

MAY - JUNE 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

Table of Contents

Message from the East	1
From the Secretary's Desk	2
Calendar	3
2025 Lodge Officers	4
Active Past Masters.....	5

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.

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.



Why do many Lodges in the United States go dark during the summer? You need to look at the original colonial makeup of the country. Unless you lived in New York, Boston, New Haven, Philadelphia, Charleston or one of the other larger cities, you were likely involved in agriculture. Summer is when the grain harvests are brought in. It was a full family activity prior to the introduction of harvesting machinery. That's the reason our schools traditionally close during the same time of the year so the children could help with the harvest.

As the provincial Grand Lodges evolved into the State Grand Lodges, and Charters were issued to new lodges, they generally included a provision to "go dark" during the Summer Months. That way Rural Brothers would not have to worry about losing harvest time, and their Urban Brothers got a bit of a vacation from Lodge activity.

Ask yourself this – how will you "improve yourself in Masonry" during that period? Will you be reviewing your Blue Book to study ritual in preparation for moving to the next office or to learn a ritual piece you are interested in presenting? Will you be reading that book you grabbed from the Lodge Library? Will you be meeting with Brothers for casual get-togethers? Are you going to various Masonic conferences? Just because we are dark doesn't mean the Lodge won't be open from time to time. Brothers can still gather there for proficiency, Masonic Education, or social functions. Oh, yeah and work parties to prepare for return to Labor in the Fall.

This is also the time when my successor (wink, wink, nudge, nudge) should be finalizing his plan for next year. This means talking to the Brothers he wants to see in the officer line, setting dates firmly in wet sand with the tide coming in regarding degrees and other activities, working on his budget, and making whatever other plans he wishes to do next year.

Before that, we still have a lot of work to do. Our Inspection by the District Deputy will take place at the second Communication in May, when we will present the Entered Apprentice Degree for our candidates still in waiting. We will present the Master Mason Degree in June prior to going dark for the Summer for our Fellow Crafts who are working on their proficiencies, and we will have our Annual Awards Night as our last communication in June.

Speaking of Awards, we held a special ZOOM session where we presented WB Jim Wilson with his 50-year Service Award, in addition to wishing him a happy 96th birthday! That is one of more pleasurable activities a Worshipful Master can be part of, and I was happy to work with WB Scott Pierce and RWB Matt Heinrich to make this happen, especially as WB Jim was my Sponsor.

I am looking for a volunteer to head up our Summer Picnic. What's involved? Getting a crew to set up the Carport and get the grill outside, coordinating side dishes and desserts, finding folks to man the grill, providing some sort of entertainment if it's either too hot or too wet to stay outside. Give me a call if you're interested in this opportunity.

Our return to Labor in September will be our annual Hawai'ian shirt night. The calendar for the rest of the year is fairly fluid. We will hold a Fellowcraft Degree for Apprentices who are ready and who were not able to attend the last degree, and possibly another Master Mason Degree. We will be working with other Lodges to bring candidates to our Lodge and ours to their Lodges to take advantage of Degree Opportunities. We will also take advantage of any state-wide degree work sponsored by the Grand Lodge.

One last item of interest. While the date has not been officially announced yet, there will likely be a St. John's Day/Masonic Service at Holy Trinity PNCC in Southington. This is a wonderful annual event, featuring representatives from numerous Masonic bodies in the state, and is always followed by a great Polish breakfast afterwards. Oh, and did I mention – they have homemade pierogis for sale!

Fraternally,

WM Joseph P. Grieco

From the Secretary's Desk

By Eric H. Hoy



I used to think that Spring Cleaning was dreamt up by my parents as a way to keep my brother and I from enjoying the beautiful April weather. Now that I'm much older, I understand that ritual to be the result of having been cooped up for too long. As I've gotten older, winter has become almost completely an indoor season, and frankly, so has spring. The resultant "cabin fever" has led me to try to change my indoor surroundings, since the weather is simply refusing to change fast enough for me to change my mood by going outside. So, I have started cleaning, and while I take a certain satisfaction of having sparkling appliances and sinks, and windows that I can again see through, the real payoff is in throwing things away.

I have not yet attained the state of being able to toss things that haven't been used in a year (or even a couple), but I have been able to reduce my wardrobe to contain things that I can at least imagine wearing. I don't buy any clothes unless I first take at least twice what I intend to buy to the clothing drop-box. I recycle magazines immediately after reading (and cancelled almost all my subscriptions). I took an alarming number of ½ empty chemical cans and bottles to the Hazmat collection. I donated dozens of books.

It's a task I'll likely never complete - I still have WAY too much stuff. And the heck of it is, I don't see parting with much of it. Not because it's of any use, but because of the little flash of memory I get when I come across it. Or the project that I mean to get to someday. Or it's too much trouble to dispose of. Or my kids might want it after I'm gone. I know the last is fallacy, because I've got a large portion of my spare bedroom occupied by things that were my parents, and while I don't really want any of it, it hurts too much to toss.

Maybe that's what spring cleaning really is – working oneself into a frenzy so that any regret is overcome by accomplishment. You know: *divesting ourselves of the vices and superfluities of life*.

I knew I could work something obviously Masonic into this if I kept writing.

Be well Brothers!

RWB Eric Hoy
Secretary

Calendar

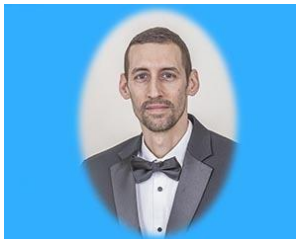
<u>CALENDAR</u>	
May 1	Business Meeting (C) <i>Stated Communication</i>
May 15	Entered Apprentice Degree (F) <i>Stated Communication</i>
May 29	Blue Lodge Council (C) <i>Composite #28</i>
June 5	Business Meeting (C) <i>Stated Communication</i>
June 19	Awards Night (F) <i>Stated Communication</i>
June 26	Master Mason Degree (F) <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. Greico, 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



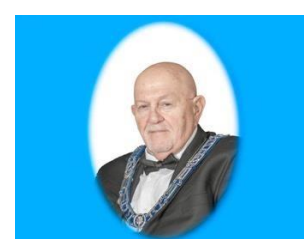
Marshal
TBD



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°	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
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°, 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