



Olive Branch Lodge No. 114
Ancient, Free & Accepted Masons
Leesburg, Virginia



www.OliveBranch114.org

To Those Wishing to Join Olive Branch Lodge No. 114

Dear Sir:

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Freemason!

Freemasonry a system of morality, veiled in allegory, and illustrated with symbols. Freemasonry is not a religion, nor is it a substitute for religion. Freemasonry requires of its members a belief in a Supreme Being as part of the obligation of every responsible adult, but advocates no sectarian faith or practice. At the core of Freemasonry is a system of symbolic instruction contained within ancient rituals known as degrees. Olive Branch Lodge No.114 is a Blue Lodge (also called a Craft Lodge or Ancient Craft Lodge), which works the first three degrees of Freemasonry. The term "Blue Lodge" refers to the traditional color of regalia in Lodges derived from English or Irish Freemasonry. Olive Branch Lodge No. 114 operates under the jurisdiction of The Grand Lodge of Virginia.

Freemasonry is a global fraternity. Freemasonry, or *The Craft*, has existed from time immemorial and includes in its members men from all backgrounds and vocations:

The Founding fathers: George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Marquis de Lafayette, Robert R. Livingstone, John Hancock, and Aaron Burr.

U.S. presidents: George Washington, James Monroe, Andrew Jackson, James Polk, James Buchanan, Andrew Johnson, James Garfield, William McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, Warren G. Harding, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman, and Gerald R. Ford.

Explorers and adventurers: Davey Crockett, Jim Bowie, Sam Houston, Christopher "Kit" Carson, Lewis and Clark, Charles Lindbergh, and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin.

Actors and entertainers: The Ringling Brothers, jazz great William "Count" Basie, Mel Blanc, Harry Houdini, Richard Pryor, and John Wayne.

Businessmen: Henry Ford, Walter P. Chrysler, Nathan Meyer Rothschild and John Jacob Astor, Charles Hilton, Colonel Harland Sanders, and Steve Wozniak (co-founder of Apple Computer).

U.S. Civil Rights leaders: United States include Booker T. Washington, W.E.B. DuBois, Thurgood Marshall, and Medger Evers.

Freemasonry's goal is to make good men better. Freemasonry does not focus solely on external qualifications. We are an ancient and honorable order, a spiritual and philosophical Brotherhood in which each member advances in self-control, self-knowledge, and self-mastery as a means of greater insight into the world around him. If you become a Freemason, you will be in the company of men of the noblest character participating in impressive rituals, seeking self-improvement and ever assisting each other to advance towards enlightenment.

To be one, ask one. Freemasons do not actively recruit members; you will not find us passing out applications at any event. The requirements to begin your journey in Freemasonry in Virginia are that you be a man over the age of 18, of good character, who believes in a Supreme Being and the immortality of the soul. You must have resided in Virginia for at least a year before petitioning, and you must submit your petition of your own free will and accord. While the process may appear tedious or even mysterious, becoming a Freemason begins with your genuine request to join the Fraternity. To be considered for membership, you must submit the Petition attached to this letter.

Please feel free to contact our Lodge Secretary, or me if you have any further questions about Freemasonry.

Sincerely,

Worshipful Master

Reuben Martinez, Master 2015

E-mail: WM@OliveBranch114.org

Lodge Secretary

Kirk Johnson

E-mail: SEC@OliveBranch114.org



The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge

OF ANCIENT, FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF
THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

ALAN W. ADKINS, P.G.M.
Grand Secretary
4115 NINE MILE ROAD
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23223-4926

Dear Interested Individual:

Shown on the next two pages is our “Petition for the Degrees,” which is to be completed in its entirety by a man interested in membership, who is at least eighteen (18) years of age, a resident of Virginia for the past twelve months, and who has had two Masons in good standing sign his petition. Along with the two-page petition is a “Disclosure and Authorization For Consumer Reports” form that gives the Grand Lodge of Virginia the right to perform a background check on you.

Upon their completion, the petition and authorization form will need to be submitted to a local Lodge, along with the Lodge’s required fees for a petition and background check. When printing out the petition, please print it on two sides, if at all possible. Please note that documents with sensitive personally identifiable information such as Social Security numbers and birth date must be stored securely, electronic versions shall be password protected, and must be encrypted when electronically (e-mailed) transmitted.

The usual process that follows is that your petition for degrees will be presented to the Lodge at its next meeting. The background check will be done and the final report is sent to you. A committee composed of three members of the Lodge will meet with you to answer any questions that you or your family may have concerning our Fraternity. The committee in turn will present their report to the Lodge, after which the Lodge will act upon your request.

If you have any further questions regarding this process, please contact the Grand Lodge office at 804-222-3110 or send an e-mail directly to me at grandsecretary@grandlodgeofvirginia.org.

Sincerely,

Alan W. Adkins
Grand Secretary

PETITION FOR THE DEGREES IN FREEMASONRY

To the Worshipful Master, Wardens and members of

Lodge No. A.F. & A.M., Va.

Please print or type. Use reverse side, if needed, to fully answer questions.

1. (a) Name in full (b) Preferred Name (not a nickname)

2. Residence

3. (a) Social Security No. (b) E-mail (c) Telephone No. (Home) (Work) (Cell)

4. Have you ever petitioned this or any other Masonic Lodge? If so, state name of Lodge, location, date and result of every petition: (Use back of Petition for additional space.)

5. (a) Where born? (b) Date of Birth

6. (a) Name of Father (b) Mother's Full Maiden Name

7. What is your occupation?

8. List names and addresses of your employers, beginning with your current employment, for the past ten years. (Use back of Petition for additional space.)

Table with 5 columns: Name of Employer, Address, City, State, Zip, Your Occupation, Length of Employment

9. Where have you resided for the past ten years? (Use back of Petition for additional space.)

Table with 3 columns: Address, Year From, Year To

10. (a) Single, Married, Widower, or Divorced? (circle one) (b) Wife's Maiden Name

Table with 4 columns: Name, Age, Relationship, Last

11. Describe your physical defects and deformities, if any:

12. Have you ever been charged in a court of law with a criminal offense? YES NO (circle one) Explain circumstances on reverse.

13. (a) Have you answered all the questions above? (b) Upon your honor, are the statements and answers true?

Having resided during the past twelve months within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M., of Virginia, I hereby state that I believe and trust in God as the Supreme Architect and Governor of the Universe and that having been born as a male, as a child of God, and continued as a man, I am unbiased by friends and uninfluenced by mercenary motives. I hereby freely and voluntarily offer myself as a candidate for the degrees of Masonry, being prompted to solicit this privilege by a favorable opinion conceived of the Institution, a desire for knowledge and a sincere wish of being of service to my fellow creatures. Should this petition be granted, I will cheerfully conform to all the established usages and customs of the Fraternity and abide by its laws, rules and regulations. I have read and acknowledge the information for the applicant noted at the top of the reverse side of this petition. Also, I certify all information contained on this application to be accurate as of the date of my signature and acknowledge that any inaccuracies may void this application.

Date

The fee of \$ accompanies this petition.

As the exact nature of the Institution of Freemasonry is unknown to you, it is deemed advisable that before signing the attached petition you should be informed on certain phases of that Institution which may affect your decision to apply for membership therein.

Freemasonry has in all ages required that men should come to its door entirely of their own free will; not as the result of importunity nor from feelings of curiosity; but from a favorable opinion of the Institution, a desire for knowledge, and a sincere wish to be serviceable to their fellow creatures.

Masonry is a system of morality based on the belief in the existence of God, the immortality of the soul, and the brotherhood of men; therefore no atheist can be made a Mason. It strives to teach a man the duty he owes to God, to his country, to his family, to his neighbor, and to himself. It inculcates the practice of every virtue and makes an extensive use of symbolism in its teachings. It interferes with neither religion nor politics, but strives only after light and truth, endeavoring always to bring out the highest and noblest qualities of men.

The Masonic Fraternity is in no sense an insurance society; neither does it pay benefits in case of sickness or death. In a correct and broad sense, it is both educational and charitable. It extends such assistance only as it is willing and able to grant. It knowingly admits none to membership except those who are able to provide for themselves and those dependent upon them.

FOR LODGE USE ONLY

PETITION FOR DEGREES of _____
Name in full

Dates of Lodge actions:

Received at stated meeting of Lodge held on _____ / _____ / _____
Month Day Year

Rejected _____ / _____ / _____
Month Day Year

Elected _____ / _____ / _____
Month Day Year

Initiated _____ / _____ / _____
Month Day Year

Passed _____ / _____ / _____
Month Day Year

Raised _____ / _____ / _____
Month Day Year

Fees:

E.A. _____ F.C. _____ M.M. _____ Annual Dues: _____ Member No. _____ - _____

NOTE—This petition must be filed and preserved in the archives of the Lodge for reference.

(Show Question Number)

Additional Space For Information

RECOMMENDERS (VOUCHERS) PLEASE FILL IN BELOW

We hereby certify that the petitioner has resided for the one year last past or has Masonic residence in the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, that we are well acquainted with the petitioner, that we have read the answers to the questions contained in the petition and believe them to be true and that each of us believes the petitioner to be morally and physically qualified, of good character, and under the tongue of good repute. We cheerfully recommend him as a proper candidate for the degrees of Masonry.

NAME (please print) _____ (signature) _____

Present address _____
NUMBER STREET CITY STATE ZIP

Telephone No. (Home) _____ - _____ - _____ (Work) _____ - _____ - _____ E-mail _____

NAME OF LODGE _____ NUMBER _____ LOCATION _____

NAME (please print) _____ (signature) _____

Present address _____
NUMBER STREET CITY STATE ZIP

Telephone No. (Home) _____ - _____ - _____ (Work) _____ - _____ - _____ E-mail _____

NAME OF LODGE _____ NUMBER _____ LOCATION _____

**DISCLOSURE AND AUTHORIZATION
FOR CONSUMER REPORTS**

In connection with my petition with the Grand Lodge of Virginia and _____ Lodge No. _____ (collectively referred to herein as “The Lodge”), I understand a consumer report will be requested by The Lodge. I understand that such reports may contain public record information such as: criminal records from federal, state, and other local agencies that maintain such records.

Authorization

I hereby authorize procurement of consumer report(s) and investigative consumer report(s) by the Lodge. I authorize without reservation, any person, business or agency contacted by the consumer reporting agency to furnish the above-mentioned information.

This authorization is conditioned upon the following representations of my rights:

I understand that I have the right to make a request to the consumer reporting agency: OneSource (“Agency”), 12 N. Braddock St., Winchester, VA 22601, 888-285-3545, upon proper identification, to obtain copies of any reports furnished to The Lodge by the Agency and to request the nature and substance of **all information** in its files on me at the time of my request, including the sources of information, and the Agency, on The Lodge’s behalf, will provide a complete and accurate disclosure of the nature and scope of the investigation covered by any investigative consumer report(s). The Agency will also disclose the recipients of any such reports on me which the Agency has previously furnished within the two year period for employment requests, and one year for other purposes preceding my request. I hereby consent to The Lodge obtaining the above information from the Agency. I understand that I can dispute, at any time, any information that is inaccurate in any type of report with the Agency. I may view the Agency’s privacy policy at their website: www.OneSourceScreening.com.

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

For identification purposes:

Social Security No.: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Current Address: _____

NOTE: Documents with sensitive personally identifiable information such as Social Security numbers and birth date must be stored securely, electronic versions shall be password protected, and must be encrypted when electronically (e-mailed) transmitted.