Connecticut
FREEMASONS
OCTOBER 2013

Connecticut Masons Welcome the Public

Saturday, October 19

Grand Lodge of Connecticut, AF & AM
69 Masonic Avenue
P.O. Box 250
Wallingford, CT 06492

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RW Richard Miller Receives Pierpont Edwards Medal

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Grand Lodge Semi-Annual Communication

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Newtown Labor Day Parade

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Grand Lodge of Connecticut, AF & AM

69 Masonic Avenue • P.O. Box 250 • Wallingford, Connecticut 06492
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GRAND MASTER'S TRESTLE BOARD

Simon R. LaPlace - October 2013

DATE	EVENT	ATTIRE	PUBLIC	DINNER
Wednesday, October 2, 6:30 p.m.	Estuary Lodge No. 43, Old Saybrook, ladies and awards night	F	S	Y
Thursday, October 3-6	Grand Lodge of California, San Francisco	F	N	Y
Sunday, October 6-8	Grand Lodge of Delaware, Rehoboth Beach, Delaware	F	N	Y
Thursday, October 10, 10:00 a.m.	Office hours, Wallingford	C	Y	N
Thursday, October 10, 5:00 p.m.	Grand Lodge officers meeting	C	N	Y
Saturday, October 12, 9:00 a.m.	Prince Hall Grand Lodge annual communication, Waterbury	F	N	N
Saturday, October 12, 5:00 p.m.	Morah Lodge No. 15, Brooklyn, Table Lodge	F	N	Y
Sunday, October 13, 4:00 p.m.	Grand Master's DeMolay Class, Auvergne Chapter, New Haven	F	N	N
Monday, October 14, 7:30 p.m.	Temple Lodge No. 16, Cheshire, information night	C	N	N
Tuesday, October 15, 10:00 a.m.	Office hours, Wallingford	C	N	N
Wednesday, October 16, 6:30 p.m.	Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125, New Haven, Table Lodge	F	N	Y
Thursday, October 17, 10:00 a.m.	Office hours, Wallingford	C	Y	N
Thursday, October 17, 6:30 p.m.	Warren Lodge No. 51, Portland, Fellowcraft Degree	F	N	Y
Friday, October 18-20	DeMolay Brotherhood weekend, Camp Hazen, Chester	C	Y	N
Saturday, October 19	Open House Program, state-wide	C	Y	N
Saturday, October 19	Masonic Lodge of Research, New Haven James Royal Case Fellowship	F	Y	N
Monday, October 21, 10:00 a.m.	Office hours, Wallingford	C	Y	N
Monday, October 21, 4:00 p.m.	Connecticut Freemasons Foundation, Wallingford	C	N	N
Tuesday, October 22, 10:00 a.m.	Office hours, Wallingford	C	Y	N
Tuesday, October 22, 7:30 p.m.	Acacia Lodge No. 85, Greenwich, fraternal visit	F	N	N
Wednesday, October 23, 7:30 p.m.	Masonic Lodge of Research, New Haven	F	N	N
Thursday, October 24, 10:00 a.m.	Office hours, Wallingford	C	N	N
Thursday, October 24, 5:00 p.m.	Grand Lodge officers meeting	C	N	Y
Saturday, October 26, 8:00 a.m.	Grand Lodge Semi-Annual Communication, Wallingford	F	N	N
Saturday October 26, 6:00 p.m.	Reception for Amaranth, Grand Royal Matron and Patron Taste Buds, Manchester	Y	Y	F
Sunday, October 27, 3:00 p.m.	Past District Deputies dinner, Wallingford	F	N	Y
Monday, October 28, 7:30 p.m.	Anchor Lodge No 112, East Hampton, fraternal visit	F	N	N

Connecticut FREEMASONS

Volume 9 - Number 5

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THE GRAND LODGE OF CONNECTICUT AF & AM

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Open House Talking Points

Here are some questions, answers, and talking points to discuss with your Open House Committee before the October 19 event. Beyond this, please also make sure everyone who will be at the Lodge and speaking with the public has read all the brochures and handouts that you plan to distribute to curious individuals, and can answer any questions the uninitiated may have about what they read in something you hand them.

What do Masons DO?

Masonry is an organization that seeks to encourage our members to become better men through education, toleration, and community involvement. Masonry is not a religion, but we feel that a belief in a power higher than ourselves prompts a feeling of social responsibility and accountability, and therefore we encourage all our members to engage in the religious pursuits of their own choosing. We recognize that good men may have different religious beliefs, and therefore Masonry makes no judgment about the faith of others and instead promotes toleration for - and unity among - all virtuous people.

I'm already a good man, why should I join?

Masonry provides tools all worthy men can use as they deal with the normal trials and challenges of everyday life, and can help you unlock your full potential as an honest and ethical individual.

How will Masonry make me a better man/husband/father?

Masonry will take the foundation you already have as an upright individual, and offer you the opportunity to meet with other, like-minded individuals where you can explore what it means to be a just and moral person. Masonry is a place where you can feel welcome and not be afraid others will take advantage of your generosity.

Masonry teaches a moral code that has been embraced by all major civilizations throughout history, and it provides a support system to guide you when you have questions, and to help steer you back on course if you stray.

How do you support the community?

Many of our members are active in various capacities throughout the community. Our members are active in their churches, in town/city affairs, in youth organizations, in charitable groups, in business, and in the lives of the people around them.

What kind of fun events do you have going on?

Masonry is an organization with a strong interpersonal component, and social interaction between brothers forms the basis for the bonds of friendship of comradery that tie our members together.

Is Masonry a secret society or a cult?

Masonry is not a "secret" organization in that we do not hide our existence or what we believe. Our lodges are often clearly marked, and many brothers proudly display rings and pins to demonstrate their membership. Masonry, like most businesses and other non-governmental organizations, holds private meetings where we discuss the "business" of Masonry such as paying our utility bills and taxes, planning events, and other such mundane topics. As most of us as individuals do not feel we are being "secretive" by not discussing our family finances or disclosing the personal issues we face in our own lives to the world at large, as an organization we do not feel that by attending to such confidential business in private makes us a "secret society."

The ceremonies which we use to welcome new brothers are not open to the general public as Masonry is an inherently personal experience, and to allow outsiders to attend and observe would ruin that atmosphere and diminish the striking lessons of the ritual.

As part of the purpose of Freemasonry is to provide our members with a support system of like-minded individuals whom each member knows he can trust, the means by which we recognize each other are also kept private to prevent unscrupulous individuals from gaining access to that trust, and then using it for their own nefarious ends.

Masonry forces no man to join or to maintain his membership. In fact, as Masons we recognize that without a willing desire to participate, our values are hollow and carry no moral weight. Unlike cults which brainwash their members by alienating them from their families and taking control of every aspect of their members' lives, Masonry encourages our members to be active family members and community supporters, and we impose no requirements on our members for participation or attendance at Masonic events.

Ten Reasons to become a Mason

1. Masonry is a place where you can confidently trust every person, and entrust your family with them.
2. Masonry is a place where, within moral and civil guidelines, free thought, free speaking and the spiritual growth of man can grow to its fullest potential.
3. Masonry is a place which provides the opportunity to meet, know, and call "Brother," outstanding individuals from all walks of life who you would not otherwise have met.
4. Masonry is a place to be part of an organization that has for its principle tenets, Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth.
5. Masonry is a place that provides self development opportunities, leadership training and experience, and the chance to improve public speaking skills.
6. Masonry is a place you can give support, as well as seek it.
7. Masonry is place where moral virtues are taught and, through those teachings, a regular reinforcement of the moral virtues is experienced.
8. Masonry is a place to spend time with a group of Brothers, who, by acting as good men, can make you want to become a better man. Not better than others, but better than you would have otherwise been.
9. Masonry is a place to become better prepared to serve your place of worship, your family, and your community.
10. Masonry is a place to meet with involved members of the community and to become part of that community.

Martin and Max

Ill. Dave Sharkis 33° as Martin • Ill. Bruce Work 33° as Max

"A story about fulfilling your obligation"

Written by Brother Frank Spurr 32° and Illustrious Brother Raymond Schuster 33°

Friday, October 11 —7:00 p.m.

Hartog Auditorium, Wallingford

Come see if you Deputy and Active can still do ritual!

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Grand Chaplain's Pulpit

Rev. and RW Bro. Bruce R. Bellmore, Grand Chaplain

"The Tenets of Freemasonry – Part 2: Morality"

I am sure that all of us at some point in our Masonic careers have heard the phrase, "Freemasonry is a system of morality, veiled in allegory, and illustrated with symbols." The very first lessons we are taught as an Entered Apprentice are of a moral and spiritual nature. In the Fellowcraft Degree the seven liberal arts and sciences are explained and we are instructed in their underlying moral principles. Further, we are admonished by the plumb to "walk uprightly in our several stations before God and man." The Master Mason degrees beautifully exemplifies the upright, moral, and faithful man who places his duties to God and his fellow man above all else – even his own life. These lessons are illustrated throughout the Symbolic Lodge and are further amplified in the York Rite and Scottish Rite Degrees. Morality is the foundation of Freemasonry.

It almost seems anathema to talk about morality in the 21st century. All we have to do is turn on our television or log onto our computer and the immoral world around us comes flooding into our homes. We see a generation growing up being bombarded with images of immorality and inhumanity that make the sins described in *Dante's Inferno* pale by comparison. It seems as if we have lost our moral fiber and character.

Freemasonry stands as a beacon of light in this immoral world. We stand for toleration, universal benevolence, justice, liberty, and the brotherhood of man under the Fatherhood of God. These, my brothers, are not just words that we hear in our ritual and promptly forget. These are the principles upon which our lives and character must be built.

The Indian philanthropist and education reformer, Santanu Mishra, describes morality as being the center of our character: "The mark of a strong character lies not in doing what is fun to do or what is easy to do. The sign of deep moral authority appears in the individual who consistently does what they ought to be doing rather than what they feel like doing..."

In one of the York Rite degrees, we are reminded, "We have all, my brother, knelt before this sacred altar and solemnly promised to perform certain duties, and then proceeded to act as if we had not done so." In order to live a moral and upright life, we must live our obligations. We must be active in opposing the immorality and amorality of the world at large and be ready to stand up for our brothers and sisters who are the victims of injustice and intolerance. We must work diligently to succor and support those who are the victims of poverty, need, and adversity. We must stand together as brothers and children of God.

Brother and President Harry S Truman, 33rd President of the United States and Past Grand Master of Missouri wrote, "We represent a fraternity which believes in justice and truth and honorable action in your community; men who are endeavoring to be better citizens [and] to make a great country greater. This is the only institution in the world where we can meet on the level all sorts of people who want to live rightly."

So mote it be!

God bless.

Grand Representatives Vacancies

The Grand Lodge of Connecticut is currently seeking brothers to fill the following list of Grand Representatives vacancies. It would be more interesting if there is a family, fraternal, or some other connection to the jurisdiction, or that you might visit. It might be beneficial to be able to speak the language, if necessary. There are responsibilities you should be aware of before you volunteer. If interested, please advise why you would be a good Grand Representative to the jurisdiction you select, *grandlodge@masonicare.org* or the Grand Lodge Office, PO Box 250, Wallingford, CT 06492.

Florida
Hawaii
Illinois
Indiana
North Carolina
Tennessee
West Virginia
Wisconsin
Gabon, Africa
Ivory Coast, Africa
Argentina
Victoria, Australia
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Bolivia
Manitoba, Canada
Prince Edward Island
Chile
Barranquilla, Columbia
Croatia
Cyprus
Iran (In Exile)
Lithuania
Mauritius
Serbia
Sweden

Pierpont Edwards Medal Surprises Bro. Richard Miller

by Michael L. Castroll

Richard Arnold Miller was born in New London, on July 9, 1949. He is the son of the late Louise King and Brother Henry Miller. His father passed on in 1957. His mother died in 2003. Dick had a sister, Marjorie, who died in 1976.

Dick attended Niantic Center School, East Lyme Middle School, Norwich Regional Technical School, and graduated from New London High School in 1968. While he was in high school, he found employment as a caddy to help with expenses at home.

Soon, he found employment in a variety of positions as an electrician; first with Pratt & Whitney Aircraft, and later with Northeast Utilities. He was acclaimed for his academic accomplishments and community service by being named to the Phi Theta Kappa Society.

Dick was joined in marriage with Carolyn Edith Wright, on May 2, 1969. This union produced two daughters, Megan Aubrey, an attorney and a nursing supervisor; and, Karen Marie, who is Assistant Town Clerk for the Town of East Lyme. They have provided Richard and Carolyn with four grandchildren.

Richard has been active in St. John's Episcopal Church since the age of twelve. In his two years as Junior Warden, he served as co-chairman of the building committee, Safe Church Coordinator, a member of the Pastoral Care Team, visiting the sick and shut-ins, and going to Adulthood Monitor. He received a degree from the University of the South School of Theology in Education of Ministry Classes. He also accompanied church youngsters to Arizona for their 2006 Pilgrimage.

As Senior Warden, he teaches Sunday school, minister's communion, is a member of the Rector Search Committee, and is a member of the Vestry, the governing body of the church. various fruit projects, nursery school events, as well as Fire Department fundraisers, and countless other projects to benefit the community.

Dick has been affiliated with the Niantic Fire Department since 1974, and is a Life Member and a certified EMT Lieutenant. For four years, Dick has been on staff at the Connecticut State Training School where he teaches destruction of flow and forcible entry. He also drives an ambulance, among other things.

This is not a laundry list, it is a case of true caring and involvement. Richard is a member of the East Lyme Historical Society, the East Lyme Public Trust, and he is a volunteer Docent at the Sub Base library museum in Groton. He is also involved in the Lawrence and Memorial Benevolent Society (LAMBS).

When his daughters were growing up, Richard found the time to coach girls' little league softball. He was a PTA regular, and served on the Board of Directors of the Winter Special Olympics.

All of this led to a full Masonic life. During his high school days, he joined New London Chapter Order of DeMolay. He did what came naturally, and petitioned Bay View Lodge No. 120, Niantic. There, in his father's lodge, he was entered on January 16, 1971; passed on February 20, 1971; and raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on March 20, 1971. His father was the senior Past Master of Bay View Lodge. After two attempts to go through the chairs, with work prevailing, he served Bay View Lodge as Worshipful Master in 1995, and again, in 1997. During his second term, WB Richard A. Miller established RAM scholarship of $1,500 to deserving sons and daughters of brothers of Bay View Lodge, who were active in DeMolay and Rainbow.

He returned to the East in 2000, 2001, 2006, and 2010. Then, he affiliated with Brainard Lodge No. 102, Niantic, where he served as Master in 2012. He also serves as historian for Brainard Lodge. This year he was installed as secretary of Brainard Lodge, before he found out he would be a District Deputy. This brother just cannot say 'no.'

He is a past president of the Eighth District Blue Lodge Council.

Dick is avid in seeking further light. He joined the Scottish Rite in the Valley of Norwich and Connecticut Consistory. He has served as Sovereign Prince for Van Rensselaer Council, Princes of Jerusalem.

Richard says the time he spends with his family is pure quality time. Whenever *Connecticut Freemasons* came in the mail, it would be critiqued by his wife and daughter. They would read about the latest Pierpont Edwards awardee and say, "Oh, you've done more than that!" Richard would respond by saying, "They're all worthy brothers; if it comes, it comes, if it doesn't it doesn't." What Richard did not know is his wife and daughter were parlaying behind the scenes with RW Ken Wade and RW Ted Nelson, who put his biography together for his District Deputy presentation, and turned it into his Pierpont Edwards Citation. Happy is the man who has such sponsors.

It was a complete surprise for soon to be District Deputy Richard A. Miller to be awarded the Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze by then Grand Master Gary W. Arseneau at the April Grand Lodge banquet.

When Richard attended his first Grand Lodge banquet as an incoming District Deputy, his family came along. Then, the other shoe dropped! For all that he has meant to his family, his church, his community, and our craft, the Grand Master Gary W. Arseneau was very proud to adorn WB Richard Arnold Miller with the Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze for Distinguished Masonic Service.

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Grand Historian's Corner

RW Bro. Gary A. Littlefield, Grand Historian

One of my favorite events this summer was the Esoteric Seminar held in July. The September issue of *Connecticut Freemasons* had photos and coverage of the seminar. RW Cliff Porter was a dynamic speaker and each of the three breakout sessions I went to was informative. I considered the entire day time well spent. Historians of future ages will mark this event as significant of the 2013 year.

✦✦✦

Sometime in 1918, the 26th division (a New England unit) of the United States Army was sent into Northern France. It was the famous "Yankee Division". It was deployed along what was to be known as the Ladies Road or "Chemin des Dames." From stories and writings, the road and area included many caves dating back centuries. Some were so large that troops were actually living in them and some soldiers wrote home and called their abode "snug and cozy retreats and a safe haven from shell fire and the doorways were immune to gas." For sixty years, the caves were forgotten and probably never occupied. In 1980, explorers found that American doughboys had carved their initials and sometimes their names, addresses, units, and patriotic or fraternal symbols on the limestone walls which were reported to be soft and easy to carve. At least one name found had a Connecticut connection with the inscription "W.D. Bertini, Compass #9, Wallingford, Connecticut Company K 102nd Inf." Brother Bertini's son confirmed that his father often told the story about being in that cave at age 22 and carved his inscription in a cave along the road. Brother Bertini must have joined Compass Lodge shortly before his entrance into the army and being shipped overseas.

✦✦✦

Isaac Martin Bullock is not a name commonly recognized in Connecticut Masonic circles unless you know the history of St John's Lodge No. 6. Bullock is the only Grand Master to die while in office. Born in Thompson on May 21 1844, he was schooled in his home town and Suffield Academy. He went to Brown University where he graduated in 1865 and enlisted with the Rhode Island Volunteers during the Civil War. He was admitted to the bar in Putnam (after study with George W Phillips) and represented that town in the General Assembly in 1869.

He moved across the state to Bridgeport where he formed partnerships with Amos Treat and entered into a law practice there. He was corporation counsel and prosecuting attorney for Bridgeport and later a judge in the circuit court. He rose to the rank of Quartermaster in the Connecticut National Guard and was named Captain in 1871. He died on October 29, 1879.

He started his Masonic career in St John's Lodge No. 6 (July 25, 1867) and affiliated with Corinthian Lodge No. 104 in 1869. He was Worshipful Master in 1872 and 1873 and 1876 and 1877. He was appointed Grand Junior Steward in 1872 and on January 16 1879 he was elected Grand Master. He served nine months. He was buried in Putnam with Masonic honors. He also belonged to Hamilton Commandery, the Scottish Rite, Jerusalem Chapter and Jerusalem Council. We hope the Grand Lodge never suffers the loss of a sitting Grand Master again.

✦✦✦

Connecticut has always been home to seafarers and ships captains, at least through the 19th century. While the first commissioned officer of the Coast Guard is not a Connecticut native, his name is remembered on the grounds of the Coast Guard Academy in New London. The first man commissioned in the Coast Guard, first called the Revenue Cutter Service, was a New Hampshire native and Mason, Hopley Yeaton.

Bro. Yeaton was a member of St Johns Lodge at Portsmouth. Born there in 1740, he made his home there until the Revolutionary War. After the war, he also was captain of several ships. He was involved in Sons of Liberty and recruited men for the Continental Army. Yeaton preferred a commission in the Navy and in 1776 was commissioned a 3rd Lieutenant. He was assigned to the frigate "Raleigh" and was on board when the ship went aground of the coast of Maine and was reassigned to the "LaHague."

In 1789 he was aboard the barge which carried President Washington on a tour of Portsmouth Harbor. On March 21, 1791 he had the first commission in the Revenue Marine Service signed by President Washington and Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson. His pay was $30 a month. He helped to patrol the shores of Maine and New Hampshire and retired in 1809. Yeaton visited St Johns Lodge in Portsmouth on June 22, 1769 and signed the by-laws. He was appointed Grand Senior Steward of New Hampshire in 1790 and re-appointed for eight years. He died in Lubec, Maine in 1812.

HEJAZ GROTTO, M.O.V.P.E.R.

GOOD FELLOWSHIP AT ASHLAR VILLAGE

Dinner Meetings • Second Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.

For information contact Secretary Gary Matican, Membership Chairman at 203 410-9733

We welcome our new brothers to the fraternity.

Spiros G. Clados	*Madison 87*
Ryan E. Hoctor	*Madison 87*
Fred C. Muzer	*Madison 87*
Daniel C. Klewin	*Moriah 15*
Rodrigo M. Bergonzini	*Trumbull 22*
Lorenzo Caliendo	*Trumbull 22*

The Masonicare EXPERIENCE

Inspiring stories from throughout the Masonicare continuum

Remembering Friend and Benefactor Bro. Jim Ferris

by Adam Raider

In February, The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut lost a dear friend, neighbor, and generous benefactor when Bro. Jim Ferris passed away peacefully at Masonicare Health Center. He was 90.

In 2008, Jim moved from East Windsor to Masonicare at Ashlar Village, a community with which he was very familiar thanks to his many years as a Foundation supporter and volunteer. His Notch Hill apartment was decorated with artifacts and photos from his global travels. Accompanying him on some of those trips was longtime friend and Masonicare Board of Trustees chairman Bro. Howard W. Orr.

"Jim was an easy-going, energetic, fun-loving guy who enjoyed meeting new people and making new friends," Orr said. "He forged new relationships easily because he had so many interests and hobbies, including music, computers, photography and travel."

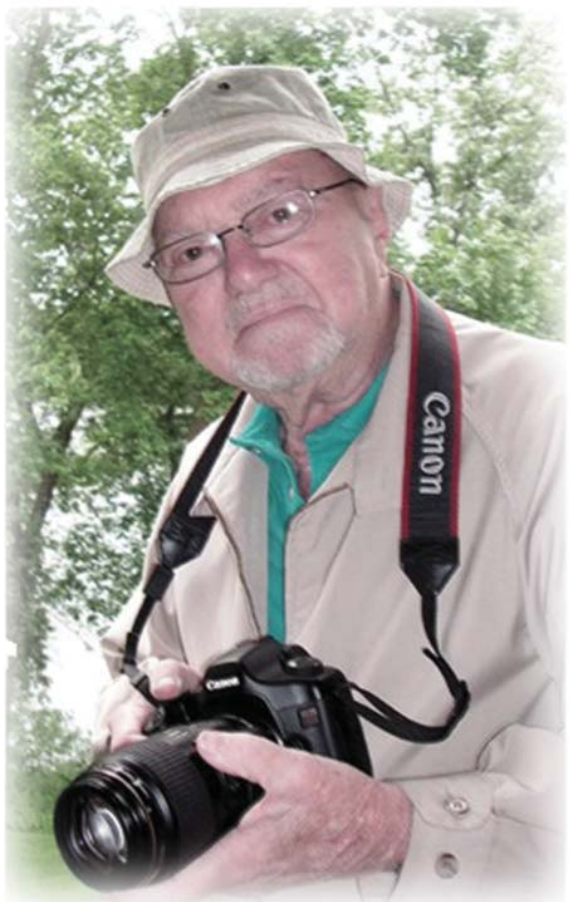
James Courtlandt Ferris grew up Hartford and was in his teens when he met Jane Dewey. They courted for several years before getting married on May 1, 1943, and eventually had two children: son Ken and daughter Janette. Jane passed away in 1987.

After World War II, Jim joined – and later became partner in – a company specializing in tool and die engraving but he always found time for other, lighter pursuits. Touring with the Top Hats comedy barbershop quartet gave him the opportunity to showcase his vocal skills and trademark wit.

Jim became a Mason in 1961, joining Daskam Lodge No. 86, Glastonbury. A short time later, he moved to East Windsor and joined Morning Star Lodge No. 28, Warehouse Point, which eventually merged into Composite Lodge No. 28, Suffield. He also belonged to Sphinx Shrine Temple in Newington and enjoyed singing with the Sphinx Shrine Chanters.

"I had several friends who were Masons," he once recalled of his decision to join the fraternity. "The majority of those I met were nice, honest guys with excellent values who watched out for one another. I enjoy the brotherhood."

The Masonic Charity Foundation was a longtime beneficiary of Jim's outstanding generosity and volunteerism. He served throughout the 1990s as a member of The Foundation's Board of Directors and always made charitable giving to The Foundation a priority. He was a member of The Foundation's prestigious Baldwin Society and Cleaveland Society, having established two life income agreements (including a charitable remainder trust and a charitable gift annuity with The Foundation) as well as an additional major gift to The Foundation to name the greenhouse at Ashlar Village in honor of Composite Lodge No. 28.



Jim was also a consistent supporter of other Foundation programs, including the Masonicare Annual Appeal and the Masonicare Golf Classic, as well as the former Masonicare Goods & Services Auctions. He even made a donation to fund the creation of a computer center for residents in the library at Masonicare Health Center.

"He touched many lives and helped many people," said Orr, "most of whom never knew him."

"Jim always wanted to make sure that nobody felt alone," said WB Jon-Paul Venoit, senior vice president of residential and community based services. "He cared greatly for his fellow residents which, given his sardonic sense of humor, you wouldn't necessarily expect. But I always knew that he had the best interests of this community at heart. We were very fortunate to have him with us for as long as we did."

It gave Jim great pleasure to be able to help those less fortunate. He believed in the work of The Masonic Charity Foundation and was confident that his gifts would be spent wisely to help residents and patients in need during his lifetime and beyond.

"The one thing I always appreciated about Jim," said Jennifer A. King, The Foundation's executive director, "was his desire to be a pace-setter with his charitable giving to The Foundation. Whenever The Foundation launched a new program or appeal, Jim would step up and offer to make the first gift. Because he had the capacity to donate generously, he always felt compelled to lead by example and pave the way for other donors to give to The Foundation. I will greatly miss his enthusiasm and his energy, and am grateful to have worked with him for so many years."

FROM THE DESK OF:

Bro. Stephen B. McPherson
President & CEO of Masonicare

Connecticut's Freemasons can take pride in Masonicare's continued leadership in the field of senior healthcare and residential living. Our primary focus remains faithful to the mission formulated by Connecticut Masons in 1889 to "help, aid and assist." With our unmatched continuum of care -- independent living options, assisted living and rehabilitation, long-term care, home care and hospice – Masonicare is uniquely positioned to serve seniors in the setting of their choice.

The Board of Trustees recently updated our strategic plan. Among other considerations, it calls for a focus on growing our home and community-based services, enhancing our IT infrastructure, modernizing our Wallingford and Newtown campuses and seeking new sources for philanthropic contributions.

Despite reimbursement challenges, which I frequently mention in this column, we ended the fiscal year September 30 in a strong financial position. In addition to our operating performance, the performance of our investment portfolio has been strong. We have recovered from the market downturn of 2008. One year ago our debt was restructured and our debt covenants are in good shape.

The situation of both our federal and state budgets directly impacts Masonicare. In January, the state reduced payments for hospice services by 5% and in April, the federal sequester reduced Medicare payments by 2%. The Masonicare Board and management team have been seeking new sources of revenue to offset such reductions in reimbursement and to be more productive in the way care is delivered. Increasing our patient volumes in home care and offering services such as Masonicare at Home have helped.

We expect to announce new programs in the coming months. Look to upcoming issues of *Connecticut Freemasons* to be the first to hear about their rollout.

The state of Connecticut has selected a company to increase the supply of water for UConn and Mansfield. We are awaiting more definitive information to determine if this will allow us to finalize our plans for a proposed retirement community in Mansfield. The new community will ultimately help us cultivate a revenue source not dependent on government payments, while bringing our services to a new area of the state.

Masonicare's leadership team, including Bros. Jon-Paul Venoit, Carl Anderson, Scott Thelen and Tom Gutner, together with the entire executive management group, provides strong leadership to the daily activities at all our locations.

On behalf of the Masonicare Board and my colleagues in executive management, we thank you for your support, encouragement, and counsel. We look forward to working hard to maintain fiscal stability while caring for those whom it is a privilege to serve.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Attention Brethren - Save the Date

The Committee on Masonic Education will be holding a Masters and Wardens Seminar on Saturday November 2, at 8:00 a.m.

For those who cannot attend on Saturday, there will be a repeat seminar; Sunday November 3, beginning at 1:00 p.m. Both seminars will be at the Hartog Auditorium, at Ashlar Village, in Wallingford.

Many brothers may work, or are otherwise unavailable on Saturdays. We will present the same information on both days, to afford more brothers the opportunity to attend.

Being an officer is not a requirement. Any and all Master Masons are welcome and encouraged to attend.

The primary goal of the Committee on Masonic Education is to be an informational resource for all.

The objective of these seminars is to assist, prepare, and inform.

The committee hopes to make brothers better Masters and Wardens for their lodges, and make their time as an officer as successful, and enjoyable as possible.

Incoming Wardens and Masters will receive important skills and information to assist them on the path towards excellence within the fraternity. The objective of the seminar is to prepare our future leaders. This is an excellent opportunity to gain further light in Masonry.

Some of the topics that will be covered include: how to become a better Masonic leader, specific duties and responsibilities of the offices, breakout sessions to target and better prepare each of the officers, and a question and answer forum.

"The attentive ear receives the sound from the instructive tongue." Gain new ideas from different lodges across the state. Create new relationships with brothers who share a similar office. The Masters and Wardens seminar is an ideal forum to strengthen your personal Masonic foundation.

Please come Saturday, November 2, or Sunday, November 3. The Committee on Masonic Education hopes to see you there.

Regular Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Connecticut

The Regular Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Connecticut will be held in the auditorium of The Hartog Activities Center at Ashlar Village on the Masonicare Campus in Wallingford, Connecticut on Saturday, October 26, 2013. Note that again this year it is on the 4th Saturday due to the Open House program on October 19. You will need to follow the instructions of the Security Staff for parking. You may enter from either Cheshire Road or from Masonic Avenue. Bus transportation will be provided as necessary.

The formal opening will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. Please note it is anticipated that the session should close at approximately 12:00 noon. Luncheon will not be available.

This Regular Communication is called for the purpose of electing Grand Lodge Officers for the year 2014. In addition we will receive certain committee reports, act on any legislation changes which may be in order for consideration and other issues as directed by the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Brother Simon R. LaPlace. Section 8203 of our Masonic Law does permit action on changes to the Rules and Regulations which are raised from the floor or motions presented in Committee Reports at the meeting without prior notice to the craft.

Registration of delegates will begin at 8:00 a.m. All Brothers attending must present a 2013 dues card. All voting delegates must register at the registration table. Registration will be by Lodge number as designated by posted signs in the area.

Should you not be able to attend in person as a principal officer of your Lodge, or should you wish to proxy your vote representing your lodge so you can vote on your own behalf if eligible, a proxy form has been enclosed with this notice. If your proxy form is not properly filled out and signed by you, it will not be accepted at the session. Each officer or his proxy should bring the appropriate Apron and Jewel of his respective office. Sections 2300 and 2301 of our Rules and Regulations state that a Roll of Lodges is to be called during a Regular Communication. Please note the related consequences for those Lodges not having proper representation at this Communication. Section 2301 of the Rules specify both financial and neglect of duty consequences.

Coffee and pastry will be available starting at 8:00 a.m.

RULES & REGULATIONS PROPOSED AMENDMENTS – JURISDICTION REFERENCES FOR LODGES

Section 3001. Powers of Lodge. A regular chartered Lodge has power:

e. To discipline all its initiated candidates and members. ~~and all Masons residing within its territorial jurisdiction~~. See Section 6101 for jurisdiction over Masonic offenses committed by sojourners, non-affiliated and unassociated Mason.

Section 3009. Correspondence with Other Jurisdictions Restricted.

A communication from a Lodge in this State to the Grand Lodge, Grand Master, or a Lodge of another Grand Jurisdiction must not be made except through the Grand Master of this Grand Jurisdiction on all matters pertaining to release of Personal Jurisdiction or conferring of the degrees.

Section 3208. Duties of the Master, Defined. The duties of the Master, in addition to those inculcated in the ritual are:

j. To cause an investigation into all Masonic offenses committed by its ~~the~~ initiated candidates and ~~or by~~ members. ~~of the Lodge, or by Masons residing in the territorial jurisdiction of the Lodge~~. See Section 6101 for jurisdiction over Masonic offenses committed by sojourners, non-affiliated and unassociated Mason.

Section 3316. Requisites When Petitioner Has Been Rejected in Another *Grand* Jurisdiction. When a petitioner has been rejected in another Grand Jurisdiction, a Release of Personal Jurisdiction from the rejecting Lodge, if it still holds Personal Jurisdiction, must be obtained through the office of the Grand Secretary before he can be admitted to a Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction.

Section 3404. Master Responsible for Omission of Stated Communication. The Worshipful Master of each Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction shall be held personally responsible if any stated communication be omitted without a dispensation from the Grand Master; any violation of this rule shall render the Worshipful Master so offending liable to deposition from office provided that stated communication of Lodges may be omitted as authorized by Section 3401 of these Rules and Regulations.

Section 3413. Precaution for Secrecy; Penalty. Every Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction shall observe great care in the location of its Lodge rooms, that it may be entirely safe from the approach of cowans and eavesdroppers. To this end it shall observe that all windows and doors are secured against seeing or hearing, that floors be deafened, and all necessary precautions taken to secure absolute safety. A violation of this resolution by any Lodge, after due notice has been given, will be considered sufficient cause for immediate withdrawal of its charter.

Section 3504. Appeals for Aid to Be Endorsed by Grand Master. An appeal for aid purporting to emanate from a Lodge, either within or without this Grand Jurisdiction, shall not be acted upon by any Lodge unless such appeal bears the endorsement of the Grand Master.

Section 3601. Use of legal entities.

.....

No Lodge under this Grand Jurisdiction shall hereafter attempt to secure an act of incorporation from the legislature of the State or under the general corporation laws of the State for itself without the approval of Grand Lodge.

Section 4118. Minimum Amounts Required For Degrees. The minimum amounts required for degrees within this Grand Jurisdiction shall not be less than the following amounts: For the degree of Entered Apprentice, twenty-five dollars; for the degree of Fellowcraft, twenty-five dollars; for the Degree of Master Mason, twenty-five dollars.

Section 4123. By-Laws to Be Signed by Candidate Taking Degrees in Another Lodge ~~Jurisdiction~~. Any Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction, in arranging for the conferring of the Master Mason Degree upon one of its candidates, by a Lodge in this ~~another~~ Grand Jurisdiction, shall forward a copy of its By-Laws for the Brother to sign and return to it.

Section 4206. Rejected Petitioner or Rejected Candidate Procedure. No Lodge within this Grand Jurisdiction shall ballot for, or confer any degrees upon a rejected petitioner or rejected candidate petitioning another lodge, until at least six months after such rejection; nor then without the unanimous consent of the Lodge so rejecting or having Personal Jurisdiction. See Section 3313.

Section 4608. Dismission, Defined and How Affected; Vote Granting Same is Final. Dismission is the voluntary severance of Personal Jurisdiction on the part of a Lodge during the course of taking the degrees by the Joint act of the Brother and of the Lodge. Such Release of Personal Jurisdiction is effected by the passage of a resolution by majority vote granting said Release of Personal Jurisdiction. Application for Release of Personal Jurisdiction must be in writing, signed by the applicant and filed by the Lodge Secretary and the action thereon recorded. A vote of a Lodge granting such a Release of Personal Jurisdiction cannot be reconsidered or annulled. Its effect is to make the Entered Apprentice or Fellowcraft Brother eligible to apply for advancement in another Lodge within this Grand Jurisdiction or other Sister Grand Jurisdiction or to otherwise to serve as evidence of his having received the indicated degrees.

Section 4701. Suspension for Non-Payment of Dues Not Permitted. Suspension from Masonry, for non-payment of dues, is a violation of its laws, and cannot be permitted in this Grand Jurisdiction ~~the jurisdiction~~. The only penalty that can be inflicted for such offense is "to strike from the roll".

Section 5004. Requisites for Admission of Visitor From Another Jurisdiction. Any visitor from another jurisdiction, unless personally known, applying for examination for admission to a Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction, shall be required to present a certificate of his membership in the Lodge from which he hails and to present a receipt for current dues or other evidence of his good standing. Such receipt for dues and certificate shall be authenticated as follows:

a. By the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge in which such Lodge is located, as to the regular standing of the Lodge.

b. By the Secretary of the Lodge as to the Masonic standing of the Brother; and

c. By the signature of the Brother in whose name the certificate is issued, for personal identification.

Section 5007. Visitation Forbidden by Unassociated, Suspended or Expelled Mason. Any Unassociated, Suspended or Expelled Mason shall not be permitted to visit any Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction.

Section 8001. Liquor Forbidden on Lodge Premises (With Exceptions). The sale or distribution of spirituous and/or malt liquors upon the premises at any Lodge, or the introduction of spirituous and/or malt liquors into any Lodge room within this Grand Jurisdiction is hereby strictly prohibited unless required as an integral part of a Masonic degree, ritual, order or ceremony, except as follows:

Section 8101. Proper Jewel for Past Master of Constituent Lodge. The proper jewel for the Past Master of a Constituent Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction shall be a blazing sun within the square and compasses, the points extended on a quadrant, and the whole constructed either of gold or silver.

Reason for changes: The committee had been requested to review the GLR&R's to conform the regulations to reflect the elimination of territorial jurisdictions of lodges. The committee identified those references within Sections 3001 and 3208. The committee also noted inconsistency in the directives of these two sections when compared to Sections 6100 and 6101. The committee is proposing a correction and cross reference,

During this process the committee also identified other references to jurisdictions that were less than clear so corrections were made to the applicable sections.

Current language:

Section 2107. Prerogatives of the Grand Master. The prerogatives (personal right by virtue of and during continuance of office) of the Grand Master are:

j. To exercise, temporarily, all the powers of the Grand Lodge during the interim between the sessions of the Grand Lodge, and subject to its approval at the next session thereof.

Proposed change:

j. To exercise, temporarily, all the powers of the Grand Lodge during the interim between the Communications of the Grand Lodge, and subject to its approval at the Annual Communication.

Discussion:

Reviewing the history of Section 2107(j) we determined this section has been in place since at least February 1921 when Grand Lodge had only one Communication each February.

As currently worded, each Grand Master since April 1989 has been required to report to Grand Lodge at the October communication his actions from installation to then. The process adopted in the Rules & Regulations for the Grand Master to report to Grand Lodge is to issue his report to the Committee on Address & Reports whose members then review the report and recommend to Grand Lodge the report be accepted, rejected, or matters referred to other committees for further action. Section 2201 only requires the Grand Master and other lodge officers to submit their reports no less than two weeks prior to the Annual Communication in April. There is no provision/process specified in Section 2201 to submit interim reports.

Given the history of Section 2107(j) and Grand Lodge's use of one Communication until changed, the committee recommends the proposed change.

Committee on Ritual and Ceremonies

Current provision:

Section 2211. Committee on Ritual and Ceremonies. There shall be a Committee on Ritual and Ceremonies consisting of a minimum of five (5) members. Annually, the Grand Master shall appoint one (1) new member to serve for a period of five (5) years. Should a vacancy occur, the Grand Master shall appoint a new member to fill the unexpired term. Additional members may be appointed to work with the committee, however their term shall only be for one (1) year.

It shall be the duty of the committee to review: Masonic Protocol, the ritual for Opening and Closing Lodges, conferring degrees and all other ceremonies such as Installation of Officers, Actual Past Master's degree, Table Lodge, Memorial Service, Dedication or Rededication of Lodges or Lodge Buildings or others as may become necessary. Proposed changes shall be submitted to Grand Lodge for approval at a regular communication or at a special communication called for that purpose.

Proposal:

Section 2211. Committee on Ritual and Ceremonies. There shall be a Committee on Ritual and Ceremonies consisting of a minimum of five (5) members. Annually, the Grand Master shall appoint one (1) new member to serve for a period of five (5) years. Should a vacancy occur, the Grand Master shall appoint a new member to fill the unexpired term. Additional members may be appointed to work with the committee, however, their term shall only be for one (1) year.

It shall be the duty of the committee to establish the "Standard Work" consisting of the ritual for Opening and Closing Lodges and conferring degrees. Proposed changes to the Standard Work shall be submitted to Grand Lodge for approval at a regular communication or at a special communication called for that purpose.

The committee shall review and recommend changes to Masonic Protocol and all ceremonies such as Installation of Officers, Actual Past Master's degree, Table Lodge, Memorial Service, Dedication or Rededication of Lodges or Lodge Buildings or others as may become necessary. Changes to ceremonies shall be approved by the Grand Master or his designee.

Discussion:

The Ritual and Ceremonies Committee has requested the changes to its charge to clarify what ritual constitutes Standard Work while retaining the requirement of Grand Lodge to approve any changes to that ritual. This change would provide the definition of Standard Work. In addition, Section 2211 is referenced in other sections of the Rules and Regulations as the source defining the Standard Work but it does not have a definition of the same.

The Committee is also proposing a change to align the Rules and Regulations to be consistent with current practice as seen in several Polices and Procedures that state changes to other ceremonies (e.g. Table Lodge) require the approval of the Grand Master. It would also allow the Grand Master to designate someone (e.g. the Deputy Grand Master) to act in his behalf to approve changes to ceremonies.

Rules & Regulations proposed amendments concerning personal jurisdiction

Discussion:

At the request of the Grand Secretary, the committee reviewed the following Sections to address use of retaining personal jurisdiction as a means of precluding a petitioner from becoming a Mason, if qualified.

The committee has made corrections to several sections to add "rejected candidate" which had been omitted when amended in October 2012.

Committee also recommends the petition, Form GL-2 to include a question "Have you ever petitioned another lodge, if yes, provide name of lodge and date petition submitted."

Changes are noted in italics with the former term noted with a ~~strikethrough~~.

Section 3307. Lodge First Receiving Petition Holds Personal Jurisdiction for *One Year*. ~~Three Years.~~ A Lodge which first receives the petition acquires Personal Jurisdiction over the Petitioner and retains such jurisdiction for a period of one (1) year. ~~three~~ ~~(3) years~~. This Personal Jurisdiction shall be computed from the date that the petition is first read in the Lodge.

Section 3312. Rejected Petitioner, *Rejected Candidate*, Personal Jurisdiction. A Lodge rejecting a petitioner or candidate retains Personal Jurisdiction over the petitioner or candidate for a period of one year (1) ~~three~~ ~~(3) years~~ computed from the date of the first ~~last~~ rejection.

Section 3313. Rejected Petitioner, *Rejected Candidate*, Reapplication to Rejecting Lodge. A petitioner or candidate rejected in any Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction cannot renew his petition until the expiration of six months from the date of his rejection. See Section 4206.

Section 3314. Rejected Petitioner, *Rejected Candidate*, ~~Rea~~Application to Another Lodge. A petitioner or candidate, rejected by a Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction, cannot ~~renew his~~ petition to another Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction until the expiration of six months from the date of his rejection. The Lodge receiving such petition must obtain a Release of Personal Jurisdiction from the Lodge which holds same before acting on the renewed petition.

Section 3315. Procedure When Petition of Rejected Petitioner, *Rejected Candidate* is Presented. When the petition of a petitioner or candidate rejected in another Lodge is presented, it must be received and laid upon the table until a Release of Personal Jurisdiction is obtained from the rejecting Lodge, if that Lodge still holds Personal Jurisdiction, and then proceed as in other cases. If such Release of Personal Jurisdiction is refused, the Lodge receiving the new petition acquires no Personal Jurisdiction and has no right to consider the petition until the release is granted or the Personal Jurisdiction of the rejecting Lodge expires. The petition should then be filed and the fees returned.

Section 4206. Rejected Petitioner or Rejected Candidate Procedure. No Lodge within this jurisdiction shall ballot for, or confer any degrees upon a rejected petitioner or rejected candidate petitioning another lodge until at least six months after such rejection; nor then without the unanimous consent of the Lodge so rejecting or having personal jurisdiction. See Section 3313.

Section 4207. Rejection Not to be Made Known. The rejection of a petitioner or rejected candidate for the degrees or for affiliation shall not be made known. Such disclosure to the uninitiated, other than the petitioner or candidate, will be considered as un-Masonic conduct and dealt with accordingly. Whenever such rejection occurs, it shall be the duty of the Worshipful Master to cause this section to be read.

Rules & Regulations proposed amendment

Current provision:

Section 3400. Communications, Stated or Special. The Communications of a Lodge are either stated (regular), special or emergent (Lodge "emerges" from its meeting place to perform Masonic work in public, e.g., burial or funeral service, church attendance, cornerstone laying, etc.). Stated communications are those which are held on the day specified in the By-Laws of the Lodge. Stated communications of the Lodge must be held at the Lodge room.

Section 3405. Special Communication, Defined. Special communications are those which are held pursuant to the call of the Master.

Section 3406. What Business May Be Done at a special Communication. Degrees may be conferred, and any matters other than those mentioned in Section 3403 can be acted upon at a special communication of the Lodge, provided such matters be specified in the call.

Section 3407. Special Communications, Where Held. Special Communications must be held at the Lodge room, or some other place which has been previously authorized by a Grand Master's Dispensation. Table Lodges may be held in the Lodge banquet facility without a Grand Master's Dispensation provided that the banquet facility can be properly tiled.

Section 3408. Communications of Lodge on Sunday Restricted. Communications of a Lodge cannot be held on Sunday for any purpose except as follows, in which instances emblems and regalia may be worn:

a. For the burial of deceased Brothers
b. For conducting memorial services for deceased Brothers
c. For the exercise of Masonic charity of a pressing character
d. For attending divine service
e. For a public ceremony of wreath laying
f. For a public installation of officers.
g. For any public ceremony where participation will enhance the public image of Freemasonry, such as Cornerstone laying, Masonic Building Rededication, etc. Such events require participation by the Grand Lodge and the dispensation of the Grand Master.

Section 3413. Precaution for Secrecy; Penalty. Every Lodge in this jurisdiction shall observe great care in the location of its Lodge rooms, that it may be entirely safe from the approach of cowans and eavesdroppers. To this end it shall observe that all windows and doors are secured against seeing or hearing, that floors be deafened, and all necessary precautions taken to secure absolute safety. A violation of this resolution by any Lodge, after due notice has been given, will be considered sufficient cause for immediate withdrawal of its charter.

Change to read as follows:

Section 3400. Communications, Stated or Special. The Communications of a Lodge are either stated (regular) or special.

Section 3401. Stated Communications for Regular Lodges; *Defined;* Minimum Number of; Certain May Be Omitted; How Changed. Stated communications are those which are held on the day and location specified in the By-Laws of the Lodge. Stated communications of the Lodge must be held in a room meeting the requirements of Section 3413 or at some other place which has been authorized by the Grand Master's Dispensation. Lodges shall hold at least one stated communication in each month, except that by special vote of a Lodge, communications may be omitted during July and August, upon legal and religious holidays, Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, and upon the week of the annual Session of the Grand Lodge. Any stated communication may be changed by a vote of the Lodge upon due notice being given to all of the members of the Lodge at least two weeks in advance of such changed dates.

Section 3405. Special Communication, Defined. Special communications are those which are held pursuant to the call of the Master.

Section 3406. What Business May Be Done at a Special Communication. Degrees may be conferred, and any matters other than those mentioned in Section 3403 can be acted upon at a special communication of the Lodge, provided such matters be specified in the call. The performance of a Masonic funeral or burial service in accordance with Section 7012, and the attendance at a divine worship in accordance with Section 7013, does not require opening a Special Communication.

Section 3407. Special Communications, Where Held. Special Communications must be held in a room meeting the requirements of Section 3413, or at some other place which has been authorized by the Grand Master's Dispensation.

Section 3408. - *Deleted*

Section 3413. Precaution for Secrecy; Penalty. Every Lodge in this jurisdiction shall observe great care in the location of any room used for a Communication, that it may be entirely safe from the approach of cowans and eavesdroppers. To this end it shall observe the room can be properly tiled; that all windows and doors are secured against seeing or hearing; that floors be deafened, and all necessary precautions taken to secure absolute safety. A violation of this resolution by any Lodge, after due notice has been given, will be considered sufficient cause for immediate withdrawal of its charter.

Discussion:

There are only two "Communications" provided for; Stated or Special. If a lodge "Emerges" from the lodge room, with the exception of a funeral service or devine worship service as described in Section 7013, it is doing so during either a Stated Communication or a Special Communication. To eliminate confusion and add consistency the committee is recommending these changes.

Within Sections 3401 and 3407 the committee is recommending allowing meetings to be held in any room within the lodge provided the room complies with requirements of Section 3413 concerning being properly tiled and the approach of cowans and eavesdroppers. In addition, the committee recommends adding matching language contained in Section 3407 concerning meeting at another location upon grant of dispensation by the GM. Reference within Section 3407 concerning a table lodge meeting at the lodge banquet facility would no longer be needed. These changes are intended to provide clarity and more flexibility to the lodge.

The committee is recommending deletion of Section 3408 because the section derives its purpose based Christianity however, Masonry does not favor one religion over another. As such there should be no restriction on Masonic activities on any given day other than by determination of the members of a lodge.

The committee is recommending a change to Section 3413 to conform to proposed changes in Sections 3401 and 3407, that precaution for secrecy applies to any room used for a Communication, as well as to clarify a room can be properly tiled.

Rules & Regulations proposed amendment

Current provision:

Section 3414.

Section 3414. Permissible forms of communications. Written communications may be delivered to a recipient by hand delivery, US mail, or by electronic means as specified in the by-laws. Examples of electronic communications are facsimile, email and text message. If a lodge or other Masonic organization described in Section 3601 chooses to use electronic communications, a recipient who cannot or does not want to receive communications in this manner shall receive a written copy by US mail. It shall be the responsibility of a brother to notify the Secretary of changes to mailing and electronic delivery addresses.

Requesting a dimit from a lodge in accordance with Subpart 46 may be delivered to a lodge by electronic means.

Notices and correspondence described in Subpart 60 shall be delivered to the recipient by US mail.

Change to read as follows:

Section 3414. Permissible forms of sending communications and documents. Written communications and documents (unless specifically prohibited, i.e., copyright, etc.) may be delivered to a recipient by hand delivery, US mail, or by electronic means as specified in the by-laws. Examples of electronic communications are facsimile, email and text message. If a lodge or other Masonic organization described in Section 3601 chooses to use electronic communications, a recipient who cannot or does not want to receive communications and documents in this manner shall receive a written copy by US mail. It shall be the responsibility of a brother to notify the Secretary of changes to mailing and electronic delivery addresses.

Requesting a dimit from a lodge in accordance with Subpart 46 may be delivered to a lodge by electronic means.

Notices and correspondence described in Subpart 60 shall be delivered to the recipient by US mail.

Committee on Legal Matters
Grand Lodge Session October 2013
Section 3800 – Dispensations Defined

Current provision:

Section 3800. Dispensations Defined. A dispensation is an instrument issued over the signature of the Grand Master authorizing a Lodge to deviate from the Grand Lodge Rules and Regulations or the By-Laws of the Lodge or to authorize a Lodge to participate in public ceremonies, as well as for other extenuating situations.

Change to read as follows:

Section 3800. Dispensations Defined. A dispensation is an instrument issued over the signature of the Grand Master. A dispensation authorizes Masons, a Lodge or an entity described in Section 3601 to deviate from the Grand Lodge Rules and Regulations or their By-Laws, to participate in public events outside the lodge room, or other extenuating situations.

Discussion:

The committee recommends changes in Section 3800 to expand issuance of dispensations to an individual and to entities controlled by lodges.

How Membership in Lodge is Acquired

Current provision:

Section 4100. How Membership in a Lodge is Acquired. Membership in a Lodge can be acquired:

a. By being one of the petitioners to whom a charter is granted.
b. By receiving the degrees as a candidate, and afterward performing an act which evinces an intent to become a member of the Lodge such as signing the Lodge By-Laws.
c. By affiliation. (Must sign By-Laws, Section 4101).

Proposal:

Section 4100. How Membership in a Lodge is Acquired. Membership in a Lodge can be acquired:

a. By being one of the petitioners to whom a charter is granted.
b. By receiving the degrees as a candidate, and afterward performing an act which evinces an intent to become a member of the Lodge such as signing the Lodge By-Laws.
c. By affiliation. (Must sign By-Laws, Section 4101).
d. By reinstatement (see Subpart 44)
e. Upon surrender of a Charter, the Grand Master may assign brother(s) in good standing who have become Non-Affiliated Mason(s) to another lodge (or lodges). The Grand Master may waive the necessity of petitioning for affiliation. The lodge(s) shall retain the right to investigate and ballot on the assigned brother, however if the lodge takes no action within six months from assignment, the assigned brother shall become a member of the lodge and those members will be deemed to have signed the lodge by-laws.
f. Upon approval of two or more lodges to merge or consolidate into a new lodge, members of lodge(s) ceasing to exist shall become members of the new or continuing lodge.

Discussion:

When a brother is dropped NPD or demits from a lodge, his lodge membership is terminated. The committee noted determined the act of reinstatement of a brother, results in his acquiring membership in a lodge. To clarify the matter the committee recommends adding new subsection (d).

Proposed amendment 4100(e) would allow the Grand Master the ability to step-in and fulfill the goals of GM's Verplanck and Yohe of affording a brother membership in a lodge.

Proposed amendment 4100(f) would codify existing practice/ understanding concerning the process of merging a lodge into another or consolidating two or more lodges into a newly chartered lodge.

The Garibaldi Masonic Club
invites you to join
MWGM Simon R. LaPlace
and
Ms. Jennifer King
Executive Director of
The Masonic Charity Foundation
for dinner
Wednesday, November 6, at 6:30 p.m.
America – St. John's Lodge
3960 Main Street, Stratford
$15 per person
Italian Food, Italian Dessert, Beer, Wine, Soda, Coffee
All Master Masons are welcome!
For reservations call: 203-228-4447
or e-mail padulabruce@ yahoo.com

Clarifying the Landmarks without Changing Them

by the Committee on Landmarks

Landmark No. 1

The committee has had intense discussion regarding the "denominational" nature of many of our fraternity's writings as well as some of the omissions and contradictions relating to our Landmarks, Rules and Regulations, and, in some cases, practices in the Connecticut Masonic jurisdiction. Much of this has existed for many years, but little had been done to address the issues.

Probably the most difficult Landmark to consider was the first. It currently states that Connecticut Freemasons must have a:

"Belief in the existence of a Supreme Being, in some revelation of His will, in the Resurrection of the Body and in the Immortality of the Soul."

The first concern was not that it is clearly denominational in tone and content. The first concern was that, generally, a newly made brother is not told this until after he is obligated. It is too late to solicit one's agreement and consent to anything after the fact. Therefore, regardless of the tone or content, the committee believes men should be informed of the requirement of membership before they decide to join.

The Committee was concerned about the denominational tone of the Landmark. It is generally understood that our fraternity was founded by men who held a Christian view of God. The nature of the differences that exist in the traditions of men, required a more "neutral" rendering. This led to the rephrasing of this belief but reinforced the necessity of a belief in God, and left that belief free of denominational influences.

Bro. Albert Mackey's first landmark referred to a "resurrection to a future life" expressing the notion that Mason's should work toward perfecting ourselves now and forward. Moreover, while the phrase "resurrection of the body" could refer to that "house not made by hands, eternal in the heavens." that meaning is already in our Landmark which refers to the "immortality of the soul."

"Resurrection of the Body" is a clearly Christian connotation resulting in some brothers either being forced to ignore the Landmark or rationalize their own beliefs in order to remain Masons. The Committee's preference was to remove the denominational inference.

The Committee understands that Freemasonry is not for everyone, but at the same time, it should be made available to all men of good character that would freely embrace our principles, values, and beliefs. It is not about political correctness, it is about Masonic universality and the rightness of everything we do. For the Committee it has been a process of knocking off a few more of the rough edges from our imperfect ashlars. We hope you agree.

Landmark 8

Landmark (viii) currently states: "That the Grand Lodge is the Supreme Governing Body within its territorial jurisdiction." The Committee suggestion is: "That the Grand Lodge, which is comprised of all Master Masons within its Grand Jurisdiction, is the Supreme Governing Body within its territorial Grand Jurisdiction."

The intent is twofold. The first is directed at clarifying that the Grand Lodge authority excludes authority over the recognized Prince Hall Grand Lodge that co-exists within our state.

The second intent is to reinforce the notion that every brother in Connecticut makes up the Grand Lodge. Being represented by the Masters, Wardens, committeemen, and as permanent members, we collectively determine the path that our Fraternity will take. The Committee feels that insertion of this language will serve to remind all brothers that we participate in the process and that we are not dictated to by a select group. There is not an "us and them." There is simply a "we," meeting and parting on the level.

Landmark 9

Landmark 9 states: "The Lodge has the power to make Masons, and to administer its own private affairs." The Committee is suggesting the following:

"That the Lodge has the power to make Masons and to administer its own private affairs, in accordance with the Constitution, Rules and Regulations of the Grand Lodge."

It is important to understand that the Rules and Regulations of our jurisdiction are made by us. These are the things we, over time, have conceded to each other as a means to maintain harmony and fairness within our fraternity. It is the absolute right of each lodge to govern its own private affairs, so long as that operation does not violate the broader directives to which we have all agreed to abide. This language clarifies any attempt to allow a lodge to abuse the true intent of the Landmark.

Landmark No. 10

Landmark No. 10currently reads, "Under Connecticut Law, lawful age is 18 years. That every Candidate must be a man of at least eighteen years of age and under no restraint of liberty and well recommended."

The Committee proposes the following: "That every Candidate for Freemasonry must be a man of lawful age as stated in the Rules and Regulations of Connecticut Freemasonry. That he be under no restraint of liberty and well recommended."

This change removes a "specific" age from the Landmarks and places that determination within the Rules and Regulations. Any future considerations to changes of proper age could be accomplished without further changes to a Landmark.

Brothers should know that the Committee on Landmarks has met for the past 18 months considering a variety of issues pertaining to the current Landmarks of Freemasonry for Connecticut. The Committee has visited lodges, Blue Lodge Councils, and included articles in the *Connecticut Freemason* publication, and has offered reports at the Grand Lodge sessions. This has been designed to solicit input from brothers to include for the recommendations being offered by the committee.

Final recommendations were offered to the craft in April, for a vote at the October session. There is still time to offer your opinion at various meetings being conducted. You are invited and encouraged to add your input into the discussion.

CONGRATULATIONS

We congratulate these brothers who have achieved 50 years of Masonic membership.

Albert I. Small ..... *Annawon 115*
Carl W. Carlson ..... *Ansantawae 89*
George G. Krause ..... *Ansantawae 89*
Jerry G. Olson ..... *Coastal 57*
Ansel L. Ross ..... *Columbia 25*
John C. Akin ..... *Compass 9*
Randolph W. Whaples Jr ..... *Composite 28*
Raymond J. Zaugg ..... *Hartford Evergreen 88*
Norman C. Miller ..... *Hartford Evergreen 88*
Arthur A. Tanner ..... *King Solomons 7*
Charles E. Lowe Jr ..... *Silas Deane 147*
Thomas E. Coons ..... *St. Luke's 48*
Vincent F. Tripodina ..... *Temple 16*
Charles Karanian ..... *Unity 148*
Hayden A. Patten ..... *Uriel 24*
Robert C. Simmons ..... *Uriel 24*

Newtown Labor Day Parade

Thanks to the Grand Master and Grand Lodge officers who showed up.

Thanks to brothers from lodges across the state who showed up.

Thanks to DeMolay and advisors who showed up.

Thanks to Pyramid Shriners motor patrol who showed up.

Thanks to Hiram Lodge No. 18 who showed up.

Thanks to Pyramid clowns and the "big guy" who showed up.

"Thanks for Showing Up!"

Thanks to the Past Grand Masters who showed up.

Thanks to the town of Newtown. We salute your courage and for being strong.

SUPPORT THE GRAND MASTER'S APPEAL

My Grand Master's Appeal asks for your donation to Masonic youth, Sandy Hook Family Relief Fund, and the Cardiac Research Institute of the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory.

Last year, because of your thoughtfulness, The Connecticut Freemasons Foundation continued to support Masonic charities, remember our Masonic widows on the Masonicare campus, and benefit other worthy causes. Again we ask your help, with a gift.

"Freemasons have always given of themselves." Now is the time to help; no amount is too small to make a difference in our state, and to Freemasonry. You may designate your gift "in honor of" or "in memory of." With your help, my expectations will be surpassed. Thank you for caring by giving to the Grand Master's Appeal.

Simon R. LaPlace, Most Worshipful Grand Master

Gifts may be sent to:
The Connecticut Freemasons Foundation
P.O. 69
Wallingford, CT 06492
or online at *www.ctfm.net*

Grand Master's Appeal Donations In Memory of...

Brother Reginald Abbott
Brother Joseph Evans Arborio
Brother George R. Atha
Brother Harold Barnesly
William C. Bell
Barbara Bullis
Brother Raymond C. Burr Sr
George Dulley Carman
Brother John Cerino
Brother Raymond G. Cook
Brother William K. DeGray
RW Brother Carl G. Ek
Mary Emr
Brother Robert F. Everest
Anne R. Ferguson
Brother Frank J. Godwin Sr
Gordon Halla
Brother Joseph Hanisko
Brother Ferd Hartog
Brother J. Barry Holmes
Brother Louis O. House III
Brother Wesley M. Hoyt
Shirley "Mom" Hunter
Brother H. F. Klein
Brother Joseph A. R. Landry
Brother Kenneth A. Lester
Brother Christopher Letz
Brother James B. MacKerracher
Brother John W. Morley
Elizabeth D. Neumann
Brother Frederick M. Osten
Past Masters of St. John's No. 4
Brother Gordon V. Pierce
Andreas Rados
Charles H. Reeve Sr
WB Charles Reynolds
Brother Stillman H. Rogers
Brother Ronald A. Ross
Brother Augur Russell
your wife, Rosemarie Schmelzer
Ruth Shapleigh
Brother William L. Smith
Frances Snedeker
Mr. Harold C. Stidsen Sr
Kathleen G. Swanson
Brother Ronald C. Swanson
Brother William H. Whitlock Sr
Brother Richard Younger Sr.
Libby Zack
Brother William D. Zeigler

Mentoring the Trade-Craft

by William Edgeworth

It is incumbent on all new petitioners to explore, and define what they consider relevant to an understanding of their new and unique venture called Freemasonry. It is also a necessity that guidance and support from all brothers, and especially an individual brother, explains, direct and, if necessary, challenge the brother. This role of mentor is the cornerstone of any lodge educational program. It is the cement which supports the foundation of friendship, morality, and brotherly love.

Time constraints can make individual instruction strained, but the relationship and guidance of a mentor can facilitate the new brother to a better understanding of the degrees and protocols in a lodge. It also gives him the working tools to challenge him in his journey.

In his new Masonic world, a new brother often has simple questions; where do I sit, how do I tie my apron, or what degree are we opening on? Easily answered, but who does he ask?

Lodge education and Masonic study is imperative for the faithful discharge of ritual, but also to aid the craft from becoming stagnate and self indulgent.

Establishment of a mentoring program is simple. One brother takes another and directs, elaborates, and explains. This brotherhood of mentorship creates a desire for each of the parties to view the craft as an examination of ourselves.

The relationship between mentor and student builds a friendship, and a kinship for the fraternity germinates. A wonderful illumination takes place, and the quest for "further light in Masonry" becomes a self illumination. The new brother builds his inner spirit and inner knowledge.

A mentor presents a working knowledge of procedures which may seem common to the rest of the lodge. He may issue praise or criticism, but always with the mindset that, with his help, the brother may take a seat among the officers or even progress to Worshipful Master.

Within a Masonic lodge building are books, charts, and fliers. Some lodges can access electronic media, or there may even be a Masonic research library. Yet, at the threshold of that open door stands the mentor.

"Men are men the world over. That which is hidden is sought; that which is forbidden is desired; that which is secret is studied; that which is rare is held valuable." If Masonry has a secret, it is that "to be of use to others, Masonry must be of use to you."

William Edgeworth, left, with his mentor WB William R. Bonaminio, DaySpring Lodge No. 30, Hamden. His 45 years of experience has established a brotherhood of indissoluble bond.

In mentoring, the compelling forces of curiosity and human nature are brought together. The sprit and love of Masonry are shared as the guided and guide step with newfound kinship. The newly initiated brother learns incalculable enrichment, with the reassurance that Freemasonry is all and more than his initial belief.

Without a mentor, the search for answers becomes a futile attempt to understanding. With a mentor, the absence of doubt allows the application of clarity.

A mentor is a teacher with experience, knowledge, and history; a lodge reference book just waiting to be opened by the new brother.

Mentoring is badly needed in lodges where stagnation threatens to become the norm. Mentoring creates a new found excitement for questions, explanations, and recitations.

The foundation of mentoring is both ancient and celebratory. It is an exchange, an understanding between a novice and a seasoned individual, whereby each becomes part of the circle; each becomes a working tool to the craft. Maintaining, discovering, and polishing them into that which makes good men better.

In these fast, and, at times, disconnected days, a motoring relationship is needed at the forefront of every lodge educational program. A mentor is the catalyst by which a new brother has the ways and means by which the brotherhood of Freemasonry is spread.

Child Development Center Earns National Accreditation

by Penny O'Neill

The Masonicare Child Development Center (MCDC) located on the Masonicare campus in Wallingford was one of the first early childhood programs to earn accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and was recently accredited for the fifth consecutive time. NAEYC is the nation's leading organization of early childhood professionals.

"We're both pleased and proud to be accredited by NAEYC and to be acknowledged for our ongoing dedication to achieving the highest standards possible," said director Darlene Rawling-Plummer. "NAEYC accreditation assures families in our community that children enrolled in our program receive exceptional care and superior early learning experiences." Ms. Rawling-Plummer is also pleased to announce the center will be celebrating its 25th anniversary in October.

The MCDC was established 25 years ago to provide care for children of Masonicare employees as well as those from the community. Typical children and those with special needs, from six weeks old to the age of five, are cared for in a warm and nurturing environment. In addition, the children participate in an intergenerational program developed by childcare staff and Masonicare Health Center's recreational therapy staff, interacting with Masonicare residents several times a month through a host of special activities and programs.

To earn NAEYC's accreditation, the director and staff worked tirelessly over the past year, preparing hundreds of pages of documents for the accreditation visit. Under Ms. Rawling-Plummer's leadership, the MCDC achieved its highest accreditation rating to date, scoring 100% in 8 out of the 10 program standards that are measured and 93% or better for the two remaining standards. The MCDC will also be subject to unannounced visits during the five-year accreditation period.

Children and staff enjoy a day out at the Masonicare Child Development Center.

To learn more about the Masonicare Child Development Center, contact Ms. Rawling-Plummer at 203-679-5935.

Connecticut Freemasons Have the Power to *DONATE LIFE*℠

Morris, the Organ Donor Cat, and the Masonic Open House Day

by Richard F. Denno

On Saturday, October 19, Freemasons will hold an Open House Day throughout Connecticut and New England. It is an excellent opportunity for area men to learn more about what Freemasonry is, and consider joining our fraternity.

At this year's Open House, the Masonic Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness program will play a significant role in showing our communities the service programs that Freemasons are involved with. Assisting us this year will be a real 'warm & fuzzy' new addition, Morris, the organ donor cat. His message is a 'softer' way of expressing a very serious need in Connecticut, registering our brothers and neighbors as organ/tissue/eye donors. Over 120,000 patients are currently on the organ donor wait list. Every day, nore than eighteen patients die waiting for that organ transplant that could save their life, or greatly it.

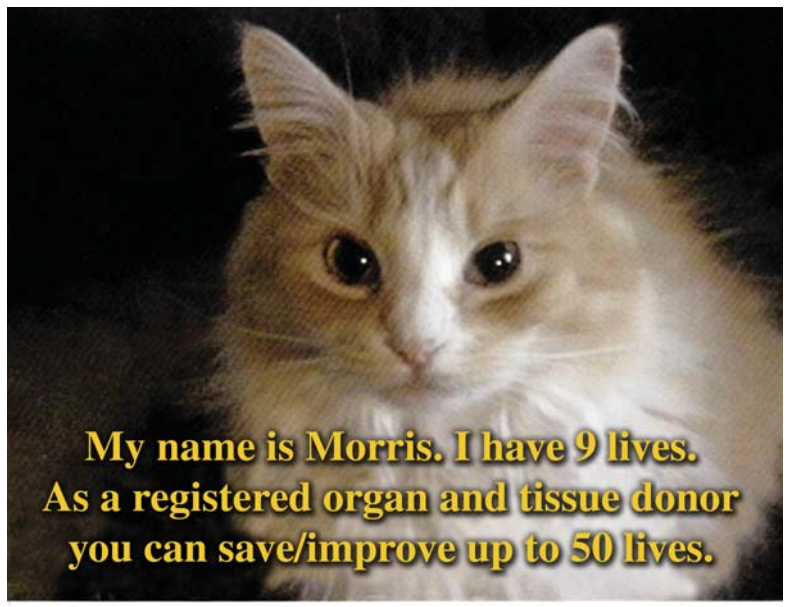
The 'Morris the Donor Cat' idea started in a very simple way. After taking a photo of Morris, he was adopted from the Protectors of Animals, *www.poainc.org*, a year ago. He is gentle, friendly, and cuddly. Morris is all of that and much more!

The slogan came during a sleepless night, "My name is Morris – I have 9 lives. As a registered organ and tissue donor, you can save/improve up to 50 lives." Morris was put on a postcard, with the Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness committee's information on the back. Then it was put on a flyer that lodges could make copies and distribute at the Open House.

To test the flyer's effectiveness, it was sent out to Donate Life Organ Procurement Organizations (OPOs) throughout the country. The response was an overwhelming "I love it!"

Hopefully, Morris's warm, friendly and furry approach will bring a smile to your face. and those of our Open House guests. We encourage you to visit *www.donatelifenewengland.org*, and learn more about this important lifesaving need and register online.

Have a fantastic Open House Day at your lodge.



You have The Power to Donate Life!
To Learn More About Becoming A
Registered Organ & Tissue Donor go to:

www.donatelifenewengland.org

"It's the Right Thing To Do"

Supported by Connecticut Freemasons Foundation

Masonic Organ & Tissue Donor Awareness Program

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Is Your Lodge Ready for the October 19 Open House Program?

That's right — Saturday, October 19 is the statewide Open House program. Coordinated with Open House programs in other New England states, this year's Open House program will be promoted statewide with updated radio advertising messages, public relations, and social media templates for lodges to use to promote their event, and a new website for lodges and visitors alike to visit for more information: openhouse.ctfreemasons.net.

This past year the Masonic Awareness Committee surveyed lodges regarding their Open House programs to determine what areas they would like assistance with, and what worked best for their specific Open House program.

What area lodges would like assistance with:
- Local advertising
- Local public relations
- Assistance with planning an Open House

Several templates for local advertising and public relations have been created and can be found at openhouse.ctfreemasons.net. An article about how to use Patch to promote your event is also included. Your lodge should also have at least two banners: "Open House" and "Donate Life." Both of these banners can be used to draw attention to your Open House Program. Additionally, several helpful and informative videos of presentations that were given at prior Open House seminars have been filmed and uploaded to the new Open House website.

What lodges said worked best for their Open House Program:

- *Providing food for visitors*
- *Inviting friends and family members to visit*
- *Advertising in the local newspaper*
- *Banners and signs to note the Open House – Holding a CTCHIP or Organ and Tissue Donor program during Open House*
- *Co-marketing with a local event (apple festival, town celebration)*
- *Collecting donations (food, clothing)*
- *Holding a lodge event (pumpkin festival) – Building tours and historical presentations – High School team participation (robotics) – Appendant body participation (Shriners' clowns, small cars)*
- *Discussions with visitors and distribution of Masonic literature*

"Hood Opening" is a big deal for National Camping Travelers!

by Pat Kalinauskas

"Hood opening" resounded across the campground and several men and one engine savvy woman made a beeline toward Bro. Carl Zinn's big baby blue Freightliner. Dwarfing every Dodge, Ford, and Chevy truck in the campground, the Freightliner pulls the Zinn's 5th wheel camper around the states with ease. Campers know a really good truck to haul a "rig" is essential. It's not that one man tries to outdo the other. There are just preferred ways of hauling.

There is something about an engine that draws men to stand around an open truck hood. National Camping Travelers (NCT) had its first spontaneous hood opening a few years ago when Bro. Tom McGuire bought a new "quiet" diesel truck. A dozen of Tom's brother Masons stood around the engine, looking, listening, and seemingly mesmerized by the whirring of the fan and the belts. The scene was a like a Norman Rockwell moment . . . portraying small-town American life reminiscent of a less complicated world.

The hood goes up on Bro. Carl Zinn's Freightliner and the heads of the National Camping Travelers poke in to see and ask, "What's she got?"

Founded by Masons, National Camping Travelers is a family camping club that has old-fashioned values based on the tenants of Masonry. Members and their families enjoy activities for all ages and build long-lasting friendships. NCT has chapters throughout the United States and Canada. Connecticut One Chapter 6, NCT, has local charitable projects that include The Masonic Charity Foundation's Quality of Life Fund, local food banks, and toys for needy children at Christmas.

NCT's next campout is October 18-20 with a turkey roast and Halloween costume parade for the young and young-at-heart on Saturday, October 19. If you would like to join us, reservations are absolutely required.

For more information about the events and NCT, please contact Bros. Paul Curry at *awcomeonin@gmail.com*, Norm Gobel at *ngobelle@aol.com*, Brad Ross at *bradhross@aol.com*, Bill Milton at *wmilton@snet.net*, or visit the NCT national website, *www.gonct.org*.

Become an Honorary DeMolay!

DeMolay Auvergne
Grand Master's Class
in honor of MW Simon R. LaPlace

for Master Masons who did not have the opportunity to join DeMolay.

Petition online at *www.ctdemolay.com*
Sunday, October 13 • 4:00 p.m.
New Haven Masonic Temple, 285 Whitney Avenue

Valley of New Haven, A.A.S.R. *by Michael L. Castroll*

The 2013 Fall Reunion is off and running! Before starting the last class of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction bicentennial celebration, there is more to tour and taste, as we visit two of Litchfield County's finest wineries, Sunset Meadows Vineyards in Goshen and Connecticut Valley Winery in New Hartford. Two private rooms will host us to taste their brands, enjoy cheese and crackers, as well as other foods. Packing your own lunch is advisable for heartier appetites. To reserve your place on the bus for this adventure, you are asked to call: Charles Tirrell at 203-215-5305, Steve Allinson at 203-687-7984, or Tom Beck at 203-668-2821. The event is open to ladies, prospects, and guests.

On Sunday afternoon, the October 6, we will hike to the Valley of Waterbury for the Dyslexia Awareness Walk. It is two miles from start to finish. The finish line is the Waterbury Masonic Temple where refreshments are served and awards are handed out.

Any prospects who have not found their way to signing a petition are more than welcome to come to the New Haven Masonic Temple, home to the Valley of New Haven on Monday evening, October 7, when E.G. Storer Lodge of Perfection confers both the 4° and the 14°. Game time is 7:30 p.m. for the start of the 4°. Candidates and cast should plan to be present well ahead of time for the degree.

The °, or Master Traveler, is merely the first step toward further light in the Scottish Rite. Thrice Potent Master Robert J.Knowles is looking forward to greeting you. After the 4° is concluded, all are invited to the banquet hall for pizza. Following our collation, it is back to work as TPM Knowles' officer corps confers the 14°.

This Fall Reunion's schedule has a more enhanced feature, as the degree schedule for all of the other valleys is also displayed. This will enable prospects to make sure they are not left out because of conflicts with our valley's schedule.

Ill. David L. Sharkis, 33° and Ill. Active, Bruce Work, 33° invite everyone to a production of "Martin and Max" on Friday, October 11, at 7:00 p.m., at the auditorium of the Hartog Center at Ashlar Village, in Wallingford. Martin and Max will prove even though Supreme Council rules prohibit the Deputy and Active from performing ritual they have not lost their touch. Admission of $25, payable to The Connecticut Council of Deliberation, can be forwarded to David L. Sharkis, 26 Reid Street, Waterbury, CT 06704. All proceeds will benefit the Supreme Council Almoner's Fund. This event is open to all Master Masons, so do not miss this opportunity!

Our Open House takes place the very next day. After the weekend, we are back at our labors, on Monday evening, October 14. The Valley of Bridgeport promises a wonderful portrayal of the 17°. There is no reason to doubt that it will be anything but a sterling performance.

League Billiards at Sphinx Shrine

We are inviting lodges to enlist teams of 5-8 players for competition.

Come enjoy the fun and fellowship Friday October 18 at 7:00 p.m. For sign up and demo night Length of the season and day of the week will be determined that night.

Please contact the Sphinx Shriners office for additional info and team sign

Masonic Lodge of Research

Presents the 2013 James Royal Case Fellowship to Timothy Hogan

Saturday, October 19, 6:00 p.m. at the New Haven Masonic Temple, 285 Whitney Avenue, New Haven

Dinner $25, reservations required

Bro. Hogan's lecture is free and open to the public

WB Timothy Hogan, author and international lecturer on the Western Esoteric Tradition.

Information and reservations to

Seth Strohecker, 203-816-1683 or David Mason 203-988-8244

ATTENTION MASONS

Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite

The Valley of New Haven

Masonic Temple, 285 Whitney Avenue New Haven

Sunday, October 6
Dyslexia Awareness Walk, Waterbury

Monday, October 7
4° and 14°

Friday, October 11
"Martin and Max" Hartog Center, Ashlar Village, Wallingford

For further information, please contact Valley Secretary Ill. Vernon K. Cleaves, 33° at 203-269-0336 or any member of the Valley.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES

The Medicare Open Enrollment period will be October 15 – Dec. 7, 2013 for plans effective January 1, 2014. As a Connecticut Mason who may want to use Masonicare services now or in the future, you might find it helpful to know which Commercial insurance companies Masonicare has a contractual relationship with. These include: Aetna, Blue Cross, Cigna, ConnectiCare, Coventry, Oxford, Yale and Multiplan.

If you are considering a Medicare Advantage program, we have relationships with Aetna, Anthem, ConnectiCare, and Wellcare. There are also many small commercial carriers whom Masonicare accepts. To be sure, you can call the Masonicare HelpLine at 888-679-9997.

Please remember, you have a choice – and should you choose a carrier not mentioned above or verified by our HelpLine, Masonicare may not be able to be your provider for those services.

Valley of Hartford, A.A.S.R. *From the desk of David R. Blythe, Sr., 33°, Valley Secretary*

This fall, the Valley of Hartford will wrap up the year long celebration of the 200th Anniversary of the Scottish Rite Supreme Council, NMJ, with its fall degree season. On Thursday, October 1, the Valley of Hartford will portray the 4° and 9°, the 14° and 15° on Thursday, October 26, and the 18° on Thursday, November 14. All of these degrees will be portrayed in the Ill. Warren J. Blessing, 33°, auditorium at the Ill. Edward Mosley White, 33°, Scottish Rite Cathedral, 207 Deming Street in Newington.

The fall degrees conclude on Saturday, December 7, when all Scottish Rite Valleys in Connecticut participate in a joint Scottish Rite Reunion at the Masonic Building, 285 Whitney Avenue in New Haven. The 32° will be portrayed with a cast from all three Consistories. The 220, *Princes of Libanus*, will be portrayed in a musical banquet form by visiting brethren from the Valley of Boston. More details about Consistory Day can be found in the October-November-December issue of our quarterly publication, *The View of the Valley*, or in the November issue of this newspaper.

Why not plan on joining us this fall for our Thursday evenings, or on Consistory Day? Take part in the fellowship and brotherhood that the Scottish Rite offers. If you are not already a Scottish Rite Mason and have not yet submitted an application, applications will be accepted up until 7:15 p.m. on Thursday, October 10. You will need a 2013 Blue Lodge dues card or a letter from the lodge secretary stating that you are a member in good standing. If you still have questions, please contact me at the Valley of Hartford at 860-666-0712 or e-mail your questions to *sect@snet.net*. Applications can be obtained by visiting our Valley of Hartford website: *www.valleyofhartford.org*

Other fall highlights include a performance of the Masonic play *Martin and Max – A Story About Fulfilling Your Obligation*, performed by Deputy for Connecticut, Ill. David L. Sharkis, 330, and Ill. Bruce T. Work, 330, Active for Connecticut, on October 11, at 7:00 p.m. at the auditorium of the Hartog Center in Ashler Village, Wallingford. Admission is $25 and all proceeds benefit the Supreme Council's Almoner's Fund. The program is only open to Master Masons. A reception will follow at 8:30 p.m. If you would like to attend, make checks payable to "The Connecticut Council of Deliberation" and mail to David L. Sharkis, 26 Reid Street, Waterbury, CT 06704.

On Saturday, October 12, the Valley will take its fall Family Life bus trip – a fall foliage trip to Meredith, New Hampshire. They will board a train and enjoy an old fashioned Hart's Turkey Farm dinner as the train travels the shores of Lake Winnipesaukee for prime foliage viewing. This trip sold out early, so if you plan on attending future Family Life trips be sure to make your reservations early.

The Connecticut Scottish Rite testimonial to honor our new 33° members, including Ill. Earl S. Evans, MSA, 33°, from the Valley of Hartford, will be on Saturday, October 19. The 33° nominees will also be introduced that evening, including the Valley of Hartford nominee, Bro. Gordon C. Willoughby, Jr. The event will be at The Gallery Restaurant, in Glastonbury, and is open to anyone. Advance reservations are required with a deadline of October 10. If you wish to attend please contact the Valley office for more information.

SCOTTISH RITE
CELEBRATING
1813 – 2013
200th YEAR
OF BROTHERHOOD

ANCIENT ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE

The Valley of Hartford

207 Deming Street, Newington, CT 06111

The Vision of the Scottish Rite:
"We will strive to be a fraternity that fulfills our Masonic obligation to care for our members"

As The Scottish Rite Celebrates 200 Years Of Brotherhood, Be A Part Of It All As A Member Of The Fall Class

Applications for the 2013 Fall Class will be accepted until October 10, 2013

See what we have to offer by visiting our website:
www.valleyofhartford.org

If you would like more information about becoming a member of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, or would like a copy of Scottish Rite Informational DVD Contact David Blythe Sr., 33°, Valley Secretary, at the Valley of Hartford Office 860-666-0712, or *sect@snet.net* or visit our Valley Website: *www.valleyofhartford.org*

The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut and Masonicare invite you to honor or remember loved ones by lighting up a light on the

Tree of Life
Masonicare

Your tax-deductible donation in support of the Tree of Life enables us to provide quality, compassionate care to our residents and patients when no other funding sources are available.

You can honor or remember a loved one by lighting up a light on the Tree of Life. To purchase a light, please provide all necessary tribute information on our online response form at **www.masonicare.org/tree-life** or print out a downloadable response form and return with your gift to:

Tree of Life
C/O The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut
P.O. Box 70, Wallingford, CT 06492

Loved ones will be honored at one of three tree-lighting ceremonies:

Tree of Life - East Hartford	Tree of Life - Meriden	Tree of Life - Stamford
Saturday, November 23, 2013	Friday, December 6, 2013	Sunday, December 8, 2013
5:00 – 7:00 p.m.	5:30 – 7:30 p.m.	5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
East Hartford Community Cultural Center	Augusta Curtis Cultural Center	Italian Center of Stamford
50 Chapman Street	175 East Main Street	1620 Newfield Avenue
East Hartford, CT	Meriden, CT	Stamford, CT

For more information, please call The Masonic Charity Foundation at 800-562-3952

The Ten Commandments of Healthy Living

A Personal Roadmap

Dr. Steven Angelo

by Dr. Steven Angelo

As an internal medicine physician, I am often asked by patients to boil down the keys to healthy living to an easy-to-follow list. The "Ten Commandments" listed below are my attempt to do just that. Genetics and uncontrolled environmental factors certainly play a role in a person's health but adhering to these Ten Commandment as best as possible will certainly go a long way towards putting the odds in your favor.

I shall stop smoking. While everyone thinks of lung cancer or emphysema as the major health risks of smoking, smoking is also a major risk factor for stroke, heart attacks, heart failure and cancers of almost every other part of the body. And it's never too late to quit. Risks of certain smoking-related conditions might not return all the way to baseline but they will certain decrease significantly.

I shall maintain a healthy weight. Everyone should know their Body Mass Index or BMI – a scoring system that lets you know if you are at a healthy weight or not. Once you know your height and weight, simply enter them into one of the many online calculators available. If your BMI indicates you are overweight or obese, diet and exercise will be your main areas of attack.

I shall try to stay away from the center of the grocery store. What's typically in the center of the grocery store? Processed foods with lots of preservatives and simple carbohydrates! What's typically in the periphery of the store? Fresh vegetables, fruits and lean meats/fish which should be the main staples of your diet.

I shall stay active. We are unfortunately a sedentary society, often sitting at desks all day and relying too heavily on automobiles, escalators and elevators to get around. Most people think of exercise as only being done in a gym or on high-tech exercise machines, but staying active can be achieved by incorporating small changes in your everyday routine. For instance, why not schedule a half hour a day to walking outside or through the halls of your workplace? Why not take the stairs? Why not park a little farther from the entrance to the shopping center? In the long run, these little changes will add up to an overall improvement in your health and well-being.

I shall limit excessive alcohol intake. For most people, a glass of wine per day (if your doctor approves) is probably fine and has some evidence-based health benefits. However, an average of 2 or more alcoholic drinks per day for a man or 1 or more alcoholic drinks a day for a woman is considered excessive alcohol use. This means that the health problems associated with alcohol such as liver damage, stomach ulcers, and high blood pressure begin to rise once these amounts are surpassed. Of course, these are general guidelines and there is some leeway but these numbers should be kept in mind in regards to alcohol ingestion and how it might possibly affect your health.

I shall see my doctor on a regular basis in regards to screening for high blood pressure, diabetes, heart disease, high cholesterol, age and gender-specific cancer screenings and vaccinations.

I shall take care of my mouth. Good oral hygiene and regular cleaning are key to keeping your mouth in good shape and avoiding tooth loss and gum disease. It might also reduce your chances of heart disease, given a recently discovered link between the two.

I shall always wear my seatbelt. Motor vehicle accidents are a major cause of death and life-changing injuries in our country. Fastening your seatbelt is the single most important measure you can take to improve your chances of surviving or reducing the injuries from a collision.

I shall find ways to meditate/create a positive outlook. Meditation is not just for practitioners of Yoga but can be enjoyed by anyone with a few minutes to spare. It simply involves clearing the mind of all concerns and worries and focusing on a single relaxing thing for a set period of time. We do this when we are enjoying a favorite hobby or past-time like gardening or knitting or even in the midst of exercising. And never underestimate the power of a positive outlook: the "glass half full" mentality has been strongly linked to longer life spans.

I shall make time to enjoy my friends and family. Strong supportive relationships with friends and family are not only enjoyable but also strongly linked to better health outcomes and longer life spans.

An excellent website with more information about healthy living is *http://www.cdc.gov/healthyliving/*.

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Connecticut Freemasonry 2013 Joint Ladies at the Table

A coordinated event of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut AF&AM,
Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star; Grand Court, Order of the Amaranth;
Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Connecticut F&AM; and Prince Hall Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star

Saturday, November 9th, 2013 • 4:00 p.m. Cocktail Hour (cash Bar) ✦ 5:00 p.m. Dinner
Knapp Auditorium – Hartog Activities Center • Ashlar Village – Wallingford, Connecticut

$35.00 PER PERSON LIMITED SEATING • ADVANCE RESERVATIONS REQUIRED BY OCTOBER 25
Tickets will be held at the door • Semi-Formal Attire (coat and tie for men)
Make check payable to: "GRAND LODGE OF CONNECTICUT, A.F. & A.M." ***and send to:***
LADIES AT THE TABLE, P.O. BOX 250, WALLINGFORD, CT 06492 – ***Proceeds going to*** The Masonic Charity Foundation
For more information contact Brian Beals • bebeals@snet.net or 860-620-4102

MENU

Cheese and Fruit
Soup & Crackers
Salad w/raspberry dressing
Chicken Françoise
(Lactose free Chicken breast available)
Cheesecake w/fresh mixed berries
(Fresh Fruit available)
Coffee & Tea
Wine and Juice for Toasts

SPECIAL DIETARY REQUESTS MUST BE NOTED WHEN MAKING RESERVATION

Called to the Celestial Lodge

We offer our condolences to the families and friends of these brothers who have been called by the Grand Architect of the Universe.

Edward Rayner ..... *Acacia 85*
George F. Goetz Jr ..... *Amos Beecher 121*
Richard S. Hosking ..... *Ansantawae 89*
James A. Schofield ..... *Ansantawae 89*
Raymond M. Turrell Jr ..... *Brainard 102*
Samuel D. Pierson ..... *Compass 9*
Robert K. Saxton ..... *Composite 28*
Paul Nelkin ..... *Cosmopolitan 125*
Robert E. Miller ..... *Estuary 43*
Donald E. Quint ..... *Hartford Evergreen 88*
Christopher R. Chambers ..... *Manchester 73*
Gordon McGowan ..... *Manchester 73*
Egbert B. Inman Jr ..... *Moriah 15*
Albert E. Dexter Jr ..... *Old Well 108*
Paul K. Jensen ..... *Sequin-Level 140*
Alan S. Lindquist ..... *Sequin-Level 140*
Walter J. Magee ..... *Sequin-Level 140*
Arthur P. Browning ..... *Somerset-St. James 34*
Thomas J. Davis ..... *Somerset-St. James 34*
William F. Knipple ..... *St. Peter's 21*
Brian R. Powers ..... *St. Peter's 21*
Joseph A. Hanzel ..... *Union 31*
Frederick N. Whittemore Jr ..... *Village 29*

Pasta Profits for Sandy Hook Families

by Chris Martinelli

Last December when a crazed gunman shot and killed children in Sandy Hook, brothers at Liberty-Continental Lodge No. 76, Waterbury, felt a call to arms. They visited Hiram Lodge 18, Sandy Hook, the following week to see what support they could give their brothers. Hiram Lodge was beginning to raise funds, with a distinct difference from the donations raised through United Way. The funds the brothers were raising would directly benefit the families of the tragedy.

Liberty-Continental pledged its support. The cause began a venture, not only to help raise funds, but it formed bonds of fellowship that went beyond Masonic obligations.

This past April, Liberty-Continental Lodge held a benefit pasta dinner to raise funds for what Hiram Lodge was spearheading. The brothers found out the community was just as willing to help out for a good cause. Bozzuto's, a family-owned wholesale distributor, donated 100 pounds of pasta, sauce, meatballs, and paper goods to the event. Their generosity was matched by Laurel Party Shop who donated the center pieces, and a local non-profit organization brought in inner-city youth to serve and clean up.

Matched with the line-cooking of Eric Soderburg, Brother Joe Lantiere brought his table magic and John Voket provided music. All together Liberty-Continental Lodge No. 76 raised $600 for the Hiram Lodge initiative. The brothers of Liberty-Continental felt good doing their basic Masonic obligation of helping brothers, and because they were assisting friends.

Music was a pleasant backdrop for the pasta dinner held by Liberty-Continental Lodge No. 76 to raise funds for Sandy Hook survivors.

Please join us for the
Masonic Family Autumn Gathering
Friday, November 8, 2013
7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
in the auditorium at
Masonicare Health Center
22 Masonic Avenue, Wallingford, CT

- Social time, hors d'oeuvres
- Recognition of Veterans
- Tours of Masonicare Health Center

R.S.V.P. to
Bro. Carl Anderson at 203-679-6917

Dedication of Newly Renovated Chapel, made possible by donations to The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut.

Masonicare
www.masonicare.org

From the Southwest of Asia to the East of the Lodge

My story of transition through Freemasonry and how the craft can help other veterans

WB Daniel Adams

by WB Daniel Adams

I am a combat veteran who served two tours in Afghanistan with the Connecticut Army National Guard.

I was raised as a Master Mason at America-St Johns No. 8, Stratford, in November 2004. Upon learning of my DeMolay experience, they asked me to serve as Junior Steward two months after being raised.

In January 2006, I left for my first tour in Afghanistan, returning in May 2007. With my next scheduled deployment two and a half years away, I was leery of taking an office again, so I helped where I could, and volunteered to take on various parts, and was even offered the chance to sit in the East for an Entered Apprentice degree.

Much to my surprise, as my next deployment drew near, the brothers elected me as Junior Warden, even though I would not be there during the term. It was a great honor, but I never thought I would continue in line.

I was wrong. When I returned in November 2011, WB Tim Quinn, the Senior Warden and Worshipful Master-elect grabbed me by the shoulders and looked me over. Then he said, "Dan, you came back in one piece and you have no holes in you. You're up for election to Senior Warden. Look well to the West my brother and be ready for the EA degree in January."

That was quite the welcome home.

Within a month I was elected, and installed in the West as the Senior Warden and was participating in an Entered Apprentice degree. This was no gentle break-in, but I knew that it was necessary for both the lodge, and more importantly, for me.

During my second tour, I realized I had changed. I do not know if it was the experiences I had been exposed to during both tours, the length of time I had been away from home, or both. My temper had become significantly shorter, I had difficulty concentrating and sleeping, my memory had become noticeably degraded, and arthritis had begun to affect me. I was also unemployed.

Through all this, however, I kept attending lodge. I was the Senior Warden; the second in charge, and I couldn't just walk into lodge and watch. I had a part in every communication and I had to take responsibility in the Worshipful Master's absence.

A year later, I was elected Worshipful Master and installed. It was truly a significant moment. It was the realization of all the hard work and sacrifice. The wave of accomplishment and joy was very uplifting. Then, the crowd left and the brothers sat and waited for me to close the lodge in due form. As all past masters know, this is truly an eye-opening moment. But, once I got adjusted to the chair, things began to get comfortable. I had a very strong corps of officers to support me and, outside of the lodge; I had found a full-time job. I even managed to bring the director of the company I now worked for into the fraternity.

Now some might question how was a soldier with two years spent away in a combat zone was able to come back to become the Master his lodge. My experiences with DeMolay and as an NCO in the Army had given me a sense of initiative to take charge of a situation. But that question is too narrow in scope. The more pressing inquiry is: Did the craft assist a returning combat veteran in adapting to civilian life?

While many organizations may gather veterans together, the issue remains; what do they actually do for the veteran to help readjust? While the VFW and American Legion are places for veterans to congregate, what services or counseling are offered? The Disabled American Veterans (DAV) is good for those who have been injured in the service, and it excels at filing disability claims with the Veterans Administration, but it does nothing to show the veteran what to do as a civilian.

On the other hand, there is Freemasonry. The fraternity offers nothing in the way of health insurance, assistance with VA benefits, burial benefits, or job offers. Instead, it demands service and conformity from those who join. Potential members are informed that they will gain no benefit from our organization other than camaraderie and the occasional kitchen duty. There are no promises of wealth or assistance to one's social standing.

The fraternity takes their fees, puts them through the degrees, and then asks if they would like to take an office in the lodge. Nothing more is offered than service and sacrifice…on the surface. But the true power of Freemasonry lies within the inculcation of its tenets through beautiful ceremonies and lectures. Masonry teaches an important lesson.

How can this help the returning combat veteran? He has just left the massive structure of the military. This man is now separated from a brotherhood built through the stress and trials of service and warfare. What if we filled this gap with the superstructure of Freemasonry? Now we have the opportunity to bring this individual into the brotherhood of the craft.

While the veteran can meet with other veterans to talk about time in the service, bringing the veteran into a lodge allows him to meet new people with different experiences, and would he not be better served by talking with different people with different perspectives? The greatest times I have had in lodge were talking with doctors, lawyers, teachers, actors, and other professional men. Where else can a young man with only Army training have deep conversations with those who have years of education and professional training?

During my year in the East, I had a lawyer as Junior Warden, a retired police officer and Past District Deputy as Treasurer, a retired coast guardsman for Secretary, a small business owner and Rotary Club member as Senior Warden, a boiler operator and Past Master as my Clerk of the Works, and a doctor as my Junior Steward!

These circumstances may not be common, but they do shed some light on what Freemasonry has to offer, especially to those who are lost and looking for guidance. Am I suggesting that we hand out petitions to all veterans reaching the end of their time in service? No. But while other organizations may boast about helping veterans, we can truly offer something unique. There seems to be a synergy between the type of men we need to fill our ranks and what returning veterans both need and can offer.

While Freemasonry cannot fill every void a veteran may have, we can take him by the hand, point to the Three Great Lights of Freemasonry, and urge upon him that he faithfully direct his steps through life by the Light he there shall find, and he there shall find it.

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The Brandt Nursing Scholarship: An Investment into the Future of Healthcare

New and continuing recipients of the Norma J. Brandt Nursing Scholarship were honored August 23 at a reception at Masonicare at Ashlar Village in Wallingford. The annual luncheon, which celebrates the nursing profession as well as the generosity of a longtime Mason, was attended by Masonicare staff, Masonic dignitaries, scholarship winners, and family members.

"At Masonicare, the importance of education is really a key to our mission," said Melinda J. Schoen, vice president of Masonicare Health Center administration and chair of the Brandt Scholarship selection committee. "The quality of care and ethics of practice are a foundation of who we are as a healthcare organization. We not only care for patients, but we also have an obligation to care for our future healthcare providers as well. The Brandt Scholarship gives us the opportunity to support others in their dreams of becoming a nurse."

Bro. John O. Brandt, Jr., center, is joined by new and continuing recipients of the Norma J. Brandt Scholarship

The Norma J. Brandt Scholarship Fund was made possible by a generous gift to The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut from Bro. John O. Brandt, Jr. of Pomfret Center, in loving memory of his wife, Norma. Norma was a registered nurse and an active member of both the Order of the Eastern Star (where she was Past Matron of Betty Putnam Chapter No. 106) and the Order of the Amaranth (Past Royal Matron of Rainbow Court No. 20). Her legacy of caring for others endures through this scholarship fund created to provide financial assistance to qualified individuals who are pursuing a career in nursing.

To qualify for the scholarship, applicants must either be a Masonicare employee, the child or grandchild of a Masonicare employee, or have some affiliation with a Masonic organization, either as a member or as a child or grandchild of a member. As well, employees must be eligible for benefits and employed by Masonicare for a minimum of one year. All applicants must display a passion and aptitude for the nursing profession.

This year's new scholarship recipients include Christina Curtiss (Masonicare Health Center), Kelly Fayad (MHC), Alyssa Jones (MHC), Alexis Martowski (daughter of Francis Martowski, LPN at MHC), Lindsay Miller (granddaughter of Bro. Charles R. Miller, Fidelity-St. John's Lodge No. 3, Fairfield, and Lady Martha Chapter No. 103, OES; and Nana Gray Taylor Miller, Lady Martha Chapter No. 103, OES), Thomas Murray (MHC employee and son of Maureen Murray, RN at MHC) and Nicole Searfass (MHC).

Continuing scholarships were awarded to Casey Fiola (daughter of Sandra Fiola, Masonicare Home Health & Hospice), Brianna Grills (granddaughter of Jeanette Theiler, RN, Masonicare Home Health & Hospice), Stephen Murphy (grandson of the late Bro. Richard G. Murphy, Past Master, Warren Lodge No. 51, Portland), Nikki Stone (daughter of Phyllis Stone, RN at MHC) and Carla White (Masonicare at Newtown).

Throughout her busy nursing career, Norma touched the lives of many people with her kindness and compassion. She would be proud to know that so many aspiring nurses are trying to follow her example.

Thumbs Up for Direct Dine Program

by Penny O'Neill

On Thursday, August 29, a much-anticipated event was held at Masonicare Health Center. Two new dining rooms designed especially for residents – the Take Five Café on Ramage 5 and the Blue Skies Bistro on Ramage 6 – were officially acknowledged with a celebratory ribbon-cutting ceremony. In addition to residents and employees, Masonicare board members were invited to participate in the afternoon festivities.

The "Direct Dine" program, which kicked off on July 22 with the noon meal, now serves three delicious meals a day to residents in a warm, inviting atmosphere. When they arrive in the dining room, residents are even given a menu and make meal choices from a variety of menu options. This service not only improves the dining experience, but gives our residents the opportunity to socialize and make new friends as well.

Vice president of administration Melinda Schoen explained that the program has been highly successful, due in large measure to the teamwork and creativity of the many Masonicare employees involved in the months-long project, including staff members from the nursing, environmental services, and food services departments. "From day one, positive results were clearly evident, with residents giving the food and the atmosphere in both dining rooms rave reviews. If you're at the Health Center and haven't seen the new dining rooms, please stop by either unit. You'll see what we mean!"

Patti Russell, vice president for nursing and Melinda Schoen, vice president for administration with Ramage 6 residents Rose Gauthier, left, and Mary Cantarella. right, at the ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the grand opening of two new dining rooms at Masonicare Health Center – The Take Five Café on Ramage 5 and the Blue Skies Bistro on Ramage 6.

Connecticut York Rite Opportunities

(ME) Most Excellent Grand High Priest
(MP) Most Puissant Grand Master
(RE) Right Eminent Grand Commander
(U) Uniform
(F) Formal
(S) Semi-formal
(C) Casual

Information to be included in York Rite Opportunities must be submitted by the 10th of the preceding month to the Grand Secretary/Recorder, Charles B. Fowler, 525 Stillwater, Windsor, CT 06095-3842 or *yrctramrsm@yahoo.com*. NOTE: All dates and visitations are subject to change without notice.

Tuesday, October 1,(F) Keystone Chapter No. 27, Meriden, joint Royal Arch degree with Pulaski Chapter No. 26, 6:00 p.m. dinner
Wednesday, October 2, (ME)(F) Halleck Chapter No. 44, Madison
Thursday, October 3,(MP)(C) Grand Council Select Masters officers meeting, Stratford, 7:00 p.m.
Friday, October 4, (ME)(F) Columbia Chapter No. 31, Collinsville
Saturday, October 6, (MP) Children's Dyslexia Awareness Walk, Waterbury
Tuesday, October 8, (ME)(F) Franklin Chapter No. 2, New Haven
Tuesday, October 8, (F) Hamilton 22 SM, Meriden. Royal Master degree
Wednesday, October 9, (ME)(F) Hiram Chapter No. 1, Sandy Hook
Thursday, October 10, (ME)(F) Cyrus-Meridian Chapter No. 15, Torrington
Thursday, October 10, (MP) (F), Rittenhouse Chapter No. 11, Washington Council No. 6, Darien
Saturday, October 12, (MP)(S) Connecticut York Rite College, Madison, 10:00 a.m.
Saturday, October 12, Hamilton Council No. 22, Meriden, annual steak or lobster dinner, 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, October 13, (MP) DeMolay Auvergne Honorary degree, New Haven
Monday, October 14, (ME)(F) Union Chapter No. 7, Stonington
Tuesday, October 15, (ME)(MP)(RE)(U) Washington Commandery No. 1, East Hartford, reception for Grand Commander, 6:30 p.m. dinner
Wednesday, October 16, (ME)(F) Washington Chapter No. 30, Suffield
Thursday, October 17,(MP)(RE)(U) Hamilton Commandery No. 5, Stratford, Knights Patriot degree, open 6:00 p.m., 6:30 p.m. dinner
Friday, October 18, (U) New Haven Commandery No. 2, New Haven, Order of Malta with Hamilton Commandery No. 5, 6:15 p.m. dinner
Friday, October 18-19, (ME)(MP)(F) Grand York Rite of Massachusetts
Wednesday, October 23, (ME)(F) Pythagoras Chapter No. 17, East Hartford, Past Master and Most Excellent Master degree
Thursday, October 24, (MP) (U) Trinity Commandery No. 3, Darien, Order of Malta
Friday, October 25-26, (ME)(F) Grand York Rite of Maryland
Friday, October 25, (F) Jerusalem Council No. 16, Stratford, Royal Master and Select Master degrees, 6:30 p.m. dinner
Saturday, October 26 Grand Lodge of Connecticut, AF&AM, Semi-annual communication
Wednesday, October 30, (MP)(F) KYCH, Branford

COMING UP:
November 5, Keystone Chapter No. 27, Meriden, Past Master degree
November 8, (ME) Baldwin Chapter No. 13
November 12, (ME) Milford Chapter No. 49
November 12, Hamilton Council No. 22, Meriden, Select Master degree
November 13, (ME) Pulaski Chapter No. 26
November 14, (ME) Joseph Andrews Chapter No. 46
November 16, York Rite testimonial dinner, Glastonbury
November 19, St Elmo Commandery No. 9, Meriden, Order of Malta, short form, 6:15 p.m. dinner
November 19, Washington Commandery No. 1, East Hartford, Order of the Temple, inspection
November 21, Hamilton Commandery No. 5, Stratford, Order of the Temple, inspection
November 27, (ME) Pythagoras Chapter No. 17, East Hartford, Royal Arch degree
November 28, Thanksgiving Day

FROM THE MOST PUISSANT GRAND MASTER

Companions, things have taken off now and our Councils are busy with their work. I am pleased to see degrees being portrayed and planned for. I hope that as the Grand Council officers make their visits, they are making mention of the various upcoming events, including the York Rite Testimonial on November 16 and our hosting of the Tri-State Cryptic Festival on March 22, 2014.

I continue to try and fill the many vacancies in Grand Representatives so I encourage any of you with a desire to communicate with and perhaps visit our sister jurisdictions to contact me and see if any of the openings work for you.

Finally, I will end this and every message with my desire for each of you to remember that without the Council degrees, the degrees of preservation, there are no discoveries to be made by the three Most Excellent Masters returning from Babylon, and therefore no Royal Arch Degree. We need to be proud of our degrees and our title as Select Masters.

– Charles A. McCollum

Craft at Labor...

Entered Apprentice Degrees

Tuesday, October 1, Unity No. 148, New Britain, 6:30 p.m. dinner
Wednesday, October 2, Union No. 5, Stamford, 6:30 p.m. dinner
Wednesday, October 2, Cosmopolitan No. 125, New Haven, inspection
Thursday, October 3, Fidelity-St. John's No. 3, Fairfield, 6:30 p.m. dinner
Thursday, October 3, Temple No. 16, Cheshire, 6:30 p.m. dinner, WM Eric Siver in the East
Thursday, October 3, Union No. 31, Niantic, 6:30 p.m. dinner, SW Reid Burdick in the East
Thursday, October 3, Friendship Tuscan No. 145, Manchester, 6:30 p.m. dinner, inspection
Monday, October 7, Compass No. 9, Wallingford, 6:00 p.m. dinner, inspection, JW step up
Monday, October 7, Oxoboxo No. 116, Montville, 6:30 p.m. dinner
Tuesday, October 15, St. Peter's No. 21, New Milford
Tuesday, October 15, Union No. 40, Danbury, 6:30 p.m. dinner
Thursday, October 17, Wolcott No. 60, Stafford, 6:30 p.m. dinner
Tuesday, October 22, Frederick-Franklin No. 14, Plainville
Tuesday, October 22, Manchester No. 73, Manchester, inspection, JW in the East
Tuesday, October 22, Madison No. 87, Madison, 6:45 p.m. dinner, inspection
Thursday, October 24, Hiram No. 1, New Haven, inspection
Thursday, October 24, Washington No. 81, Cromwell, inspection

Fellowcraft Degrees

Wednesday, October 2, Columbia No. 25, South Glastonbury, Past Masters Fellow Craft Degree
Friday, October 4, Ansantawae No. 89, Milford
Monday, October 7, Wyllys-St. John's No. 4, West Hartford, 6:30 p.m. dinner
Monday, October 7, Jerusalem No. 49, Ridgefield, 5:30 p.m. dinner, WM Jeff Bartlett in the East
Tuesday, October 15, King Hiram No. 12, Shelton, WB Chaz deDufour in the East
Tuesday, October 15, St. Alban's No. 38, Branford, 5:30 p.m. dinner
Tuesday, October 15, Seneca No. 55, Torrington, 5:30 p.m. dinner
Tuesday, October 15, Coastal No. 57, Stonington
Thursday, October 17, Fidelity-St. John's No. 3, Fairfield, 5:30 p.m. dinner, Bro. Gabriel Martinez in the East
Thursday, October 17, Union No. 31, Niantic, 5:30 p.m. dinner, Sub Base degree team
Thursday, October 17, Warren No. 51, Portland, 6:30 p.m. dinner
Friday, October 18, Wooster No. 10, Colchester, 5:45 p.m. dinner
Monday, October 21, Compass No. 9, Wallingford, 5:00 p.m. dinner, Senior Warden step-up night
Monday, October 21, Friendship No. 33, Southington, 6:30 p.m. dinner
Monday, October 28, Evening Star No. 101, Unionville, Bro. Anthony Zwolensky in the East

Master Mason Degrees

Monday, October 7, Meridian No. 77, Meriden, 6:30 p.m. dinner
Thursday, October 10, Hiram No. 1, New Haven, 6:30 p.m. dinner, SW presiding
Friday, October 18, Ansantawae No. 89, Milford, 11:00 p.m. dinner
Monday, October 21, Oxoboxo No. 116, Montville, 5:30 p.m. dinner

Golf Classic Benefits Residents and Patients in Need

The 21st Annual Masonicare Golf Classic, held August 19 at Shuttle Meadow Country Club in Kensington, raised a gross total of $216,037, resulting in a net profit of $165,311.

The Masonicare Golf Classic benefits the programs and services of Masonicare and is organized by The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut. Like all of The Foundation's fundraising events, the tournament blends good works with good fun while helping spread the word about Masonicare.

Standing, from left, are employee volunteers Caitlin Cote and Kelly Papa, who helped sell raffle tickets, and Masonicare president and CEO Bro. Stephen B. McPherson. Seated are Kate Tedford and Adam Raider of The Masonic Charity Foundation.

"I was floored by the level of support we received from the community, both locally and regionally," said tournament chair WB Robert F. Polito, Jr. "We exceeded our goals. A lot of effort went into that, so getting there was very satisfying. It was also wonderful working with the Charity Foundation staff. Their professionalism, their commitment to the cause, their attention to detail, and 20 years worth of knowledge and expertise culminated in another successful tournament. It often seems like the Golf Classic runs itself, and that's the beauty of it, but it doesn't. I'm looking forward to serving on the Golf Classic Committee again next year."

From left, the fantastic foursome representing Hejaz Grotto: Bro. Gary Cohen, Bro. David Stern, Bro. David E. Berger and Bro. Gary Matican.

The Masonic Charity Foundation thanks all the sponsors, golfers, and volunteers for their continued support and looks forward to another successful tournament in 2014!

Craft at Refreshment...

Tuesday, October 1, Day Spring No. 30, Hamden, 6:00 p.m., bingo fun for everyone!
Wednesday, October 2, King Solomon's No. 7, Woodbury, 6:30 p.m. dinner, move up night, JW Jonathan Dillon in the West, SD Bob Stiles in South, presentation: history lecture about King Solomon's Lodge No. 7
Wednesday, October 2, Frederick-Franklin No. 14, Plainville, 7:00 p.m., Masonic enlightenment
Wednesday, October 2, Friendship No. 33, Southington, Apple Harvest Festival
Wednesday, October 2, Estuary No. 43, Old Saybrook, 6:00 p.m. dinner, ladies night, awards night, barber shop quartet
Wednesday, October 2, Ansantawae No. 89, Milford, 10:00 p.m. dinner, Masons night at Orange Ale House
Thursday, October 3-6, Friendship No. 33, Southington, Apple Harvest Festival
Thursday, October 3, Somerset-St. James No. 34, Preston, 8:00 a.m. district breakfast at Groton Townhouse Restaurant
Thursday, October 3, Sequin-Level No. 140, Newington, 6:15 p.m., Oktoberfest
Friday, October 4, Wooster No. 10, Colchester, 5:45 p.m. dinner, awards night
Saturday, October 5, King Solomon's No. 7, Woodbury, 9:00 a.m., lodge workday
Saturday, October 5, Columbia No. 25, South Glastonbury, 5:00 p.m., 8th annual wine tasting, Cellar Secrets wine festival
Saturday, October 5, St. Alban's No. 38, Branford, 1:00 p.m., family day at the Stepping Stones Museum, Norwalk
Saturday, October 5, Ansantawae No. 89, Milford, 5:00 p.m., Special Olympics Bowling, Milford AMF Lanes
Monday, October 7, Friendship No. 33, Southington, 6:30 p.m. dinner, Masonic trivia
Tuesday, October 8, Composite No. 28, Suffield, 6:30 p.m., Masonic Roadshow, ask questions of several Grand Lodge officers**Tuesday, October 8,** Day Spring No. 30, Hamden, 6:00 p.m., bingo fun for everyone!
Tuesday, October 8, Union No. 40, Danbury, 6:00 p.m. Tri-Table Lodge, German design
Thursday, October 10, Washington No. 81, Cromwell, 6:30 p.m., presentation by Kate Tedford, Masonic Charity Foundation
Friday, October 11-13, Friendship No. 33, Southington, 2:00 p.m., Apple Harvest Festival
Saturday, October 12, Moriah No. 15, Brooklyn, 4:00 p.m. dinner, Third Annual Down East Maine Table Lodge
Saturday, October 12, Composite No. 28, Suffield, 10:30 p.m. Oktoberfest Table Lodge
Saturday, October 12, Harmony, No., 67, New Canaan, 6:30 p.m. Table Lodge
Saturday, October 12, Washington No. 81, Cromwell, 5:30 p.m. dinner, ladies night
Saturday, October 12, Ivanhoe No. 107, Darien, 1:30 p.m., Masonic salon
Saturday, October 12, Friendship Tuscan No. 145, Manchester, 12:00 noon, UConn/ South Florida, Rentchsler Field
Sunday, October 13, Temple No. 16, Cheshire, 6:00 AM, annual haunted house pancake breakfast
Sunday, October 13, Housatonic No. 61, North Canaan, 9:00 AM, Yes, Flea Market
Monday, October 14, Temple No. 16, Cheshire, 6:00 p.m., Masonic information night
Monday, October 14, Evening Star No. 101, Unionville, 6:00 p.m. dinner, military whist
Tuesday, October 15, Day Spring No. 30, Hamden, 6:00 p.m., bingo fun for everyone!
Tuesday, October 15, Unity No. 148, New Britain, 11:30 p.m. dinner, awards night
Wednesday, October 16, Columbia No. 25, South Glastonbury, 6:30 p.m., Junior Warden Brian in East
Thursday, October 17, St. Luke's No. 48, Kent, 6:30 p.m., , 50th anniversary of Thomas E. Coons
Friday, October 18, Philosophic Lodge of Research No. 400, Cromwell, 6:15 p.m., WB William Mackey: "Aspects of Ritual"
Sunday, October 20, Washington No. 19, Monroe, 8:00 AM, BFST, country breakfast
Sunday, October 20, Friendship No. 33, Southington, 6:30 AM, Yes, pancake breakfast
Monday, October 21, Wyllys-St. John's No. 4, West Hartford, 6:30 p.m., WB William Mackey: "Aspects of Ritual"
Monday, October 21, Jerusalem No. 49, Ridgefield, 6:30 p.m., , WB Steve Hudson : FC Tracing Board
Tuesday, October 22, King Solomon's No. 7, Woodbury, 6:30 p.m., , Fellowcraft dinner
Tuesday, October 22, Day Spring No. 30, Hamden, 6:00 p.m., bingo fun for everyone!
Thursday, October 24, Wyllys-St. John's No. 4, West Hartford, 6:00 p.m., , candidate information
Friday, October 25, Temple No. 16, Cheshire, 5:00 p.m., annual haunted house, not for young ones
Sunday, October 27, Hiram No. 1, New Haven, 11:00 AM, Yes, football party at Masonicare
Sunday, October 27, Temple No. 16, Cheshire, 5:00 p.m., annual haunted house, not for young ones
Sunday, October 27, Cosmopolitan No. 125, New Haven, 1:30 p.m., Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen
Tuesday, October 29, Ansantawae No. 89, Milford, 6:30 p.m. dinner, Blue Lodge Council
Tuesday, October 29, Day Spring No. 30, Hamden, 6:00 p.m., bingo fun for everyone!
Thursday, October 31, Sequin-Level No. 140, Newington, 6:00 p.m. dinner, Halloween party

Activities for
Lodge at Labor
and
Lodge at Refreshment
are taken from
calendars on
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Please visit the lodge
websites for
updates and
more information.
For a directory of all
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The Last Word…

The Grand Lodge of Connecticut may be unique in that it maintains a book of "Official Ritual," but at the same time Rule and Regulation Section 7000 states; "Use of Particular Ritual. Measures to compel the use of any particular ritual in working the degrees should not be taken except when necessary to prevent infringement of the Landmarks. The true maxim is, 'In essentials, Unity; in non-essentials, Liberty.'"

There are four lodges in Connecticut who, by a 2006 decision of then Grand Master Charles B. Fowler, Jr. (Nickerson's Digest of Decisions 260), are "authorized to maintain their own forms of the ritual. Provided, however, that if any changes are to be made to their ritual, such changes shall bring the ritual into closer conformance with Connecticut Standard Work." The four lodges are Hiram Lodge No. 1, New Haven; Putnam Lodge No. 46, South Woodstock; Washington Lodge No. 70, Windsor; and Wooster Lodge No. 79, New Haven.

Grand Master Fowler did not define what "Standard Work" is, and there is no definition in the Rules and Regulations. The Committee on Ritual and Ceremonies are only charged to "review … the ritual for Opening and Closing Lodges, conferring degrees…" The title of the blue ritual book is "Official Ritual."

These lodges have accepted the challenge of doing their work "in house" without the benefit of outside assistance. That permission to do their work differently is a source of pride for them, and they take it seriously. Like many of the finest Connecticut lodges, they do good work.

However, Section 7000, if allowed to its extreme, might mean a lodge could do whatever it wanted according to their own tradition. A lodge could invoke landmark ix, … to administer its own private affairs." This could bring us to the point as it was after the Morgan affair.

From the proceedings of 1863; "For the great lack of uniformity among us, there are many reasons, among which we notice, first, a disposition on the part of some Masters of Lodges to *improve* the work, by substituting words and ideas of their own for those which have been taught them; or by adding something which in their judgment gives a beauty or finish to some portion of it. In our opinion, every such addition or substitution is an outrage upon the Masonic institution, the only tendency of which is to its destruction; for, if any Master of a Lodge has a right to change a word, every other Master possesses the same right to alter and amend at his discretion,–and it needs no prophetic vision to see into what inextricable confusion such a course must inevitably lead us."

The Committee on Legal Matters, in consultation with the Committee on Ritual and Ceremonies, has undertaken the inclusion of the verbiage "Standard Work" in their rewording of Section 2211. The Committee on Ritual and Ceremonies would establish what Standard Work is, and then it would need to be accepted at a communication of the Grand Lodge.

The committees also wrestled with changes to Section 7000, to provide clarity and consistency. Preliminary consideration was to include the statement, "Lodges shall use Connecticut Standard Ritual and none other." But without legislation to preserve the uniqueness of the four lodges, as well as minor traditions of some other lodges, it was deemed too restrictive, and not proposed.

Connecticut ritual has undergone some turbulence in its history. Jeremy Ladd Cross was a paid lecturer for some time around 1822, until he moved away and a prohibition against paid lecturers was embraced.

Wooster Lodge No. 79 claims they received their ritual from him in 1852, and thus the reason for their difference which more closely matches the Grand Lodge of New York.

In 1866, Bro. James McCormick was Washington Lodge No. 70's charter Master, after resurrecting their charter previously surrendered 28 years earlier during the Morgan affair. Bro. McCormick had been raised in 1853 in Manchester Lodge No. 73. Hiram Lodge, debatably, claims original ritual from their founding in 1750.

Putnam Lodge No. 46, chartered in 1801, has a ritual that supposedly originated from the ancient ritual of Massachusetts. It was possibly influenced by Thomas Smith Webb, before he was Grand Master of Rhode Island in 1813. Handwritten cipher books from the early 1800's contain opening and closing rituals along with some degree work that matches that performed today.

The question is not whether a lodge has minor differences, but whether Section 7000 allows them to make changes that could make Freemasonry unrecognizable. The purpose of uniformity is to have brothers who recognize that each has gone through the same experience. That shared experience creates a brotherly bond.

What if a lodge didn't want to perform the Middle Chamber lecture? What if they claimed the right to prepare candidates differently, or to shorten the second half of the Master Mason degree? What if they decided to use ancient Scottish Rite ritual instead of the Preston-Webb ritual with which we are so familiar? What if a lodge decided they would use ritual from the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, or even, perhaps, create their own?

The purpose of a Grand Lodge is to ensure the regularity of the lodges it charters. The Grand Lodge is the recognized body, and other jurisdictions rely on the Grand Lodge of Connecticut to ensure and enforce the regularity of its lodges. That is why a Connecticut brother can visit lodges around the world. The annual inspection is the vehicle whereby the Grand Lodge evaluates the regularity of each constituent lodge.

These are questions that must be addressed because of the lack of definition of the essentials of Masonic work. The Committee on Legal Matters could not come to a conclusion in time for a vote of the Grand Lodge this October. I welcome your input to help me make a decision that will definitively resolve the differences between "essentials" and "non-essentials," and what we stand for in Connecticut.

Please send me your comments to *slaplace@ctfreemasons.net*.

I look forward to hearing from you, and sharing your thoughts with everyone.

Fraternally,

Simon R. LaPlace
Most Worshipful Grand Master

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