



The Olive Brancher

89 Years of Brotherhood

May 2014



From the East

By Christopher Morgan
Worshipful Master

Spring has finally arrived! And with the increase in temperatures we can be sure to note an increase in the Michigan State flower – also known as those construction barrels. Be mindful as we head into the spring and summer of construction signage, and be sure to observe the proper speed limit. With the I-96 shutdown, it will be necessary to practice the virtue of patience. Check for alternate routes ahead of time. And remember that as a member of the Craft, your actions are a reflection to Society of the teachings that we practice as Masons.

Speaking of alternate routes, when was the last time you turned on your Masonic GPS navigation system? At some point we became fixated on the “shortest” or “quickest” route to our destination. As Masons we would do well to remember that sometimes the most difficult routes also provide the most rewarding and impactful experiences.

Event & Idea Survey

Many of you may remember that your November Olive Brancher was replaced with a special survey to the membership to gauge their interest in the various Masonic programs and events that could be offered throughout the year. It is very important to gauge the pulse of the organization from time to time and make adjustments to our plans as officers so as to have the greatest benefit for you, our members. I received 21 responses from our members from the 403 brothers surveyed, or 5.2%. A number of you mentioned that PARKING was a primary concern facing our Lodge. Brother Larry Patch has been hard at work in conjunction with the Temple Board to increase available parking by securing daily permit spots at a reasonable rate on events where we have large attendance. Of those 21 participants, 20 answered the question regarding the CHAIR LIFT with 15 indicating that they would not use the equipment if it were installed. This feedback has been provided to the Temple Association as they investigate any changes to the building. It's clear from the responses that your interests cover each of the categories of Education, Social Event, & Community Outreach. Myself and the Officers have worked diligently to provide a good balance of Lodge programming which fits in line with these interests. However, please feel free to contact myself or any of the Officers should you have additional ideas for events and activities.

Sustainability Update

In April, I had requested the Sustainability Committee to present their initial findings from their research phase.

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Trestle Board

May 2014

May 1st @ 7:00pm

Temple Board Meeting

May 2nd @ 7:30pm

Regular Communication

May 3rd @ 9:00am

Temple Clean-Up Day

May 9th @ 6:30pm

Fellow Craft Degree
(Past Masters Night)

May 11th (Mother's Day)

NO SPAGHETTI DINNER

May 13th @ 6:00pm

Officer & Committee Meeting

May 16th @ 6:30pm

Social Event - Casino Trip

May 19 - 21

Grand Lodge - Grand Rapids

May 23rd Memorial Weekend

NO MEETING

May 30th @ 6:30pm

Entered Apprentice Degree

May 31st @ 9:00am

Child ID Event

Dearborn Hts. Police Station

June 2014

Jun 5th @ 7:00pm

Temple Board Meeting

Jun 6th @ 7:30pm

Regular Communication

Jun 13th @ 6:30pm

Fellow Craft Degree

Jun 20th @ 6:30pm

Awards Dinner

Jun 27th @ 6:30pm

Master Mason Degree

Retirees Luncheon
Second and Fourth Monday
11:00am

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Committee Chairman, Worshipful Brother Mark Lazar, gave the presentation, and fielded many well thought questions from an audience of Brothers. While I don't want to use this space to cover the details, please be on the lookout for a "special communication" in the near future describing some of the findings, and how we can work together to create a sustaining Lodge presence.

Annual Communication

This month I have the privilege to represent each of you as a voting delegate at the Annual Communication or Grand Lodge. The 188th Annual Communication of

the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons is being held at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids, MI on May 20th & 21st. During this time, we plan to vote on 10 amendments to our laws and regulations, as well as elect a brother to the open chair. The officers and I are working on the plan for attending the many scheduled activities of the session, and look forward to sharing with you the knowledge gained. In addition, I hope to sit with the principal officers as we begin planning for the 2015 calendar year and beyond during a mini-officer retreat.

Milestones in Masonry

This year we have an incredible amount of Brothers who are

celebrating a major milestone in Masonry. These milestones include 25 years, 40 years, 50 years, 60 years, and 70 years in Masonry. If you feel that you are eligible for this type of recognition, I implore you to contact the Lodge. I assure you that every effort is made by the Officers to give credit where credit is due. However it is entirely possible that a mistake could be made. By contacting the Lodge, you can quickly ascertain your status and also bring to our attention your interest in receiving this recognition. Congratulations to all of our brothers who have served the Craft and reached such noteworthy milestones!!

Pay the Craft Their Wages

By Dave Thomas, Senior Warden

SENIOR WARDEN NIGHT Friday March 28th, 2014

I would like to thank all the Brothers that made the Senior Warden Dinner held Friday, March 28th, 2014 a huge success. WB Doug Simpson and Darlene for their tireless efforts coordinating and preparing the fantastic corned beef and cabbage dinner that everyone enjoyed. MWB Dean Barr, please know that there is great comfort knowing you are always graciously there to lend a hand if the purveyor of the Ritual needs a nudge. WB Gil it was certainly great to have you back where you belong. The penny request and the apron presentation were expertly performed. Thanks to all the past masters and Brothers that took over Lodge duties for the second section of the Entered Apprentice degree so the Worshipful Master could attend the Senior Warden festivities with me downstairs.

Grand Lodge was represented by three Most Worshipful Past Grand Masters of the State of Michigan; MWB Dean A. Barr, MWB Fred Kaiser, MWB Ira Slaven, and WB Ron Vandermeeden BGP District 25, and WB Danny Bell BGP District 26, and WB Bob Cooper Grand Steward.

Lodges attending were: Findlater Lodge #475, Architect University Lodge #569, Lola Valley Lodge #583, Union Of S.O. Lodge #3, Wayne Lodge #112, Wolverine Lodge #484, Golden Arc Lodge #595.

Thanks go out to the DeMolay boys for their hard work serving the food and for their cleaning up after dinner.

My prayers go out to WB Sam Fite for a speedy recovery and I want to say he was greatly missed at this event. WB Marty Mullins I hope you are recovered as well. MWB Ira, it certainly was a pleasure to once again have your company and council this evening and I hope you can visit Olive Branch Lodge more regularly.

School of Instruction – Tuesday April 1st @ 6:30 PM

Olive Branch Lodge #542 hosted the school of instruction for District #25. This school of instruction was led by Worshipful Brother Terry Bridges DDI for District #25. Thank you WB Terry for an informative evening. Thanks go out to WB Leonard Davis, Regional Grand Lecturer for attending and adding valuable information to this event.

Two Lodges were excused from attending by WB Terry. The attending Lodges were recorded in the register on the Tiler's Desk. Thank you WB Doug Simpson and Darlene for preparing the hamburgers, hot dogs and pizza for everyone. Thanks to Brother Larry Patch for set-up and clean-up, and to all the Brothers that made this evening a success.

The Master Mason Degree opening performed by the Officers of Olive Branch Lodge was perfect. The Lodge was purged and was taken from labor to refreshment, and to labor again, by the sound of the gavel in the East.

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FOURTH Spaghetti Fundraiser Held SUNDAY APRIL 13th, 2014.

Congratulations and a hearty Thank you go out to Worshipful Dad Walt Lazar who again was Chef in Charge and again the Sauce was terrific. Thank you Worshipful Master Chris Morgan and his Lady Chelsea Butera, WB Doug Simpson and Darlene for making this ongoing

fundraiser a success. Thanks to all of the Brothers and Visitors who attended and made monetary contributions for dinner.

Need your Help

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

From Labor to Refreshment

**By Marvin Anderson,
Junior Warden**

I had several opportunities to travel over the past few weeks visiting other Lodges in our area. Without fail, a Brother would compliment Olive Branch on being an active Lodge. It makes me proud to be an OBL Boy when I hear remarks like these, but it also gives me pause to think why Brothers may not be active within their Lodges.

Might apathy be to blame for lack of activity in a Lodge? Do Brothers simply not care enough to plan and attend Lodge events? That may be the case in other organizations, but I don't think that is true for Masons. It is very rare to find a Brother who says he does not care about his Lodge does. It is usually quite the opposite (especially if he is a past master).

I think the more likely cause for inactivity in a Lodge is the busy lives that we all lead these days. Family, work, and community are just a few aspects of life that keep us all running around like the proverbial headless chickens. Many of us feel we just do not have time to spend at Lodge, be it for regular and special communications or for fellowship events. Believe me I understand that feeling.

Recently, though, as I reflected on my Masonic education I was reminded of my very first lesson regarding the tools of our profession. The 24-inch gauge, you will recall, teaches us to divide our time. It reminds us to give equal time for service to God and a distressed Brother, time for our usual vocation, and time for refreshment and sleep. I was struck by the realization that participating in Lodge activities helps me achieve two of those three things.

Many of our events are charitable in nature. We may hold fundraisers or benefits directly related to Masonry (serving distressed Brothers) or they may help within our community (certainly something which the Grand Architect appreciates). Our dinners and parties are specifically designed to offer refreshment and depending on what is being discussed at business meetings you could even catch up on some sleep. When I think about it this way, going to Lodge no longer seems like one more demand on my time. It becomes a respite I look forward to, so that I may rest from the busy world on the other side of the outer door.

Upcoming Events

Casino Night - May 16th

Brother Larry Patch is planning a casino trip for us on May 16th. Join us for a fun-filled evening at one of the local casinos. All adults, 21 years

of age and older, are welcome to join us. Contact the Lodge or Brother Larry for more info.

Grand Lodge - May 19-21

The annual Grand Lodge session will be held in Grand Rapids this year. There will be good learning opportunities for officers and aspiring officers. Plus, when you get hundreds of Mason together there is bound to be a good time. Contact the Lodge for details if you would like to attend. There are limited spots available under the Lodge reservation, but you can always make your own.

Child ID Event - May 31st

For the fourth year in a row, Olive Branch has been asked to hold a Child ID event in conjunction with the Dearborn Heights Rotary Club's Bike Safety Rodeo. This is a great event where kids take part in a bike safety course, get a free helmet, register their bikes with the DHPD, and have a great time. This is one of our most popular Child ID events, so we will need as many folks as we can get to help out. Bring significant others, older children, friends, family, all are welcome to assist.

Awards Dinner - June 20th

Our annual Awards Dinner will be held on June 20th this year. The student chosen to receive the scholarship will be presented with that award. We will also honor Brothers of Olive Branch that night for their extraordinary service.

Mason Street 30th Anniversary

By Robert Patterson, PM

A motion was made by W.B. James Gabocy, August 3, 1979, to purchase 2.2 acres of land on Gullely Road (just south of the R/R tracks) at \$66,000 to build the new home of Olive Branch Lodge. W. B. Frank Johnson was to design the temple.

Mayor John B. O'Reilly, Jr. was present to burn our mortgage October 10, 1980.

It was generally felt by the brethren that a lodge of our size (second largest in the state) and enthusiasm should have its own home.

Lodge members spent the next few years hosting a Monte Carlo Night, Millionaire's Party, garage sale, and raffles along with two carnivals a year run by W.B. Wayne Mueller as building fund raisers.

Brother Richard Zuelke, a member of the International Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) and Olive Branch, invited W.B. Johnson to look at their building for sale due to their declining membership.

WM Ellsworth "Pat" Patterson worked along with the Temple Association (TA) and announced to the lodge, January 27, 1984, that the TA signed a purchase agreement in the amount of \$130,000 for a 1961 two story brick and cement building at 1170 Mason Street, contingent to Grand Lodge (GL) approval. A lawsuit was dropped regarding our undeveloped property on Gullely Road and GL reviewed paperwork to purchase the property on Mason in February. TA President Bro. Ron Ryan made a motion at the March business meeting to move our charter from 907 Monroe to our new home and was approved April 6, 1984, by a vote of 71 to 1.

Being that Most Worshipful Russel C. Wells was made an honorary member of our lodge October 1, 1982, it seemed fitting that our MWGM Wells should dedicate our building before his term ended at the end of May. Lodge members, family, and friends worked 18 hour days, seven days a week, for the next five weeks to renovate our building for Masonic use and our May 12, 1984 dedication.

Bro. Harvey Farrant was in charge of the rough carpentry; Bro. Guy Allen set up a

paint booth downstairs to refinish the heat registers and bathroom stalls; Bros. John Greenwood, Dave Hendricks, and W.B. Paul Hudson were our electricians having Bro. Ryan as their wire puller. Bro. Charlie Balnius was in charge of the finished carpentry building podiums, refinishing pillars, constructing the altar, cutting the secretary's and treasurer's desk to similar size, and building the tapers out of scrap wood. W.B. Johnson was our General Contractor with help from his lady friend, Coni Morgan, with design and paint selections.

The entire building was painted. The kitchen received stainless steel work. Workers signed their names in paint behind the paneled walls in the dining area. Drapes were made to cover the windows where our existing HVAC ductwork comes in. A weighted door was constructed by W.B. Ed Burnett for the coat room. The lodge room was turned around, risers were built, and the room was carpeted to cover the shuffle board. The inner door was relocated five feet. The current secretary's office was a coat room. The pillars and rough and perfect ashlar were obtained from Palmer Park Lodge #560. W.B. Johnson had the perfect ashlar inscribed twice due to an error giving us an indented stone.

Bro. Dave Higgs, Bro. George Empson (both now W.B.s), W.B. Mueller, and Bro. Orval Forsythe drove his semi-truck to a Protestant Church in Hesperia (NE of Muskegon) to obtain the lodge pews and carried them up the 12 front stairs. The officers' seating was reupholstered and stained pews were ready for dedication (pews were covered with fabric at a later date 8/84).

Pentalpha Lodge #636 from Cleveland made their 44th visitation bringing 34 brothers to do the FC degree in Ohio ritual one week before dedication date. Ritual was done at the Dearborn Temple and we moved over one block for the famous "fall off the bone" breaded pork chop dinner prepared by Fordson Chapter #484 OES and assisted by Bethel 73 Job's Daughters. Zeta Lodge #410 from Toronto was scheduled to portray the EA degree for their annual visitation a week later. Due to our busy schedule, a spring Chicago trip was cancelled.

We only had time to move the necessary items over for dedication. Tickets were distributed to GL officers (& wives for each category), TA members, Past Masters, officers, honored and active fundraising members for \$7.50 each (\$3 over normal dinners cost). Every member received a gold colored dedication commemorative coin ordered by W.B. Mueller, and a polyethylene souvenir dedication apron.

The Past Masters had the honor of opening lodge at 12:30 p.m. with W.B. Johnson presiding in the East. Officers opened with flannel shirts, torn jeans, and painted sneakers finalizing last minute items – tuxes came later. A roast beef dinner was prepared by Fordson Chapter and served by the "Red Coats" of OBL for the 290 guests at 6 p.m.

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The dedication started at 8 p.m. having lodge closed in short form by MWGM Wells at 9:30 p.m.

The Gulley Road property was eventually sold. We continued having Wednesday work parties moving items from the Dearborn Temple and building storage cabinets. We actually moved into our new home four weeks after dedication.

Many other appendant bodies soon followed and the Odd Fellows rented from us for many years.

In later years a stove was donated by Fordson Chapter; we purchased an organ, grandfather's clock, computer, pizza ovens, made a game room, tiled the kitchen floor, sided the garage, installed porch railings, and many more improvements.

Share Your Knowledge

Giving our Brothers a solid Masonic education is critical.

We are looking for knowledgable Brothers, like you, to sit down with new Brothers as they go through their degrees.

You would meet with the new Brothers to review lectures, practice proficiency, teach Lodge etiquette, and more.

Contact Brother Marv Anderson or Brother Wade Tabor if you are interested in joining the Education Team

Have You Paid Your Dues Yet?

2014 dues payments were due on January 1, 2014

Unless you have done so already, please send in your payment.

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

We are here to help.

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

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser



**On the second Sunday of every month
From 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.**

No dinner in May. Returning in June!

All you can eat spaghetti, salad, garlic toast, and dessert

Bring your family and friends to this open event

\$8 per person (Kids under 12 are \$5)

1170 Mason St. Dearborn, MI 48124

Don't forget:

Public parking is free on Sundays if our driveway is full!

Olive Branch Lodge #542

(313)565-2838

Do you have an announcement you would like made or an article you would like to contribute in the Olive Brancher?

Send an email to : obl542-olive-brancher@googlegroups.com

Submissions are due on the 10th of the month prior to the issue's release

(e.g. articles for the June issue are due May 10th)

All submissions are subject to approval and editing by the Olive Brancher Editors.

Mystery Trip 2014

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

Only Hope & Don know.

The dates are October 11 & 12, 2014.

The cost is \$376.00 Per Couple

or \$188.00 Per Person.

Reservation due by September 1, 2014

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.

Make CHECKS payable to Donald E. Buxton

No refunds unless we can sell your trip.

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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Vice-President
Douglas Simpson, PM

Secretary-Treasurer
Donald Buxton, PM

Hall Manager
Larry Patch

Editors and Publishers
Gilbert H. Strachan, PM
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THE OLIVE BRANCHER

May
2014

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C/O Olive Branch Lodge #542

1170 Mason St.

Dearborn, MI 48124-2801

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