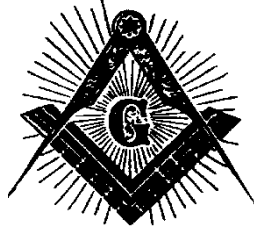


March 28, 2020



**Columbia Lodge No. 25 A.F. & A.M.**

Columbia Chartered May 18, 1793

Daskam Chartered May 11, 1859

Orient Chartered September 18, 1822

Consolidated April 6, 2006

Brothers,

This is the time when we would normally be publishing our Trestleboard for the second quarter of the year. However, with lodge activities suspended, there are no firm dates for our events, so a letter seems more appropriate.

The lodge is still here, and is ready to try to provide any assistance you may need. Please do not hesitate to call on us.

Most importantly, please be safe, and keep those around you safe. Follow the guidelines recommended by your state and local authorities. Stay home as much as possible, consider ordering groceries through a service such as Instacart, avoid social gatherings, disinfect surfaces frequently, avoid touching your face, and wash your hands regularly. We need to be patient. We will get through this.

Walt Grube, Secretary

TEL: 860-633-9060

**Master's Message**

As I write this message, things are looking pretty dismal. The Lodge is dark. It doesn't look great for opening in the near future. Nature has surprised us with hard times, leaving us in physical isolation.

In Connecticut, the Governor has banned social gatherings of more than five people. Currently, all Masonic and Lodge activities are suspended. The planned Derby Night on May 2<sup>nd</sup> has been postponed as the Kentucky Debry was rescheduled to September 5<sup>th</sup>. Whether we can still have Awards Night on May 6 is also undetermined. You will be notified when suspended meetings and activities resume.

I am sure that we will come out of this isolation with a renewed desire to attend Lodge, meet with the craft on the level and even shake hands (perhaps at first only in the rituals).

When the Lodge can once more open its doors to our brothers, we will have our Fellowcraft Degree with Brother Juan Diaz in the East. The last time we opened, on March 4, SW Diaz was given his first opportunity to sit in the East and open and close the Lodge on the Fellowcraft Degree. Hopefully, we will be able to hold both the Fellowcraft Degree and a Master Mason Degree before the summer break.

Tony Keegan, Worshipful Master

**Almoner Fund:**

A number of years ago, the Grand Lodge established the office of Grand Almoner, and asked the blue lodges to appoint their own lodge almoners. The purpose of the almoners is to provide relief for brothers in need.

RWB Tony Keegan is Columbia Lodge's almoner. Tony puts a box outside the lodge room door before every meeting, where brothers may deposit donations for the Almoner Fund. Over the years, Tony has been able to make small but significant distributions of funds to brothers in need.

Now that we are not meeting, there will be no income to the Almoner Fund. Also, we are already beginning to see an uptick in need during these difficult times.

Please consider making a contribution to the Almoner Fund. Checks should be made out to Columbia Lodge #25 with "Almoner" written in the memo portion of the check. Mail checks to:

Walter Grube  
149 Overlook Road  
Glastonbury, CT 06033

Thank you,  
Walt Grube, Secretary