

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.

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.



And so, back to Labor. What does that mean?

When we are in Lodge that means we have ended refreshment and returned to the work of the evening. It is also when we return to our regular schedule after going Dark for the Summer. Why do Lodges go dark in the Summer? Back when our country was young most of the population were farmers. Summer is when the grain crops were brought in – wheat, rye, oats, corn, flax. That's also why our school systems adopted Summer Breaks – to

allow the children to help with the harvest. Today, most folks are involved in non-agricultural employment, and Summer is a time when families take a break from what they normally do. This is the time when many of us take our vacations and either travel or do things we had to put off due to other commitments.

As you read this, children are already back at school or getting ready to do so. While Halloween and Thanksgiving haven't happened yet, we have already probably seen the first Christmas decorations on display at places like Wal-Mart, Home Depot and Lowe's. All the local stores have their Halloween candy displays up, and those Reese's Cup variations are really tempting. Yes, they do rush the seasons on us. But as we prepare to head back to lodge, let's ask ourselves this: What have we done to improve ourselves in Masonry? Have we been working on our Spiritual Building? Have we been working on our ritual? Have the officers been preparing for the next step in their Masonic paths? Now, ask yourselves this: Have you hugged your kids? Have you told your wife you love her? Have you called that friend or relative you haven't spoken with in a while? Have you done something for someone else without looking for anything in return? Yes, that's all part of being a Mason.

Another part of Masonry is our charitable contributions. I'm setting up a couple of opportunities for Masonic Charity this fall in the Lodge.

- **Toys for Tots.** I would like to see a good supply of new toys for children. The USMC Reserve will pick them up and deliver them. If you cannot think of what to buy, there will be a cash envelope so the Corps can provide from that.
- **Foodbanks.** Whenever you come to the Lodge, please bring a non-perishable food item. After discussions with folks around town, we will be providing these to the 2nd Congregational Church's food bank. They are the church around the corner from us on North Main St. I will discuss the reasons for this privately. Cash is acceptable as they can use this to get perishable items for distribution. In addition to food, they are also in need of personal hygiene products – soap, deodorant, toothpaste, sanitary pads.

- **Clothing.** We are holding a winter coat, hat and gloves campaign. The coats do not have to be new but should be cleaned. Hats and Gloves should be new. I'll have more details about this when we return to Labor in September.
- **Animal shelters.** I would like to collect pet food and supplies. (Again, cash is acceptable.) Right now, my plan is to deliver them to CT Humane Society in Newington, but if you have another location you think would be more deserving, please let me know. A lot of shelter animals cannot help what happened to them but still need food and comfort. I also encourage anyone thinking of getting a dog or cat to visit them first, instead of buying from a breeder. They have a lot of animals that need human companionship. Disclosure – two of our cats were rehomed from a family who could no longer keep them. One was a shelter adoption.
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My plan for the food bank and animal shelter is to make a delivery the day after our meetings. This keeps the Lodge cleared up and provides needed supplies. Toys for Tots will have one pickup per the USMCR schedule. Still working on the details for the clothing.

Another thing to consider – dues for 2026 will go out after our annual meeting. Why? Because that is when we set our dues for the year. This past year, too many brothers delayed too long to pay theirs. We need the funds to pay our bills to Grand Lodge and to keep the doors open, and the lights and heat on. Delaying this means we must adjust who we pay and when we can afford to pay them.

Football season is rapidly approaching. By the time you read this, the first game will likely already have been played. Running beer kiosks at home games is our only outside income source. I've included the schedule in our calendar below. If you can work at a game, please let WB Chris Ramsey know. His Phone number is 860-490-1847. His email address is cdramsey@cox.net

Fraternally,
WM Joseph P. Grieco

From the Secretary's Desk

By Eric H. Hoy



I can't remember which of my very wise friends said this to me a few weeks ago (I'm blessed with a lot of wise friends), but it was a statement which really got me to thinking. He said:

"it's time to retire when you (A) have had enough (B) have enough (C) have enough to do."

Over the last several months, my attitude at work has convinced me that Condition A is well and truly satisfied. It's not that things there are horrible (they're not), it's just that I've had my fill. Then, I went to see my financial advisor, who assured me that Condition B is also met. This has been hard for me to grasp, because I always considered myself to be behind the savings curve, and that I would have to work until I die. Condition C though – do I have enough to do?

Well, like a lot of folks, my "honey do" list for projects around the house and in the garage is extensive (even without having a honey to tell me what needs doing!). If I were to turn that list into a "job", where I planned out 8 hours of honest labor a day, 5 days a week and put myself to work on them, it would last a year on the outside. Then what?

Well, I've got Masonry, for a (good) start. My calendar includes 7 nights a month (at least) of Masonic meetings, not to mention the time spent out of the formal meetings doing tasks associated with the various positions I hold.

I want to do some traveling. That's always been a deferred pleasure for me – now it appears I'll be able take some of those trips that have interested me.

My family is (mostly) local – I'll be able to visit the kids on their timetable, rather than waiting for everything to sync up "just right". I'll watch my Grandson's games and programs without fear of work conflicts.

So I think I have enough to keep me active. And I'm sure that things will always come up, so that really I've very little chance of ever running out of activities. That's a good thing.

Having met all the Conditions, I'll be retiring from my job soon. And on that first non-workday, I'll set to work on the first thing on my list: A few days of just not doing anything at all. I can't wait!

RWB Eric Hoy
Secretary

Calendar

<u>CALENDAR</u>	
Aug 30	Football Game at the Rent CCSU vs UCONN
Sep 4	Business Meeting (C) Hawaiian Shirt Night <i>Stated Communication</i>
Sep 18	Business Meeting (C) <i>Stated Communication</i>
Sep 20	Football Game at the Rent Ball State vs UCONN
Oct 2	Fellowcraft Degree (F) <i>Stated Communication</i>
Oct 4	Football Game at the Rent Florida International vs UCONN
Oct 16	Business Meeting (C) <i>Stated Communication</i>

NOTE : So you can plan ahead -
November Football Games at the Rent are
scheduled for November 1st, 8th and 15th

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°	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	1993, 1996, 2000, 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
Joseph P. Grieco, Jr.	2024, 2025