jan. 16th @ 6:30pm

Entered Apprentice Degree

Jan. 23rd @ 6:00pm

Euchre Night

Jan. 30th @ 5:30pm

Officer Meeting &

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

Entered Apprentice Degree (Pro

Tempor Candidate) &

Senior Warden Night

Feb. 20th @ 6:30pm

Fellowcraft Degree

Feb. 27th @ 5:30pm

Officer Meeting &

Master Mason Degree Practice

Retirees Luncheon

Second and Fourth Monday

11:00am

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so together we can overcome them.

*The trowel teaches us to spread the cement which unites us into one common mass or society of friends and Brothers. Just like a building, if we shore up the cracks in our foundation I'm sure that we can continue to reach new heights. My charge to each of you is to respond to this risk on our organization by joining together. Make it a priority to come out to a Lodge function or at least once per month, if not more. The value that each of us brings to Freemasonry and our Lodge allows us to continue to be the Fraternity of choice in the greater Detroit area".*

Worshipful Brother Chris' article asked that you make it a priority to come out to a Lodge function or at least once per year, which I have modified to ask for you to attend once per month, preferably the degree day.

As Senior Warden of Olive Branch Lodge I ended my article with a plea to the Brethren. The basis of this plea was for the members to get involved in Lodge activities. The Lodge needs members to convey the three degrees of Masonry. There is a steady decline of members attending the degrees, and as such, it is becoming difficult to properly perform the degree work. If this trend continues to the point that we cannot open Lodge, the Grand Lodge will intervene and will implement changes that will

be detrimental to Olive Branch Lodge operating independently. I do not wish to be perceived as an alarmist, but it is part of my duty to convey these observations to the craft. If this comes to be, you cannot say that "WARNINGS WERE NOT SOUNDED". "PLEASE COME TO SERVE YOUR LODGE BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE".

The 2015 Lodge calendar of events was reduced considerably as an attempt to reduce the work load due to the aforementioned circumstance. Our basic schedule is as follows:

- the first Friday of each Month is our regular communication meeting (unless moved due to holiday or other circumstances)
- the second Friday of each Month will focus on degree work starting with the Entered Apprentice Degree in January, the Fellowcraft Degree in February, the Master Mason Degree in March.

This schedule will repeat for April, May, June, September, October, and November. This change in operation of our Lodge will only permit six (6) new members to be added to the rolls of membership for the entire year. It is my hope that everyone will see this as an unacceptable schedule and will attend Lodge to assist the degree work so the schedule can be changed back to permit all three degrees to be conferred in each Month.

Thank you Brothers for all of your help.

## **Pay the Craft Their Wages**

**By Marv Anderson  
Senior Warden**

### **Greetings from the West!**

I would like to begin by saying thank you to the Brothers of Olive Branch Lodge #542 for electing me to serve as Senior Warden this year. It is a responsibility that I take very seriously. Your confidence in me means more than I can express here.

Before we jump into the future, I'd like to thank the folks who helped us end 2014 on a high note.

### **Vista Maria Donation Drop-off Saturday December 6th, 2014**

On December 6th, Worshipful Brothers Chris Morgan and Dave Thomas, Brother Wade Tabor, Ladies Darlene Simpson, Chelsea Butera, and Tracey Cosgrove, and I had the privilege of visiting Vista Maria in Dearborn Heights. We delivered a load of gifts for the young ladies who live there.

Vista Maria is a place for at-risk girls to live and learn. Their mission states that they "deliver innovative care, support, treatment, and education to vulnerable youth so that they heal, believe in their worth, and build the skills needed to succeed."

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Charity being one of the greatest tenets of our Craft, the Lodge leadership agreed that in lieu of our annual Christmas party we would donate to a worthy cause instead. WB Paul Johnson recommended Vista Maria as just such a cause, so Ladies Darlene and Chelsea hit the stores with our contribution as well as matching funds from the Masonic Charitable Foundation and purchased \$800 in gifts.

The gifts included coloring books, crayons, stuffed animals, toys, and comfy pajama sets. Many thanks to Ladies Darlene and Chelsea for picking out wonderful gifts for the girls. Thank you, of course to Brothers Chris, Dave, and Wade, and to Ladies Darlene, Chelsea, and Tracey for your assistance in delivering the gifts. The folks at Vista Maria were overjoyed. We know the girls will be very appreciative.

### **89th Annual Installation of Officers, Saturday December 13th, 2014**

Our Installation of Officers was held on Saturday, December 13th. As always the Brothers and guests had a spectacular time. Thank you to the past masters who installed the 2015 officers. MWB Dean "Top Shelf" Barr presided over the event, WB Doug Simpson served as Grand Marshal, WB Paul Johnson, WB Don Buxton, WB Wayne Mueller, WB Phil Hudson, WB Gil Strachan, WB Mark Lazar, WB Lance Eicher, WB Robert Sale and WB Bob Patterson installed the officers into their new positions. After the ceremony, we

retired downstairs for dinner and fellowship. A big thank you to Brother Chef Randy who prepared another delicious meal as he always does. Enough thanks cannot be given to Brothers Geary Mayer, Wade Tabor, Tyrone O'Neal, Doug Simpson, Chris Morgan and Lady Chelsea who helped with set-up beforehand and to those who lent a hand during clean-up afterward. Events like this would not happen without the tireless efforts of everyone who works behind the scenes.

Now we start a new year. It is a time to reflect on where we go and how we get there. We have tried some new things and will continue to do so. I invite you to contact me or any of the officers with your ideas and comments. You elected us officers to lead Olive Branch, but the Lodge belongs to all of us Brothers. We want to hear from you and would love to see you at the OBL!

## **From Labor to Refreshment**

**By Wade Tabor**

**Junior Warden**

Hello, I am Brother Wade Tabor your new Junior Warden. I hope to see all of you at lodge this year.

Here is what's going on this month:

### **Temple Board Meeting – Jan 8<sup>th</sup>**

Meeting starts at 7:00p.m. Discussion focused on Temple maintenance and upkeep.

### **Regular Communication & Entered Apprentice Degree Practice – Jan 9<sup>th</sup>**

Join us for the first practice of the New Year starting at 5:30pm. At the completion of practice, stick around for our Regular Communication (Business Meeting).

The Regular Communication meeting starts at 7:30p.m. Join us for coffee and donuts afterwards.

### **Entered Apprentice Degree – Jan 16<sup>th</sup>**

Lodge opens at 6:30p.m. It's always nice to see Brothers on the side lines, if you are able please come out and support your Lodge. It makes me, as an officer, feel good to see Brothers attend Lodge to support the new Brother. I believe it helps to impress upon the candidates how important these degrees really are.

### **Euchre Night – Jan 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Event starts at 6:00p.m. You don't want to miss this Brothers! We had a **great time** last year; lots of food and fun were had by all. Cost \$20.00.

To make reservations contact the Lodge, or email the Entertainment Committee at:

OBL542-Entertainment@googlegroups.com

We are limiting this adult's only event to the first 40 participants.

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**Officer Meeting & Fellowcraft Degree Practice – Jan 30<sup>th</sup>**

Evening festivities start at 5:30p.m. If you are interested in taking a part in the Fellowcraft Degree team, please contact WB Paul Johnson.

**Temple Board Meeting – Feb 5<sup>th</sup>**

Meeting starts at 7:00p.m. Discussion focused on Temple maintenance and upkeep.

**Regular Communication – Feb 6<sup>th</sup>**

The Regular Communication meeting starts at 7:30p.m. Join us for coffee and donuts afterwards.

**Fellowcraft Degree – Feb 20<sup>th</sup>**

Lodge opens at 6:30p.m. It's always nice to see Brothers on the side lines, if you are able

please come out and support your Lodge. It makes me, as an officer, feel good to see Brothers attend Lodge to support the new Brother. I believe it helps to impress upon the candidates how important these degrees really are.

**Officer Meeting & Master Mason Degree Practice – Feb 27<sup>th</sup>**

Evening festivities start at 5:30p.m. If you are interested in taking a part in the Master Mason Degree team, please contact Worshipful Master Dave Thomas.

**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](mailto:OBL542-Officers@GoogleGroups.com)**

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# **EUCHRE NIGHT**



**Friday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 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](mailto:OBL542-Entertainment@GoogleGroups.com)**

## Donor Club Update

By Chris Morgan

In October Olive Branch Lodge #542 unveiled a new initiative to request additional funds from those brothers who are able to contribute in addition to their annual membership dues. These supplementary funds can be earmarked for special purchases at the Lodge including facilities improvements, regalia, or membership education.

It gives me great pleasure to report that in just the (3) months of the new program, we've raised \$725.00 in additional funding to the Lodge. Seven brothers exercised the tenet of charity and made a contribution to the donor program.

One brother in particular made a very generous contribution, befitting the Silver Level Donor. Congratulations to Brother Melvin Morris for being the first to achieve this level, and thank you for your kind donation.

Over time, these donations will hopefully snowball and allow the Lodge more freedom to pursue enhancements to membership programming, Masonic education, and enhanced facilities. As a reminder, all donations are not eligible for a tax deduction.

## DUES REMINDER

Membership dues for the 2015 calendar year were mailed out in October 2014 and are due on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015.

If you have not received a dues notice, please contact the Lodge secretary as soon as possible. It may be that we have an invalid address on file for you!

The Secretary would be happy to update your Masonic record in order that you may receive future notifications.

If you are having trouble paying your dues, please contact the Lodge to discuss your payment options.

## Fraternally Yours

Author Unknown

*I met a dear old man today  
Who wore a Masonic pin  
It was old and faded like the man,  
It's edges worn and thin.*

*I approached the park bench where he  
sat,*

*To give the old brother his due  
I said "I see you've traveled East,"  
He said, "I have, have you?"*

*I said, I have and in my day  
Before the all seeing sun  
I played in the rubble  
With Jubala, Jubelo, and Jubalum.*

*He said don't laugh at the work my son  
It's good and sweet and true.  
And if you've traveled as you said  
You should give these things their due.*

*The word, the sign, the token,  
The sweet Masonic prayer.*

*The vow that you have taken  
You have climbed the inner stair.*

*The wages of a Mason  
are never paid in gold  
But the gain comes from contentment  
When you're weak and growing old.*

*You see, I've carried my obligations  
For almost 50 years  
It has helped me through the hardships  
And the failures full of tears.*

*I'm losing my mind and body  
Death is near, but I don't despair  
I've lived my life u  
pon the level  
And I'm dying on the square.*

*Sometimes the greatest lessons  
Are those that are learned anew  
And the old man in the park today  
Has changed my point of view*

*To all my Masonic brothers  
The only secret is to care  
May you live upon the level  
And part upon the square.*

## Interested in Participating in the Lodge Donor Program?

You may send a check payable to "Olive Branch Lodge #542" to:

1170 Mason Street  
Dearborn, MI 48124-2801

In the memo line, please indicate "Donor Club."





# THE OLIVE BRANCHER

January  
2015

Olive Branch Lodge #542  
[www.olivebranchlodge542.com](http://www.olivebranchlodge542.com)

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Organization  
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C/O Olive Branch Lodge #542  
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