

# 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/>

**Joseph P. Grieco, Jr.**  
Worshipful Master

## Table of Contents

Message from the East ..... - 1 -  
From the Secretary's Desk ..... - 3 -  
Calendar ..... - 4 -  
2024 Lodge Officers ..... - 5 -  
Active Past Masters ..... - 6 -

### Have you paid your 2024 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](mailto: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) 716-2788. I will be glad to assist with next steps. TY, WM Joe

Are you on Facebook? So are we!! Search for Friendship Tuscan Lodge #145 and request to join us there.



## Message from the East

### From the Worshipful Master's Desk

By Joseph P. Grieco, Jr.



Brothers, first, I want to thank you for the trust you have shown by selecting me to sit as Master of Friendship Tuscan Lodge for 2024. Especially thanks to those who have sat in the East before me and saw something worthwhile.

I am setting two goals for myself for this coming year. The first comes from the Entered Apprentice Lecture, and the second is a line from the Past Master's Degree. The Entered Apprentice Lecture asks, "What come ye here to do?" We are taught to answer, "To learn to subdue my passions and improve myself in Masonry." The Past Master's Degree charges us with, "I will not open or close a Lodge without giving or causing to be given a lecture or part of a lecture." The first is simple. We all wish to make ourselves better men, and by extension better Masons. The second – one way we make ourselves better Masons by having a better understanding of Masonry.

Looking over the membership list, I realize there are a number of you whom I have never had the opportunity to meet! Many of you have moved away from the area due to retirement, new jobs, or family before I joined. I am glad that you have decided to maintain ties with us. Hopefully, we'll have the opportunity to share Fellowship at some future time.

Some cannot make it due to age and infirmity. Please let us know if you would like to come for Fellowship, meetings, etc. If you need help getting here, we will make it happen! Some cannot make it due to changes in work and/or family life. We understand that all too well. Your first obligation is to make sure you are taking care of yourself and your family. We look forward to the day that your schedules allow you to come back in and take your place among your Brothers.

Some have gotten involved in other activities, and we understand that there are many things calling on our time. Hopefully we will see you soon, too.

Some have maintained their membership, but lost interest. Please know that we are here for you if you just want someone to talk to. If there is something you need, or that interests you, let us know. No pressure. That's what Brothers are for.

Some, sad to say, have avoided coming because they believe they are not wanted, or that there is someone they do not want to see or associate with. Regarding those who feel unwanted, you aren't. There is always a place in the Lodge for you. Those who don't wish to associate with another brother, we will listen to your reasons, and maybe offer to help mediate. But we will not force any decisions on anyone.

I believe that many Brothers will become more frequent attendees if they are given a task, or if they know more about what is going on. Don't be surprised if you get a call from me asking for help with one thing or another. We all have things we can contribute to the well-being of Friendship Tuscan Lodge. Also, I hope to have our Lodge Schedule available to you in enough time to help your planning! Don't be the brother who is not involved.

As it is a new year, it is a time to look forward, but also a time to look back and see what we have done. There are a lot of great traditions associated with Friendship Tuscan Lodge, and I enjoy them tremendously. There are some things we could do better in our ritual, though, so I am going to issue a couple of challenges to the brothers.

1<sup>st</sup> Challenge – Right now, we have one Brother who does an outstanding job on the Entered Apprentice Second Section Lecture. This lecture is a recap of walking the newly Admitted Brothers through what they did in the degree serving as a reinforcement of those lessons. I would like two or more Brothers to step up and learn this lecture so he can have a break once in a while.

2<sup>nd</sup> Challenge – We do not present the EA Third Section Lecture. This beautiful lecture is actually the core of what we are supposed to teach in the degree. Again, I would like two Brothers to step up and learn this lecture so we can present it as part of our Ritual work.

3<sup>rd</sup> Challenge – When I first joined Friendship Tuscan Lodge each section of the FC Middle Chamber was covered by a different officer. The Senior Deacon presented "Operative and Speculative Masonry", and the lead in of the staircase lectures. The Marshal presented the "Three Steps". The Junior Steward presented the "Five Orders". The Senior Steward presented the "Five Senses". The Junior Deacon presented the "Seven Arts and Sciences". Then the Senior Deacon presented the challenges at the South, West and East. What I am looking for is for this coming year's officers to learn those parts, and then after we come back from going dark for the Summer, to learn the part associated with the next chair. This will prepare you for your progression through the chairs.

JAN - FEB 2024

However, I would also like one or two brothers to challenge themselves to learn the complete Middle Chamber presentation. Again, multiple Brothers being able to present it will make for an impressive degree, as well as being able to give some brothers a break.

4<sup>th</sup> Challenge – I would like two brothers to learn the Second Section Lecture of the Master Mason degree. This, like the EA Third Section Lecture, is a beautiful presentation that teaches the lessons of Master Masons. This is something we have not presented in our Lodge since I've been a member, and we are missing out on something wonderful.

Two other special requests I have. The first is if we could get some more members to learn the Builders Lodge that we present in our Master Mason degree, as well as members to learn the parts of the Hiram Legend that we also present in our Master Mason degree. The latter should have up to seventeen people in the cast, although there are only eight speaking parts.

The other is for one or two people to work with WB Russ Scull and learn the floorwork for our Rituals. This includes regular work in the Lodge as well as ceremonial work, including escorting, forming processions and leading candidates. Whoever learns these would then be charged with training the Deacons, Stewards and Marshal the proper floorwork associated with their offices.

Remember, Brothers, I may be the one sitting in the East, but YOU are Friendship Tuscan Lodge! All of you, from the Youngest Entered Apprentice in the Northeast Corner to those who wear the Purple of the Grand Lodge. All of you make up the Lodge. So, let's work together to make 2024 a Fruitful Year.

Fraternally,

WM Joseph P. Grieco

## From the Secretary's Desk

By Eric H. Hoy



Freemasonry is steeped in tradition. So much so that our ancient landmarks actually forbid innovation “in the body of Masonry” without approval of the Grand Lodge. I believe that to be a good thing – it keeps us firmly rooted in the meaning of Masonry, tied to our past Brethren, and connected to those who will keep the fraternity going in the future. Traditions shouldn’t keep us from self-reflection though: we must have the insight and thoughtfulness to gage what is working and what isn’t, and how we can “change with the times” while keeping within both the letter and the spirit of the Landmarks.

When I was young, I was aware that my dad and grandfathers were Masons. Well, more accurately, I knew they were Shriners, primarily because I saw them going out with their fezzes occasionally. They never spoke to me about the fraternity. It was only when I was in college that my dad brought the subject up, and even then it was circumspect: “If you ever want to know anything, just ask”. The tradition at the time was that we were “the quiet Fraternity”, and I always assumed that one needed to be invited to join. If I had been more curious and asked, I know that I would’ve received the right info, but I wasn’t and so went along into my 40s before friends at work set me straight.

Society has changed. Our Fraternity (well as most other civic and fraternal organizations) has shrunk to a small percentage of the numbers it had even 25 years ago. I think our fault in that was being too slow to acknowledge that and adapt.

I’m happy to report that things are changing – the Blue Wave program instituted by the Grand Lodge is basically targeted advertising on the internet, and it’s doing an amazing job of increasing awareness of who and what we are. In 2023 we’ve had around 30 inquiries for membership, and have met over a dozen (mostly younger) men and had more petitions come in than in the last several years combined. I have every hope that in 2024 we’ll be able to report an INCREASE in membership.

What can we do to help this along? First, come to Lodge and get to know these new Brothers as they start their own Masonic journeys. They’re really looking for something bigger than themselves; we can guide them. Second, get out of your own shell (wherever it came from) and don’t be afraid to broach the subject with your friends and acquaintances – a lot of them want to be asked (at least, I did). Finally, talk about the Traditions – They’re what make us what we are.

At our first meeting last month, our lodge observed the tradition of quickly reviewing the past year and electing those who will lead through the next. Congratulations to Worshipful Master John DiCioccio on a great year and our new Master-elect, Joe Grieco and his incoming officers. We are all looking forward to the new year and the challenges that come with growth!

RWB Eric Hoy  
*Secretary*

## Calendar

<b>CALENDAR</b>	
<b>Jan 4</b>	<b>Business Meeting</b> <i>Stated Communication</i> <b>CT Landmarks of Freemasonry</b>
<b>Jan 18</b>	<b>Business Meeting</b> <i>Stated Communication</i> <b>EA 3<sup>rd</sup> Section Lecture</b> <b>RWB Greg Stump, DD-6A</b>
<b>Jan 31</b>	<b>Blue Lodge Council</b> <b>Composite Lodge #28 - Suffield</b>
<b>Feb 1</b>	<b>Business Meeting</b> <i>Stated Communication</i> <b>York Rite Presentation</b> <b>MEGHP Mike Seamon</b>
<b>Feb 3</b>	<b>Special Communication at 10am (F)</b> <b>MM Degree</b>
<b>Feb 15</b>	<b>Business Meeting</b> <i>Stated Communication</i> <b>MM 2<sup>nd</sup> Section Lecture</b> <b>WB Charles Jewart</b>
<p><b><i>All Stated &amp; Special Meetings - Meeting 7:30 pm</i></b>  <b><i>Dinner served at 6:30PM unless stated otherwise</i></b>  <i>F = TUX, SF = Suit &amp; Tie, C = Jacket /Tie</i></p>	

## 2024 Lodge Officers



**Worshipful Master**  
Joseph P. Grieco, Jr.



**Sr. Warden**  
James B. Young (Brad)



**Jr. Warden**  
Richard E. Berson



**Treasurer**  
Russell L. Scull, II



**Secretary**  
Eric H. Hoy



**Sr. Deacon**  
Jared C. Garthe



**Jr. Deacon**  
Juan M. Villalobos Ulloa



**Sr. Steward**  
Jesse J. Chadwick



**Jr. Steward**  
Bismark O. Amedzro



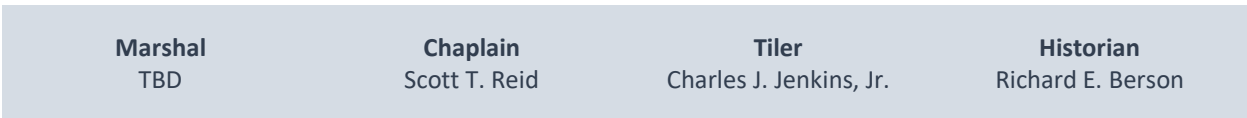
**Marshal**  
TBD



**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 <sup>o</sup>	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 6-A	2012
Russell L. Scull, II	2013
Madhu Renduchintala	2014
Scott D. Pierce	2015
Dennis W. Bellamy, Jr.	2016, 2017
David S. LaFargue, 33 <sup>o</sup> 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