

Nov - Dec 2023

Electronic Trestleboard

Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145, A. F. & A. M.



Stated Communications

First and Third Thursday - 7:30 P.M.
24 Golway Street - Manchester, CT 06042
<https://lodge145.ctfreemasons.net/>

John DiCioccio, Jr.
Worshipful Master

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Have you paid your 2023 dues?

Have you moved or changed your email address? If yes, please contact our secretary, Eric Hoy, with the change(s). If you need to speak with Eric, please call 860-202-1154.

Rent Our Lodge Hall:

If any lodge brother needs information about hosting a family event at *Friendship Hall* please contact the rental manager at: ftl145rentals@gmail.com.

We need new members! Please speak to your friends, co-workers, sons, nephews, brothers and uncles about our fraternity. If you uncover any interest in learning more, please call me at 860-368-8719. I will be glad to assist with next steps. TY,
WM John



Message from the East

From the Worshipful Master's Desk

By John DiCioccio, Jr.



Brethren All,

It is my distinct pleasure to welcome most of you to our all-new electronic Trestleboard (TB). After 58 years of the printed and snail-mailed TB, it is time to move to the future. We have laid off the mail machine and stopped paying high permit and postage fees to USPS. Add to that, after thirty years of hard work behind the scenes Dwight & Claudette Mertens will be able to move on to other projects in their retirement years. We all thank you, Dwight & Claudette, for all your efforts on our behalf over so many years. So now most of you will look to your phones or computers for the TB and a few brothers will receive a redesigned printed version if they have no access to a computer. Any feedback will be accepted by our TB Editor WB Stephen Spencer.

This is also my last TB message as your Master. We have enjoyed a good year this year both for the Lodge and also the LLC Board. Early in the year we hosted Invite-A-Friend Nights which were very successful and brought in several new members. Later with the Project Blue Wave, sponsored by the Grand Lodge, we have seen more activity with new members than we have not seen in 40 years. Many men are showing some interest and about 30% are acting. This fall alone we have 10 candidates in the pipeline, which is very good for our Lodge and its future. We need many more to join and get involved and run this Lodge. We have relied too heavily on Past Masters like me to fill in the voids over many of the last few years.

I call on all brothers who live in this area to come to Lodge and ask our soon to be Worshipful Master (WM), hopefully, SW Joe Grieco, what you can do to help your lodge. Yes, we need officers of course but you may be better at preparing supper before a meeting, coaching a new brother on his lecture, Chair and run a fund-raising event or maybe work a kiosk at UCONN football games. Or you could serve on an investigating committee...and here's the big one right now...you could be a Prospect Manager and interview Grand Lodge inquiries, and decide if you are willing to be their first line signer on a petition for membership in FTL.

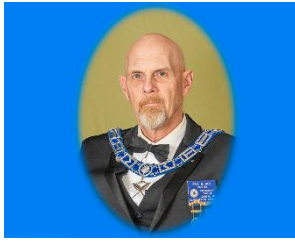
Let's do more here...we need an Inside Manager to keep our building clean and organized and properly supplied. We also need an Outside Manager to pick up sticks and trash on our property, sweep the sidewalks and move the railroad ties out of the way for the guy who plows the snow for us. And our two back staircases need to be sanded and repainted...yes there's lots to do when you own a building. Don't be shy...jump in and help...it will feel good to be involved supporting your Lodge and your brethren.

Before I sail off into the sunset, I must thank all the brothers who have worked hard in so many ways to support me this year. Let's start with the officers...then the pro-temp officers who stepped in to help when a Brother had to drop out. The Past Masters of FTL are everywhere and are always willing to step in when needed. Many thanks to Grand Organist Gary Graham for getting us an organ and for coming many times to play it for us. To everyone who travelled to Lake George, New York for the fabulous Lodge Trip...without your support nothing would have happened. General Contractor and PM Scott Reid...thank you for all your work with the new front stairs and railings, and redesigning the Lodge Kitchen. And thanks to all the brothers who worked in July heat to move dirt and stone getting ready for the new stairs! Thanks to the Mertens for a new refrigerator and a new gas range...*Wow, are you kidding!* Don't forget the many brothers who sent in impressive financial donations to support our projects...your kind and generous support is much needed and appreciated! Thanks to our Lodge photographer, Don Janelle, for his great work year after year... My love and thanks to my wife Ann along with Shirley Zeidler and Claudette Mertens for the Lodge dinners they have prepared for us this year. Thanks so much to Steve and Barb Spencer for hosting picnics at their homes in Saratoga, New York and at their home in Broad Brook for a Past Master event. So, I say this to everyone...If you have stepped in this year to help keep FTL alive and thriving, I thank you from the bottom of my heart. You know it takes a village...

WM John DiCioccio

From the Secretary's Desk

By Eric Hoy, Jr.



I'm not going to Lodge this week. I'm helping my daughter move from Colorado back here to Connecticut. Maybe "help" is too strong a word, more like being her co-pilot on a long drive. I also missed the last meeting – was down sick with "that-which-will-not-be-named". Fully recovered now – thank you.

As an aside, it occurs to me that I don't think I have ever missed two consecutive meetings since becoming a Mason, and certainly not since becoming an officer. So – *What did/will I miss?* Well – last time we initiated (3) new Masons, and welcomed into our excellent fraternity Brothers Luis Echevarria, Ismael Robles and Steve Silburn. This week, we're hoping to make (2) more.

That's a lot to miss – not only the beautiful pageantry of a degree, but the opportunity to be among the first to get to know these men who (I hope) will become a part of our family for a long time. And, I missed seeing those Brothers who I always see. It is a biweekly family reunion that is always refreshing and fun. I won't be missing any more meetings soon (I hope!), and so I will get to see these new Brothers work their way into receiving more light, along with refreshing my own journey to becoming a better man than I am today.

If you haven't attended Lodge recently, please ask yourself "why not?". Are we, as a Lodge, not providing something you want? Do you need a ride? Are you perhaps afraid of not remembering the rituals? Have no fear, **YOU ARE WELCOME HERE.**

While on the subject of self-reflection, I would offer that some of us should be asking ourselves "What's keeping me from paying my dues?" Are they too high? Are you short of funds? Have you just forgotten? If you contact me or the Worshipful Master, we'll bend over backwards to keep any brother from being suspended for non-payment, but it's incumbent on you to reach out. Remember your oath "to answer and obey all due signs and summons".

Don't miss out! Pay your dues. Come to Lodge. Be a Brother!

Fraternally Yours,

RWB Eric Hoy
Secretary

Calendar

Nov 2	FC Degree (F) <i>Stated Communication</i>
Nov 10	Poker w the Freemasons (C) 6PM at Lodge Building
Nov 16	Business Meeting Closing of the Books <i>Stated Communication</i>
Nov 29	Blue Lodge Council 6:30PM Friendship Tuscan #145
Dec 7	Annual Meeting and Election of Officers <i>Stated Communication</i>
Dec 16	Installation of Officers 1PM Stated Communication
Dec 21	Business Meeting <i>Stated Communication</i>

All Stated & Special Meetings - Meeting 7:30 pm
Dinner served at 6:30PM unless stated otherwise
F = TUX, SF = Suit & Tie, C = Jacket /Tie

2023 Lodge Officers



Worshipful Master
John DiCioccio, Jr.



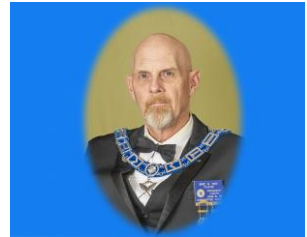
Sr. Warden
Joseph P. Grieco, Jr.



Jr. Warden
Gabriel A. Garmendia



Treasurer
Russell L. Scull, II



Secretary
Eric H. Hoy, Jr.



Sr. Deacon
Richard L. Sawyers



Jr. Deacon
James B. Young (Brad)



Sr. Steward
Peter V. Letteri



Jr. Steward
Juan M. Villalobos Ulloa



Marshal
Jared C. Garthe



Chaplain
Scott T. Reid



Tiler
Charles J. Jenkins, Jr.



Historian
Richard E. Berson

Active Past Masters

Richmond G. Shuttleworth	1975
Stephen T. Penny	1979
James H. Wilson, Jr.	1982, 2009
Russell F. Haugh, Jr., 33°	1983
Richard G. Claing, PAGM 6-A	1985
Donald W. Dean, PDD 6-A	1987
Dustin C. Wood, Jr.	1989
Carl E. Benson, II, PDD	1990, 1992
Anderson H. Zeidler, Jr., PDD 6-A	1991
Dwight C. Mertens, PDD 6-B	1993
Albert J. Reid	1993, 1996, 2000
Scott T. Reid	1995, 1998, 1999, 2010
Stanley H. Ostrinsky	1997
Stephen K. Kraft	1997
Paul A. Edberg, PDD	2000
Eugene A. Bacon	2001, 2002
John A. Pierce, Jr.	2004
Christopher D. Ramsey, PAGM 6-A	2005
Stephen K. Spencer, PAGM 6-A	2006
Jose C. Dias	2008
Andrew S. Warren	2011
Eric H. Hoy, PDD	2012
Russell L. Scull, II	2013
Madhu Renduchintala	2014
Scott D. Pierce	2015
Dennis W. Bellamy, Jr.	2016, 2017
David S. LaFargue, 33° PDD 6-A	2018
Gabriel A. Garmendia	2019
Marcos G. Garcia	2020, 2021
James B. Young (Brad)	2022
John DiCioccio, Jr., PAGM 6-B	1980, 2007, 2023