



# The Olive Brancher

89 Years of Brotherhood

September 2014



## From the East

**By Christopher Morgan  
Worshipful Master**

As summer is drawing to a close, I hope that all of you remembered to liberally apply sunscreen on summer outings with family, friends & brothers. At Olive Branch Lodge, while the sounds of the gavels were brought low during these summer months I am proud to report that your Lodge Officers and Committee representatives have been laboring hard.

As a reminder, please remember that fall time signifies back to school. Be wary of changing traffic patterns and school buses. Be sure to observe all traffic signs and protect our children and grand children.

### Switch 'em Months

As the leaves begin their change from green to vibrant gold's & reds, you'll also notice a change upon entering Olive Branch Lodge. I am pleased to continue the tradition of having the Officers move up a chair in the Lodge, to demonstrate their knowledge and aptitude in the seats

they may hold pending a favorable November election.

Of course, this does not mean that I am free to sit the sidelines during this time! I am certain that both our Senior Warden (Br. Dave Thomas) and Junior Warden (Br. Marv Anderson) will find a suitable place for me to assist with the degree conferrals. In addition, I look forward to working with all the officers during our practice times as they perfect their ritual and uphold the standard of excellence that Olive Branch Lodge ever strives for.

### Bylaw Update

The bylaw changes that were proposed in May, discussed at a town-hall in June, and voted on at the June Regular Communication have been passed and approved by our Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother William E. Leveque. What do these changes mean? First, we have implemented a slight dues increase. This dues increase, which is the first for our Lodge since 2008, is seen as an interim measure to bring dues in alignment with inflation over that same period. As we work towards implementing the many measures identified by the sustainability committee we hope to have a clearer picture over time as to what a more representative and responsible membership dues for Olive Branch should be.

Secondly, we have increased the candidate fees for each degree conferral. This is effective with any new petitions received by the Lodge and read starting at our September Regular Communication.

The newly added "Article XII" pertains to the proposal, acceptance, and amendment of Lodge budgets.

## Trestle Board

### September 2014

**Sep 4th @ 7:00pm**  
Temple Board Meeting

**Sep 5th @ 7:30pm**  
Regular Communication

**Sep 12th NO MEETING**  
Valley of Detroit Event

**Sep 14th @ 1:00pm**  
Spaghetti Sunday

**Sep 19th @ 6:30pm**  
Social Event - Steak Dinner

**Sep 26th @ 6:30pm**  
Entered Apprentice Degree

### October 2014

**Oct 2nd @ 7:00pm**  
Temple Board Meeting

**Oct 3rd @ 7:30pm**  
Regular Communication

**Oct 10th @ 6:30pm**  
Masters Table

**Oct 12th @ 1:00pm**  
Spaghetti Sunday

**Oct 17th @ 6:30pm**  
Fellow Craft Degree

**Oct 24th @ TBA**  
Plymouth Whalers Game

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

Our bylaws now require that each incoming Master must have a budget with which to operate the Lodge.

In addition, the Treasurer 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 operation 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 to aid in the budget process. Additionally, the 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.

Copies of the new bylaws are available by request at the Secretaries Office.

### **Calendar Adjustment**

During the summer months, time was taken to meet with the senior Officers to discuss calendar planning and some of the changes that have been implemented over the year. While not perfect, we believe that these changes are necessary to adapt Masonry in the 21st century. As such, we are working towards adjusting the schedule a bit further. During the upcoming Sept – Oct – Nov timeframe, we will be holding one special communication a month. We have two candidates lined up who will be initiated Entered Apprentices on September 26, pass to the Degree of Fellowcraft on October 17th, and be raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason on November 21st. This transition is needed to better align the degree work with our candidates. Regular Communications are governed by our bylaws and will remain on the 1st

Friday. Social Events will also be continuing (check the Junior Warden's article for more information!)

### **Mystery Trip Canceled**

The Mystery Trip scheduled Oct 11-12 has officially been cancelled due to a lack of interest by the Brethren. We were unable to fill all the seats on the bus despite inquiries both internal and external to Olive Branch Lodge. On behalf of the Officers of Olive Branch Lodge, I would like to thank WB Don Buxton and his Lady Hope for all their efforts in coordinating, planning and reserving the various destinations and events for the trip.

### **Call to Service**

On November 7th, we will be holding our annual elections for the Officer Line, as well as some of the seats for our Masonic Temple Association.

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 (usually proceeding the Regular Communication).

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

### **Reminder – Life Membership Requests**

On behalf of the Membership Committee, I'd like to remind each Brother that you must request in writing a request to receive a Life Membership. This request is reviewed by the Membership Committee

You may contact the Lodge to ascertain your standing if you believe you are close to the date.

Remember that as of January 1, 2015 you must have fifty (50) years in good standing to be eligible for such requests.

## **Pay the Craft Their Wages**

**By Dave Thomas, Senior Warden**

### **Entered Apprentice Degree Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014.**

A Special Thank you to all the Brothers that attended the ENTERED APPRENTICE Degree and helped with the degree conferral for the candidate, he was impressed with the ritual of this degree. Olive Branch Lodge had the Honor of the company of Brothers from West Gate, Myrtle Lodge, Union S.O. The dinner enjoyed by all after the conferral of this degree was expertly provided by Chelsea Butera (meat & veggie lasagna, salad, pie). Clean-up after dinner was staffed by Chelsea Butera, Br. Tom Radford, Tracey Cosgrove, Marv Anderson, Chris Morgan, thank you all for your tireless efforts supporting the Lodge.

### **Child ID Program on May 31<sup>st</sup>**

Members of Olive Branch Lodge convened this day to staff the Masonic Child ID program. Thank you to WB Paul Johnson (Regional Coordinator), Br. Basheer, Br. Tyrone O'Neal, Worshipful Dad Lazar, WB Don Buxton and his grandson, Br. Marv Anderson, Br. John Paepke, Br. Tom Radford and his lady Lydia, Br. Chris Morgan and his lady Chelsea Butera. Through the efforts of those who gave of their time this day, 33 Child ID packets were disseminated. Thanks to all who volunteered and thank you WB Paul for your continued leadership of this important program.

### **Olive Brancher Assembly on June 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>**

Thanks to the members and their loved ones who assembled the Olive Brancher for the Month of June. WB Paul Johnson, Br. Marv Anderson and his lady Tracy, Br. Wade Tabor, WB Sam Fite, WB Jeff Goldberg, Miss Chelsea Butera, WB Gilbert H. Strachan

### **Fellowcraft Degree June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014.**

A Special Thank you to all the Brothers that attended the Fellowcraft Degree and helped with the degree conferral for our candidate, and again, he was impressed with the ritual of this degree. Thanks go to Illustrious WB Don Buxton for all of your help, not only in this degree, but in all of the degrees by always cheerfully helping out. Thank you Brother Tyrone O'Neil for always being at the ready to assist, and for your help this evening. Thanks to WB Wayne Mueller performing perfectly as Secretary in the second section. Thanks go to WB Paul Johnson as the Director of the Fellow Craft Team for his continued efforts keeping the team together and to the brothers who took on multiple roles in the second section.

### **Awards Night – Friday June 20, 2014 @ 6:30 PM.**

On Friday June 20, 2014 Olive Branch Lodge #542 hosted its' Awards Night celebration and dinner.

Congratulations go out to Brother Henry Yakima for 70 years of service to the Craft.

Congratulations Illustrious Worshipful Brother Gilbert H. Strachan for your 60 Years of Service to Masonry. Your knowledge and council to the members of Olive Branch Lodge has always been a constant source of strength to all who know you. Congratulations to the Mundell/Owen Olive Branch Lodge Scholarship

recipient for 2014, Megan Elizabeth Bolger, good luck with your studies in Veterinary Medicine at Michigan State University.

### **Congratulations, and Thank you for your years of service to the Craft go to the following milestone recipients:**

#### **60 Year. Pin:**

Br. John Cole, Br. Robert Crawford, Br. Joseph Dobransky, Br. David Johnson, Br. Richard Kienman, Br. Zaven Mavian, Br. Frank Miklossy, Br. Arthur Prialux, Br. Marvin Schnieder, Br. Gil Strachan, Br. George Whitton

#### **50 Year. Pin:**

Br. Joseph Adler, Br. John Bogatay, Br. Robert Cook, Br. Henry Cox, Br. Charles Dotson, Br. Richard Green, Br. Richard Masi, Br. Cliff Spiker, Br. Richard Waddell

#### **Life Membership [ 40 yrs. ]**

Br. Thomas Sherman, Br. Timothy Adams, Br. Jim Bowling, Br. Clayton Herrst, Br. Anthony Munie

Br. Robert Rillston, Jr., Br. James R. Taylor, Br. Kenneth Tyner, Br. Gerald Sykes

#### **25 year. Pin:**

Br. Vince D'Aguanno (27 years), WB. Sam Fite, Br. William Miller, Br. Frank Muth

### **Special recognition for their contributions to the Lodge go out to:**

WM Christopher S. Morgan for being recognized as the **2014 Lodge Mason of the Year Award** recipient.

Brother Tyrone O'Neal for being recognized as the **2014 Ritualist of the Year Award** recipient.

Worshipful Brother Paul Johnson for being recognized as the **2014 Blue Lodge Award** recipient.

### **Master Mason Degree June 27, 2014**

A Special Thank you to all the Brothers that attended the Master Mason Degree and helped with the degree conferral for Brother Joseph Irving Phillipson. Brother Joseph was impressed with the ritual of this degree. Thanks go to Illustrious WB Don Buxton and to MWB Dean Barr for all of your help, not only in this degree, but in all of the degrees by always cheerfully helping out. Thank you Brother Tyrone O'Neil for always being at the ready to assist, and to the brothers who took on multiple roles in the second section.

### **Fifth spaghetti fundraiser held Sunday June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014.**

Congratulations and a hearty Thank you go out to Lady Chelsea, who was Chef in Charge of the Sauce, and it was terrific. Thank you Worshipful Master Chris Morgan and his Lady Chelsea Butera, for making this ongoing fundraiser a success. Thanks to all of the Brothers and Visitors who attended and made monetary contributions for dinner.

### **Harley Corbin Golf Outing held Saturday July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014.**

Olive Branch was again a Gold Level Sponsor Of the Harley Corbin Charitable Golf Outing whose proceeds go to the "Children's Dyslexia Center of Southeast Michigan". Members of Olive Branch Lodge convened this day to traverse the Links in the Harley Corbin Charitable Golf Outing. Among the Brothers who attended were MWB. Dean A. Barr, WB. Harley Corbin, Br. John Corbin, Br. John Corbin Jr., WB. Bob Sale, WB. DonBuxton and Lady Hope, Br. Donald H. Buxton, WB. Doug Simpson, WB Paul J. Johnson and his Son Kyle, Worshipful Master Chris Morgan, Br. Marv P. Anderson,

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Br. Cliff Spiker, and WB. John Barclay

All who participated in this most worthy event had a wonderful time.

### **Sixth spaghetti fundraiser held Sunday July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014.**

Congratulations and a hearty Thank you go out to The Worshipful Master Chris Morgan and his Lady Chelsea Butera, and WB Doug Simpson, who were Co-Chef's in Charge of the meal preparations and again, the Sauce was terrific. Thank you 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. As a special treat Boston Coolers were prepared and enjoyed by all.

### **Family Picnic August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014**

Members of Olive Branch Lodge and the Grotto convened this day to staff and prepare good food, also to enjoy camaraderie, and the great weather, at the combined Family Picnic held again this year at Taylor Jaycee Park.

Thank you, WB Doug Simpson and Darlene, and Worshipful Master Chris Morgan and his Lady Chelsea Butera for making this yearly event a success. Thank you for packing the supplies at Lodge goes out to WB Paul Johnson, Brother Hussein Amine, Brother Wade Tabor, WB Doug and Darlene. Special thanks goes to Brother Wade Tabor, WB Jeff Goldberg, WM Chris Morgan and WB Doug Simpson for all their efforts standing guard at the grills cooking all the food everyone enjoyed. Personal Contributions by the Worshipful Master for various salads and refreshments were appreciated as well as the personal contribution by WB. Paul Johnson of inflatable storage devices which are filled with ice to keep foods requiring a chilled

environment. The SW Dave Thomas contributed the ice and cupcakes.

### **Child ID Program on Tuesday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at Van Houten Park**

Members of Olive Branch Lodge convened this day to staff the Masonic Child ID program. Thank you to WB Paul Johnson, WB. Don Buxton, WB. Doug and Darlene Simpson and Mr. Chris Simpson, WB. Jeff Goldberg, Br. Wade Tabor, Br. John Papke, Br. Tom Cherup, and Lady Chelsea Butera. Through the efforts of those who gave of their time this day, 18 Child ID packets were disseminated. Thanks to all who volunteered and Thank you WB Paul for your continued leadership of this important program.

### **Detroit Masonic Temple Tour Saturday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014.**

A special thanks to the **Valley of Detroit**, for arranging the docents for the Detroit Masonic Temple Tour. Over 200 Masons, their families and friends attended a very educational and inspirational tour which gave further insight in the world's largest Masonic temple!

### **Seventh spaghetti fundraiser held Sunday August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014.**

Congratulations and a hearty Thank you go out to The Worshipful Master Chris Morgan and his Lady Chelsea Butera, who were Co-Chef's in Charge of the meal preparations, and again, the Sauce was terrific. Thank you 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. As a special treat again, Boston Coolers were prepared and enjoyed by all.

### **Masonic Memorial Service for**

### **Brother Frank Miklossy Tuesday August 12<sup>th</sup>.**

"Many thanks to Br. Tyrone, WB Don Buxton, WM Chris Morgan, and the Brothers of St. Andrews Lodge #642, in Windsor Ontario. A Masonic Memorial Service was performed for the close family and friends of Br. Frank Miklossy, who passed to the Celestial Lodge above on January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014."

### **Senior Warden's Plea to the Brothers:**

A request for help from the membership to staff and assist the lodge fundraising spaghetti dinners continues at this time. 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.

## **Grand Lodge Report**

**by Dean A. Barr, PGM**

Olive Branch Lodge was well represented at the Grand Lodge annual Communication that was held on May 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> at the Amway Grand Plaza in Grand Rapids, but in case you haven't heard all the results, here is my report on the proceedings.

### **Legislation:**

For brevity sake, I will only comment on the amendments that passed.

**Amendment #5** – when balloting on the continued worthiness of a candidate, you no longer need to change degrees to a higher degree,

but the candidate cannot be in the lodge room during the vote.

**Amendment #6** – transferring membership is no longer restricted in the month of December (it can now be done anytime).

**Amendment #7** – This amendment gives the Grand Master authority to grant a dispensation to a Lodge to move its regular communication in cases where there is a “declared weather emergencies such as snow, ice, rain or flooding”. This would also allow lodges to add a “by-law” change to set an alternate day for their regular communication in case of the same weather emergency. If a “by-law” change were done, the lodge would not need to ask for a special dispensation.

That is all the legislation that was approved.

#### **Elections:**

All of the current members of the moving Grand Lodge line of officers were advanced one place with William E. LeVeque being elected and installed as the Most Worshipful Grand Masters of Masons in Michigan. Most Worshipful Brother William E. LeVeque is from Grand Island Lodge # 422 in Munising, ah. The Grand Treasurer, Grand Lecturer, Grand Chaplain and Grand Tiler were all re-elected to their current offices. We did have a surprise when long time Grand Secretary Robert W. Stevens stepped down. We are very fortunate to have PGM Robert P. Conley take over as our new Grand Secretary. I know he will continue the outstanding tradition of his predecessors.

The new Grand Marshal is Robert E. Cooper from Sparta Lodge # 334 (North of the Grand Rapids area). Worshipful Brother Bob is an outstanding Mason and is a terrific addition to our Grand Lodge.

#### **Awards:**

Mason of the Year – WB Michael Ronald Hill of Marquette Lodge # 101.

Secretary of the Year – WB Lenzy Ray Lewis of Mt. Morris Lodge # 535.

The Grand Masters Distinguished Service Award went to James A. Miller & C. William Meyer of Lincoln Park Ionic Lodge # 539.

Lodge of the Year has four categories (based on the size of the Lodge):

Category 1 – Byron Lodge # 80.

Category 2 – Wabon Lodge # 305.

Category 3 – Port Huron Lodge # 58.

Category 4 – Wayne Lodge # 112.

## **From Labor to Refreshment**

**By Marv Anderson, Junior Warden**

Welcome back! I hope you had a wonderful summer and got to partake in some outings with your Olive Branch Brothers. We had our annual picnic, toured the Detroit Masonic Temple, and several Brothers visited Washington, D.C.

Now, we come back to labor, but this is the OBL so you know we have a lot of fellowship opportunities coming up.

We will not meet for Lodge on September 12th. Instead Brothers are encouraged to attend the Valley of Detroit Appreciation Night at Dave and Busters in Livonia. Go to [www.32nddegreemasons.org](http://www.32nddegreemasons.org) for more information.

September's social event, to be held on the 19th, will be the Olive Branch annual steak dinner. Reservations are required and must be in by September 12th. The cost will be \$15 per person. Contact our Junior Deacon, Tom Radfod, Jr., or call the Lodge to make your reservations.

Worshipful Master Chris Morgan will host a Masters Table on October 10th. Brothers are invited to dinner at a local Pub or restaurant to break bread and discuss Masonic topics.

Specific details of location and time will be announced soon.

As the Worshipful Master addressed in his article, the Mystery Trip has been cancelled due to lack of interest. Instead of the trip, we are going stay closer to home in October and see a Plymouth Whalers game on October 24th. We have rented a suite for the game. Tickets are \$20 per person for some of the best seats in the house. You can't beat it. Contact me or WB Doug Simpson to reserve your tickets.

On November 14th, Olive Branch will host either a Festive Board or Table Lodge. The details are being worked out, but save the date for what is sure to be a great event. The price will be \$20 person.

You don't need to wait for a special event to join your Brothers for fellowship. Come out to Lodge on a Friday night and see what we've been up to. We'd love to see you!

### **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:  
[olivebranch542@sbcglobal.net](mailto:olivebranch542@sbcglobal.net)

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# Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser



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

**Next Dinner is on September 14th!**

**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](mailto: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.

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# 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 the trip include?

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

What will cost extra?

You will buy 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

**Olive Branch Lodge # 542**  
1170 Mason Street  
Dearborn, MI 48124-2801  
Phone: 313-565-2538  
Email: [olivebranch542@sbcglobal.net](mailto:olivebranch542@sbcglobal.net)  
[www.olivebranchlodge542.com](http://www.olivebranchlodge542.com)

## OLIVE BRANCH TEMPLE ASSOCIATION

**President**  
Lance Eicher, PM

**Vice-President**  
Douglas Simpson, PM

**Secretary-Treasurer**  
Donald Buxton, PM

**Hall Manager**  
Larry Patch

**Editors and Publishers**  
Gilbert H. Strachan, PM  
Doug Simpson, PM  
Marvin Anderson

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# THE OLIVE BRANCHER

September  
2014

The Olive Brancher

C/O Olive Branch Lodge #542

1170 Mason St.

Dearborn, MI 48124-2801

Olive Branch Lodge #542