

NOV - DEC 2024

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

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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.

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.



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Message from the East

From the Worshipful Master's Desk

By Joseph P. Grieco, Jr.



Well, Brothers, the year is wrapping up. By the time you read this, the Grand Lodge Session will have passed and next year's Grand Line will be elected/designated. We are facing the end of our year. Financially, we are in decent shape despite some heavy outlays for building emergencies thanks to the generosity of all of you. We have also experienced positive growth in our membership thanks to Blue Wave. Now the challenge is to keep everyone involved. I want to encourage all our new brothers to attend Lodge on a regular basis. This is how you get a better idea of what we do and how we do it. Masonry is more than just the three degrees you are going through.

Despite Lowe's, Home Depot and Walmart trying to convince us that Christmas Season started as soon as the back-to-school stuff came out, we are just starting the Holiday season. It is a time of celebration and family, a time we honor those whom we love by bonds of blood or friendship. Many of us will be traveling and many will be entertaining friends and family who will be coming to see them. Some folks will be helping at Food Shares and Community Kitchens. Some will be collecting for Toys-for-Tots. Some will be working with their places of worship to help those in need.

We also need to remember those of our own Masonic family, both here and elsewhere in the country, who may need our assistance, especially our extended family impacted by this year's hurricanes. If you know a Brother who needs help of any sort, please make sure our Almoner is aware of the need so we can make sure they get the assistance they need.

This year, the Past Masters came through with a wonderful Fellowcraft Degree, and our recent Entered Apprentice Degree was outstanding. Because of all the applicants we have balloted on, I want to schedule an Entered Apprentice Degree for the first Communication on November 7th. This is the last opportunity we have. We are Closing of the Books on 11/21. Our Annual Meeting is 12/5. Our final Communication for the year is 12/19, as well as the Annual Communication for Hartford County Lodge of Actual Past Masters, where many of our own Past Masters will be in attendance.

I am not going to sugar coat this, but we, as a Lodge, are finding ourselves in some difficulty. Attendance at Stated Communications has been down. People aren't stepping up to help at the UConn Football games. Our work parties only have one or two Brothers showing up. While I have tried to maintain a positive attitude this year, things like this make me worry about the future of our Lodge. So, please find the time to come by the Lodge for a meeting, catch up with old friends AND make new ones. We need help with the beer kiosks at the Uconn football games, our biggest fundraiser.

Other ways to help are simple – come by early on meeting nights and help the Stewards with the meal or come to LLC (Building Committee) meetings and offer to help with the various operations of running the building. Brothers can offer to present a lecture or finding a guest speaker for a meeting. All these and more will help make Friendship Tuscan Lodge your own.

Fraternally,

WM Joseph P. Grieco

From the Secretary's Desk

By Eric H. Hoy



I am addressing only about ¼ of the population of this lodge today. To the ¾ that it doesn't apply to, I thank you, and encourage reading it anyway...maybe you can suggest some way to help the lodge with this persistent problem. I am out of ideas myself.

It's a subject that I've often thought about but have never put down here before because it isn't "universal" enough for my taste and is frankly negative. Today, though I feel it needs to be aired out. My topic is simply a question:

WHY HAVEN'T YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

I'm in my office this morning doing two things that come up every year at this time: putting together the 3rd notice for dues to those who haven't yet paid and also working up the next year's budget. This is by far the longest list I've ever had for the 3rd notice mailing, so I naturally ask myself the question. Does the amount of the dues represent financial hardship? Did the previous 2 notices get lost/forgotten? Are you thinking of leaving the fraternity?

We have a program at this lodge whereby the Worshipful Master and Wardens get the list of potential NPD (Non-Payment of Dues) members and call them to ask these questions. It's a chore, because it puts the caller in the position of having to beg for something that is owed the lodge. Paying your dues is explicitly part of your obligations as a Mason. Dues are the single largest source of income for the lodge, and also the second largest liability, after the rent we pay to the building. So not paying dues hurts the lodge 2 ways: by lost income and avoidable expense. "But wait", you might say, "what avoidable expense?"

It's like this: of the \$200 amount of your dues, \$65 of it has already been paid to the Grand Lodge. There's also a certain amount of money spent on each of you already in the form of postage and supplies in the previous 2 dues requests. And now, for the 3rd mailing, the lodge is going to spend an additional, un-budgeted amount of \$15 per person to send a registered letter out to you to ensure that you've gotten every opportunity to stay current in your membership. So you who haven't yet paid have COST the lodge \$80 each to date.

As far as next year's budget goes, my problem becomes this; do I make a budget that has 120 dues paying members, or one with 90? Brethren, we are not in any way a wealthy lodge. We utterly depend on the support of the membership for everything we do, not just financially but physically.

Maybe you haven't paid because you think the dues aren't really due until the end of the year? Let me dispel that notion: Dues are due on January 1st. On January 2nd, you are officially delinquent. If you have been in the habit of paying in the fall, please think about amending that habit to pay earlier in the year. Perhaps the dues are too much for your present situation. PLEASE, reach out to me or the Worshipful Master (or another trusted Brother) – we WILL work with you and figure out a way, I Promise.

Are you thinking of leaving entirely? First, please give me a call and I'll try to talk you out of it (gently) but I'll explain the process and consequences. I'll say that this is an exciting time to be a

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member of this lodge: we are seeing a resurgence in interest from younger men to be part of our fraternity; they need the guidance and experience that you have to offer, if you are willing and able to continue on this path. We'd love to keep you!

So – if you get a registered letter in the next few days, please act on it. Send the check, or send a note, or make a call. As much as I dislike sending them, I hate acting on the silence even more. Before closing, I'd like to thank all the Brothers who reached out to me with support over the past few months while working through my Mother's sickness and death and beg your indulgence and patience while I work through the disposition of her estate. It means the world to me.

Hope to see you in Lodge this fall!

RWB Eric Hoy

Secretary

Calendar

Nov 7	Entered Apprentice Degree (F)
Nov 21	Business Meeting (C) <i>Closing the Books</i>
Nov 22	Blue Lodge Council (C) <i>Friendship Tuscan Lodge #145</i>
Dec 5	Annual Meeting (C) <i>Stated Communication</i>
Dec 19	Installation of Officers (T/SF) <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

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



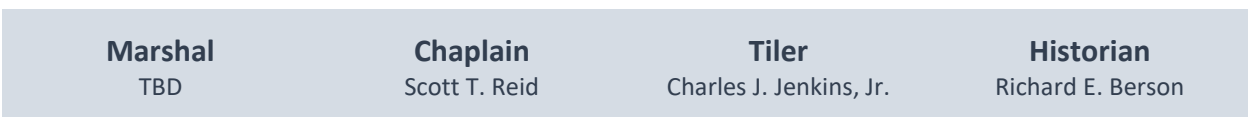
Marshal
TBD



Chaplain
Scott T. Reid



Tiler
Charles J. Jenkins, Jr.



Historian
Richard E. Berson

Active Past Masters

Stephen T. Penny	1979
John DiCioccio, Jr., DD 6-A	1980, 2007, 2023
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
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°, PDD 6-A	2018
Gabriel A. Garmendia	2019
Marcos G. Garcia	2020, 2021
James B. Young (Brad), AGM 6-A	2022