



# The Olive Brancher

89 Years of Brotherhood

September 2015



## From the East

By David Thomas  
Worshipful Master

### Greetings from the East!

Sadly, the summer is drawing to a close. Olive Branch Lodge #542 did not meet for the months of July and August as is our custom. Now it is time to return to labor for the remainder of the Masonic Year. Please come out to Lodge and renew your Masonic Friendships.

### FREE parking now available!

The City of Dearborn has removed the 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.

### Move-Up Months

I am pleased to continue the tradition of having the Officers move up a chair in Lodge, to demonstrate their Ritual skills in the seats they may hold pending a favorable November election. The month of September will witness our Senior Warden preside in the East, and the Month of October we will have the pleasure of our Junior Warden presiding in the East.

I look forward to assisting all the officers during these practice months as they work perfecting their ritual work to uphold the standard of excellence that Olive Branch Lodge is known for.

### Master Mason Degree Team Needs You!

Senior Warden Brother Marvin Anderson will open Lodge in the Master Mason Degree on Friday September 11<sup>th</sup> to confer this Degree on a Brother of this Lodge. Let this notice serve as my request of you to serve your Lodge by attending this evening and taking a part in this Degree.

If you are interested in taking a part in the second section, please contact our Master Mason Degree team captain, Brother Kris Thorsrud. Brother Kris has been doing a fine job assembling the team to enhance the evening for our new Brothers.

## Trestle Board

### September 2015

**Sep. 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 7:00pm**  
Temple Board Meeting

**Sep. 4<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30pm**  
Regular Communication

**Sep. 11<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm**  
Master Mason Degree  
(1) Candidate Planned

**Sep. 18<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm**  
Special Communication  
*Fellowcraft or Master Mason*

**Sep. 19<sup>th</sup> @ 2:00pm**  
Social Event – Euchre  
**RSVP by Sep. 11**

**Sep. 25<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm**  
Special Communication  
*Entered Apprentice or Master Mason*

### October 2015

**Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> @ 7:00pm**  
Temple Board Meeting

**Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 7:30pm**  
Regular Communication

**Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm**  
Entered Apprentice Degree

**Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm**  
Master Mason Degree

**Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00am to 2:00pm**  
Statewide Open House  
**RSVP by Sep. 30**

**Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 6:00pm**  
Oktoberfest Banquet & Raffle  
**TICKET REQUIRED**

**Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm**  
Fellowcraft Degree

**Retirees Luncheon**  
**Second and Fourth Monday**  
**11:00am**

## Throw Open the Doors!

The Grand Lodge of Michigan has issued a decree to all Michigan Lodges to conduct a Public Open House. This invitation will allow the public the opportunity to visit with their local Masonic Temple and learn about Freemasonry.

Olive Branch Lodge will open the doors to the public from 10:00 A.M. through 2:00P.M. Come out to be a part of this historic event and show the Dearborn community that Freemasonry is relevant and thriving in the community.

I am asking that all who plan on attending to contact the Lodge and make known your desire to attend. It is my desire to have an initial headcount established by **September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015**. It would be nice to see one hundred Olive Branch members attend; remember there is no cost to park near the lodge. See you there!

## Improving Fraternal Relations

Fellowship night with the Brothers from Dearborn Masonic Lodge #172 and the Brothers of Olive Branch Lodge #542 occurred Friday June 26th, to add to the framework that brought us together the evening of June 11th 2015. Many will recall that evening as the night we helped to bring (4) new members into the Craft. We believe that both events have solidified our thoughts of the good times ahead. The Officers of Olive Branch Lodge are looking forward to inviting the Brothers of Dearborn Lodge #172 to all of our events and to offering our assistance to

their Lodge functions, reciprocally the same from Dearborn Lodge #172.

## Food, Fellowship, Fun & More!

Please let this article serve as a request by the Worshipful Master to all members of Olive Branch Lodge to arrange for the purchase of a Raffle Ticket for the sum of \$50.00 for the October 23rd, 2015 Raffle benefitting the Olive Branch Lodge Operating Fund. Contact the Lodge Office or Worshipful Brother Paul Johnson to purchase your ticket. Two hundred tickets need to be sold for this fundraiser to be considered a success and while there have been a steady uptick in ticket sales there are a number still remaining. This is a chance for you to win a **1st prize of \$2,500.00** or a **2nd prize of \$500.00**. Your Ticket purchase entitles you to attend a catered dinner the night of October 23rd, 2015. I also ask that you please

**THERE IS A 1 IN 200  
CHANCE OF WINNING  
(NOT BAD ODDS).**

**BROTHERS, PLEASE SUPPORT  
YOUR LODGE BY MAKING A  
TICKET PURCHASE.**

indicate if you will attend this dinner so a headcount can be established. Ticket owners need not be present to win.

Each budget year there is a monetary shortcoming of incoming dues compared to the outlay of money necessary to operate Olive Branch Lodge, and as a result of this disparity, money

must be taken from the bank accounts. Fundraising by raffle is a means to meet a portion of this monetary shortcoming. Raising dues is the other way to eliminate monetary shortcomings.

## The Duties YOU Owe to your Lodge...

We will be holding our annual elections for the Officer Line, as well as some of the open seats for our Masonic Temple Association.

The Officer Line allows Brothers a unique opportunity to develop and cultivate leadership and communication skills. It also helps to develop your ritual proficiency.

The Masonic Temple Association or 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.

## ...and the Duties I Owe to You

In June 2014, the Lodge voted to add "Article XII" which pertains to the proposal, acceptance, and amendment of Lodge budgets. It is my duty to remind you of our rules and regulations including these bylaws. Our bylaws now require that each incoming Master must have and present a budget with which to operate the

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

Lodge. We look forward to Brother Marv's Budget submission.

In addition, the **Treasurer** (WB Doug Simpson) is responsible for presenting to the Brethren at each Regular Communication, an updated report on the current standing of the Lodges' Budget as part of his report. In this manner, not only do we have a plan for the operational expenses required, but we are taking time each month to gauge which areas are deviating from the plan.

Finally, we have expanded the powers of the **Finance Committee** (Chariperson: WB Chris Morgan) to aid in the budget process. The Finance Committee will present at regular intervals an update on the investment portfolios. These updates are intended to be more expansive than those received in the past as included in the Treasurers Report.

As a reminder, copies of the new bylaws are available by request from the Secretaries Office at any

time. Please take the time to educate and inform yourself on the operations of your Lodge.

### **Evolving Our Calendar**

During the summer months, meetings with the Senior Officers took place to discuss calendar planning. Some of the changes that have been implemented in 2014 were continued over for the year 2015. While not perfect, we believe that these changes are necessary to adapt Masonry in the 21st century.

During the upcoming Sept – Oct – Nov timeframe, we will schedule a special communication when we have a candidate. We have (1) candidate lined up for the Month of September who will be raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason on September 11th. This calendar adjustment is needed to better align degree work with the six-steps-to-initiation and with our incoming candidates. Regular Communications are governed by our bylaws and will be held on the 1st Friday of each Month unless in conflict with a Holiday. Social Events will continue, check the Junior Warden's article for the type of event and scheduling information.

### **Reminder – 2016 Dues Notices**

Just a friendly reminder to be on the look-out that your 2016 dues notices will be sent out this fall. Now is a perfect time to review your address on file. Please contact the Secretary and let him know if you have moved in the last year to ensure you receive your notice.

Prompt attention to your dues is always appreciated and have a direct impact on Lodge operations. At the May Regular Communication it was necessary to make a motion to remove a substantial amount of money from the bank account to pay the bills for the month of May, 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.

### Call to Service – We Need You!

On Friday, November 6th 2015, we will be holding our Annual Elections for the Officer Line, as well as some of the seats on the Olive Branch Masonic Temple Association.

The Officer Line allows elected Brothers the unique opportunity to develop and cultivate their individual leadership and communication skills, by taking an office in Lodge and presiding in that place or station. It also helps you to develop and perfect your ritual proficiency by performing your part in the open Lodge environment on The Regular and Special Communication meetings.

The Masonic Temple Association or MTA is the group that oversees the operations of the building, including Hall Rentals and the implementation of building maintenance. The Association meets once per month on the 1st Thursday preceding the Regular Communication. Please consider taking part in either of our leadership groups.

## Congratulations to our 2015 Awards Night Recipients!

### 2015 Ritualist Award

*Brother Geary Michael Mayer*

### 2015 Blue Lodge Award

*Worshipful Brother Douglas S. Simpson, PM*

### Worshipful Brother Robert H. Sale Meritorious Service Award

*Most Worshipful Brother Dean A. Barr, PGM*

### 2015 Mason of the Year, Olive Branch Lodge #542

*Worshipful Brother Paul Johnson, PM*

### 2014 District Mason of the Year, District #25

*Worshipful Brother Christopher Sean Morgan, PM*

## Pay the Craft Their Wages

By Marv Anderson

Senior Warden

### Greetings from the West!

Welcome back, Brothers. I don't know about you, but Fall is my favorite time of year and it is right around the corner. It is nice to have some time off over the summer, but it is even better to get back to Lodge and spend time with our Brothers.

### Olive Branch/Al Matta Grotto Annual Picnic

Worshipful Master Dave "Not the Burger Guy" Thomas already thanked many of the folks who organized and helped at some of the events we held over the summer. I would, however, like to thank Darlene Simpson and her husband WB Doug for putting together another fantastic picnic this year. Thanks also to WB Jeff Goldberg who manned the grill,

WB Chris Morgan, WB Paul Johnson, and Brother Wade Tabor who helped set up. I would also like to thank our Brothers from Al Matta Grotto for helping to make this joint picnic a success.

## FUNdraising

We all know that raising funds for the Lodge can be an arduous task, but it is a necessary one. WB Paul Johnson has stepped up this year to lead the efforts of two major fundraising opportunities for Olive Branch. WB Paul secured the required permission and licenses for us to raffle off a set of Callaway golf clubs at the Shrine

Sportsman's Raffle and to hold an Oktoberfest Dinner Raffle in October. WB Paul has worked exhaustively putting these events together in addition to his duties as Assistant Secretary and Regional Child I.D. Program Coordinator. No wonder he was our 2015 Mason of Year! WB Paul, on behalf of the Brothers of Olive Branch Lodge, I extend many, MANY thanks to you.

## Michigan Child ID Event

The Brothers, their ladies, and friends of Olive Branch Lodge #542 conducted a Child I.D. event at Van Houten Park from 4:00 P.M. till 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday August 4<sup>th</sup>. Many thanks to those who staffed the event and donated their time. With parental consent, 22 children were processed through this valuable program.

## Looking Ahead

As is tradition at Olive Branch, I will test drive the Big Chair during the month of September presiding in the East. We will have a live candidate for the Master Mason degree on September 11th, so come out and see a Brother raised to the Sublime Degree.

Brother Kris "Thor" Thorsrud and his Master Mason team have been working on improving our conferral of this degree and for that I thank them. Please come out and support the team and our Lodge on Master Mason night, September 11th.

Assuming favorable election in November, I will have the honor of presiding in the East next year. While the Worshipful Master may be the one who oversees the Lodge, it is important to remember that Olive Branch is OUR Lodge. I certainly have ideas for next year, but I encourage you to come to Lodge and suggest your ideas, so we can discuss them. Masonry is one of the truly democratic organizations. Officers are elected

to facilitate the will of the Lodge, but we can only do that if we know said will.

Again, welcome back, Brothers. I look forward to seeing you all Olive Branch on Friday

## From Labor to Refreshment

By Wade Tabor

Junior Warden

Greetings Brethren from the South and welcome back! It's been a great summer. Lots of fun was had by all. It was great seeing everyone at all of our events; especially the picnic.

As your Junior Warden I've been working hard with the Senior Deacon and Secretary to get the delinquent dues put to rest. It's been a long hard struggle but we made great progress towards tracking down those that have yet to pay their 2015 dues. I cannot emphasize enough how important it is to make sure our dues are paid in a prompt and timely fashion. The Officers have been working very hard making sure that Olive Branch Lodge #542 has a sound future. Without your dues this wouldn't be possible. So thank you to everyone.

I'm looking forward to getting back to work in September, and to performing some great ritual work with fantastic ritualists. It's going to be a great fall! I hope to see you all at Lodge.

## Upcoming Events

**Thursday, Sep 3 @ 7:00pm**  
**Temple Board**

Discussion focused on Temple maintenance and upkeep.

- ♦ -

**Friday, Sep 4 @ 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, Sep 11 @ 6:30pm**  
**Master Mason Degree**  
**(1) Candidate Planned**

Join the Officers and Brothers as they assist in raising (1) brother to the sublime degree of Master Mason. Lodge opens at 6:30pm. Food and refreshments are planned following the degree work. Please join us in celebrating our newest Master Mason.

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

- ♦ -

**Friday, Sep 18 @ 6:30pm**  
**Special Communication**

This evening will feature a special communication, and serve as a back-up for the September 11th Master Mason Degree night. Otherwise we will take a volunteer from the sideline to get an upfront refresher of our Fellowcraft degree exemplification. As always, food, refreshments and fellowship will follow the degree work.

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**Saturday, Sep 19 @ 2:00pm**

**Euchre Afternoon**

You don't want to miss this Brothers! We had a great time last event; lots of food and fun were had by all. Cost \$20.00.

To make **reservations by Friday September 11<sup>th</sup>**, please 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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**Friday, Sep 25 @ 6:30pm  
Special Communication**

This evening will feature a special communication, and serve as a back-up for the September 11th Master Mason Degree night.

Otherwise, relive the magic of your Entered Apprentice Degree night as one lucky volunteer from the sideline will take part in the exemplification of the Entered Apprentice Degree. Food, refreshments and fellowship will follow the degree work.

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**Thursday, Oct 1 @ 7:00pm  
Temple Board**

Discussion focused on Temple maintenance and upkeep.

- ♦ -

**Friday, Oct 2 @ 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, Oct 9 @ 6:30pm  
Entered Apprentice Degree**

Pending the outcome of the September & October Regular Communications, there may be a candidate for initiating to the degree of Entered Apprentice.

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, Oct 16 @ 6:30pm  
Master Mason Degree**

Join the Officers and Brothers as they assist in exemplifying the Master Mason Degree. Lodge opens at 6:30pm. Food and refreshments are planned following the degree work.

- ♦ -

**Saturday, Oct 17 @ 10:00am  
Statewide Open House**

Event runs from 10:00am to 2:00pm as we open our doors to the public for tours and information about Freemasonry. Please see the Worshipful Masters article for additional details, and contact him if you are interested in volunteering!

- ♦ -

**Friday, Oct 23 @ 6:00pm  
Oktoberfest Raffle & Banquet**

See the Worshipful Masters article and flyer insert for details!

- ♦ -

**Friday, Oct 30 @ 6:30pm  
Fellowcraft Degree**

Brother Wade Tabor again takes to the hot seat to confer the Fellowcraft Degree this evening.

Food and refreshments to wind down the evening.

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.

- ♦ -

## **An Outdoor Adventure to Kentucky**

**By Gilbert H. Strachan, PM  
Lodge Secretary**

My Grand Son Brian Blesener and I left Dearborn at 7:00 AM on Friday, July 24 on our trip to Salyersville, Kentucky for the "Annual Outdoor Degree".

After several hours of driving, with two stops for food and gas, we arrived at Prestonsburg, Kentucky. We checked into the Comfort Suites Motel for the weekend. Then we decided to find the location of Saturday's outdoor degree site. After turning into a non-descript side road that dead ended, turning back we finally found the right entrance clearly marked with signs with the square and compasses.

We went into the town of Salyersville, a 20 minute drive away, to locate the Masonic Temple where the evening's meeting was to be held. There was a traffic light in the middle of town but if you were to go any direction away from it, you would immediately be out of town. We couldn't find the Masonic Temple so we stopped at the City Hall for

directions. We asked a lady there if she could direct us to the Temple. She said "Come outside with me". We went outside on the porch of the City Hall and she pointed to the left and said "see that white building up there". "That's the Masonic Temple". I guess we couldn't find it because it was right under our noses!

Brian and I went up to the Temple and ventured in. It was a small building with the usual anti rooms, but the Lodge room itself was approximately 50 feet wide by about 120 feet long. We were beginning to believe that everything we were expecting was not going to be so. We left the building believing we might be disappointed.

Refreshing ourselves at the hotel we returned to Salyersville for Lodge opening at 7:00 PM. Boy we were certainly surprised. I estimated the crowd at about 160. As we entered the Lodge room I was greeted by a Brother who said "I know you". To which I replied, "and I know you too". It was Brother Eddie Allford, a Past Master from Dearborn 172 who I haven't seen for many years. After the opening of Lodge and the introduction of dignitaries, the Worshipful Master asked all visitors on the side lines to introduce themselves and tell

where they were from. Brothers had come from all over surrounding States, with the farthest being from California. There were Michigan Brothers there from Belleville, Allen Park, Lincoln Park, Taylor and Trenton-Wyandotte, many of whom had come on motorcycles. I sure didn't envy them that trip. Introductions were the only order of business on the Friday evening so Lodge was closed and refreshments served. No alcohol was served.



On Saturday after touring the surrounding area around Salyersville, Brian and I got ready and went to Lodge for the opening in the outdoors at 4:00 PM. It was quite a walking distance from where we parked to the degree site. On the way up to the site I was offered a ride. Brian said he would walk. There were better than 200 Brothers sitting around a very rustic Lodge setting waiting for things to begin. Lodge was opened shortly after four o'clock and the officers of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky were introduced and seated very

precariously around the setting. I won't explain "precariously seated" so as not to reveal the surprise of the degree for those who might attend in the future. After the conferral of the first section of the degree we retired for dinner. We enjoyed a fine potluck country style meal which was put on by the members of Salyersville Lodge. Just think, serving dinner to over 200 hungry men not knowing how many would be there.

Well, after we were all filled to the gills, Lodge was reconvened. Little attention seemed to be given to any formal ritual. but I did notice the Brother sitting in the East with an open book. The drama of the Master Mason Degree was performed with the addition of one more character whose title I can't remember. He interacted with the various characters in the degree team. I must say that the ritual used was "free form". The usual tale was told, but in quite a different manner than the way we do it in Michigan.

It was a very enjoyable and informative weekend. Brian must have thoroughly enjoyed it, for he is already making our plans for 2016. Hope some of you can join us on the trip!

**Olive Branch polo shirts and hats are now available from the Olive Branch Store. Hats are \$20 and shirts are \$25.**

**If we don't have a shirt to fit you, we can order one that will. Hats are adjustable and will fit almost any head. See the Secretary and make your purchase today.**

# **EUCHRE PARTY**



**Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 2:00pm**

**Bring your family and friends to a fun afternoon of  
Euchre**

**Food and Refreshments will be provided**

**\$20 per person to enter the Tournament**

**Adults only please.  
Limited to first 40 players**

**1170 Mason St. Dearborn, MI 48124**

**If you have any questions or would like to RSVP  
(due by September 11<sup>th</sup>), please contact the  
Lodge at (313) 565-2538 or email:**

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

# Don't delay – reserve your ticket today!

**Raffle & Oktoberfest Banquet**

**Olive Branch Lodge #542**  
 1170 Mason Street  
 Dearborn, MI 48124

**October 23<sup>rd</sup> 6 – 8 PM**

**Tickets: \$50 each**

**Grand Prize: \$2,500**  
**Second Prize: \$500**

**Your ticket serves as admission to the banquet.  
 You do not need to be present to win.**

**To purchase tickets, contact Paul Johnson (313) 278-7761  
 or the Olive Branch Lodge Office (313) 565-2538**

**200 Tickets Max**

State of Michigan  
 License # R30330

**If 200 tickets are not sold, the raffle will revert to a 50/50 drawing, with a minimum \$250 grand prize.**

**Proceeds to benefit Olive Branch Lodge #542. Not deductible as a charitable donation.**

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**  
 1170 Mason Street  
 Dearborn, MI 48124-2801  
 Phone: (313) 565-2538  
 Email: olivebranch542@sbcglobal.net  
 www.olivebranchlodge542.com

## OLIVE BRANCH TEMPLE ASSOCIATION

**President**  
Lance Eicher, PM

**Vice-President**  
Larry Kelsey

**Secretary**  
Douglas Simpson, PM

**Treasurer**  
Tyrone O'Neal

**Hall Manager**  
Larry Patch  
313-277-4186

**Editors and Publishers**  
 Gilbert H. Strachan, PM  
 Doug Simpson, PM  
 Christopher S. Morgan, PM



# THE OLIVE BRANCHER

September  
2015

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

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C/O Olive Branch Lodge #542  
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