



The Olive Brancher

89 Years of Brotherhood

March 2015



From the East

By David Thomas
Worshipful Master

Greetings from the East!

While February has drawn to a close and March has arrived, cold temperatures are on the way out. March signifies the start of Spring. Break put on your lighter jacket, put it on, and make it a plan to attend a Lodge meeting. While at Lodge have a cup of coffee, stay for a meal after the Degree, and enjoy fellowship with your Brothers.

Word of Thanks - Officers

Olive Branch Lodge is blessed by having members that have been a part of Masonry for many years that contribute vastly to the Lodge dynamic. I would like to thank the younger members who have also contributed by taking their roles

and responsibilities of their respective office very seriously.

- Br. Marv Anderson SW
- Br. Wade Tabor JW
- Br. Tyrone O'Neal SD
- Br. Larry Patch JD
- Br. Geary Mayer SS
- Br. John Paepke JS
- Chris Morgan Marshal, PM

For those members of Olive Branch Lodge that haven't attended Lodge for some time, please make every attempt to come to Lodge to meet these Brothers that have taken their commitment to the next level. I know for a fact you will be extremely impressed.

Past Masters Night

The Past Masters will dust off their black ritual books and occupy an officer chair to present the 1st section of the degree. Plan on staying afterwards for dinner with the Officers and Brothers of Olive Branch Lodge. A date will be communicated once details are finalized with the Past Masters.

Masonic Renewal Seminar

On Monday, January 19th, 2015 the Officers of Olive Branch Lodge #542 attended a Masonic Renewal Seminar conducted by MWB Robert Conley at Solomon's Key Lodge in Allen Park Michigan. This 2 hour Seminar focused on the "The Six Steps to Initiation", "The Mentor Program", and "The Mentor Portal".

Trestle Board

March 2015

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

Mar. 6th @ 7:30pm
Regular Communication

Mar. 13th @ 6:30pm
Master Mason Degree

Mar. 20th @ 6:30pm
Festive Board

Mar. 21st @ 1:00pm
BGP & DDI Election
Trenton Wyandotte Lodge #8
WM, SW, JW & Past Masters

Mar. 27th @ 5:30pm
Officer Meeting &
Entered Apprentice Degree
Practice

April 2015

Apr. 2nd @ 7:00pm
Temple Board Meeting

Apr. 3rd
DARK – No Meeting

Apr. 10th @ 7:30pm
Regular Communication

Apr. 17th @ 6:30pm
Entered Apprentice Degree

Apr. 18th @ 10:00am – 3:00pm
Deacon's Day in Alma, MI

Apr. 24th @ 6:30pm
Officer Meeting &
Fellowcraft Degree Practice

Retirees Luncheon
Second and Fourth Monday
11:00am

Closing remarks were made by RWB Bill Finkel, Senior Grand Warden.

If you are interested in learning more about the Mentor Program, or in joining as a mentor to our newer Brothers, please contact the Membership Committee.

OBL542-Membership@GoogleGroups.com.

Sustainability Strategy

Christopher S. Morgan PM, has worked diligently with Br. Joseph E. Patterson and Gilbert H. Strachan PM, to determine the Lodge's expenses and income. This information was helpful in formation of the 2014 budget, and was also applied to the 2015 Lodge Budget. This examination uncovered some trends which warranted further investigation by an independent committee and a report was made to the Lodge Membership in 2014.

A "Sustainability Committee" was formed in January 2014 and was chaired by Worshipful Brother Walter Mark Lazar II. The committee was tasked with short term and long term goals which would enable Olive Branch Lodge to work towards the financial goal of a balanced yearly operating budget.

Short term goals implemented or in progress include:

First, examining the fees charged to candidates for degrees,

(changed to \$100.00 each Degree, 2014).

Second, the Olive Branch portion of the annual dues collected, (\$5.50 increase to annual Dues, 2014). The research conducted included the comparison of our fees and dues structure as they compared to other Masonic organizations, (Blue Lodge and appendant bodies), both within and without District #25.

The third goal was established to research the placing of limits on the gifts, paid for using Lodge funds, to the outgoing Master. So as not to use Lodge Funds to purchase Past Master Regalia for the out-going Masters. Discussions are ongoing.

The fourth goal, more long term in nature, involved researching the current investment strategy of Lodge assets and determining if any adjustments might be necessary. As you have previously read, WB Tom Zubick retired in 2014 from his duties as a sole investment strategist for the Lodge funds. A new Lodge Investment committee was formed, headed by WB Paul Johnson, WB Wayne Mueller, and WB Gilbert Strachan. Meetings were attended with investment specialists and a change of investment vehicles were implemented. As a result, the Lodge portfolio of funds has increased in value as a result of this strategy. Thank you team for your efforts!

Update of Lodge Investment Portfolio on Feb. 6th, 2015

Our new financial advisor, David Robertson, of the Financial Center, in Novi, presented the status of our investment portfolio and future market outlook during a break in our Regular Communication. All investments in the market are subject to the volatility of market swings and safeguards were implemented to provide protections to the Lodge Portfolio. Regular reporting of our accounts is required under the new bylaw provisions made in 2014.

Lodge Fundraising Activities

WB Paul Johnson has been very active obtaining all the pertinent licensing information from the State of Michigan and from the Grand Lodge of Michigan so Olive Branch Lodge can conduct a fundraising Raffle. The proceeds from this Raffle will be used to benefit the lodge operation budget.

There are early plans to have a Raffle table in conjunction with the Shrine Sportsman's Raffle in August 2015. Articles will be written and published in the Olive Brancher when these events are finalized. In addition, a 50/50 dinner raffle is currently being investigated for the Fall timeframe as an alternative fundraising option. All details pertaining to both of these events will continue to be shared as developments unfold. It would be nice if every Brother of Olive Branch Lodge supports these fundraising events

by generously purchasing tickets to these Raffles and offering sales to your friends and family.

Fourth Sunday Breakfast at Olive Branch Lodge

There is a desire to begin meeting at Olive Branch Lodge on the fourth Sunday of each Month for the purpose of Masonic Fellowship and to eat breakfast. Further details are to be conveyed when the dates and times are finalized.

Meeting on the Level

Brother Marv Anderson hosted this year's Olive Branch Lodge Senior Warden Dinner on Friday February 13th, 2015. This event was a pleasant change from the normal SW dinner and was very entertaining. Br. Marv booked Go!Comedy for the entertainment portion of this event. Many Lodges in S.E Michigan consider OLB-SW dinner as a must attend event because of the traditional and delicious meal we provide.

BGP & DDI Elections

March 21st, 2015 at 1:00 P.M.
Trenton Wyandotte Lodge #8
2550 W. Jefferson Trenton MI 48183
Sitting Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, and All Past Masters,
Please mark your calendars for Saturday, March 21st, 2015 at 1:00 P.M. to attend the election of District Deputy Instructor and Board of General Purpose Representatives. Trenton #8 has been designated by Most

Worshipful Brother William LeVeque, Grand Master of Masons of the State of Michigan to host this vote for District #25. In order to cast your vote you must appear in person.

This notification can be viewed in it's entirety and has been read at the Regular Communication for the month of February.

Rusty nail degree and re-obligation Friday May 15th, 2015

There is a desire to have a Rusty-Nail and re-obligation night. This event gives brothers that have not attended a Lodge meeting in awhile, the opportunity to acclimate themselves again to all the Masonic grips, signs and protocol of a regularly constituted Masonic Meeting. There are plans for everyone in attendance to recite the obligation of that degree. Please make every attempt to attend.

Pay the Craft Their Wages

**By Marv Anderson
Senior Warden**

Greetings from the West!

Here it is March already. It's true that time flies when you are having fun and when you are busy. Olive Branch has certainly been busy these first few months of 2015 and I think we have had some fun as well. Our dedicated Brothers put much into making Olive Branch a premiere lodge in Michigan recognized for our

exceptional work and our infectious enthusiasm.

Return of the Traveling Gavel

We have already done quite a bit of travelling this year to visit our Brothers at other Lodges. Our first visit was to Lola Valley in Redford for their Senior Wardens Dinner. I would like to thank the Brothers who came out to support me and keep me honest with my introductions. Worshipful Master Dave Thomas, WB Doug Simpson, WB Jeff Goldberg, WB Sam Fite, and Brother Tyrone O'Neal. I'm not on the spot anymore, so I'm leaving out your years as Master and whatnot. I was elected Sheriff for the Senior Warden Dinners this year and I look forward to attending as many dinners as I can with my Brothers from Olive Branch. Keep reading the Olive Brancher and Olive Twig for upcoming dinners.

Speaking of Senior Warden Dinners, Olive Branch held ours on February 13th. As usual the night was filled with great fellowship and much laughter. The folks from Go Comedy Improv Theatre in Ferndale performed a fantastic show for us as we enjoyed Darlene Simpson's famous corned beef and cabbage. I cannot say thank you enough to everyone who attended the dinner and especially to everyone who made it happen. My gratitude goes out to WB Paul Johnson for accompanying Darlene to Eastern Market to pick up the corned beef; to WB Doug Simpson, Brother Wade Tabor, Brother Geary Mayer, and his wife Susan for slicing tons of corned beef and

setting up the hall; to Darlene for out-doing herself once again by cooking the most delicious meal; and to Tracey, Chelsea, Susan and to everyone else who chipped in to make the night a success.

Our travels continued with a visit to Berkley Lodge for an Entered Apprentice degree. Many thanks to MWB Dean "Top Shelf" Barr for setting that visit up and leading our chant during introductions. I have no doubt that the Brother of Berkley will remember that "WE ARE – OLIVE BRANCH LODGE! HUH!"

At the beginning of February, several of us travelled to Wayne Lodge for their EA degree. Our very own WB Doug Simpson sat in the West for this degree and did Olive Branch proud. We plan to do much more travelling this year, so come along with us as we spread the cement of Brotherly Love and Friendship.

Finally, it is with a heavy heart that I write about the passing of a great pillar in our fraternity. WB Robert H. Sale passed to the Celestial Lodge Above on February 7th. WB Bob was a shining example of what a Mason should be, a Brother we should all strive to emulate as we travel through this world. He will be missed, not only at Olive Branch, but in Masonry and the world.

I thank all of the Brothers who attended WB Bob's Masonic Memorial and the gathering we hosted afterwards at Olive Branch. Ladies Darlene Simpson, Tracey Cosgrove, and Chelsea Butera laid out a spread of snacks

and refreshment for us as we shared memories of WB Bob. I'm sure he was there with us in spirit enjoying the fellowship as he always did.

From Labor to Refreshment

By Wade Tabor

Junior Warden

Brothers, I would like to take a moment to remember my good friend and mentor, WB Bob Sale. It is not the same not seeing him sitting there, and hearing his thoughts on the night. He had a deep passion and love for Masonry, He inspired me to take a part in the degrees and get involved, and lead me to where I am now. Without mentors like WB Robert H. Sale we as a fraternity cannot last, so I encourage all of us to help the new Brothers and those who may be struggling to get involved. Take a part, you never know what return you may get on your investment. Great spirit, welcome my Brother, give him a seat in your Lodge, For He comes to you as a True and up right Mason.

Upcoming Events

Thursday, Mar 5 @ 7:00pm Temple Board

Discussion focused on Temple maintenance and upkeep.

- ♦ -

Friday, Mar 6 @ 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, Mar 13 @ 6:30pm Master Mason Degree (2) Candidates Planned

Join the Officers and Brothers as they raise (2) brothers to the sublime degree of Master Mason. Lodge opens at 6:30pm. Food and refreshments will follow.

If you're interested in joining the Master Mason Degree team, please contact the Lodge and leave a message for Worshipful Master Dave Thomas indicating your desire to join.

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Friday, Mar 20 @ 6:00pm Festive Board

Mark your calendar for this event as you won't want to miss it! Dinner is planned for 6:00pm, followed by the tradition of ceremonial toasting. Br. Marv Anderson will be the Master of Ceremonies. This will be lots of fun!

Cost: \$20.00 per person. Masons in good standing 21 & up please.

- ♦ -

Friday, Mar 27 @ 6:30pm Officer Meeting & EA Practice

Evening festivities start at 6:30pm. If you are interested in taking a part in the Entered Apprentice Degree team, please contact the Lodge and leave a message for WB Chris Morgan indicating your desire to join the newest degree team at Olive Branch Lodge #542.

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**Saturday, Apr 18 @ 10:00am-3pm
Deacon's Day**

This is your chance to learn all about the exciting new opportunities and services offered by Masonic Pathways through the Live Better At Home™ Call Center. Join Deacons, Secretaries, and fellow Masons from across Michigan for a day of education and camaraderie. Talk one-on-one with the experts, and get the facts straight from those that administer the programs. No long speeches; just honest conversations and explanations of new and exciting options to share with your lodge. Treat yourself to delicious food and conversation, while you browse the booths and get the facts at your own pace.

Our Junior Deacon and liaison to the Masonic Home, Brother Larry Patch, will be coordinating a carpool for our travels that

day. RSVPs are required. Brother Larry will be submitting an event recap article which will appear in a future Olive Brancher publication.

Admission is free but please
REGISTER HERE:
<http://www.eventbrite.com/e/deacons-day-tickets-15536392769>

- ♦ -

Early Event Planning Underway!

Euchre Party

We are planning another Euchre event in September or August, keep an eye out for more deals.

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Lodge Visitations

We would like to plan more visits to other lodges. Please give us your thoughts and ideas if there is a Lodge you would like to visit.

- ♦ -

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

Officer Bios

Worshipful Master

With two stints as Senior Warden under his belt (one at his previous Lodge, Architect Un, and many years as Treasurer, Worshipful Master Dave “not the burger guy” Thomas has been selected to lead the craft as your 2015 Worshipful Master. Worshipful Master Dave delivers the Charge and Tasting on Fellowcraft nights, and plays the role of King Solomon on the Master Mason Degree team.

Brother Dave really enjoys spending time with his brethren

on lodge nights and practice nights. This year, Worshipful Brother Dave is especially looking forward to serving Olive Branch during his year in the East.

When he's not setting the Craft at work, WB Dave works as an engine designer at Chrysler and also uses those skills in his spare time to build hot rods and work in a pit crew for Flying V Motorsports.

Senior Warden

Brother Marvin Anderson has advanced to the West as your 2015 Senior Warden. This year marks the 5th year that Br. Marv has been a Mason, and he has continued his high level of involvement.

Brother Marv is a mainstay on the Fellowcraft degree team, holding the part of Hearing. In addition, Brother Marv can perform each of the proficiencies, various parts of the Entered Apprentice Degree lecture and presents the Volume of the Sacred Law during the Master Mason degree.

In addition to being a member of the best lodge in Michigan, Brother Marv is also a member of Scottish Rite (performing in the biannual reunion), York Rite (Chapter and Council), and the Grotto. In his free time he enjoys spending time with his lovely wife Tracey and his five fur-babies, writing comedy and fiction, and working on his Masters degree while working as a Lead Business Analyst at Wayne State University.

Junior Warden

The Brother calling the Craft to Refreshment this year is Brother Wade "Papa Wade" Tabor. Brother Wade enjoys meeting new Brothers and the fellowship that the Fraternity offers, and currently is the head of the Membership Committee. Brother Wade performs a number of parts throughout the degrees and can exam the new Brothers

He is a proud Scottish Rite and York Rite member. In his free time he enjoys relaxing with his family, creating beautiful gavels, walking sticks and other wooden works of art, and fishing.

Treasurer

This year, the coffers continue to be in the capable hands of WB Doug Simpson. WB Doug is very well known at Olive Branch and in Masonry as a whole. He has been a Mason and member of Olive Branch for about thirty years, serving as Worshipful Master in 1993. WB Doug is everywhere at Olive Branch. He is Secretary of the Temple Board, chair of the sick committee, and key member of the Entertainment Committee. He performs several parts on the Fellowcraft and Master Mason degree teams as well. WB Doug is also very active in Scottish Rite performing with flourish in many of the degrees at reunions. As if that were not enough, he is the past presiding Monarch of Al Matta Grotto in Dearborn and is the President of the

Our Worshipful Brother George Washington

Author Unknown

*Masonry has many claims
Including presidential names,
And, foremost, when all's said and done
Would have to be George Washington.*

*He led our troops in many fights
He helped compose our 'Bill of Rights,
That all his people might be free
Enjoying life and liberty.*

*Americans still say today
We're lucky that we live this way,
For many, how surprised they'd be
To learn it sprang from Masonry.*

*For Washington, the Masons knew
Masonic principles were true,
And Masons know around this Earth
They came to be before his birth.*

*With other Masons, so conceived
He simply wrote what he believed,
Those thoughts and words that set us free
Are not unique in Masonry.*

*But not too many people know
The liberties they treasure so,
Were put into our Constitution
By Masons from the Revolution.*

*George Washington is praised by all
For answering his country's call,
For being president so wise,
For never telling any lies.*

*To each American, he's a part
Of what we treasure in our heart,
To love him not, would be like treason
Though each may have his own good reason.*

*But Masons o'er the years have cared
In knowing principles we've shared,
It's Washington we praise tonight
He truly shared Masonic Light*



International Grotto Secretary Association.

Outside of Masonry, his life is no less busy. WB Doug works at the Senior Alliance of Wayne County where he is in charge of Information Assessment, Friendly Reassurance, Transportation, and Safety and Emergency Preparedness. When he does manage to find some free time, he likes to bowl and spend time with his wife Darlene (who could have a bio of her own since she is the one who really does everything for which WB Doug gets the credit) and their children Jennifer, Christopher, and Lori.

Secretary

Worshipful Brother Gilbert Strachan serves his 21st year as Secretary of Olive Branch this year, proving that he is one of, if not THE best, secretaries a Masonic lodge could have. You are not likely to find another Brother with as much knowledge of Masonic Law as WB Gil and with 60 years in Masonry, 59 of those spent at Olive Branch, his experience is invaluable.

He was raised in Westgate Lodge #520 and also holds a plural membership in Dearborn #172. WB Gil served as Master of the OBL in 1967. He is a 43 year member of Scottish Rite in the Valley of Detroit and is a member of the Al Mata Grotto. He retired from Ford Motor Company in 1986 and since then has enjoyed spending time with his wife Margaret and all of their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Fortunately for Olive Branch, WB Gil also spends

DUES REMINDER

Membership dues for the 2015 calendar year were mailed out in October 2014 and were due on January 1st, 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 experiencing a hardship and unable to pay your dues, please contact the Lodge to discuss your payment options.

We are here to assist you Brother.

a good deal of time at the Temple keeping everything running like a well-oiled machine.

Senior Deacon

Brother Tyrone O'Neal continues to prove his dedication to the Craft and has advanced to the Senior Deacon's chair in 2015. During the day time Brother Tyrone carries messages from the Post Master while at night he carries messages in the Lodge as required.

In addition to Blue Lodge Masonry, Brother Tyrone is a recent member of Monroe Chapter #1 RAM and Monroe Council R&SM. He has been busy contemplating joining Scottish Rite. Brother Tyrone enjoys the Brotherhood and the benevolent aspects of the Fraternity.

Senior Steward

Brother Geary assists with the degrees and performs a part in each of the second sections, including the Three Tenets (EA), Music (FC) and Astronomy (FC).

While not serving the Lodge and learning the deeper mysteries of the Craft, Brother Geary enjoys spending time with his beautiful bride, Susan and their German shorthair pointer. Brother Geary is an avid hunter and outdoorsman, and enjoys riding his Harley when he's not busy studying history.

Junior Steward

You might recognize our Junior Steward from a 2014 Olive Brancher article. After joining the craft, he has jumped into serving as an officer of the Lodge. He is currently investigating the Scottish Rite as he looks for greater light. Brother Johns' great grandfather was a 33° mason in Oklahoma.

Brother John supports the Entered Apprentice Degree team, and enjoys meeting the members of our Lodge. When he's not busy working for MDOT as a Traffic Operations Engineer, Brother John enjoys playing video games, reading (although he never gets through his book queue), biking, swimming and playing basketball. He's also a member of the Dearborn Rotary,

and encourages all Brothers to attend. Meetings are at 12PM (buffet starts at 11:30AM) at Park Place, every Thursday.

Chaplain

Olive Branch is honored to have Most Worshipful Past Grand Master

Dean Barr continue his service as Chaplain in 2015. MWB Dean is also the Grand Chaplain. During his 28 years as a Mason, he has become a member of just about every Masonic organization and holds 18 honorary memberships in other Lodges including a Prince Hall Lodge.

MWB Dean is a Master Ritualist, and is very capable of stepping in to perform any parts needed when called upon. Anyone who has ever seen him doing ritual knows it is an impressive sight.

MWB Dean greatly enjoys the fellowship that the fraternity has to offer, and looks forward to getting to know all his brothers. When not enjoying fellowship, MWB Dean works for the State of Michigan overseeing various State construction projects. In his free time, he enjoys taking to the links although admittedly his golf game is a work in progress.

Most Worshipful Brother Dean is currently working towards increasing his involvement with Michigan DeMolay. While not a

DeMolay himself, he has learned what a wonderful organization it is and encourages everyone to support the young men.

Marshal

The man leading the degree pack this year might look a bit familiar. Worshipful Brother Chris Morgan (Junior Past Master) has devoted his fifth year in Masonry as Marshal.

WB Chris continues putting forth excellent ritual work as a member of the Fellow Craft and Master Mason degree teams, taking several parts in each. He is also the Entered Apprentice Degree team captain.

WB Chris works as a Sr. engineer for a Tier 1 automotive supplier and shares his experience and skills with high schoolers as a robotics competition mentor (now in his 9th season!).

He completed his Masters degree in 2014, and also took on his first part in the Scottish Rite Fall Reunion. He enjoys spending time with his lovely girlfriend, Chelsea, who can be found assisting in the meal preparation on Degree Nights and Social Events.

Also in the officer line this year:

Junior Deacon

Larry Patch

Assistant Secretary

WB Paul Johnson

Musician

WB Robert Krawczyk

Tiler

WB Jeff Goldberg

These Brothers are all very busy with various Lodge duties. Watch for their bios in upcoming issues of the Olive Brancher.

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 (6) months of the new program, we've raised \$975.00 in additional funding to the Lodge. Ten brothers exercised the tenet of charity and made a contribution to the donor program.

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

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

March
2015

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www.olivebranchlodge542.com

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