



Connecticut FREEMASONS

February 2017

New
Chairman of
The Board for
Masonicare

Bro. Robert F. Polito, Jr.

Grand Lodge of Connecticut, AF & AM
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Brother Robert F. Polito, Jr. – New Trustees Chair of Masonicare

In November, Bro. Robert F. Polito, Jr. was elected Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Masonicare, succeeding Bro. Howard W. Orr who served for 13 years. This profile was written by Jim Battaglio who recently sat down with Bro. Bob for an in-depth interview. An accomplished freelance writer, Battaglio was the Corporate Spokesperson for Hartford Hospital for 25 years.

Within minutes of entering a room, Masonicare's new Board of Trustees Chair, Bro. Robert F. Polito, Jr., fills the room with an enthusiasm and passion for just about everything, especially Masonicare.

"Please call me Bob," is this third-generation Mason's introduction to everyone as he proceeds to talk about everything from family, to travel, to his sincere personal belief that "too many people today wait too long" to make the leap from home ownership to the lifestyle and conveniences that Masonicare offers.

A 10-year veteran of the senior living and healthcare's non-profit board, and a 23-year employee with Webster Bank

where he serves as a senior vice president and commercial lender, Bob succeeds Bro. Howard W. Orr, who recently



stepped down as Masonicare board chair. Despite Bob's numerous Masonicare positions—chair of the Investment

Committee, IT Steering Committee, the Foundation's Golf Classic, the Quality of Life Committee, and vice-chair of The Foundation—he is modest and somewhat self-deprecating when it comes to his new role as board chair.

"I took this position because I want to do a good job for Masonicare. I have a deep interest in the fraternity and I have their role in mind, as well as that of our staff, our employees, and our residents. And of course there's my own personal desire to be successful in whatever role I jump into," he quips, with a smile that's nearly perpetual. "Then I try to pick one thing that's more important than the next, and I can't do it! All these things are going through my mind at 2 o'clock in the morning when I think things like 'I need to talk to JP (Masonicare's CEO) about this,' or 'I sent out an email that might not have been the best I've ever written'...things like that go through my head."

In his new role, Bob is determined to preserve and expand upon the accomplishments of what others have built in the past, such as the

Continued on next page

contributions of retired CEO Stephen McPherson, current CEO Jon-Paul "JP" Venoit, and retired Trustee Chair, Howard Orr.

"My goals are in sync with JP's goals of doing more of what we do well, and fixing what we feel we're not doing well," says the tall, athletically-built chair. "If we can't fix it, we need to divest it or outsource it. That may mean a lot of things to a lot of people, so we need to be sensitive to the concerns of others."

Being sensitive to the concerns of others is an integral part of Bob Polito's personality, particularly since he knows first-hand what Masonicare does for its residents and patients, such as his 83-year-old father, Robert, Sr., who resides in a special care unit at Masonicare Health Center. Bob understandably becomes somber when describing the dementia, Pick's Disease, from which his father suffers (a syndrome featuring shrinking of the frontal and temporal anterior lobes of the brain).

"If you have Pick's Disease, you wish you had Alzheimer's; that's how bad it is," he reflects. "At Masonicare, Dad is safe, well cared for, and neither my mother, my sister, nor I have to worry about him. My mother sees him every day, and I see him two times a week—Sunday mornings for breakfast being one of them. And even when he's not with us any more, I'm going to keep coming and visiting the patients I've come to know each week. My wife, Lori, is 100% behind me and comes with me every Sunday. She's great." In reverence for his father, Bob has never sat in his dad's chair at the family table, and his mother still puts a place setting

before that empty seat.

The mood becomes lighter, almost comical, as Bob describes the positive experiences his aunt has had as a Masonicare resident.

"I brought my aunt here to the Wright Residence a while back when we noticed she was failing," he says. "At first she was reluctant to give up her familiar surroundings, but once she agreed to come, and after being here for a while, she called me and said 'Bobby, I want to thank you for bringing me here because now I have a reason to live.'"

He laughs as he recounts not being able to find her most of the time since she's moved to Masonicare "because she's become so involved in programs, she's never home!"

"Tai chi, chorus, prayer meetings, movie day, trips to Walmart, spiritual services...she's involved in everything! She's even enamored with the ability to order her meals off a menu. It's like being on a cruise ship that doesn't go anywhere," he says. "She gets her hair done, has lunch with my mother (her sister). It's such a contrast from the life she was leading...it's wonderful. When Hurricane Sandy struck and people lost their power, I called my aunt and asked 'is everything ok?'"

"Why wouldn't it be ok?" she asked. "I told her people throughout the state were without power, but she was unaware of it because Masonicare generated its own power!"

When he talks about Masonicare from a business perspective, Bob feels "the public in general doesn't realize the depth and breadth of the organization's scope

and reach." Approaching \$200 million in top-line revenue, with 2,600 employees who serve 4,600 patients and residents daily, Masonicare is a large entity when compared with other non-profits, "but from most appearances, many tend to believe we're a little nursing home on a hill in Wallingford."

"Our reach into communities is significant when you think about our numerous stakeholders, including employees, patients, residents, vendors, suppliers, benefactors, and volunteers," he says, citing locations throughout Connecticut that Masonicare either owns, operates, or provides services to.

"Also, our home and community-based services provide a valuable resource to those already in their homes throughout most of the state," he adds. "With so many stakeholders, so many different businesses and moving parts within Masonicare's umbrella of services, the tasks of successfully managing a corporation such as this are enormous."

Moving forward, Bob Polito sees Masonicare's strategic plan as a "living document that excites me," requiring the organization "to be nimble and work within the ever-changing legislative landscape. In order to successfully carry out its mission, Masonicare will need to acquire or align with like-minded businesses that desire becoming part of the organization's umbrella," he says, adding, "This will include new partnerships in the marketplace with those who wish to work with us on a joint-venture basis. It may include divesting ourselves of businesses that are not performing satisfactorily, or are not effectively deploying our capital

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Nobody Does it Better

by Gail Nelson Smith

We all have heard the adage, "age is the price of wisdom." Although this may be true, we must remember; like wine that improves with age, the grapes we begin with need to be good in the first place. Beyond the intended humor of the previous statement, note that the tiniest detail can change significantly the context and weight we give to an assumed truth. Perhaps it is my police training instilled in me which prompts me to habitually pause, set aside obvious presumptions and examine things from different angles before resolving in my mind something to be true or not. This practice saved me from eating crow on a number of occasions.

Many of us have had an experience with a well-meaning brother, who perhaps being frustrated by a particular situation, expresses disappointment and calls for preservation and the return to "The Good Old Days". His frustration could stem from anything; a brother not showing up for a meeting, deliverables missing deadlines or a perceived unnecessary financial allocation. Like with the maxim above, his frustration may or may not be warranted given the context and details being included and reflected upon. Sometimes we cause unnecessary angst for ourselves and others when we make presumptions or comparisons, prior to reflection. Getting the facts, different perspectives and not limiting our viewpoint through the vacuum of time, can serve us well. As for comparing circumstances today vs. 20 years ago, context is essential. Recognizing, remembering and learning from the past is important, but it's one thing to learn from the past and quite another to succumb to the folly of living in it.

In order to preserve our fundamental masonic philosophies and traditions for future generations, we must practice them and we need people to pass them

on to. To address the latter, we must plot our course, plan our strategies and embrace modalities that will assist us from the position in which we find ourselves currently; that is to say from where we are and not from where we have been. We must recognize that the last few decades have ushered in exponential changes that have affected our member's daily lives in numerous ways; including career stability, family dynamics, the economy and a massive increase in the paradox of choices; all of which, in turn, are proportional to stress levels and personal constraints. Thus, we must remain willing to adapt and apply appropriate strategies to our present circumstances and adopt core objectives practices that will serve us best given these circumstances.

Were we not told that Freemasonry is a progressive science? Ages ago, the Craft was brilliantly designed on an unshakable non-sectarian foundation of the fatherhood of God (to guide us) and the brotherhood of man (to support us); both of which have enabled Freemasonry to remain intact and maintain its beneficent influence despite the whirling waves of time and acts of attrition against our fraternity. From the time of its formation (regardless of the debate of when) our ancient (and not so ancient) brothers embraced the brotherhood found in Freemasonry which provided a welcomed respite from the dominion and tyranny of societal forces that otherwise were pleased to lord over them. Weren't some of our ancient brothers persecuted for such progressive notions? Our institution has survived not because men remained frozen, holding on to only that which they had, but because men were taught to be builders and to build upon the great foundation. It is because of our core principles including the precept



that each man is a builder that Freemasonry survives and will continue to do so for as long as such notions remain safely lodged in the repository of our hearts.

As human beings, we are subject to certain frailties, challenges and at times the harsh reality of daily life. Given society's present culture of rush-here-rush-there activity, selfie photos and political and social discord, it should be no shock when we occasionally notice that the interpersonal skills and awareness of others may seem to have become a bit jaded, faded or altogether absent. For example, all of us have courteously let someone into a lane in heavy traffic without so much as a simple head nod or hand gesture of appreciation being reciprocated. In the absence of such validation, the challenges are, not becoming disheartened, remaining non-reactive and maintaining a positive disposition. We must not allow the ripples from a pebble dropped into a pond to saturate us with negativity thus sully our mood and subsequently the trajectory of our entire day. It is times like these, even with the simplest of things that we must avoid palliating the offenses of our brothers, moreover, practice universal benevolence. Freemasonry not only teaches this but rather charges us to do so. To accomplish this, we must be temperate in nature in order to put discernment into action.

In a recent presentation, Bro. Jon-Paul Venoit, stressed the importance of taking time to digest the "why" before reacting or responding to the "what." This is a great nugget of wisdom. Such thinking, along with his hard work, no doubt assisted Jon-Paul in his ascent from staff waiter 26 years ago in the Ashlar Village dining hall, to now being the President

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Grand Master's Message *Continued from previous page*

and CEO of Masonicare. His is a great success story and one that demonstrates how an organization can foster a culture which validates accomplishments and affords individuals the opportunity to advance their station in life, thereby expanding their service to others—an example of a builder—building upon a strong foundation.

Freemasonry, by design, continually extolls the virtues of recognition and advancement, commencing on the day we first stood a just and upright Mason in the northeast corner of our Lodge. Throughout our Masonic journey, we are recognized and appreciated

for our service to our Lodge, community and for our various positions within the fraternity. Freemasonry consistently provides endless experiences of validation to its members, and as an organizational embodiment, nobody does it better. Validation is essential to us as human beings. A sense of belonging, of being held in esteem and of receiving recognition from those we respect are influential conduits to the actualization of our human selves. Maslow's famous Hierarchy of Human Needs tells us that beyond food and shelter, recognition is a "basic psychological need." Freemasonry delivers

on all fronts.

Let us cherish these attributes of Freemasonry and never forget how powerful expressing gratitude and recognition can be. Let us remain in the habit of expressing our appreciation to anybody who engages in a behavior that produces an outcome that we would like to see reproduced in the future. David Leo, a strategic planning coach puts it this way, "there is no known satiation point for human recognition." Like David Leo has observed, in all my years traveling among the Craft, I have never once heard anyone say, "I've had it up to my eye balls with all this

recognition; if anyone else tells me how good I am, I'm going to quit this fraternity." Brothers, I maintain that Freemasonry consistently provides endless experiences of validation to its members, and as an organizational embodiment, nobody does it better. Brothers, I'd like to conclude with a poignant and provocative quote by Ralph Waldo Emerson:

"Cultivate the habit of being grateful for every good thing that comes to you, and give thanks continuously. And because all things have contributed to your advancement, you should include all things in your gratitude."

Polito *Continued from page 4*

with the intent of a much-improved efficiency and return on our investment."

He is a firm believer in educating individuals on the benefits of moving into one of Masonicare's many communities so they can enjoy a stress-free lifestyle earlier in their later years, and that includes him.

"I'm a planner. Lori and I don't have any kids, so there's no one to take care of us when

we get older. When I die—I'm going to die first, because that's what guys do—I want her completely taken care of. I don't want her to have to worry about getting rid of a big house and all that goes with it. About 30% of Baby Boomers do not have children, so who's going to take care of them?"

While Masonicare's youngest resident is about 61, and its oldest is 100+ years old, the average resident

age upon move-in to Ashlar Village for example, is about 83. "So many have told me 'I wish we had moved here sooner,'" he points out. "I don't want that to be us. My wife has been teaching grammar school for 32 years, and I keep telling her we need to think about taking advantage of the services Masonicare offers us at an earlier age. Masonicare is trying to attract a younger population—our marketing

is very good, showing we're here for you—and I'd like to be part of that future population."

And when that happens, Bob Polito can check off his top bucket list item of visiting the Amalfi Coast, sitting al fresco with Lori as the sun sets over Salerno, Italy, feeling confident he didn't wait too long to enjoy the benefits of a Masonicare lifestyle.

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The Masonicare Experience

Inspiring stories from throughout the Masonicare continuum

Random Acts of Kindness at Masonicare Health Center

By Adam Raider

Sometimes, the best (and most pleasantly unexpected) compliments are the ones we receive from our workplace peers. That's why the Masonicare Health Center Kindness Committee encourages employees from every department to be on the lookout for random acts of kindness.

Comprised of clinical and non-clinical staff from throughout the Health Center, the Kindness Committee solicits nominations for monthly Kindness Awards to recognize employees who go above and beyond in meeting at least eight of the following criteria:

1. Displays a positive attitude
2. Uses caring words or tones with staff and residents
3. Listens empathetically
4. Acknowledges the strengths and contributions of coworkers
5. Is considerate of other people's circumstances
6. Helps coworkers and residents beyond their job description
7. Is generous with their time and talents
8. Approaches difficult situations as an opportunity to solve problems and facilitate a positive change
9. Always smiles (smiles being the one contagion welcomed at Masonicare Health Center) and greets others
10. Celebrates diversity

As well, the person nominating a coworker for a Kindness Award must cite a specific act of kindness that went above and beyond the employee's job description (so, no, showing up for a



Masonicare Health Center's Kindness Committee. Standing, left to right: Bro. Tom Gutner, Michele Ackerman, Carla Young. Seated, left to right: Cinda D'Addio, Megan Guastaferrri, Gail Kallinich. Not pictured: Audrey Grove, Catalina Marquez, Tracy Rennie, Brenda Rodriguez, Jennifer Thomas, Sheila Zona

shift on time won't earn one a Kindness Award, but volunteering to stay late to cover the shift of a sick coworker sure could). Nomination forms are available at several locations throughout the building and on the company intranet and, once completed, are placed in a secure box in the lobby.

The Kindness Awards started in 2014. Like any employee recognition program, this one's strength will be in its sustainability.

"We're getting nominations every month," said committee member and administrative assistant Cinda D'Addio,

"so we must be doing something right."

The group reviews all nominations and meets to discuss which staff member is best contributing to the culture of caring at Masonicare Health Center. The winner is honored at a ceremony in the cafeteria, has their photo displayed in a showcase nearby, and enjoys the use of a designated parking spot for a month.

Using a peer-to-peer recognition program "encourages people to take greater notice of when others are doing more," said committee member Michele Ackerman, the

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Masonicare Experience

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Health Center's Director of Nursing.

Recent Kindness Award winners include a social worker in the Geriatric Medical Psychiatric unit who came to work on her day off because the Health Center was short-staffed. There was the employee who, on his own volition, cleaned off other people's cars during a recent snowstorm. And the nurse manager who called to check in on the loved ones of a resident who had passed, knowing it was their first holiday season without their mother - a gesture that had a huge impact on the woman's family. And the staff member who organized an anniversary event for two married residents living in separate units.

"I just pulled a nomination out of the box," D'Addio said, "for a dining services employee who came in on his own on Christmas Day to hand out Christmas cards to all the residents in the dining room. Then he

sat and chatted with everybody."

"When we have our recognition ceremonies," said the committee's Gail Kallinich, a social worker at the Health Center, "the winner's coworkers will turn out because they are so genuinely happy the person is being recognized. They're so proud. Like, 'Yeah, this is our girl!' It's great, and you see that in every department."

"It certainly has been a positive, even during challenging times," said Masonicare's Vice President of Healthcare Services, Bro. Thomas M. Gutner. "I always feel that it's impossible to do too much of these things. The more we do to recognize staff in different ways for contributing to a good work environment - and to the success of Masonicare Health Center - the better."

Random Acts of Kindness Week

Last year, in celebration of National Random Acts of Kindness Week, MHC's Kindness Committee encouraged employees to step out of their usual routine and comfort zone by attempting a new random act of kindness each day. Suggestions included giving away a smile, writing a compliment to someone on a big dry erase board in the Health Center lobby, donating old towels or blankets to an animal shelter, and sharing a break or meal with someone new.

The committee is planning something similar for this year's Kindness Week, which runs February 12 to 18.

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

Carlton W. Bailey	Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88	William C. Johnston	Coastal Lodge No. 57
Robert E. Blenner	Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125	George E. Lincoln	Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140
Leslie Bloxam	Composite Lodge No. 28	J. Philip Lukens	Washington Lodge No. 70
Ralph C. Bogue	Brainard Lodge No. 102	Eric A. Ostman	Fidelity-St. John's Lodge No. 3
Eugene C. Bohmann	King Hiram Lodge No. 12	Charles M. Parakilas	Composite Lodge No. 28
Yvon R. Bolduc	Corinthian Lodge No. 63	F. Stanley Phillips	Fidelity-St. John's Lodge No. 3
George J. Caffrey	Meridian Lodge No. 77	Edward C. Price	Ark Lodge No. 39
Richard S. Chapman	Bay View Lodge No. 120	Paul H. Rasch Sr.	Warren Lodge No. 51
Arvin S. Clapper	Coastal Lodge No. 57	Peter R. Rinaudo	Union Lodge No. 31
Andrew F. Criscuolo	Widow's Son Lodge No. 66	Gordon A. Schlaf	Composite Lodge No. 28
George P. Croog	Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125	John D. Shuron	Brainard Lodge No. 102
Clayton H. Cummings	Composite Lodge No. 28	Roy L. Smith	Coastal Lodge No. 57
Elliott L. Ellis	Hiram Lodge No. 18	Lawrence C. Studwell Jr	Union Lodge No. 40
Henry W. Farkas	Hiram Lodge No. 1	David P. Tracy	Federal Lodge No. 17
John J. Farkas	Daytime Lodge No. 144	William K. Walton Jr	Composite Lodge No. 28
Joseph F. Greene	Fidelity-St. John's Lodge No. 3	Stanley L. Wilmott	Old Well - St. John's Lodge No. 6
Allan R. Howard	Valley Lodge No. 36	William T. Withers	Valley Lodge No. 36

Grand Historian's Corner

John Herschel Glenn (July 18, 1921 to December 8, 2016) was a Master Mason. He was made a Mason at sight by Grand Master Jerry Rose of Ohio in 1978. A ceremony was held at Chillicothe High School in Ohio with several hundred Masons present. John Glenn was the 3rd American to go into space and the first to orbit the earth. His mission lasted five hours and set the pace for the race to the moon. Interestingly enough, Edwin Aldrin, a New Jersey Freemason was the 2nd man to walk on the moon. Brother Glenn first petitioned Freemasonry in 1964 but his duties kept him away from taking his degrees in a traditional fashion. Brother Glenn served as United States Senator from Ohio from 1974 to 1999. In 1997 he received his Scottish Rite degrees in Ohio and in 1998 was made a 33rd degree Mason. A lifelong Democrat, Brother Glenn was in a class that consisted of two Republican Senators, Charles Grassley and Conrad Burns. His passing in early December was a loss to Freemasonry. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends.

Joseph Metcalf was appointed Senior Warden at the institution of Eastern Star Lodge No. 44 and held that position for two years. It was in his house that Eastern Star Lodge began. He had received his degrees in Wooster Lodge No. 10 in 1795 and was later appointed Senior Steward and Senior Deacon. When the lodge was asking for a petition in Lebanon, it was Metcalf who was a primary mover and shaker. He received his Mark Master Mason degree in Vanden Broeck Chapter in 1796 and his mark was a "horse." He

also joined Washington Commandry when it was encamped in Colchester. He started to relocate to Ohio in 1802 but died on the way in New York (interestingly enough in Lebanon, New York). Unity Lodge in New York attended to his needs during his final days. The story told in a previous edition of the "Grand Historian's Corner" was that a summer meeting held at Brother Metcalf's house in Lebanon was overheard by Metcalf's daughter who had climbed a tree and watched and listened to the proceedings when she was observed through an open window. The teenager was probably spoken to but no record indicates any punishment. In 1998, the bicentennial of the lodge, a special meeting was held at the location of Brother Metcalf's home (then just a cellar hole) presided by then Worshipful Master, Gail Nelson Smith. Because the cellar hole was located on "state licensed hunting grounds", those in attendance was brightly colored orange vests. Hours later, those same Brothers along with their guests donned a tux and attended a bicentennial celebration.

An interesting comment and decision by Grand Master Asa Smith in 1871 concerned Siloam Lodge No. 32. It reads "In compliance with your instructions I visited the town of Old Saybrook on the 27th of June last, constituted Siloam Lodge No 32 and installed the officers; being assisted by the brethren from Meridian Lodge No. 77, Centre Lodge No. 97, Trumbull Lodge No. 22, Putnam



Lodge No. 46 and other Lodges in the vicinity. All the exercises were in public. A goodly number of citizens were present and seemed to be much interested. So far as I could judge and from all I could learn this new Lodge starts under very favorable auspices. By the terms of their charter they are confined in their jurisdiction to the town of Old Saybrook, which they

inform me is not according to their wish and contrary to their expectations. I can see no good reason why they should be an exception to the common Masonic law of half way jurisdiction to the nearest lodge and believe it would be an act of simple justice to give them equal rights with the other Lodges in the State." The recommendation was forwarded to the Committee on Charters and later that session the committee requested that the prayers of Siloam Lodge No. 32 not be granted and jurisdiction remained confined to Old Saybrook despite the request from Samuel Dickinson Master and Frederick Chalker Junior Warden.

We have sometime been asked the definition of some words used in our ritual. What is "dotage"? Dotage is a bar to most Masonic initiations and is described as someone who is old and have dulled the senses and impaired the intelligence or simply put, senile.

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Committee on Ritual and Ceremonies News

Ed Note: Space prevented this from running in the previous two issues, and while installations are winding down, the message here is still relevant. We will run this again near the end of the year. It is important to note that the Committee on Rituals and Ceremonies updates important documents and if your lodge has not checked that your rituals/ceremonies are up to date, now would be a good time to do so.

Over the past year or so the Committee on Rituals and Ceremonies has been updating some documents that are important for this time of year. Lodges will be holding their annual meetings which means elections and installations of new officers.

The committee has revised the Installation Ceremony. The new version combines some sections of the previous ceremony and also adds a section for the installation of

a Lodge Almoner.

It is also a good time to remind all Lodges of the requirement to have their newly elected Masters receive the Actual Past Masters Degree. According to our Rules and Regulations (Section 7100) a Master-elect, provided he is not already and Actual Past Master must receive the Past Master's Degree in a Lodge of Actual Past Masters. A Lodge of Actual Past Masters must consist of at least 3 Actual Past Masters. Many Lodges will bring their Master-elect to a regional Lodge of Actual Past Masters where the degree is conferred to many Master-elects. Other Lodges may choose to portray the degree themselves for various reasons and circumstances. To make that process a little easier

a "short form" of the Actual Past Master Degree was created. In no circumstance is it sufficient to only obligate the Master-elect.

Both the Installation Ceremony and Actual Past Master Degree have been approved by the Grand Master and are available from the Grand Lodge and should be available on the GL website in the secure area of the Ritual and Ceremonies section.

As always, if you have any comments or questions, the Committee on Ritual and Ceremonies can be contacted at crc@ctfreemasons.net

*RWB Eric W. Manner,
Chairman
Grand Lodge Committee
on Ritual and Ceremonies*

Generous Degree Work in District 1B



Bro. Dennis Corsalini, Past Master of Temple Lodge No. 65 and Mariner Lodge No. 67 and recipient of the Distinguished Service Award of the Grand Lodge of New York, is praised for his generous and tireless work throughout District 1B. WB James D'Acosta, in his final act as WM of Fidelity-St. John's No. 3, presented an etched Blue Lodge glass to WB Corsalini in sincere thanks for his numerous recitations of Bible lectures and charges in various degrees when local resources called for expert, and sometimes last minute, assistance.

Masonicare Recognizes Howard Orr



At its December meeting, the Masonicare Board of Trustees recognized past Chair Bro. Howard W. Orr (r.) for thirteen years of service in that role. Presenting him with the recognition is Bro. Robert F. Polito, Jr., Masonicare's new chair.

Union Lodge No. 5 Holds K-9 Fundraiser

by Domenic Corbo

On October 30, 2016 WM Michel Gomez and the brothers of Union Lodge No. 5 held a Brunch Fundraiser for the Stamford Police Departments K-9 Unit. The Lodge hoped to raise \$1200 to purchase a new kevlar vest for K-9 Officer Loki, the newest member of the unit.

Mother Nature must love dogs, Freemasonry and police because that Sunday morning was unseasonable warm and the sun shone bright all day. The food was wonderful with pancakes, bacon, eggs, parfait, soup, turkey clubs, and mimosas. The Brothers would like to acknowledge WB Domenic Corbo's sister Maria Joyce for her skills in the kitchen; her labors made the day run smoother. As a dog owner and lover she wanted to participate.

The guests loved that

the officers of the K-9 unit were able to perform demonstrations of the dogs abilities. Questions and answers were shared and information obtained. All felt a sense of community and a worthy objective.

With the help of donations from Acacia Lodge No. 85 & Harmony Lodge No. 67, the amount for the vest was quickly achieved and surpassed.

While the fundraiser is a wonderful story, five days later it became even better. Sgt. Seth O'Brien of the K-9 Unit called and asked a favor. A young man, Finn Murphy, the son of a Stamford firefighter, was upset that he missed the brunch. He told his father that he wanted to donate his birthday money (\$100) for the cause. The family was invited to attend the check presentation ceremony prior to the regular Stated Communication on



"The lodge gathers to present the check to Officer Pavia and Loki (center rear)"

December 7.

The presentation was delayed slightly as Officer Pavia and Loki were called to duty on a disturbance call just blocks away from the Lodge. Upon their return, WM Gomez met Officer Pavia and K-9 Loki in the East with Finn Murphy for the presentation

of a check for \$2565.39. The K-9 Unit was overwhelmed by the hospitality and generosity of the Lodge. And the Murphy family has given all Freemasons a beacon of light to aspire to, as all should strive to be more like this young man Finn Murphy.

James Louis D'Acosta Awarded Pierpont Edwards In Bronze

Most Worshipful Brother James Louis D'Acosta grew up in a Masonic household. He was born in Mexico City on April 7, 1927. At age 18, during his freshmen year in college, he was drafted and served in the Pacific during WW II in the U.S. Army, attaining the rank of Sergeant and serving as Regimental Radio Chief for the 35th Infantry Regiment of the 25th "Lightning" Division. His principle service was in Otsu, near Kyoto, in occupied Japan, while combat veterans returned home. Following the close of hostilities, he returned

to Texas Tech University graduating in 1950 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Engineering.

Interestingly, both he and his older brother, Emil, attended Texas Tech, where each respectively found and married their future wife. Upon graduation from Texas Tech, Brother James L. D'Acosta commenced a 36 year career with General Electric Company. His employment at GE brought him full circle with an assignment in Mexico City, Mexico, where he settled with his wife, Levora Nell Manning. The D'Acostas lived in Mexico

from 1952 until 1969. Their union was blessed with three children, Carl Emil, Alice Ann, and James Wade, all of whom were born in Mexico City as well. Their family is also blessed with numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren. In Mexico, he was assigned to General Electric's affiliate in Mexico City as a project engineer in 1952; there he initiated manufacturing of sixty-five models of a unique dual frequency design of fractional horsepower motors. He then spent fourteen years in a series of management positions leading to vice

president, secretary and manager of Relations and Administration for General Electric de Mexico, S. A.

He was an active member of his church and, at the urging of church friends, he applied for membership in Toltec Lodge No.1 where he was initiated on September 29, 1958. He was passed to Fellowcraft on May 18, 1959, and raised by his father, Emilio, on August 8, 1959. He moved through the chairs quickly and was elected Worshipful Master of Toltec Lodge in 1964. He also

Continued on next page

James Louis D'Acosta

Continued from previous page



became a member of Anezeh Temple Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine in 1960.

In 1967, Brother D'Acosta was elected Deputy Grand Master of the York Grand Lodge of Mexico. The Grand Master that year, MWB Weldon Thomas, spent much of his time in San Antonio where he was preparing to move, so many of the duties of Grand Master fell on the shoulders of Brother D'Acosta. In 1968, at the age of 41, Brother James Louis D'Acosta was elected the second youngest Grand Master of the York Grand Lodge of Mexico, F. & A.M. and served with distinction. During his year as Grand Master, he attended the Conference of Grand Masters of North America in Washington, D.C. In June, in celebration of Saints John's Day, he arranged a gathering that included the officers from the Supreme Council AASR Consistory No. 1, Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of the U.S. and Mexico, Ivanhoe Commandery of Knights Templar, Mexico

Conclave of the Red Cross of Constantine, Knights of the York Cross of Honor, Aztec Chapter of the Eastern Star, Order of DeMolay, Knights of Columbus, Anezeh Temple AANOMS and members of the board of governors for the Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children.

Also, during the Mexico 1968 Summer Olympics, he arranged and presided over an official visit and joint meeting of the lodges in Mexico City to welcome the visiting Masons who were Olympic coaches and judges from many countries including England, Brazil, Australia, New Zealand and the U.S. (California and Ohio). He served on various Grand Lodge committees and authorized the Spanish language degree ritual for use by Aztec Lodge. He also served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Mexico City Shriner's Hospital of which his father was the founding Chairman.

He was a founding member of the National Association of Industrial Relations Managers

and of the Round tables on Industrial Safety in Mexico. Returning to the United States in 1969, he established the company's Dallas office for college recruiting in eight southwestern states. He was a charter member and the second chairman of the Industrial Engineering Advisory Board at Texas Tech University. He has served as secretary and conference chairman for the Southwest Placement Association. He co-founded what is now the Texas Alliance for Minorities in Engineering. During the 1970's, he organized and led several General Electric Management Practices Course sessions in the United States and played a major role in staging management courses in Colombia, Mexico, and Venezuela which eventually served more than 1,250 managers. In 1974, he was named Program Manager on the Professional Recruiting Staff and which was subsequently located at General Electric Headquarters at Fairfield, Connecticut. He achieved professional status as a senior member of the American Institute of Industrial Engineers and his accomplishments were recognized by Texas Tech University when he was named a Distinguished Engineer in 1980. The travel involved with his vocation curtailed his Masonic activities from 1969 on.

He was honored and pleased to raise his son, James Wade D'Acosta as a Master Mason in Ashlar Aspetuck Lodge No. 142 on March 12, 1997 and has enthusiastically followed his son's progression through the chairs to Worshipful Master of Fidelity-St. John's Lodge No. 3, Fairfield.

His hobbies include light

woodworking, especially making lamps as special keepsakes either from champagne bottles or from pieces of discarded wood from important structures. For example, he has made several lamps from discarded wood taken from the spire of The Congregational Church in New Canaan when the spire was repaired. He is also a voracious reader and as such has been a member of a reading group throughout his retirement his preferred genre being American history and biography. And he writes essays about incidents and episodes of his life and about his family and is expecting private publication of his collected essays for distribution to friends and family by Christmas.

In every community in which he has resided, he has held a leadership in the protestant church where he lives. This was true at Union Evangelical Church in Mexico City, Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church in Dallas, and The Congregational Church in New Canaan. In New Canaan, he has served on every church committee including heading the Board of Deacons and even overseeing the church office. Throughout his retirement he has been an active member of The Senior Men's Club of New Canaan which he has served as President.

In recognition of his long and continued service to his church, his community, the engineering profession and, most especially to the Masonic Fraternity, the Grand Lodge of Connecticut, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons is pleased to present to Most Worshipful Brother James Louis D'Acosta the Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze for Distinguished Masonic Service.

Whodathunkit?

by Pat Kalinauskas

Fifty-two years ago a group of Masons formed a family camping club that became known as National Camping Travelers (NCT). Connecticut's NCT Chapter is in District 1, which also includes Vermont and Massachusetts. Our camping activities are done as a district and many times members from New York join us, too. But this is not about becoming a member. This is about what great things happen because of NCT members!

Our December activity is called a camp-in; a group luncheon at a tried-and-true restaurant where we donate toys for needy children. In 2010, we started having our December Camp-in at the Dakota Restaurant in Rocky Hill. We contacted the Connecticut State Police (CSP) and partnered with their Stuff-a-Cruiser program. We stuffed a cruiser and the next year, we still stuffed a cruiser.

In 2012 the Dakota Restaurant wanted to join us in donating toys. In subsequent years the amount of toys has grown to where the cruiser and a couple pick-up trucks

were needed.

As the 2014 holidays grew close the CSP got a call from Saint Mary's Hospital in Waterbury. They were in dire need of toys for the patients in their Pediatric Emergency Department and for the children receiving inpatient care at Saint Mary's in the Connecticut Children's Medical Center, Waterbury Unit. Saint Mary's has the only Emergency Pediatric Unit of its kind in that part of Connecticut. NCT and the Dakota were able to fulfill that request and did again in 2015.

The NCT December 2016 Camp-in got even bigger. The Order of the Eastern Star (OES) in Connecticut joined the toy donation. One of the NCT members from Massachusetts applied for (and was awarded) a grant to purchase toys for this project.

The CSP representative since 2010 has been Sgt. Matthew Garcia. He was joined this year by Trooper 1st Class Mark Packer. A local company, Beacon Health Options added to our donations. The amount of toys that were donated through our camp-in was undeniably one of the largest collections to ever be donated to Saint



Posing behind the pile of toys donated because of the Masonic Family and friends, are CSP Sgt. Garcia and six people from Saint Mary's that included a Doctor and two RNs. Among the 50 who attended the camp-in were NCT National Officers and members from Connecticut, Massachusetts and Vermont; Connecticut's Grand Master Gail N. Smith; Connecticut's Worthy Grand Matron, Madolyn E. Morgan and Worthy Grand Patron, Vincent A. Kalinauskas and their Grand Officers and other OES members and friends.

Mary's. It was especially nice to have representatives from Saint Mary's Hospital in attendance and to hear about where our donations go.

Whodathunkit that our little camping club would become a major player in helping sick children and their siblings to have some happiness during

some very difficult times. The toys that were donated will be given to children during the holiday season -- and because of our efforts and with the help of the Masonic Family and friends, there are enough toys to be distributed throughout the whole year to the hospital's little patients.



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Leonard Henry Bucher Awarded Pierpont In Bronze

Leonard Henry Bucher was born at Islip L.I. N.Y. on March 15, 1935, the elder son of Opal and Henry Martin Bucher. He has one sister, Betty Marie Parks of Taswell, IN, and a brother James Martin Bucher of Stevensville, TX.

He attended Elementary Schools at Commack L.I., NY, Baskinridge, NJ. St Elmo, IL and Pinto Altos, NM. Due to his mother's health the family moved to the southwest, eventually settling in a small mining town, Pinos Altos, New Mexico. He attended elementary school in a 2 room school house consisting of Grades 1 through 4 in one room and grades 5 through 8 in the other room. Grades were designated by rows of eight seats each. It was not possible to listen to another grade's lesson which was more interesting than yours.

He graduated from South Huntington High School after which he enlisted in the USMCR. In 1957 he enlisted in the Army Reserves and served until 1967, at



the time of his discharge he was serving as First Sergeant of the 729th Rail Road TROB and went into a control group 13th Corps 94th Command.

After active duty and upon separation, Len enrolled at LIU eventually achieving BSCE. He worked for SSV&K Consulting Engineering firm in New York City, transferred to Branford, CT to work on the Greenwich Killingly Expressway, later known as I-95 and the Connecticut Turnpike. After working on the highway, he was employed by the Fusco Amatruda Company as a Field Engineer on the Temple Street Parking Garage. This was the beginning of a long and rewarding career in the construction business having worked as a Field Engineer, Project Engineer, Estimator, Superintendent, Project Manager for the Gilbane Building Co., Turner Construction Co., P. Francini Co. New England General Contracting Co., A Prete and Son Construction Co. (Vice President), Nutech Building Co., and the Town of Stratford as Construction Administrator.

On February 14, 1959 he married the former Barbara T. Zurkus of Branford CT. This marriage was blessed with three children, Brenda Adams, Gary Leonard and Laura Bates and ultimately

three grandchildren. He also has a son Ronald, from a previous marriage.

Gary, a 20 year member of Widow's Son Lodge is currently attending George Mason University in Virginia to achieve his doctorate after serving 24 years in the USAF.

Raised as a Master Mason on March 7, 1962 at Widows Son Lodge No. 66, in Branford, he served as Worshipful Master in 1977, was elected Treasurer in 1977, and is still serving in that capacity. He is also President of the Board of Trustees. In 1976, he traveled to the White House and presented President Gerald Ford the Widows Son Anniversary coin set, along with 2 other brothers from the Lodge. He is also a member and has served as Worshipful Master of Hiram Lodge No.1, 1994 and 1995, is a member and Past Master of St Alban's Lodge No. 38, 2007 and a member of Ashlar Lodge No. 332. He served as Associate Grand Marshall for RW Samuel G. Bentley, District 4A, 1983-1984 and as District Deputy District 4C 1988-1989.

He is a member of Pulaski Chapter No 26 RAM since 1970, and served as Secretary for 10 years. He was High Priest in 1981 and 2009-2010.

Sir Knight Bucher was Knighted in

Continued on page 24

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From the desk of Bro. Jon-Paul Venoit

President & CEO of Masonicare

Enclosed within this issue of Connecticut Freemasons is Masonicare's 2016 Annual Report, covering our fiscal year October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016. I hope you can take a few minutes to look it over. In our cover letter, Bro. Bob Polito and I note the highlights of the past year and the priorities for this year.

Unfortunately, nearly 60% of our nursing home revenue is from Medicaid. Medicaid woefully underfunds the care we give, causing losses year after year in our skilled nursing facilities. We are grateful to The Masonic Charity Foundation and their donors for helping to make up some of this shortfall.

We continue to also shoulder a costly regulatory burden. The most

recent example of a well-intentioned but ill thought-out requirement from the state Department of Social Services becomes effective February 1. It requires that any state-managed Medicaid patient receiving home care from us must be documented in a new and separate database. Not only does it place a cost burden on us, but it basically requires a double entry on each patient encounter. We - along with the Connecticut Association for Homecare and Hospice - are fighting this mandate but so far



our efforts have fallen on deaf ears. That said, I'd like to end this column on a couple of positive notes! First, the enclosed Annual Report includes a listing of each of our Boards and the selfless individuals who served on them. These trustees and directors donate hundreds of hours to Masonicare's governance, and we are truly grateful for their dedication and service. Secondly, for any of our brothers in Florida at this time of year, don't forget our Nutmegger Reunions at the end of the month. Hope to see you there!

Sincerely and fraternally,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jon-Paul Venoit". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Connecticut Freemason Family Day: Hartford Wolf Pack Hockey Game

by Jeff S. Bartlett

The puck drops on March 26, at 5 p.m., for the third-annual Connecticut Freemason Family Day at the XL Center, where Masonic family and friends are invited to watch the Hartford Wolf Pack face-off against the Providence Bruins.

With this year's Connecticut Freemason Family Day hockey event, there is a twist: Each ticket bought online will contribute \$5 to a lodge of the purchaser's choice. When buying the discounted tickets, for just \$15 apiece, the purchaser simply selects the lodge they are a member of or would like to support.

The earned money can be used by lodges as they see fit, potentially for charity, furnishings, programs, or upkeep. With this approach, lodges are incentivized to get the word out

and encourage brothers, family, and friends to attend this fun-filled event. The lodge that sells the most tickets will be recognized both at the game and at the next Grand Lodge session. And importantly, all lodges benefit directly by supporting this event.

As in years past, there will be numerous Masonic-themed elements to the evening. This year's event will continue the tradition, with some details and commitments still in development at press time. Suffice it to say, this promises to be a great opportunity to go beyond being a fundraiser by giving all members of the Masonic family in Connecticut and beyond, including appendant bodies and youth groups, a fun activity that will raise the visibility for Masonry in the state's capital. It is also a good way to spend time with membership candidates.

As those who have attended games in the past will attest, the Wolf Pack put on

an exciting, high-energy performance, and the XL Center itself is a wonderful arena, complete with ample eateries and nearby restaurants.

Attendees are encouraged to proudly wear clothing with Masonic logos, so we have a strong visible presence.

More information will be distributed to lodges and posted online. For large group purchases, such as donating tickets to support a youth group, special pricing is available by calling Dave Romeiko at 860-990-6076.

For direct questions, contact Brother Tom Mumford at tom.mumford@trixis.com or 860-305-7755.

Discounted tickets are available online now at www.ctfreemasonfamilyday.org. Be sure to purchase tickets by March 22nd to ensure time for delivery.

Winter Work, Play and Study!

By John A. Amarilios,
membership@lafayetteconsistory.com

The Dewitt Clinton Lodge of Perfection will present the 9th Degree on Monday, February 20, in Stratford. Those Master Masons who desire to start their Scottish Rite Journey on that date should call the Consistory office at (203) 375-0064 to make dinner reservations and arrangements to view the 4th Degree prior to the live degree. Every degree is a likely starting point for any Master Mason seeking more light, and the Lodge of Perfection shall always enable a brother to start his journey by presenting the gateway 4th Degree prior to any degree when there is a new candidate.

The 9th Degree is a wonderful allegory which takes place at the Temple of Solomon. It is a degree which has become acutely relevant

in this world of religious fanaticism and its related violence, and reinforces the validity and superiority of Masonic philosophy and humanism and its related tolerance of all faiths. This year's presentation features a seasoned cast and a filling meal next door at the Pyramid Shrine at 6 p.m. Reservations are strongly advised in order to avoid disappointment.

For those Freemasons who have harbored a desire to perform in a non-degree play, we will be holding open tryouts to any member of the Fraternity (EA to MM) on two succeeding Saturdays, March 18 and March 25 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Leo H Lohrman II theater in Stratford. We will ask brothers of any degree to pick a part to read from the play "The Last Full Measure" in front of our Directors on those mornings. The play is about Abraham Lincoln and will be presented to a diverse

audience of both genders, fraternal or otherwise, on Saturday June 24. It is also a wonderful opportunity for those of you who have a background, or are simply interested, in lighting and sound, to come out and chat with our crews and find out what we are doing, and how you can help.

If you enjoy gleaning some long forgotten light that can be found in hard to find older, dormant Masonic rituals, the Grand College of Rites (email: grand.registrar@grandcollegeofrites.org) will be publishing more of the old Cernau Scottish Rite degrees - Part 2 (10° - 13°) this year. They are also producing limited reprints of the following now defunct degrees: 1957 Hermetic Rite, 1961 Le Coeur Enflamme, 1972 The Royal Oriental Order of Sat B'Hai and 1978 Fratres Lucis.

The Consistory social calendar this Winter/ Early Spring features:

Brewery tasting and Tour at the Two Roads Brewery on 2/14 at 6:30 p.m.

Concert at the Greater Youth Orchestra in Bridgeport's Klein Auditorium in February

Bowling Tournament in Milford - in February through March

Bus trip and Tour to the NMJ Headquarters in Lexington MA in May

Consistory Fishing Trip in June

Fellowship Golf Tournament at Whitney Farms in Monroe in the

Spring

Hosting of a Grand Lodge Hospitality Suite 4/2-3

Exact details are pending at the time of this writing, but you can call the office and ask to be put on the Constant Contact list so as to obtain updated information as it becomes available.

Traditionally, when the Scottish Rite, Lodge of Perfection Degrees were presented in numerical order, the candidate was presented with the various Sacred Words and their meaning. Although the Rite has adopted a more fluid bookend concept to meet the time needs of the modern brother and degrees need not be taken in order, the gradual system of introduction of these Sacred Words has fallen into disuse. These eleven words, (presented in the 4th through the 14th degrees) imparted meanings which were relevant to the ritual being presented. If you are a 32° Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret and would like to obtain this list, you may email me at the address above, along with your member #, and I would be glad to email you the listing!

As always, your Consistory stands ready to help further your understanding of the Three degrees of Freemasonry. Should you have questions about the Scottish Rite, please feel free to contact me at the email address above, or call the Consistory office at (203) 375-0064.



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The three Valleys are looking for brothers with acting talent, as well as sound and lighting backgrounds. Our Valleys have invested in state of the art computerized lighting and sound systems, and the need for talent and know how has never been greater. Please contact the Consistory office or drop me, John Amarilios by email at: membership@lafayetteconsistory.com

Contact the Consistory office if you desire to arrange for seating and meals for any of these degree events.

Contact any Scottish Rite Mason or the Valley near you today!

<p>Valley of Bridgeport 2422 Main Street Stratford, CT consistory@sbcglobal.net 203-375-0064</p>	<p>Valley of New Haven 285 Whitney Avenue New Haven, CT sphinx97@juno.com 203-269-0336</p>	<p>Valley of Waterbury 531 Highland Avenue Waterbury, CT cwk@juno.com 203-754-8209</p>
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Or simply contact: MEMBERSHIP@LAFAYETTECONSISTORY.COM



Jon-Paul Venoit and Robert F. Polito, Jr.

Dear *Brother*,

2016 was a very busy year. In addition to all the usual demands – ranging from the fun like Grand Masters / Family Festival Day and the Quality of Life Walk, to the challenging such as state surveys and inadequate reimbursement – it was a year where we spent a great deal of energy preparing for 2017.

On the last day of the fiscal year, September 30, Stephen McPherson retired after 11 years as President & CEO. We are grateful for his service and will endeavor to fulfill his oft-stated mantra “to care for those whom it is a privilege to serve.”

Looking back, here are some of the highlights of 2016:

- A yearlong executive search for Steve’s successor culminated in August with the selection of Jon-Paul Venoit, Chief Operating Officer and a 26-year employee who started at Masonicare as a waiter while in high school.
- Construction on our new community in Mystic moved forward at a brisk pace. A formal Cornerstone Ceremony on August 2 was a celebratory milestone in the building effort and we welcomed our first Independent Living residents on November 29.
- In what may be a “first” in the nation, two college students moved into our Assisted Living community in Wallingford for the school year. A partnership with Quinnipiac University, the “Students in Residence” program has been a win-win for them and our residents. Victoria Kozar and Joe Huberman were selected from a field of student-candidates interested in healthcare and seniors. Their “move-in day” on August 23 was a lively “meet-and-greet” full of introductions, laughter and excitement. Within a few days, Victoria and Joe were regulars at resident activities and meals.
- We rolled out Assisted Living Services Agency (ALSA) contracts to several more congregate senior residences, bringing our total to 6. This line of business allows us to bring Masonicare’s assisted living services into already established buildings and create a revenue source without the capital investment.

Looking ahead, our plans for 2017 will be centered on the following:

- The successful opening of the Assisted Living wings at Masonicare at Mystic and “fill-up” of the community’s 179 apartments.
- A renewed commitment to quality as a differentiating measure throughout our entire continuum under the new leadership of Sylvia van Heerden using national and state industry metrics.
- The implementation of a sweeping systems integration across our resident and patient lines. Known internally as *Project Unity*, this multi-year multi-million dollar undertaking will ultimately create an electronic medical record for every individual served within our continuum.
- Continued pursuit of ALSA contracts with additional managed residential communities whose mission and values align with Masonicare’s.
- Exploring acquisitions, partnerships, divestitures and organic growth to support our efforts to reduce reliance on government sources of funding.

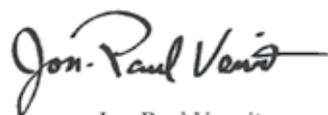
As always, we are most grateful for the continued generosity of our donors. The Masonic Charity Foundation received almost \$3.03 million in restricted and unrestricted giving in 2016. We are also grateful for the over 800 volunteers within our continuum whose service adds so much in our facilities and hospice program.

As the year unfolds, we look forward to updating you on our progress. Thank you for your continued support of Masonicare and our mission.

Sincerely and fraternally,



Robert F. Polito, Jr.
Chairman, Board of Trustees



Jon-Paul Venoit
President and Chief Executive Officer

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Financial Statement

 as of September 30, 2016 (\$000 omitted)

The financial summary is presented on a consolidated basis to include Masonicare at Ashlar Village, Masonicare at Newtown, Masonicare at Home, Masonicare at Mystic, Masonicare Home Health & Hospice, Corporate Services, Masonicare Health Center, Masonic Management Services and The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut. A complete copy of the audited consolidated financial statement is available upon request.

2016 Financial Performance

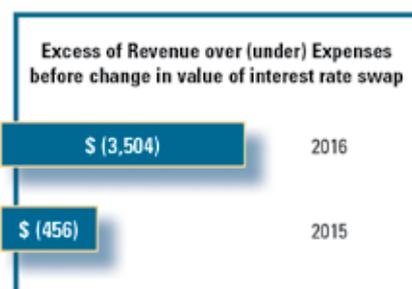
Results of operations at Masonicare for fiscal 2016 reflect operating revenues up 8% over prior year levels with operating expenses up 7% over prior year levels, resulting in improved operating results. At the bottom line, excess of revenues over (under) expenses declined by slightly over \$2 million from 2015, including lower levels of investment income based upon investment market conditions.

Operating revenues increased by \$12.9 million over 2015, reflecting: Masonicare at Newtown increased utilization levels in the skilled nursing operations (beds were out of service for a good portion of the prior fiscal year with a major facility renovation); Masonicare Home Health & Hospice home health skilled nursing & therapy visits increases of 2% and hospice volume increases of 6%; and the provision of incremental Assisted Living Services Agency ("ALSA") services in incremental locations throughout the State of Connecticut. In addition, a refocus on referrals from within the Masonicare continuum increased geriatric hospital admissions.

Operating expense levels increased with the incremental utilization levels, but at a slower rate- providing for an improvement in operating results. Margins were negatively impacted in both fiscal years by startup costs being incurred prior to the opening of the new rental community in Mystic Connecticut.

Unrestricted contributions increased in 2016 over the prior year, while realized investment income declined over the prior year, reflecting volatility in the financial markets. Further declines in the LIBOR rate during both 2016 and 2015 negatively impacted the value of the interest rate swap agreement liability, resulting in non-cash charges to earnings in excess of \$2 million for both fiscal 2016 and 2015.

Changes in the **financial position** of Masonicare at year-end 2016 from the prior year primarily reflect the impact of the ongoing construction of the new rental facility in Mystic. Property and equipment includes \$36.8 million of Mystic project additions, funded by incremental borrowing from endowment fund investments (\$13.0 million), borrowings on a construction loan credit agreement (\$13.5 million) and increases in payables & accruals for construction contract items. Unrestricted cash and investments at year-end 2016 (\$92.5 million) approximates prior year-end levels (\$93.0 million), and Days Revenue in Receivables of approximately 41 days at year-end 2016 is consistent with the prior year.



	2016	2015	% Change
OPERATING REVENUE			
Net patient service revenue	\$ 147,191	\$ 136,119	8%
Resident fees	20,370	19,156	6%
Other revenue	15,978	16,315	-2%
Provision for bad debts	(1,869)	(2,810)	-33%
Total Operating Revenue	181,670	168,780	8%
OPERATING EXPENSES			
Salaries, wages and employee benefits	133,079	124,701	7%
Supplies and other services	27,400	26,297	4%
Professional fees	19,936	18,290	9%
Depreciation and amortization	10,121	9,431	7%
Interest	4,457	4,392	1%
Minority interest	(146)	(564)	NM
Total Operating Expenses	194,847	182,547	7%
NON-OPERATING INCOME (EXPENSE)			
Contributions (unrestricted funds)	2,207	1,728	28%
Investment income	7,466	11,583	-36%
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER (UNDER) EXPENSES before change in value of interest rate swap	(3,504)	(456)	
Changes in value of interest rate swap	(2,314)	(2,994)	
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER (UNDER) EXPENSES	(5,818)	(3,450)	
Other changes in net assets	6,538	(16,839)	
TOTAL INCREASE IN NET ASSETS	720	(20,289)	
Total net assets at beginning of year	136,403	156,692	
TOTAL NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	\$ 137,123	\$ 136,403	

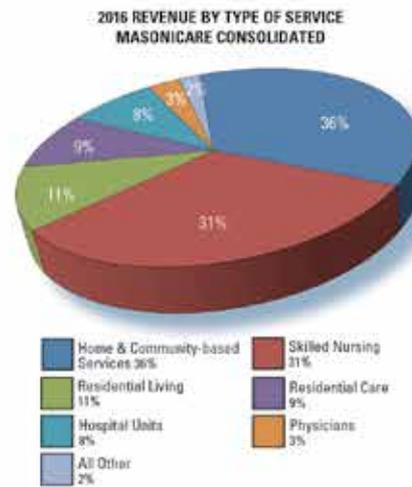
Financial Statement, continued

	2016	2015	% Change
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 5,306	\$ 4,143	28%
Restricted cash	768	767	0%
Patient accounts receivable	20,561	18,727	10%
Other	9,880	8,968	10%
Assets whose use is limited or restricted	3,576	3,583	0%
Total Current Assets	40,091	36,188	11%
INVESTMENTS - UNRESTRICTED	87,150	88,813	-2%
INVESTMENTS - SELF INSURANCE LIABILITIES	14,857	13,461	10%
INVESTMENTS - TRUSTED ASSETS	959	1,005	-5%
INVESTMENTS - TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	3,902	3,577	9%
INVESTMENTS - ENDOWMENT FUNDS	41,342	54,200	-24%
LESS current portion investments	(3,576)	(3,583)	0%
OTHER ASSETS	2,029	2,146	-5%
PROPERTY PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	191,380	156,646	22%
TOTAL	\$ 378,134	\$ 352,453	7%
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS			
CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$ 46,639	\$ 34,757	34%
LONG-TERM DEBT	106,634	96,082	11%
OTHER LONG-TERM LIABILITIES	87,738	85,211	3%
NET ASSETS	137,123	136,403	1%
TOTAL	\$ 378,134	\$ 352,453	7%

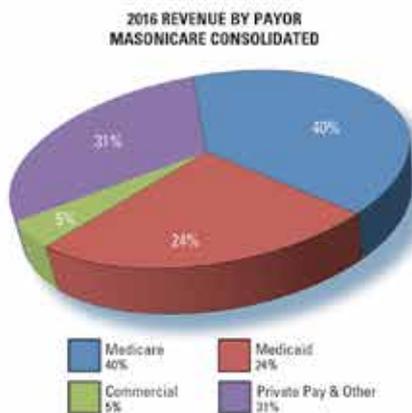


Summary of Activity

STAFFED OCCUPANCY	2016	2015
Masonicare Health Center (Licensed beds)		
Skilled nursing beds (375)	95.6%	98.1%
Acute medical beds (30)	31.5%	25.9%
Acute psychiatric beds (29)	89.6%	89.3%
Residential care apartments (86)	95.2%	92.1%
Independent apartments (93)	97.5%	96.2%
Masonicare at Newtown		
Skilled nursing beds (154)	91.6%	79.3%
Assisted living apartments (56)	87.1%	87.5%
Masonicare at Ashlar Village		
Independent living units (360)	93.6%	93.8%
Assisted living apartments (137)	83.9%	83.7%



VISITS	2016	2015
Masonicare Home Health & Hospice		
Skilled nursing care	130,044	128,088
Physical, occupational and speech therapy	62,998	61,904
Home health aides and others	84,112	86,289
Total Care of the Sick Visits	277,154	276,281
Hospice and Palliative Care Days	130,751	123,364
Masonicare at Home		
PCA/Homemaker Visits	18,831	17,922
Live-in Days	9,448	8,310
Masonic Management Services		
Physician Visits	45,808	48,542



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The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut

During fiscal year 2016, the fundraising efforts of The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut secured \$3,026,165 in support of the programs and services of Masonicare and its affiliates. These gifts came in many forms, including bequests, donor advised funds, trust distributions, and charitable gift annuities, as well as donations to the Masonicare Annual Appeal and to The Foundation's special events. Between October 1, 2015 and September 30, 2016, unrestricted contributions totaling \$2,207,248 were received, as well as \$270,395 in restricted gifts and \$548,522 in funds given by perpetual trusts. Of particular significance was the very generous gift of \$380,000 from The Eastern Star Charity Foundation of Connecticut.

Fiscal Year 2016 Contributions

Bequests	\$ 568,267
Trusts	1,050,991
Major Gifts	441,870
Donor Advised Funds	100,000
Gift Annuity Residuals	41,330
Masonicare Annual Appeal	376,626
Holiday Appeal	22,426
Gifts to Masonicare's Hospice Program	87,492
Tree of Life Program	73,674
Masonicare Golf Classic	189,350
Masonicare Quality of Life Walk	54,809
Tribute Gifts (Memorial and Honorarium)	10,767
Other Gifts	8,563
Total Funds Raised	\$3,026,165

Our Ageless Commitments



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Connecticut Freemasons Have the Power to *DONATE LIFE*SM



WB Anthony 'Tony' Giunta - A Transplant Success Story

by Richard F. Denno

It's been over five years since WB Anthony 'Tony' Giunta received that call every patient on the organ transplant waiting list anxiously hopes and prays for; the one telling him a suitable organ has been found. Every transplant recipient remembers that lifesaving day, just like their wedding day or the birth dates of their children.

"I was diagnosed with nephritis, a kidney disease in 2008 and found myself on hemo-dialysis shortly after retiring as a sergeant from the Westport Police Dept," said Tony. He went on the transplant waiting list - and waited five years for 'that call,' telling him a compatible kidney had become available. The first time he received the call, it was a false alarm. "I was hanging on, while on dialysis," said Giunta. He arrived at Yale New Haven Hospital, prepped for surgery and in the operating room when the bad news came. Upon arrival of the kidney Tony was to receive, it was determined that the kidney was not viable. With the second call, he wasn't even out the door when the hospital called to say the patient above him on the list was located and he received the kidney. "It was the 'luck of the draw.' He was the first guy above me and got the kidney," WB Tony remembered.

"You carry a cell phone with you at all times, waiting for the call. For me, that call came on June 11, 2011.

My fellow policemen were sent to my house to get me," he said. Both Tony and MWPGM Walt Kaechel still remember Kaechel saying, "I didn't think you'd make it this far." Unfortunately, that is true for many on the transplant list. Time simply runs out before a suitable organ can be found. Kidney patients at least have the option of dialysis. With other organs, such as the heart, lungs and pancreas, patients can only hope the medications prescribed will buy them the time needed to receive their lifesaving transplant. Kidney transplants represent approximately 80% of organ transplanted each year. This means that these other organs are in less supply. For these patients, it is imperative for you to make the lifesaving decision to register online at www.donatelifenewengland.org.

Tony Giunta started through the chairs of Temple Lodge No. 65 in 2008, becoming the lodge's Worshipful Master in 2014. Kidney dialysis is for most patients a very tiring experience. "There were times during those seven years when I thought of stepping out of line, but thanks to the encouragement of my lodge brothers I persevered." Tony and wife, Fran, were able to attend their daughter's wedding in Hawaii. He is in good health and living his life to the fullest, thanks to the kindness of a stranger who registered as an organ donor.

Like WB Tony, you can make a difference by becoming a member of

your Masonic Organ & Tissue Donor Awareness Program. By becoming a member, you too can share in the future successes your efforts can make happen. To learn more, visit www.donatelifenewengland.org, register online and then contact us at toursone@comcast.net and join us.

Remember: Don't Take Your Organs to Heaven - Heaven Knows We Need Them Here!

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to rush through it. As for the memorization, this method will be individual. I tend to build the piece sentence by sentence (like Lego). I memorize the first sentence, recite it a few times, then add on the second sentence, learn it, add it on to the first then recite both; then add on the third and so on. This may seem time consuming but it works well for me. Other brothers I know have to read and learn the piece (e.g. a charge) completely many times, not being able to break it down.

Ideally, you should be reciting it out aloud and if space allows, standing up and moving around as if you were giving it in Lodge/Chapter. The closer you get to how you will actually do it the better. Once you have learned the piece and can recite it, go away and do something completely different, then come back to it half an hour or an hour later, recite it, check for mistakes, correct and continue. Then go away for longer. Do something different, and then come back to it. These steps allow the brain to remember the ritual better and it is better that you start this at least one to two weeks in advance of the degree, cramming it (as with exams) the night before won't work.

This leads to a larger discussion on memorizing and memory palaces - briefly memory palaces are constructs/visualizations in the mind's eye of buildings where memories are deposited in certain furniture/rooms and as you mentally walk through your building you are able to retrieve the memories you have associated with a particular thing/room. Purpose built Masonic temples are set up this way, as is the ritual, one can argue.

To help you on your way, as always I have book recommendations: "Learning Masonic Ritual" & "Learning Royal Arch Ritual" by Rick Smith (based on the English versions of the ritual but easily adapted),

"The Art of Memory" by Frances A. Yates (the classic study of memory and memory palaces), "De Umbris Idearum: On the Shadows of Ideas & The Art of Memory" by Giordano Bruno (Bruno's classic work from the late 16th century, now available in English) and a modern study "Moonwalking with Einstein: The Art and Science of Remembering Everything" by Joshua Foer.

Hope this helps you somewhat on your Masonic journey,

FROM MPGM J. ANDREW BIRDSALL

Companions,

Winter weather is here, as I'm writing this we are getting hit with several inches of snow, and there have been reports of accidents all over the state. We never want to cancel our stated assemblies, but we must use common sense and consider the safety of our Companions on the roads. Our state has, at times, diverse weather patterns, the shoreline can get spared the brunt of storms, while the northern part of the state gets buried, and there are times when the situation is reversed. If, in the judgement of the Thrice Illustrious Master, the assembly must be cancelled due to weather, any dispensations will be granted, for the safety of all, but every effort should be made to inform the Council Companions of the decision.

We are approaching the time for our Annual Assemblies, please look at your officer line and prepare accordingly for the coming year. I'm reluctant to issue any dispensations to allow a TIM to serve more than the two years that our Constitution allows. The health of our Councils depends on fresh ideas and new leadership, allowing the leadership to remain for more than two years can indicate stagnancy in the Council. If there is a situation that warrants consideration, please let me know.

As a reminder, if any changes

to our Constitution or Laws are desired, they should be submitted to the Grand Recorder for distribution to the Jurisprudence Committee 60 days in advance of our Annual Assembly. The deadline this year is April 4, 2017.

Lastly, one of the great honors that this position affords is being able to present honors and awards to deserving Companions. If your Council has nominations for the Knight of Ish-Sodi or the Phillip J. Jones Awards, please submit them to the Awards Committee (me) as soon as possible. Thank you.

FROM REGC CLYDE W. KAYSER, II

Sir Knights, Connecticut Freemasons have always been generous in their support of the several philanthropies supported by the Masonic bodies. This has been very evident in Templary this year. Sir Knight A. Norman Johnson of Washington Commandery No. 1 made a very generous donation to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, and in appreciation of this gift I had the distinct honor to present him with the Knights Templar Sword of Merit prior to the New Haven Christmas Observance. Approximately eighty-five Sir Knights, Ladies and guests witnessed this presentation. Sir Knight Johnson has always supported all levels of Masonry, and I am privileged to have known this generous Freemason for so many years. Connecticut Sir Knights have always supported the Eye Foundation's work, and I hope that you will again contribute generously to the "Joyce Kluntz Memorial Bakeless Bake Sale" drive.

In December all eight of the Commanderies participated in Christmas Observance programs. At all of these Observances the Sir Knight made a toast to "To the Ladies." I have often heard Sir Knights

say "I am sure happy my lady lets me come out and play with swords." February is the appropriate month for the Sir Knights to thank their ladies, for without their support and assistance, our participation in Masonic activities would be greatly curtailed. In the past the Commanderies, and Masonic bodies in general, held Ladies Nights and Ladies Programs. Sadly, the number of these events has been greatly reduced. New Haven Commandery once had an annual Ladies Night, with a dinner and program. When the Commandery dropped from two to one Conclave a month, this program slowly disappeared, mainly because there was no time for it. One of the strengths of New Haven Commandery was the Ladies Auxiliary, and I remember there were many nights that there were more ladies than Sir Knights in attendance at the dinners. The widows of the Commandery used to come to visit with the ladies. Over the years participation in the Auxiliary became less and less until it no longer existed. It is not a coincidence that at the same time the number of Sir Knights attending Commandery Conclaves also significantly dropped. The ladies were and are an important part of the success of the Commandery. I urge all the Commanderies to strive to establish a "Lady's Night" and include them in your activities. Believe me, your future success rests in their hands.

YORK RITE WEBSITES

Grand Chapter RAM of CT:
HYPERLINK "<http://yorkrite.org/gcramct/>" <http://yorkrite.org/gcramct/>

Grand Council R&SM of CT:
<http://yorkrite.org/gcrsmct/>
Grand Commandery KT of CT: www.knightstemplar.org/gkct/ct

Common to all three YR bodies: www.yorkrite.com/ct

News From The Valley of New Haven

The Scottish Rite Valley of New Haven is preparing for an exciting spring season with several degrees and social events. We'll be kicking off our spring class on February 27 with the 4th and 14th Degrees at the New Haven Masonic Temple. If you are interested in starting your Scottish Rite journey in our Spring Class, please contact our Membership Development Chairman, Brother Wayne Murray at (203) 393-5518 or wmurray2629@gmail.com. Our degree work will continue through the season with the 11th Degree on March 20 and the 16th Degree on April 10.

Our first social event for the season will be held on Saturday, February 18 (1-4 p.m.) with our 11th Annual Winter Picnic. This fantastic event is a winter afternoon of fellowship, fun and food for all ages. Adults, children, and/or grandchildren and potential new members and their

family are also invited. Reservations must be made before February 12 with Jim Kleinkauf. Send reservations to Jim at 1635 Long Hill Road; Guilford, CT 06437 or contact him at (203) 453-9536 or jkleinkauf@comcast.net

On February 25 from 2-4 p.m., we will be visiting Stubborn Beauty Brewing Co. for a Beer Tasting. Started in 2009, with a spectacular Imperial IPA dripping with Columbus hops aptly named "nummy nummy," Stubborn Beauty Brewing has received several awards through the years offering a variety of beers to satisfy any and all taste buds. SBB is located at 180 Johnson Street, Middletown, CT 06457. Following this, we will head over to Eli Cannon's located at 695 Main St, Middletown, CT 06457 for a late lunch. Please contact Brother Wayne Murray at (203) 393-5518 or wmurray2629@gmail.com if you are interested in attending.

On May 13 from 12-4 p.m., we will be changing things up and having a late

Cinco de Mayo celebration. We will host an outside party at the Wallingford Polish Nation Alliance Park, 171 N Plains Industrial Rd, Wallingford, CT 06492. This event will include authentic Mexican food prepared by a local restaurant, several fun activities (yes a piñata will be there), and Mariachi style music. You definitely don't want to miss this event! Any inclement weather the party will be brought inside the parks dining hall.

In addition to our degree work and social events, we are planning a few educational sessions to be held between our degrees. These sessions will be interactive programs that explore the deeper meaning of the degrees and philosophy of our craft. If you are interested in learning more about these sessions, contact me personally at chtirrell@gmail.com or (203) 215-5305.

We hope to see many old and new faces at these great events!

Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite
THE VALLEY OF NEW HAVEN
Masonic Temple, 285 Whitney Avenue New Haven

**LOOKING FOR
SOMETHING MORE
IN MASONRY?**

SPRING 2017 CLASS
*4th and 14th degrees
on February 27*
11th degree on March 20
16th degree on April 10.

*See what we have to offer
by visiting our website:
valleyofnewhaven.org*



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

Leonard Henry Bucher

Continued from page 14

New Haven Commandery on April 17, 1970, served as Eminent Commander in 1994 and Recorder from 1995-2010. He is also an affiliated member of St. Elmo Commandery No. 9 and Stamford Clinton Commandery No. 3. He served as Eminent Grand Inspector of the Grand Commandery of Connecticut for several years before being elected to the line. He was elected and installed as Right Eminent Grand Commander for the Chivalric Year 2011-2012.

He is a member of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite since 1983 and a member of Sphinx Shrine also since 1983. He is a Past Chief of the Highlanders and is presently serving as Treasurer.

He is a member of the following Masonic Organizations: Connecticut

York Rite College No. 17, Sword of Bunker Hill, Mohawk Council No. 28 Knight Masons, Council of Anointed Kings, Past Masters Association of the 4th District, Dusis Society, Perfect Craftsman, Tong No. 6 Shrine Grand Commanders Club, Past DD Association Fellow Craft of 38 and 66, Order of the Purple Trowel, Highlander Clan No 95, Past Prior, Connecticut Priory No. 28, KYCH, Royal Order of Scotland.

In recognition of his service to his country, his community, and to Freemasonry, the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free & Accepted Masons of Connecticut is pleased to present to Right Worshipful Brother Leonard Henry Bucher the Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze for Distinguished Masonic Service.

News From The Valley of Hartford, A.A.S.R.

by David R. Blythe, Sr.,
33^o, Valley Secretary

Over the years, Masonry has attracted men of good moral character from all walks of life. They all have certain things in common: they are family men, they believe in a Supreme Being, and they love their country. As Masons they learn no matter what their station in life, all men are created equal, and that they meet on the level.

The teaching of the first three degrees reinforces those basic values.

Many Masons went beyond the initial steps of those degree, wanting more light in Masonry. They looked for it in the Scottish Rite, whose degrees strengthen the Core Values of life, namely: Reverence for God; Devotion to Country; Integrity; Justice for all; Tolerance; and Service to Humanity and Youth.

The Scottish Rite enhances these values via dramatic theatrical productions, presenting plays offered in historical costume. Each portrayal contains one or more of these Core Values.

For the degree schedule that the Valley will be presenting this spring, the Core Values of the degrees are: 4^o - all Core Values; 14^o - Integrity and Justice; 16^o - Reverence for God; 22^o -- Integrity; 18^o - Integrity and Tolerance; and 32^o - Reverence for God, Integrity, Devotion to Country, and Service to Humanity. The officers, and members of the Valley, hope you will find time to attend one or more of our upcoming degrees, renew old acquaintances, and meet the new candidates.

As a Scottish Rite member, now is the time to step up and help make this current class one of the largest in several years, The largest class in the

past two years was 15 candidates.

The Valley of Hartford is now accepting applications for the spring class which starts on Thursday, February 9, when the Valley will portray the 4^o and the 14^o. Thursday, February 23, the Valley will show the 22^o DVD followed by the live portrayal of the 16^o. Thursday, March 23, is a portrayal of the 18^o. All degrees start at 7:30 p.m. Consistory Day is scheduled for Saturday, April 22.

All Thursday degree are preceded by an All-You-Can-Eat buffet at 6:10 p.m. at the Sphinx Shrine facility. Reservations are required. Candidates are guests of the Valley. Make reservations through the Valley office (e-mail: sect@snet.net, phone 860-666-0712) or use the reservation form on the Valley's website (www.valleyofhartford.org) or the one found in the latest issue of the View of the Valley.

Help the Valley of Hartford grow the fraternity by talking to those Masons that are not members of the Scottish Rite, and by attending the degrees and family life events whenever possible.

Should you know of any brother Mason that might be interested in joining the Scottish Rite, the degree fees are \$150, which includes the 2017 membership dues, the pre-degree dinners, and Consistory Day Luncheon. They are payable in full by the time they take the 4^o. Contact the Valley office to obtain a petition, or look on the website www.valleyofhartford.org.

Informational DVD's are available upon request. Email or call using the information above and a copy will be mailed out. Or stopping by the office at 207 Deming Street, Newington, any Monday, Wednesday, or Friday between 9:00 am to noon and pick up a copy and receive a tour of our facility.



ANCIENT ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE
The Valley of Hartford
207 Deming Street, Newington, CT 06111

**OUR 2017
SPRING SCHEDULE**

Thursday, February 9
Portrayal of the 4^o & 14^o @ 7:30 p.m.
Pre-degree dinner available @ 6 p.m.

Thursday, February 23rd
220 DVD & Portrayal of the 16^o @ 7:30 p.m.
Pre-degree dinner available @ 6 p.m.

Thursday, March 9th
SNOW DATE for either of the above degrees.
Pre-degree dinner available @ 6 p.m.

Thursday, March 23rd
Portrayal of the 18^o @ 7:30 p.m.
Pre-degree dinner available @ 6 p.m.

Saturday, April 22nd
Consistory Day - Portrayal of a Historic Play
Presentation of awards and the
Portrayal of the 32^o starting @ 9 a.m.
Followed by a social hour and a Prime Rib Luncheon

Advance reservations required for all meals.

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

For more information about becoming a member of the
Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite,
or to receive a Scottish Rite Informational DVD....
Contact David Blythe Sr., 33^o, Valley Secretary,
Valley of Hartford AASR
(860) 666-0712 Email: sect@snet.net

We Welcome Our New Brothers to the Fraternity

Chris Archer	St. John's Lodge No. 2	Jackson D. Littlefield	Union Lodge No. 31
Brett O. Braccidiferro	St. John's Lodge No. 2	Andrew C. Malerba	Union Lodge No. 31
Joshua A. Braccidiferro.....	St. John's Lodge No. 2	Joseph E. McCarthy	Union Lodge No. 31
Erik J. Connors.....	St. John's Lodge No. 2	Joshua D. McDonnold	Union Lodge No. 31
Matthew C. Vaiciulis	St. John's Lodge No. 2	Bryan M. Trapp.....	Union Lodge No. 31
Luckner F. Noel Sr.....	Fidelity-St. John's Lodge No. 3	Patrick J. Donnelly	Harmony Lodge No. 42
William Y. Strong III.....	Union Lodge No. 5	Joe D. Ferreira	Harmony Lodge No. 42
Joseph J. Luchetti	KingSolomonsLodgeNo.7	Matthew D. Poulin	Harmony Lodge No. 42
Jason J. Czar	America-St. John'sLodgeNo.8	Derek C. Brooks.....	Putnam Lodge No. 46
Connor K. Kummerl.....	America-St. John'sLodgeNo.8	Paul J. Wentworth	Putnam Lodge No. 46
Samuel J. Stiles	America-St. John'sLodgeNo.8	Stephen P. Dudzic.....	Jerusalem Lodge No. 49
Bob P. Dezelin	King Hiram Lodge No. 12	Joseph A. Iavasile.....	Seneca Lodge No. 55
Richard J. Reynolds	King Hiram Lodge No. 12	Nicholas M. Patrick.....	Seneca Lodge No. 55
William T. Williams.....	King Hiram Lodge No. 12	Christopher S. Norton.....	Harmony Lodge No. 67
Jeffrey A. Kelley	Hiram Lodge No. 18	James J. Astarita.....	Evening Star Lodge No. 101
Douglas M. Kissack	Hiram Lodge No. 18	Brian J. Bergin.....	Evening Star Lodge No. 101
Claudia Lia.....	Hiram Lodge No. 18	Timothy A. McCarty	EveningStarLodgeNo.101
Donald G. Platt.....	Hiram Lodge No. 18	Daniel L. Ray.....	Evening Star Lodge No. 101
Eric Sanchez	Trumbull Lodge No. 22	John T. Reaves Jr.....	Evening Star Lodge No. 101
Christopher W. Bolster	Village Lodge No. 29	Bronson D. Carter.....	Bay View Lodge No. 120
Roy I. Cohen	Village Lodge No. 29	Kyle J. Drew.....	Bay View Lodge No. 120
Joseph D. Gioia.....	Village Lodge No. 29	Gary M. Levy	Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125
David R. Hadd	Village Lodge No. 29	Stefan H. Barnickel.....	Hospitality Lodge No. 128
Adam B. Reader.....	Village Lodge No. 29	John M. Chan	Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140
Eric S. Connors.....	Union Lodge No. 31	James V. Tynan.....	Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140
Corey T. Ferguson	Union Lodge No. 31	Michael S. Weinstein	Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140

Hospitality Lodge No. 128 Installs Officers, Preps for 5th Anniversary

On January 11, Hospitality Lodge No. 128 installed their officers for the 2017, and began a year that will see plenty of activity and the observance of their 5th anniversary. Chartered on March 14, 2012, reviving the name and number of Wethersfield's former lodge, Hospitality will be guided by RWB Theodore Hasty, who has set the craft to work and given good and wholesome instruction.

RWB Hasty succeeds

RWB Lawrence S. Elsner, who guided the lodge through 2016. While experienced brothers fill the top three chairs (WB Robert Everest is Senior Warden, and RWB Eric W. Manner is Junior Warden), the newer brothers in the lodge are progressing through the junior offices.

Brother Alberto Dieguez is Senior Deacon, and Brother Douglas Maliszewkis is the new Junior Deacon. Brother

Karl Manner is Senior Steward.

Worshipful Brother Larry S. Baker will continue as the Lodge Treasurer and WB Matthew Griffin will continue as the Lodge Secretary, providing the steady and scrupulous care that those two positions demand.

The installation was performed by RWB William Bohman, Grand Junior Deacon, who served as Installing Master, and

RWB Richard R. Jones, Jr., Installing Marshall. While serious in nature, there were several moments where the mirth of the evening caused a few laughs.

All officers will be busy this year, as RWB Hasty has scheduled many Special Communications of the lodge, mostly on fourth Wednesdays, to handle degrees and traditional lodge events where family can attend. A Fellowcraft

Continued on page 33

An Anniversary and Awards

by Charles W. Yohe

Two thousand seventeen (2017) ushers in a year-long celebration for a significant Masonic milestone in the United Kingdom - the 300th anniversary of the founding of speculative Freemasonry. The year 1717 marked the formation of the United Grand Lodge of England and the formal acceptance of non-operative Masons as the basis of the Fraternity. This will culminate in a celebration attended by worldwide leaders of Masonry on October 31, 2017 in London.

Over the years, Masonry has prided itself on its acceptance of men from all walks of life and of every race and creed. And despite the fact that Masonry seeks only men of good character, moral and upright before God and man, from time to time, there are those who seek membership and become Masons in name only. But since our membership is a cross section of the general population, we sometimes have members that behave in a manner contrary to the tenets and teachings of Masonry. Masonry, from time to time then, must impose disciplinary action on some of its members if it is to maintain its reputation for good within the world at large. Often, these actions are difficult to accept and Lodges understandably are hesitant to undertake them, despite the necessity to do so.

It is much easier to sing the praises and publicly honor those who steadfastly toil in the quarries of life in support of the high ideals and tenets which Freemasonry continually teaches. In Connecticut, many Lodges recognize such Brothers with a 'Mason of the Year' award. However, there are several other awards for Masons and non-Masons alike for which deserving Masons and other community members can be nominated by your Lodge. These include the Service to Youth award, Oliver Wolcott Certificate award, the David Wooster Medal, and the Pierpont Edwards Award in Bronze.

The Service to Youth, Oliver Wolcott, and David Wooster Medal in bronze awards may be conferred upon non-Masons as well as Masons. The David Wooster Medal in Silver and the Pierpont

Edwards Medal in Bronze can be conferred only upon a deserving Brother or a Masonic organization.

The biggest problem that the Committee on Honors and Awards has faced over the years is the lack of nominees for some of these awards. Most notably, the Service to Youth, Oliver Wolcott Certificate, and the David Wooster Medals get little attention from our Lodges. Traditionally, the Committee on Honors and Awards would meet around this time of year and select recipients from the nominations that were forthcoming. Since many of these awards are presented by the Grand Master, acting upon a recommendation, the committee now meets early in the Grand Master's term to select recipients. This enables the sitting Grand Master to have an opportunity to present these awards throughout the jurisdiction during his year.

So how are nominations made? Quite simply, for the Service to Youth award, each Lodge or Masonic organization such as Order of Eastern Star, Amaranth, DeMolay, Rainbow, or any of the Appendant Bodies can make recommendations and submit nominations to the Committee on Community Action (COCA). That Committee then may recommend up to eleven (11) awards annually to the Committee on Honors and Awards, who will make the final determination on recipients.

The Oliver Wolcott Certificate, which can be awarded to Masons or non-Masons alike, is requested and awarded by a Connecticut Masonic Lodge. Section 8106 in our Rules and Regulations provide the details.

The David Wooster Medal, as outlined in Section 8104, shall be awarded for eminent service to humanity in the fields of art, science, business, government, entertainment, religion, or other endeavors. The silver version can only be awarded to a Master Mason or a Masonic organization and the bronze medal can be awarded to a non-Mason or non-Masonic body/organization. A limit of no more than 2 silver and 2 bronze may be given each year.

Nominations for the Pierpont Edwards

Medal in bronze for Distinguished Masonic Service and in silver for Eminent Masonic Service may be submitted by any Connecticut Mason. The Pierpont Edwards in silver can only be presented to a past Grand Master of this or any other Grand Jurisdiction. However, the Pierpont Edwards Medal in bronze may be given to up to nine (9) Past Masters of at least one year's standing. Additionally, up to three (3) medals in bronze may be awarded to Master Masons who are not Past Masters. See section 8103 for further details.

One of the very great thrills for any Grand Master is the presentation of these various awards. It is preferable that the awards to Masons be kept secret from the recipient and the subsequent presentation, more often than not, presents a very emotional moment for the recipient. Your Grand Lodge strongly encourages each Lodge, each Masonic Body in Connecticut to give serious consideration of appointing a committee on awards to write up nominations to be submitted annually for these awards. Nominations may be made at any time during the year, but especially from January through May for consideration no later than June or early July by the Committee on Honors and Awards whose decisions on awardees must be unanimous in every case.

The nomination should state which award is being sought, give a short biography of the individual and then detail the events or accomplishments which it is believed merits the award. Generally speaking, nominations are two to three pages in length. When a nomination is accepted and voted to be awarded, the submitting Brother, committee or Masonic organization is then contacted for more information, if necessary. By reading through the Pierpont Edwards citations which are published in the CT Freemasons, you can get an excellent idea of the kind of facts and detail that should be submitted.

Help your Grand Lodge help you by recognizing those members who go above and beyond for Masonry and the world at large.

Freemasons Do Not Control The Weather

by Michael Calderone

The weather reports were growing increasingly dire as the 267th Installation of Officers approached for Hiram Lodge No. 1. The first big snowstorm of the season was making its way from the east first threatening 2-4 inches, then 4-8 and finally 8-10 inches starting around Noon on Saturday, January 7. Hiram planned to install Bro. Glenn A. Jacques at 3 p.m. but most wondered if it would happen at all. If ever there was a time for the vast Masonic Climate Control Machine to do its thing, this was certainly it! Several dozen RSVP cancellations came in that morning but for forty-five intrepid Masons, friends and family members, the Installation went off in dramatic form.

Worshipful Master Jacques was piped in by a bagpiper and took his obligation in the Grand Room of the



The weather outside the New Haven Temple

New Haven Temple surrounded by his entire suite of Officers. Grand Marshal RWB Bruce R. Bellmore,

District Deputy of District 4A RWB Nicholas H. Ives, and AGM RWB Jason E. Morse joined WM Glenn in the East. Immediate Past Master, WB Michael Calderone disposed of his charge over the Lodge's charter as well as Hiram's original charter from 1750.

Following the Installation, the assembled Brothers and guests retired to the banquet hall where there was more than enough food, drink and fellowship to go around. At the end of the afternoon, to-go containers were filled and guests ventured into the cold to clear the snow off of their cars. By 7:00 p.m., the storm had been reduced to flurries and swirling wind no thanks to the Masonic Meteorological Network. What the uninformed conspiracy theorists do not understand about Freemasonry is not that we control the weather, but whether a few flakes can keep Masons down. The answer is that they cannot!



WB Michael Calderone, IPM (left), WM Glenn A. Jacques, RWB Salvatore Farrigno, Jr, SD Fred Marotti (seated)

John Frederick Kessler Receives Pierpont In Bronze

John Frederick Kessler was born in Hartford, CT on March 24, 1956 as the middle of three sons to Ray E. and Phyllis H. Kessler. John's brothers are Raymond Kessler of Canton, CT, and Randall Kessler of Mansfield, MA. His parents currently reside in Florida.

John was raised in Bloomfield, Connecticut where he attended grade school at the J.P. Vincent School and one year of Junior High School at Bloomfield Junior High School in 1970-71. He then transferred to The Watkinson School in Hartford, Connecticut where he graduated in 1974. He enjoyed participating in varsity baseball, hockey and soccer there and then attended three years of college at Nasson College in Springvale, Maine.

In 1977, John began working in the family's business, The Kessler Construction Company, Inc. in Hartford, Connecticut, where he worked as a laborer.

In 1980 John left the family business to work as a linesman for the Northeast Security Audit Division of Times Mirror Cable Television Company, advancing to manager of that division. He traveled to several different cable systems in Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut, spending 1-3 months at a time residing in hotel rooms or rental properties. Initially he found this to be exciting, but as time passed; he increasingly felt the need to settle down into a more fixed residence.

In October 1985, John returned to work at the family business as top level manager. He is currently a partner with his older brother in the ownership and management of three companies.

In 1987 John met the love of his life, Barbara L. Schumacher, and on October 15th 1988 John and Barbara were united in marriage. After living in Newington, John and Barbara purchased their Southington dream home. They have enjoyed over 22 years together in this wonderful community. John and his wife, Barbara, enjoy spending time with each other, their cockatoo Buddy Love, their friends and family. They also enjoy taking vacations to warmer climates, and road trips around New England. Another hobby that John and Barbara share together is golf, whenever they get the opportunity.

Shortly after returning to work for the family business, John was approached by Brother Frederick J. Kaeser, one of his

Company's mechanics. Fred asked John if he had any interest in Masonry. He was mentored by Brother Kaeser, where he was Initiated on September 24, 1986, Passed to Fellowcraft on October 6, and raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on November 17.

John has rarely, if ever, said no when he has been called to duty by his Lodge, a Brother, or a Masonic body. John is a third generation Mason. His father, Ray E. Kessler, and grandfather, Raymond E. Kessler were both raised Master Masons at Wyllys Lodge No. 99 in West Hartford.

In 1994, John joined the officer line as

Senior Steward and presided over the Lodge as Worshipful Master in 1997. John selflessly served the lodge as its Worshipful Master for three consecutive years. His love of Freemasonry has no bounds.

John served the Masonic Hall Association of West Hartford, CT Inc. and was elected President 2003. He has dealt with many different building maintenance and renovation projects, and managed scheduling as many as eight different tenants at a time. He spearheaded the reconfiguration of the M.H.A. into 501(C)

Continued on page 31

Widowers Support Group

~ A Group for Men who are Grieving the Loss of a Spouse ~

Every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the Month

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

This "On-Going" Widowers support group will provide a place for men to process their grief experience in a safe and supportive way with other grieving men. We will explore some of the common gender-specific reactions experienced by men as they transition through their grief journey.

Location: Masonicare Home Health & Hospice
104 South Turnpike Road
Wallingford, CT

Date/Time: Every 2nd and 4th Thursday
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Cost: No charge.

Availability: Open to the public.

Registration/Information:

Facilitator: Dennis Farrar, MSW/Hospice Social Worker
Masonicare Home Health & Hospice
104 South Turnpike Road
Wallingford, CT 06492

Pre-registration is recommended.

For more information or to register, please call 203-679-5395.

www.masonicare.org

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Home Health & Hospice



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5:00pm
Doors Open at 4pm



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www.CTFreemasonFamilyDay.org

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- Attending Lodges to be Recognized
- Masonic Trivia on Jumbotron
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- Special Pricing Available for Groups
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1. Complete the Form Below and Mail it to:

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c/o Hartford Wolf Pack
One Civic Center Plaza
Hartford, CT 06103

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WB Tom Mumford
860-305-7755
tom.mumford@trixaxis.com

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Check

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City: _____ ST _____ Zip _____

(circle one)

Exp. Date: ____ / ____ CVV: _____

Lodge w/ #: _____

Authorizing Signature: _____

2. Go Online to: www.CTFreemasonFamilyDay.org and complete the custom form.

Deadline: March 22nd

John Frederick Kessler

Continued from page 29

(2) tax exempt status. He also played a significant role in getting the Lodge to understand and approve to relocate, even though he knew it would not be a popular decision. In the fall of 2011 he was appointed to the Lodge Building Committee and worked through the entire process of selling the Lodge building and property, and locating and renovating a new Lodge building and property. His knowledge of construction was extremely useful in determining a suitable location for the future location of Wyllys-St John's Lodge #4.

John was appointed District Deputy, Masonic District 6C, by MWB Joseph J. Howard on March 31, 2004. While John has always considered the Blue Lodge as the heart of Masonry he often lends a hand when his Lodge or the Scottish Rite asks for or needs help. He has helped out with several CHIP Events and the Masonic Learning Center 5k Road Race. John continues to serve his Blue lodge by expertly performing degree ritual, and on a few occasions he has been the Installing Officer for the Installation of Officers ceremony.

John's thirst for more light in masonry led him to join the Scottish Rite where he became a 32nd degree Mason on May 15, 1999 at the Valley of Hartford. On that day he also became a member of the Sphinx Temple Shrine. John immediately started serving

the Scottish Rite, Valley of Hartford by becoming an officer in the Hartford Council Prince of Jerusalem where he served as Sovereign Prince in 2003-2004. He is currently First Lieutenant Commander in the Nathan Hale Consistory. He has taken many roles, in the portrayal of countless degrees and served as Class Marshal for several years. John is currently President of the Scottish Rite Foundation, Valley of Hartford where he plays a key role in the maintenance and improvement projects which have been so vital to keeping the building as one to be truly proud of and one which continues to operate in a cost-effective and mission sustaining way.

John was nominated and elected to receive the 33rd degree, Sovereign Grand Inspector General degree in 2004, and received the degree on August 30, 2005 at the 193rd Annual Meeting of the Supreme Council in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He has also served as a 33rd representative to the Executive Committee of the Valley of Hartford.

In recognition of his long and ongoing service, the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge Ancient Free & Accepted Masons is pleased to present to Right Worshipful Brother John Frederick Kessler, the Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze for Distinguished Masonic Service.



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Craft At Labor/Refreshment To Return Next Month

The two popular sections, Craft At Labor and Craft At Refreshment will return in next month's issue. Its absence is due to the impending rollout of the new Grand Lodge and new Lodge websites, slated to happen at the end of January.

The new Wordpress websites are designed to be

easier to use, easier to update and with a Google calendar, to make adding dates (and accurate information about events!) far easier. Further, all websites will be mobile-friendly, allowing easy access from cell phones.

In addition, there will be a help-desk presence for lodges that need assistance

with their website. This is a huge improvement over the present system.

Watch for information from Grand Lodge about the change over.

The two calendar sections will return next month, and hopefully with an easier to use calendar system, they will have even more events. We

hope that lodges that have found it difficult to post their events to their web calendars will now be able to quickly and easily add events that will find their way into Craft At Labor or Craft At Refreshment, to the benefit of all lodges in the state.

Pyramid Shriners Fundraise At Walgreens



by Donald M. Casey, Jr.

Masons from the Pyramid Shrine Temple rang in the arrival of 2017 by having a fundraising event at Walgreens Pharmacy in Monroe, Connecticut. Pyramid Shriners distributed informational pamphlets and coloring books pertaining to Masonry and the Pyramid Shrine Temple to patrons at the pharmacy. In addition, donations were collected and funds will be used to assist needy children receiving medical care at the Shiner Hospital.

Masonicare Home Health & Hospice Offering New Grief Support Group

Meetings held monthly at Wallingford Parks and Recreation Dept.

Masonicare Home Health & Hospice cordially invites men and women from the community to become part of a new Grief Support Group, specially designed to help them share and process feelings in a safe and supportive environment. The sessions will be facilitated by Dennis Farrar, MSW, a home care social worker with Masonicare.

Beginning in March, the Grief Support Group will meet on the first Thursday of each month from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. at Wallingford Parks and Recreation Dept., 6 Fairfield Blvd (David

Doherty Municipal Bldg-Room 2), Wallingford.

There is no charge to participate in the group, but pre-registration is recommended. For additional information or to register, please call 860-841-9413.

Masonicare is Connecticut's leading not-for-profit provider of healthcare and retirement living for seniors. In addition to Masonicare Home Health & Hospice, the organization's affiliates include Masonicare Partners Home Health & Hospice, Masonicare at Ashlar Village and Masonicare Health Center in Wallingford, Masonicare at Newtown in Newtown, and The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut.

Hospitality Lodge

Continued from page 26

Degree is slated for February 22, tentatively scheduled at Valley Lodge No. 36. A Master Mason degree will follow in April or May, depending on proficiency.

March will see the traditional St. Patrick's Day dinner, this year moved to a Special Communication with family invited to partake. This event has been held the past three or four years, always on a Stated Communication

night, and is popular with the brothers, so inviting family to enjoy the evening is a great improvement.

June will feature the family picnic, held on the porch of the lodge's home, the Solomon-Welles House in old Wethersfield. Scheduled for June 28, the hopes are that the weather will be warmer than last year's early June picnic.

September in Wethersfield means the start of school, Friday

night football games, the first Wethersfield High School Marching Band competition of the year, and the Cornfest. The Lodge will again be holding a CHIP event at this popular Wethersfield fall gathering.

The year will wind down with the Lodge's traditional Thanksgiving Feast in November, and their Annual Meeting in December.

At the close of the installation, RWB Bohman

announced that WB Francis G. Way had been appointed to serve as District Deputy for Masonic District 5B, starting in April, and WB Way announced he had asked WB Matthew Griffin to be his Associate Grand Marshal.

Hospitality Lodge No. 128 meets the second Wednesday of each month at the Solomon-Welles House, 220 Hartford Ave, Wethersfield. All brothers are welcome to visit.



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Boosters

After reviewing all of the receipts for Boosters, the following list are the Boosters who are current (i.e., within the 11 issue window). If your name does not appear and you feel that you should be on the list, please contact us. But for now, these are the Boosters we show as valid.

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Ray Barker	Martin Evenson	Frank H. Lesco	Marshall Robinson
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Douglas T. Barrett	Leonard W. Finegold	Alvin J. MacBrien	George P. Rutherford Jr.
Paul F. Blake	Mr. & Mrs. Aubrey V. Fisher	Paul E. MacDonald	Frederick W. Scmalz
Gustaf R. Bodin	Michael G. Fitting	Robert C. Maclellan	Wayland N. Sheldon, Jr.
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Ray Cooley	David P. Hocking	Raymond Moore	Robert G. Waller
Thomas Coons	Benjamin J. Issacson	Raymond Mussen	Andrew G. Weimann II
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Columbia Lodge No. 25	Phillip, Paul, Jack, & Ted Kepler	Unity Lodge No. 148
Composite Lodge No. 28	LaFayette Consistory, A.A.S.R.	Valley of Hartford, AASR
Corinthian Lodge No. 63 A.F. & A.M.	The Masonic Club of New London, Inc.	Valley Lodge No. 36
CT Chapter of DeMolay	National Camping Travelers	Valley of New Haven, AASR
Evening Star Lodge No. 101 A.F. & A.M.	Edward & Joanne Schilke	Warren Lodge No. 51 AF & AM

Correction



In the last edition we ran a photo of Bill Svihovec's 90th birthday party. Unfortunately, the photo was miscaptioned.

The photo caption should have been: (back) Herbert Olson, Alan Carlson, Vincent Cowie, Francis Distefano (front) William J. Svihovec

Philosophic Lodge of Research Earns Its Seventy-Five Year Pin

by Roger Cole

Philosophic Lodge of Research invites all brothers and their wives or significant others to help us celebrate our diamond anniversary year. On Friday, March 24, MWGM Gail N. Smith and his corps of officers will gather at the West Hartford Masonic Temple, 160 South Street, West Hartford, to kick off these celebrations by rededicating our Lodge. This solemn Grand Lodge ceremony will be the first of several lodge events to mark our seventy-five year anniversary.

Cheese, crackers and fruit will be offered at 6 p.m. A champagne toast will precede a delicious prime rib dinner prepared and served at 6:30 p.m. by the famous chefs of Sequin-Level Craftsmen's Club. Tickets at \$25 per person may be ordered in advance from PLR WM Roger Cole @ rogejoan@comcast.net or PLR Secretary Stephen Thal @ stephelthal@sbcglobal.net. No tickets will be sold at the door. Reservations close on March 21, 2017.



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You and a guest are cordially invited to the
2017 Nutmegger Reunion

Please join us for a wonderful Nutmegger Reunion luncheon at one of five locations listed below. You will have an opportunity to meet and greet Bro. Gail N. Smith, Grand Master; Bro. Jon-Paul Venoit, Masonicare's new President and CEO; and, Bro. Robert F. Polito Jr., new Board of Trustees Chair; and to reconnect with many old friends. All locations will follow the same time schedule.

- 10:30 a.m.** Registration
- 11:00 a.m.** Masonicare Update
- 12:00 noon** Greetings - Bro. Gail N. Smith,
Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand
Lodge A.F. & A.M. of CT
- 12:15 p.m.** Lunch

Cost is \$15 per person.

Fifty-year pin recipients and their guests are invited to attend at no cost.

*If you will be receiving our 50-year pin this year at one of these locations, please contact Rev. & Bro. Carl Anderson at **800-982-3919**. Checks should be made out to Masonicare and mailed to Bro. Anderson. - P.O. Box 70 Wallingford, CT 06492*

Keep in touch with your Connecticut Masonic Brothers in the *Connecticut Freemasons* or on-line at www.ctfreemasons.net.

For exciting events and news from Masonicare, please visit our site at www.masonicare.org.

FEBRUARY 27, 2017

(New Location)

Double Tree By Hilton
4431 PGA Boulevard
Palm Beach Gardens, Florida

FEBRUARY 28, 2017

7165 Olde Cypress Club
Treeline Drive
Naples, Florida

MARCH 1, 2017

The Meadows Country Club
3101 Long Meadow
Sarasota, Florida

MARCH 2, 2017

Marion-Dunn Lodge No. 19
1846 SE 36th Avenue
Ocala, Florida

MARCH 3, 2017

Timber Greens Country Club
6333 Timber Greens Blvd.
New Port Richey, Florida

All Reunions Start at 10:30 • We look forward to seeing you!