

JAN – FEB 2025

# 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 2025 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.



Another year has come and gone. There have been celebrations and disappointments. We have grown a year older, and hopefully wiser. The Romans recognized the god, Janus, as having two faces – one looking forward while another looks behind – as the symbol of the month that starts after the return of the sun. And that is what we must do – we must look ahead at what we will be facing this coming year, while at the same time looking behind to see where we have been, what we accomplished, and what we failed to do.

As a Boomer, I grew up with some of the greatest music ever. One of my favorite songs was one recorded by The Byrds, with music written by Pete Seeger, and words adapted from Ecclesiastes 3. “To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven.” We need to look at what we are doing and recognize that everything happens when it is supposed to.

You have selected me to serve as Worshipful Master for a second year. I know this year will be better than the last. Somehow that 20-20 hindsight showed me where I made mistakes and how to not do them again. So, some things will be different this coming year. And hopefully, for the better!

It looks like our major building improvements are done for now. There is still some finishing work inside and outside, but these are within our means, both financially and physically. In January, both the LLC and Trustees will be meeting to evaluate our current financial situation and determine the best course forward in shepherding our investments – both the building and our accounts. One thing we absolutely must accomplish is an accurate inventory of everything in the Lodge. The last time this was completed was before Covid hit. We not only need to update the actually held items, we also need to evaluate their replacement costs! The values listed are based on estimated values from when we moved from the old Temple on Center Street to our current location. Replacement costs for most of these are significantly more today.

Project Blue Wave has been expanded. In addition to helping find new members, it now has a focus on retaining existing members – especially how to prevent NPDs from impacting us. I also want to attract existing members back to regular attendance at Lodge and Lodge Functions. Bringing in new members is great. Having established members present to help them appreciate and enjoy the Lodge is outstanding!

Finally, I am looking for two brothers to volunteer for two special duties: I would like someone to spearhead the Lodge Visit that we had to cancel last year; I would like someone to chair a Table Lodge. We have not had a Table Lodge since before Covid. It's time for another. And I really need some help in scouting out the area where I would like to hold our Lodge Visit – hopefully, King Philip Lodge in New Bedford, MA – specifically in finding a Hotel facility that includes a hospitality suite, and a Lodge Banquet facility.

Looking forward to a great year.

Fraternally,

WM Joseph P. Grieco

## From the Secretary's Desk

By Eric H. Hoy



At last evening's meeting, I read – as usual – the correspondence from one of the Lodges that we visited in the past. In it was a plea from the Worshipful Master that the brethren encourage younger relatives and acquaintances to think about Freemasonry and submit a petition if they are inclined. He went on to say that their lodges' survival demands some younger blood, their average age being above 70.

As I read that, I thought "Wow – they are in some trouble. In 10 years, there won't be anyone around to open, let alone run the lodge". And then I looked around the dozen brothers in the room came to the alarming conclusion that – based on those assembled, anyway, we are in much the same boat.

To confirm, I ran the numbers when I got home. Thankfully, the average age of the 137 Master Masons in our lodge is not above 70. It's about 65 ½. Even our (11) masonically younger Entered Apprentices and Fellowcraft come in at about 37. So, we are in the same boat. I expect that almost any lodge in the country would say about the same thing, too.

When I was a teenager, I asked my dad about the Masons. He smiled, and said "I'm so glad you asked! And then went on to briefly describe what we are all about, and then said "ask again when you're in college". That's when we were the "Quiet Fraternity" and anything that even hinted at recruiting was completely out-of-bounds.

Things have changed: we still don't (nor should we) recruit members, but we do a lot better job of educating and attracting the uninformed than ever. The Blue Wave program is showing us that there's interest in the Masonry, and it's brought in a few new Brothers who seem to be genuinely on the path, but I fear it won't be the cure-all to ensuring the long term health of our Lodge and our beloved Fraternity.

So, I'll take a page from that other Trestleboard, and suggest that each of us be constantly on the lookout for those sons, grandsons, nephews, co-workers, etc. who might discover and appreciate the beauties of our craft and take the initiative to introduce us to them, and possibly enlarge and refresh the Fraternity.

I wish all of you and your families the very happiest of Yuletide seasons, and a happy New Year.

RWB Eric Hoy

*Secretary*

## Calendar

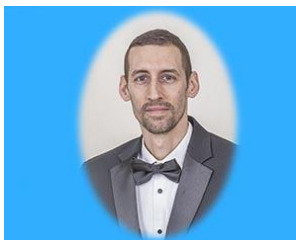
<b>Jan 2</b>	<b>Business Meeting (C)</b> <i>Stated Communication</i>
<b>Jan 16</b>	<b>Business Meeting (C)</b> <i>Stated Communication</i>
<b>Jan 29</b>	<b>Blue Lodge Council (C)</b> <i>Columbia #25, S. Glastonbury</i>
<b>Feb 6</b>	<b>Business Meeting (C)</b> <i>Stated Communication</i>
<b>Feb 20</b>	<b>Business Meeting (C)</b> <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***

## 2025 Lodge Officers



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



**Sr. Warden**  
Jeff S. Mayer



**Jr. Warden**  
David S. LaFargue



**Treasurer**  
Russell L. Scull, II



**Secretary**  
Eric H. Hoy



**Sr. Deacon**  
Stephen K. Spencer



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



**Sr. Steward**  
Bismark O. Amedzro



**Jr. Steward**  
TBD



**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 <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
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 <sup>o</sup> , PDD 6-A	2018
Gabriel A. Garmendia	2019
Marcos G. Garcia	2020, 2021
James B. Young (Brad), AGM 6-A	2022, 2023
Joseph P. Grieco, Jr.	2024, 2025