

January 2020



Connecticut FREEMASONS

**20/20
in 2020**



Not just a man. A Mason.

*Officers of the
Grand Lodge of Connecticut
A.F. & A.M. 2018-2019*



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Assistant to the Grand Master

*Not Just A Man.
A Mason.*



2020 NUTMEGGER REUNIONS

PLEASE JOIN US AT THESE WONDERFUL NUTMEGGER REUNION LUNCHEONS AT ONE OR MORE OF OUR LOCATIONS.

Take this opportunity to meet and greet Bro. Melvin E. Johnson, Grand Master; Bro. Stephen Petri, Master; Bro. Robert F. Polito, Jr., Grand Secretary; Bro. Robert F. Polito, Jr., Grand Treasurer; and Bro. Robert F. Polito, Jr., Grand Almoner.

Wednesday, February 26, 2020
The Holiday Inn - 676 Helen Mauer Boulevard
Beverly, Florida
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Cost: \$10 per person

Thursday, February 27, 2020
Marion Burt Lodge, 1000 SE 35th Avenue
Ocala, Florida
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Cost: \$10 per person

Friday, February 28, 2020
Beverly Country Club, 1000 E. Country Clubway
Beverly, Florida
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Cost: \$10 per person

Saturday, February 29, 2020
The Maitland Country Club, 1000 E. Country Clubway
Beverly, Florida
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Cost: \$10 per person

Sunday, March 1, 2020
The Club at Old Course
1400 W. US Highway 90, Naples, Florida
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Cost: \$10 per person

PROGRAM SCHEDULE (EXCEPT FOR MARCH 1ST)

11:00 a.m. Registration
11:30 a.m. Luncheon
12:00 p.m. Speeches by Bro. Melvin E. Johnson, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of CT
1:00 p.m. Luncheon
1:30 p.m. Cost: \$10 per person

FOR QUESTIONS visit our website at www.masonicare.org or call us at 888-222-2222. Please contact RW Brother Carl Anderson at 352-649-6193.

Our members are the cornerstone of our future.

Masonicare
A Division of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut

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Letters, articles and advertisements may be sent to the Editor Frank Way at submissions@ctfreemasons.net and are due on the 10th of the month prior to the next issue.



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Publisher

THE GRAND LODGE
OF CONNECTICUT A.F. & A.M.

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20/20 by Francis G. Way

Happy New Year. It is now 2020. Some people are saying this year might kick off another “Roaring 20s.” I don’t know about that but I do know that every time I hear someone say 2020 I think of going to the optometrist for an eye exam.

“Perfect vision,” as some call it, is 20/20. It’s kind of a misnomer because some of the best fighter pilots and marksmen have had 20/15 vision, and having been 20/15 myself for a number of years, before the ravages of age and sitting in front of a computer screen for a living turned me into that guy who needs to find his eyeglasses when looking at anything, I can say that reading that highway sign a half a mile down the road may not be termed “perfect” but was pretty sweet.

But perfect vision or not, the year 2020 might just be a really good year to give a 20/20 look at your lodge and to see, “warts and all,” just how well its doing.

Oh, wait. You say you’re not a lodge officer or a trustee and that’s their job? Well, we can give you an Rx for that point of view.

Every brother in every lodge in this jurisdiction can look at his lodge and find one thing to do to improve his lodge in 2020. If every brother in every lodge in this jurisdiction, did one thing to improve his lodge, imagine just how great Masonry in Connecticut would be looking.

It doesn’t have to be any huge thing. It doesn’t have to be monumental. It doesn’t have to be something to get your picture on the cover of the Connecticut Freemasons. It could be one small, simple thing. If, every brother did one small, simple thing, those small, simple things would add up to big accomplishments in Freemasonry in the year 2020.

If a brother mentioned Masonry to a friend, or gave a good explanation when asked by an acquaintance what Masonry is, and handed out a petition, the lodge might grow by another brother.

If a brother wrote a note to a lodge brother who lives far away, or one who hasn’t been to lodge in a while, or who is in a nursing

home, that would bring some light to another brother and help the lodge.

If a brother took on the job of laying out and collecting the officer jewels and aprons, that would help the lodge.

If a brother brought an opportunity to help the community before the lodge, and the lodge acted upon that opportunity, it would help the lodge.

The possibilities really are endless.

If a lodge, having been improved by some of those small, simple, things, reached out to another lodge that may be less vibrant or less active, and helped that lodge in some small, simple way, that would really improve two lodges.

A lodge could visit that other lodge, or they could organize a blitz. Imagine the effect on a Worshipful Master when he looks out across the lodge and sees the sidelines full of brothers, even if they are visiting. What inspiration that could provide.

A lodge could have a joint social night with that other lodge. Axe throwing, bowling, darts, a baseball game... The event doesn’t really matter, it is the fellowship and bonding, and relationships forged that inspire and strengthen both lodges.

A lodge could invite that other lodge to participate in helping the community, and that would inspire all the brothers to do one, small, simple, thing to help others...

It doesn’t take someone with 20/20 vision to see how these small, simple things, compound, and how, in compounding, great improvement can be made across our jurisdiction. And how, as the jurisdiction improves, the community improves and lodges grow and become important in each city and town again.

Maybe the 20s won’t feature flappers and speakeasies and *The Great Gatsby*, but, if we all start by taking a 20/20 look at our lodge and doing one, small, simple thing, we can turn the 20s into the Roaring 20s for Freemasonry in Connecticut.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW BROTHERS!

Shaquille Jacques Marcques Watson
Hiram Lodge No. 1

Daniel Leonard Clinton
Hiram Lodge No. 1

Al Olakunle Giwa
Hiram Lodge No. 1

Robert Anthony Romano
Old Well - St. John's Lodge No. 8

Daniel Thomas Whelan
St. Peter's Lodge No. 21

Edmund Kearsley Swigart, III
St. Peter's Lodge No. 21

Henry Marvin Peacock, Jr.
Valley Lodge No. 36

Kevin R. McCusker
Valley Lodge No. 36

Glauco DePaula
Union Lodge No. 40

Gary Ljundquist
Union Lodge No. 40

Robert Bruce MacDonald
Union Lodge No. 40

Robert Leonard Brown, II
Estuary Lodge No. 43

Paul Anthony Double
Widow's Son Lodge No. 66

Randy Lee Frazier, Jr.
Widow's Son Lodge No. 66

Marc Joseph Gargiulo
Wooster Lodge No. 79

Alexander Patrick Powell
Wooster Lodge No. 79

Jeremiah Scott Ritchie|
Meridian Lodge No. 77

David Frederick Maliar, Jr.
Wooster Lodge No. 79

Justin Andrew Quick
Wooster Lodge No. 79

Jeffrey Robert Pepe
Wooster Lodge No. 79

Christopher Jason DiMetro
Jeptha Lodge No 95



Plan Your Work and Work Your Plan *by Charles W. Yohe*

Another new year is now upon us. It is not unusual, at this time of year, to reflect upon the past and make New Year's resolutions for the upcoming year. As far as personal resolutions go, studies show that most do not long survive – especially those that center around losing weight, exercising, or giving up some other personal 'vice' whatever it may be.

Corporations and organizations also employ the tools of reflection to their business with the intention of improving their products or services and their productivity. As Masonic organizations, should we not do the same?

In many of our lodges, new leaders will take over the helm and steer the lodge for the ensuing year, offering an opportunity for a fresh start. Does your lodge perform a post-mortem on the year just completed – with the idea of improving upon the lodge's operation going forward? No matter

how well your lodge performed in the past, there likely were things that could be improved. By the same token, the things that were done really well will want to be retained and continued as part of the lodge's operating procedure for the future.

Just as the Grand Lodge of Connecticut has established and periodically updates a strategic plan, each of our local lodges can benefit greatly by adopting a similar method of operating. To get you started, here some questions you should ask and answer.

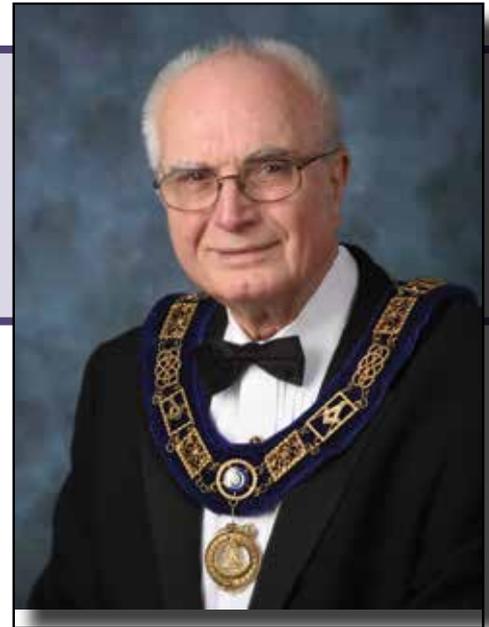
What programs and activities did my lodge undertake this past year that were successful? What programs/activities missed the mark? What changes can be made to each of the programs/activities to make them even more successful? Be honest and objective with your analysis. I recall attending the 'Ye Olde Table Lodge' gatherings in Moosup Lodge some 30 years ago. One of the things that impressed me

was that for every activity that Moosup Lodge undertook in those days, they had held a critique session and listed all the things that went right as well as those that did not. Beside each item that was judged to be lacking, they listed their 'prescription' for improving it the next time. Past Grand Master, MWB Sam Walker used the phrase "Plan your Work and Work your Plan!" If you want your lodge to be successful, that is exactly what you want to do.

Finally, as you enter this new year and a fresh start, remember that there is much value to TEAM. No matter how talented the Worshipful Master, the lodge will fare far better with a concerted team effort versus one or two members trying to do everything. Always keep in mind the admonition in the Charge to the Officers during installation: "...the intelligent cooperation of his officers will do much to lighten his burden."

Grand Master's Message

by Melvin E. Johnson



First, I want to extend the warm fraternal greetings of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Connecticut and our best wishes for a joyous, fulfilling and Happy New Year to all of you as 2020 begins.

For my Masonic brothers, I hope each of you has the richest, most rewarding, uplifting and transforming Masonic experience you are willing to have and that you understand how rewarding it can be, if you will participate in at least some aspect of the rich tapestry of activities that constitutes Connecticut Masonry.

Of course, I hope you find something, be it large or small, within the activities of your Lodge in which to participate, but don't hesitate to look to one or more of our Appendant and Concordant Bodies. Being a Chapter Dad, or bringing joy to children in a Shrine unit or participating in the beautiful and meaningful degrees of the York and Scottish Rite Bodies are all avenues for Masonic growth, to name just a few. Also many of our groups such as the Scouters, Campers, National Sojourners or Widows Sons provide fellowship and an opportunity to make a difference. Make this a year you resolve to increase the value of your Masonic experience. Also, don't forget how important it is to simply be on the sidelines of your Lodge or the Demolay or Rainbow events. You are needed and you will be more than amply rewarded for that small investment in time.

Lastly, I want to extend my sincerest appreciation to all of you who have stepped up this year to take a position of responsibility and leadership. Without you, none of this is possible.

You have accepted the responsibility in some measure to see that the Craft is provided with "good and wholesome instructions for their labors". For some of you it is a direct charge of your office, for others it is implied. Remember that "promoting health or well being of mind or spirit" is the first definition of the term "wholesome" in Merriam-Webster. This requirement to see that your leadership promotes the "well being of mind or spirit" of our brothers is unique to us. I know of no business that asks that their managers to do this. It is the key to our brothers having the rich, rewarding and transforming Masonic experience they requested when they first asked for light and growth in Masonry. Let them know how much you need and appreciate their support.

Again, I wish you all a very Happy New Year and look forward to working with you as it gets underway.

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Gotta Get to Garavel



Local is Nice

by Russell Scull

Masonry is local. If you see a brother at the post office, you see a brother at the bus station, you see a brother at the grocery market, say, "Hello!"

One of the amazing elements of Masonry is that one can know a brother in the darkness and in the light. I was in the local Big Y market and a brother that I have not seen for a while came up to me and said, "It's great to see something local." At first, I looked at him and graciously said "Thank you." He further said that it was nice to see local authors in the *Connecticut Freemasons*.

Reflecting on this, I ask you my brothers, share with us your stories of your local encounters. I certainly hope that when you see a Masonic ring, belt buckle, or ball cap, you look the brother straight in the eye and say, "Hello."

THE GARIBALDI MASONIC CLUB OF CONNECTICUT

Welcomes all Masons to the
FIRST DINNER COMMUNICATION



Venue - The Hartog Center
at Ashlar Village

Date - February 5, 2020

Time - Social 6:00 p.m.
Dinner: 6:30 p.m.

Cost - \$18.00 per person

Come and enjoy good food,
drink, brotherly love, comradery,
and fellowship!

Attire ~ Casual



R.S.V.P. to Bruce Padula 203-228-4447

Happy New Year!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 75-YEAR BROTHER



Wood O. Beeghly
Union Lodge No. 5

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 50-YEAR BROTHERS



George Poole Rutherford, Jr.
Composite Lodge No. 28

Thomas W. Powell
Union Lodge No. 40

From the Desk of Bro. Jon-Paul Venoit

President & CEO of Masonicare

I traveled to many of our locations recently with other members of Masonicare's senior leadership team to participate in our annual Service Recognition Awards. A total of 183 Masonicare employees celebrated milestone anniversaries in 2019. Their combined experience added up to an incredible 2,430 years! This included one married couple, Robin and Patrick (Pat) McCoy, who each celebrated 25 years at Masonicare, and three others – Sheila Bjornberg, Victoria Butkus, and Janice Hyde – who have each been with us for an amazing 40 years!

Our Service Recognition Awards honor employees' length of tenure, yes, but I'm sure they would agree that it's the contributions we make and the relationships we build along the way that give those years meaning.

A perfect example of this was when I visited Norwalk to celebrate Whardah Pine's five-year anniversary. Whardah, a Resident Care Assistant at Kingsway, one of our external assisted living sites, knew she would be receiving a Service Recognition Award. But I brought an extra surprise: news that she'd also been named a GEM (Go the Extra Mile) Award winner. Holly Burns, our Director of Continuum Experience, read aloud the GEM nomination card submitted by a Kingsway resident that described Whardah as an "experienced, professional, kind, helpful, and generous" caregiver. In leaving

such a strong and positive impression on someone in her care, Whardah is fulfilling Masonicare's promise to enhance the quality of life of all those we serve. That's five years well-spent.

It's January, and the first month of the New Year always brings with it hope for a better future. While we at Masonicare have reason to be optimistic, we're also realistic about the challenges we'll continue to face in 2020 ... among them, staffing.

Our difficulty in consistently providing staff for patients living in Fairfield County influenced our decision to merge two of our home health and hospice branches into one branch in Derby. It's also why we've partnered with the Wallingford Department of Education to start a Certified Nursing Assistant training program that will help us develop new CNAs from within our own workforce. I look forward to telling you more about it in the months to come.

My congratulations to Bro. Bob Polito, Chairman of the Masonicare Board of Trustees, on receiving the Pierpont Edwards Award for Distinguished Masonic Service. I was pleased to be on hand, along with other members of Masonicare's senior staff, to see Bob receive this high honor of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut.

Finally, please join me in welcoming Peter Morris, Masonicare's Vice President of Residential Services and Hospitality,



to the fraternity. Along with MW Bro. Mel Johnson, Rev. and RW Bro. Carl Anderson, Bro. David Gessert, and Bob Polito, I recently had the pleasure of watching Bro. Peter raised to the degree of Master Mason at Madison Lodge No. 87. I suspect he'll develop, as I did, an even greater appreciation for the ways in which Masonry influences the work we do at Masonicare.

Sincerely and fraternally,

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

President and CEO of Masonicare

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Grand Historian's Corner

Andrew R. Melillo

On April
13, 1750,
Dr. Thomas

Walker of Virginia and five other men were the first Europeans to cross through the Cumberland Gap of the Appalachian Mountains. While new territory was being discovered for the nation in the western frontier, on that very same day and year, St. John's Grand Lodge of Boston, for its quarterly session, found that "no body appear'd for the lodge at 'New Haven in Connecticut.'" As Case and Tapley assert, this indicated that before this date, "the lodge in New Haven, had sent in their petition or were already meeting according to ancient usage." Just like Walker and his men in Virginia, the minutes of St. John's Grand Lodge in Boston demonstrated that Freemasonry had discovered and carved out a new path in the territory of Connecticut. In the 1750's, however, Boston was still detrimentally distant and traveling was not easy – but thus begins Freemasonry in Connecticut – with the determined, rugged men of Old Hiram.

Hiram Lodge No. 1 was granted its constitution by St. John's Grand Lodge in Boston, presided over by Grand Master Thomas Oxnard, who named David Wooster as Hiram's first master. With Captain David Wooster becoming the first Master of the first lodge in Connecticut – he has since rightfully become known as the Father of Masonry in Connecticut. Their charter was issued on November 12, 1750 and is still kept and preserved by the lodge, making it the oldest known lodge charter in existence in North America. The first recorded meeting of the lodge was held at Jehiel Tuttle's House in New Haven where they celebrated the Feast of St. John the Evangelist, with the following brothers present: David Wooster, WM; Samuel

Mansfield, SW; John Elliot, JW; Nathan Whiting, Elihu Lyman, Archibald McNeil, Jehiel Tuttle, Joseph Goldthwaite, John Harpin, Eleazar Fitch, Benjamin Appleton and Israel Abbot.

David Wooster was born on March 13, 1711 in Stratford in Colony of Connecticut. He graduated from Yale College in 1738. By March 1745, Wooster was married, and a few months after his marriage, he was among the 4,000 New Englanders raised by Governor William Shirley of Massachusetts to answer the attack made by France against a British fort on Grassy Island. Wooster served in the first siege of Louisbourg, from whence originated the French attack. It was during this time that it is believed Wooster, among many other soldiers, was initiated, passed and raised into three degrees of Masonry in a military lodge. Five years later, with many veterans and newly made Masons returning home to New England, they were anxious to see Freemasonry be settled and chartered in their native communities.

After 1750, several lodges were chartered throughout the state: St. John's No. 2 in Middletown in 1754; St. John's No. 3 in Fairfield in 1762; St. John's Lodge No. 4 in Hartford in 1763; Union Lodge No. 5 in Stamford in 1763; followed by St. John's No. 6 in Norwalk in 1765; King Solomon's Lodge No. 7 in Woodbury in 1765, and St. John's No. 8 in Stratford in 1766. Apparently the patron Saints of our Craft being the most popular name for a new lodge.

Considering the geographical location of these early lodges, it is no surprise that the Stamford, Norwalk, Fairfield and Stratford lodges were chartered by George Harrison, Esq., Provincial Grand Master of New York. Harrison had been appointed Grand

Master of New York in 1753 and duly installed at Trinity Church in Manhattan. He was appointed by Grand Master John Proby, the 1st Baron of Craysfort. MWB George Harrison was extremely active in his office and chartered lodges not just in New York and Connecticut, but also in New Jersey and even a lodge in Detroit. The other early lodges that were chartered in Connecticut were done so by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. St. John's No. 2 was chartered by Thomas Oxnard in 1754 and in that same year MWB Oxnard died on June 25. Like Harrison, Oxnard was active in his office, chartering lodges not just in Massachusetts and Connecticut, but also Newfoundland, Rhode Island and Maryland. King Solomon's Lodge was chartered after Oxnard's death, by Grand Master Jeremy Gridley, Esq. of North America in Boston in 1765.

There was a gap of about eight years between the chartering of St. John's Lodge No. 2 in Middletown and St. John's Lodge No. 3 in Fairfield [Bridgeport]. This coincides directly with the beginning and end of the French and Indian War. Many lodge records are scant during this time because many were off fighting and the war in general caused many inconveniences and hardships on local communities. From 1750 to 1761 only two lodges existed in Connecticut.

Once the French and Indian War concluded, six more lodges were chartered. Yet, the conclusion of this war was only the beginning of a new disagreement that would culminate with the American Revolution. Like a majority of the earliest brothers in Connecticut, WB David Wooster became an ardent patriot. He served with bravery and distinction in attempting to thwart British General

Continued on page 13

Brothers all,

Your Grand Lodge Officers are pleased to announce that we have engaged Grand View Systems to provide membership management and communications systems for our jurisdiction!

Grand View is a state-of-the-art system that will replace our existing database and allow us to do so much more for our Grand Lodge, Lodges, and even the individual members. They have been in business for several years and are currently serving twenty-eight Grand Lodges and managing over four hundred thousand member records.

As an active brother, you will have access to make changes to your contact information on your record including the ability to update your address, telephone numbers, and email address. You will also be able to update your personal information (birth date, place of birth, and occupation). Members will also have access to the private member portal where you can find lodge meetings throughout the state, your lodge events and, at a later date, access educational materials.

This system is unique in that it is designed to distribute access and control of lodge records down to the lodge secretaries. Your lodge secretary will have access to your member record to make changes to your history and office positions.

In addition to the record management features, **Grand View** also provide communication abilities where your secretary can create posts and events that are automatically emailed to the members who use email and mail merge letters for those that do not.

We hope you are as excited as we are about this new endeavor! Your Grand Lodge Officers are dedicated to seeing that our lodges have the tools and resources to allow our craft to grow and prosper both now and in the future.

** Please see the instructions on how to gain access as a brother to the **Grand View** system. **

Fraternally,

Grand Lodge of Connecticut



Check your portal for a revised versions of this document.

How to Register as a Member

Grand View Procedure

Video link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hx-WliihfcM>

- Step 1.** Enter the url for your jurisdiction
<https://ct.grandview.systems>
- Step 2.** Click on Member Portal
- Step 3.** Click on Member Registration
- Step 4.** Enter your Lodge Number
- Step 5.** Enter your Member ID
- Step 6.** Enter your Last Name - (case sensitive)
- Step 7.** Click on Check Membership Status
- Step 8.** Enter your email address
- Step 9.** Enter a password that you can remember
- Step 10.** Enter Confirmation by entering password again
- Step 11.** Click on Submit

Tags: new, register, registering, login, logon

Continued on page 10

Grand Lodge of CT – Grand View Sign In

Membership Sign in – Use Chrome or Firefox for best viewing

<https://ct.grandview.systems>

Step 1 – select Member Portal



The Grand Lodge
of
CONNECTICUT

New Search

View Lodge Map

Member Portal

Lodge Locator

Enter your search terms and press return or enter.
You can search for Lodge Name, Lodge Number, or City!!

Step 2 – Select Member Registration

Enter your Lodge Number – Member ID – Last Name

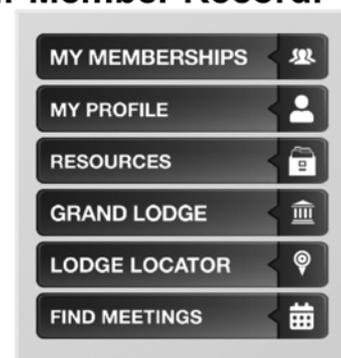
Click – Check Membership Status – this will bring you to the next screen

The screenshot shows the "Membership Registration" page. At the top left is the "Grand Lodge Masonic Membership Manager" logo. At the top right are "Sign in" and "Member Registration" links. The main heading is "Membership Registration". Below it is a form with three input fields: "Lodge Number", "Member ID ~ Exclude Leading Zeroes ~", and "Last Name ~ Case Sensitive ~". A "Check Membership Status" button is at the bottom of the form. At the bottom left, it says "©2019 Grand View Build: 18.9.156". At the bottom right, it says "Lodge Locator".

Step 3 – Enter the email you will be using for Grand View
Click – “Sign Up” – this will bring you to your record.

You are now in Grand View and returned to your Member Record.

Membership = lodges a member of
My profile = update personal & contact info
Resources = MM Rules & Regulations, etc.
Grand Lodge = Grand Lodge info
Lodge Locator = CT Lodges info
Find Meetings = in Beta Testing



A Cautionary Tale

by Francis G. Way

In performing this job as Editor of the *Connecticut Freemasons*, I often hear from a variety of folks on a variety of subjects. Some of those contacts lead to tasks that can become quite involved, like trying to receive permission to reprint an article from a local newspaper that highlights an activity of one of our brothers. Some of those tasks can be quick and pleasant and are often forgotten as soon as they are finished. But sometimes a task turns into a moment that stays with you, and as it rattles around in your brain it becomes something of immense importance.

I heard from a gentleman who wanted to let me know that his father, a brother of a Connecticut lodge who had lived outside of our state for the past 30 years, and who was beyond 100 years of age, had passed away. One sentence in that correspondence became that moment I could not forget. The gentleman wrote that on the occasion of his father’s 100th birthday, he had written to his father’s lodge here, letting them know of the occasion. His hope was that perhaps some of the brothers would reach out to his father, even just a short letter, as he knew that his father would appreciate their good wishes.

No one reached out. Not a card, not a letter, not a call. That struck me hard, as hard as a setting maul right between the eyes.

We all take obligations that, no matter how long we have been Masons, should be familiar to us all. At the heart of the obligations is a philosophy that, for me, can be found in the Gospels, but is surely widely known: Love one another as I have loved you.

As brothers we are, first and foremost, to care for our brothers.

How very little effort it would have been for any brother of that lodge to take pen in hand (even if just to sign a note printed from a computer) and to say “My brother, you don’t know me personally but Happy Birthday, and I hope you are well. Your age in years, and as a Mason, are impressive. If you need anything, let us know.”

I read a short saying this morning on Facebook: “The two hardest things in life are saying hello for the first time and saying goodbye for the last time. Treasure those you love.” You never know when the simple act of reaching out to a brother to simply say hello may be the last time you ever say anything to him. You may never know just how very important that simple act may be.

In 2020, resolve to reach out and make contact with the brothers of your lodge who you have not seen for a while, even if you don’t know them.

Grand Historian's Corner *continued from page 8*

Tryon's march on the patriot's supply depot at Danbury. Brother Benedict Arnold rushed to Wooster's aid. The American War for Independence was a horrific affair. It was a civil war, fought in the back yards and on the front door steps of every home. Lodges met infrequently, and records for some lodges do not exist during this time period as a result of fighting in the war, or because there was not sufficient harmony among brothers to meet. Not all early Masons were patriots like Wooster.

The first Master of Union Lodge No. 5, Sylvanus Waterbury, was a prominent Tory with ties to New York City. In 1777, that is exactly where he ended up, serving as a boatman in Governor Tryon's service. Little is known of Union's early membership or activity as the records were burned in Tryon's raid on Greenwich in February 1779. The early years of Union Lodge from 1763 to 1780 are forever lost. Sylvanus was eventually captured, imprisoned, suffered a number of strokes and banished to New

Brunswick with all the other Tories into the obscurity of history. WB Wooster, however, was mortally wounded the same year WB Sylvanus Waterbury fled from Stamford. Wooster was shot on April 27 when the British troops managed to free up six artillery pieces and opened fire. He was taken to Nehemiah Dibble's house and on May 2, 1777 he transitioned to the Celestial Grand Lodge above. His last words were, "I am dying, but with a strong hope and persuasion that my country will gain her independence." And thus fell a great and good man, the Father of our Connecticut Craft, doing his duty and in the service of a Nation only yet conceived.

This house was spared by General Tryon because Nehemiah Dibble was a Tory. The house stood for a number of decades after the Revolution but was demolished before 1891.

Symposium of New England Grand Historians

A Symposium of New England Grand Historians will be held on March 21 at the Scottish Right Masonic Museum & Library in Lexington, Massachusetts from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The keynote speaker is Dr. Margaret C. Jacob of UCLA. She has done extensive research on Freemasonry, focusing on the radical thinkers of Masonry in the Age of Enlightenment. Her keynote address will be on the Enlightenment origins of Freemasonry. The symposium will be open to the first 140 brothers from Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts who reserve a ticket. More details to follow. Feel free to reach out to me with any questions: andrewmelillo@ctfreemasons.net.

*** * * Attention All Past District Deputies and Associate Grand Marshals * * ***

The Eric W. Manner Master Ritualist Award program is rolling out, and we need your help as evaluators.

Participants in the program will have a passport and will be working their way through a specific list of ritual. Upon receiving permission from their current District Deputy, will be evaluated on those certain ritual selections in front of two evaluators. The pool of evaluators will consist of all the members of the Ritual & Ceremonies committee, along with Past District Deputies and Past Associate Grand Marshals who volunteer. Once they are successfully evaluated on the specific piece of ritual, the evaluators will sign off on it in the brother's passport. The brothers will progress through five stages of the program, receiving a pin for each stage completed, and culminating with the Eric W. Manner Master Ritualist pin and an award certificate.

It will not take a lot of your time, but on occasion you might be contacted by a brother who needs to be evaluated. The criteria for evaluation will be provided to you when you volunteer. Ideally a brother should choose different evaluators for his evaluations, and thus we'd like a good sized pool of evaluators. And ideally a brother from Stamford should not have to travel to Putnam to be evaluated, nor should an evaluator have to travel from Lakeville to Stonington to evaluate a brother. The brother and the evaluators will mutually agree on a location – keeping in mind it should be a private location as ritual is being rehearsed – preferably a lodge.

Please consider volunteering to help in make this program a success. If you wish to volunteer your time, please contact Frank Way – fgway33@gmail.com or (860) 659-7416, or Matt Heinrich – fmheinrich@snet.net.

Valley of Hartford, AASR

by David R. Blythe, Sr., Secretary Emeritus

Happy New Year and welcome to 2020! We hope that you all had an enjoyable and safe holiday season with family and friends. Please say a special prayer of all those who may have lost someone this holiday season or in this past year, that they can enjoy a better 2020.

And here's hoping that 2020 can be another great year in the Valley of Hartford. It begins with the January Executive Council meeting on January 9 at 7 p.m. All members are welcome to attend, but only the Council may vote.

January 10 is the first joint Friday luncheon of 2020 – a “Celebration of the New Year with a Champagne Chicken Dinner.” The luncheon is open to family and friends for a cost of only \$10 person, payable at the door. Advance reservations are required. Call Barbara at the Shrine office (860) 666-0712 with a head count.

The spring degree begins on Thursday, February 6 at 7:30 p.m. (snow date February 20) with the portrayal of the 4th and 14th Degrees. Thursday, February 27 (snow date March 5) has a live portrayal of the 16th Degree and the 24th Degree on DVD. March 19 (snow date March 26) sees the portrayal of the 18th Degree. The season culminates on Saturday April 18, Consistory Day, with the showing of the 23rd Degree on DVD and the 32nd Degree live.

As always, the All-You-Can-Eat pre-degree dinners will be held before each degree evening at 6:15 p.m. The price is \$15 if paid in advance. If you wish to purchase all three dinners, the price is only \$30, but must be paid in advance of all the degrees. Checks, made payable to the “Valley of Hartford” must be received by Wednesday, February 5. Details on the Consistory Day luncheon will follow in future articles and mailings

If you're in the neighborhood, or attending a future degree night, check out the Children's Dyslexia Centers donation tree. Each leaf on the tree represents a donation. The smaller green leaves represent \$10 donations, and the larger orange leaves represent \$20 donations. To make a donation, make the check payable to “Valley of Hartford”, state on the check that it is for the donation tree, and specify a name to put on the leaf. Mail

all checks to Valley of Hartford, PO Box 310198, Newington, CT 06111.

Watch your email for future Family Life events, as well as this monthly article.

Finally, if you have a candidate or know of someone who might be interested in joining the Scottish Rite, please get their applications in as soon as possible to speed up the registration process on the first night of the spring schedule.

And the Valley is always looking for brothers to help put on the degrees, in speaking or non-speaking parts, singing in the choir, or working behind the scenes, Just contact the office and they will get you in touch with the right person.



**ANCIENT ACCEPTED
SCOTTISH RITE
Valley of Hartford**

207 Deming Street
Newington, CT 06111

THE VISION OF THE SCOTTISH RITE
*We will strive to be a fraternity that fulfills our
Masonic obligation to care for our members.*

**LOOKING FOR SOMETHING
MORE IN MASONRY?**

**WHY NOT CONSIDER
JOINING THE 2020 SPRING CLASS**

Applications are now being accepted from
those Masons interested in enhancing
their Masonic knowledge by joining the
“College of Masonry” - the Scottish Rite.

The Spring Class begins on
Thursday, February 6, 2020, at 7:15 p.m.
(snow date Feb. 21)

For more information about becoming a member
of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite or to
receive a Scottish Rite informational DVD,
contact Tony Angelica, 32°, Valley Secretary,
Valley of Hartford AASR.
(860) 666-0712 Email: office@valleyofhartford.com
www.valleyofhartford.org

Attaining the Master Mason's Consciousness – The Prodigal Son Returns

by John A. Amarillos, MSA, membership@lafayetteconsistory.com

January begins a busy season of preparation and rehearsals. The Rite has revised the 4th degree and it is something all Master Masons will want to see: a Prequel to the sublime Hiramic Drama. The degree leads up to the fateful moment when the trio of self centered consciousnesses snuff out the Greatest Light. It is something which you cannot afford to miss. The live debut of the new degree will be presented at the Stratford Theater on Monday, February 3, 7:30 p.m. In addition, that evening both the 12th and 17th degrees will be shown on our theater-sized big screen. As usual, dinner will precede the exciting Stratford debut of the new 4th degree at 6 p.m. Reservations are strongly recommended, since interest and demand for this degree is expected to be significant. Call the office at (203) 375-0064 for dinner reservations.

The past two months we have looked at the developing phases of consciousness of our Masonic aspirants who are traversing the EA and FC realms. Today we take a look at the allegorical Master Mason, who has developed a conscious ability to listen to the voice of the Master within, and to thus know things without relying on others telling him. There is no more meaningful satisfaction than one's having willfully and intentionally evolved his consciousness through the two previous phases (that of the EA and FC) and having reached this pinnacle of conscious ability. The altar has both ends of the compass (denoting spirituality) placed over the square (denoting materiality).

The symbolism is unmistakable – the spiritual has finally superseded and has obtained control over the material. The spiritual world, whose obligations and privileges far exceed anything envisioned by those implanted in the material world, is symbolically heralded in this manner. The candidate comes face to face with this symbolism as he bears it in his hands while taking his MM obligation. Hardly any candidate understands the immense promise of opportunity that he bears while struggling to repeat the obligation being recited to him. If, however, he survives long enough in Freemasonry's school to awaken his

desire to actually attain the Light – and if he acts upon it through unwavering diligence and silent resolve, he will eventually – many years later – evolve a loftier capable vehicle which will enable him to become an expression of the Spiritual Light. He will have the ability to engage in constructive action (EA) and proper underlying emotion (FC) so that he may engage the Power of Thought which is available and accessible only from the LIGHT.

For years we all traverse the darkness – our minds ground into the mud of sole self concern – calculating, planning, timing, plotting and solely engaged in the manipulation of the “fruits of reason.” The Master Mason has finally escaped this darkness, and he walks in the path of the Great Light which no longer is affected or concerned with the minutiae of the dark material realms. He is indeed the Prodigal Son who has spent a lifetime wandering into the realms of various degrees of darkness, and who has finally returned to his Father's House of Light. The Master Mason morphs into a reflector of

the Great Light – something he can attain only through cleansing his mind, his emotions, and his physical vehicle of all impurities. He has become a reflection and conduit through which Deity can express its will – so that others too can attain the same lofty attainment. Indeed – it is well within ALL of our abilities to one day hear the Voice from the Heavens which will reassure us of a life well spent - “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased”. I hope every one of you will hear that voice before you retire your working tools!

As always, Lafayette Consistory, and the Valleys of Bridgeport, New Haven, and Waterbury stand 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.



LAFAYETTE CONSISTORY

Attention all Master Masons!
UPCOMING SCOTTISH RITE DEGREES

Monday, February 3, 7:30 p.m.
Debut of the New 4th Degree Live
12th & 17th Degrees - Video

Monday, February 24, 7:30 p.m.
31st Degree Live
4th and 29th Degrees - Video

Reservations for dinner at 6 p.m.
must be made in advance

*To begin your ScottishRite journey sign up now by
visiting the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction website,
<https://scottishritenmj.org/membership-application>.

All Degrees are held in Stratford.
R.S.V.P. required. Please email:
Office@LafayetteConsistory.com or call 203-375-0064.

Contact the Consistory Office to arrange for seating and meals for any of the degree events.

Valley of Bridgeport 2422 Main Street Stratford, CT 06615 Office@LafayetteConsistory.com 203-375-0064	Valley of New Haven 285 Whitney Avenue New Haven, CT 06511 Kirk_Trofatter_Jr@yahoo.com 203-269-0336	Valley of Waterbury 529 Highland Avenue Waterbury, CT 06708 cdoneill@snet.net 203-754-8209
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For more information, contact the Valley near you or email Membership@LafayetteConsistory.com.



Lafayette Consistory Holiday Events

III. Brother Kevin Hecht Takes It Off for a Good Cause



The Lafayette Consistory Christmas holiday party, held on December 8 at the Woodwinds Event venue in Branford included a silent auction with all proceeds to benefit the Children’s Dyslexia Centers of Connecticut. Among the items available, the two top money makers were a weekend getaway in a Vermont cabin retreat and a gift basket of shaving goodies donated by Shick/Edgewell in Milford.

One would not normally think of a basket of razors, blades and shaving gel as a money maker, but thanks to the generous and good natured attitude of Illustrious Brother Kevin Hecht and his offer to shave his beard on the spot – provided that someone purchased the basket for at least \$300, it worked! With great encouragement from those in attendance, Kevin wielded a number of different razors and proceeded to remove most of the facial hair that had prominently adorned his face upon his arrival. In total, Kevin’s efforts resulted in additional donation in excess of \$1,000 being contributed to the CDC of Connecticut.

Thank you to all who so generously gave in support of the Children’s Dyslexia Centers, but most especially, thank you to a now clean shaven Kevin Hecht!



Turkey Trotting for Children with Dyslexia

by Donald M. Casey, Jr.

Scottish Rite Masons of Lafayette Consistory participated at the 18th annual Turkey Day Trot 5K Race. Over 900 runners participated and nearly 2,000 spectators filled the center streets of Stratford early Thanksgiving morning. Scottish Rite Masons conducted a best costume contest and the winner was Bart Piekarski. A portion of the race proceeds will be donated to the Children’s Dyslexia Centers of Connecticut.



Masonicare Festival of Trees *by Sandy Potter*

The 2019 Festival of Trees at Masonicare Health Center was as festive as ever and a very successful fundraiser for The Masonic Charity Foundation. This year the silent auction raised \$5,440 to support residents in need. The top trees (one from the Grand Chapter of CT: Order of the Eastern Star and one from our friends at Optum) each brought in bids of \$250! Thank you to everyone who participated in this great event, and Happy Holidays to all!



District 1

Lodges 3, 5, 6, 8, 19, 65, 67, 85, 104, 109, 107, 142, 144, 149



Master Mason Celebrates 20 Years of Holiday Cheer

by Donald M. Casey, Jr.

Brother Eugene Halliwell, from Corinthian Lodge No. 104, has been celebrating the holidays for the past 20 years with his “Wonderland at Roseville” light display in Fairfield. Brother Eugene and his family have created a magnificent display consisting of 350,000 lights and 2000 figures. While the display is free of charge to the public, all of the donations received from patrons are used to assist needy children receiving medical services at the Shriner’s Hospital.



**... And a
Happy New Year!**

Pyramid Shrine News



Pyramid Shriners Raise Funds At Rite Aid

by Donald M. Casey, Jr.

Nobles from the Pyramid Shrine Temple in Stratford celebrated Thanksgiving weekend by fund raising at Rite Aid Pharmacy in Monroe. Pyramid Shriners distributed informational pamphlets and coloring books pertaining to Masonry and Shriner's Hospitals to patrons at the pharmacy. In addition, donations were collected and funds will be used to assist needy children receiving medical care at the Shriner's Hospital.

Pyramid Shriners Raise Funds To Transport A Needy Child

by Donald M. Casey, Jr.

Nobles from the Pyramid Shrine Temple in Stratford recently raised funds for a needy child. Funds will be used to transport the child from Haiti to the United States. The youngster will be receiving quality medical care for burn injuries at Shriner's Hospital for Children in Boston, Massachusetts.



Shriners and Town of Bethany Make Donation to Shrine Hospital

by Marshall K. Robinson

On October 18, 2019, Nobles of Pyramid Temple and officials from the town of Bethany presented a donation in the amount of \$5,746 to the Shriners Hospital in Springfield, Massachusetts.

Noble Nick Poulmas arranged a benefit dinner in Bethany, assisted by MWPGM Marshall K. Robinson and Janice Howard of the Town of Bethany Parks & Recreation. Poulmas, Robinson and Howard, assisted by many others, set up, cooked the dinner, ran a raffle and cleaned up afterward. The dinner was a huge success and will be held again next year.



Flanked by Shriners of Melba Temple, Noble Nick Poulmas, Stacey Perlutter of the Shrine Hospital, Janice Howard, and MWPGM Robinson pose with the check presented to the hospital during their annual radiothon.

Hamilton Commandery No. 5 Celebrates Christmas

by Francis G. Way

Processing into the Asylum singing “O Come All Ye Faithful,” the Sir Knights of Hamilton Commandery No. 5, the Grand Commandery officers, and invited guests celebrated the birth of our Lord and Savior in their annual Christmas Observance.

The traditional table, in the shape of a cross, was beautifully adorned with large poinsettias, fresh cut holly, the red satin ribbon and silver candlesticks. The Observance was moved to the impressive apartments of Ansantawae Lodge in Milford as Hamilton’s home at America-St. John’s Lodge No. 8 was unavailable.

Eminent Commander James Whitaker gave his greetings and the usual toasts and readings highlighted the joy and solemnity of the season. Musical selections were offered by soloist Mia Theodoratus, and accomplished harpist.

SK Charles McCollum read the Grand Encampment’s Christmas Message from Rev. and SK Arthur F. Hebbeler III, and the toast to Most Eminent Grand Master SK Jeffrey N. Nelson was offered

by SK Michael E. Seamon, Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Connecticut. SK Nelson’s response was offered by Hamilton Commandery’s own SK Stuart K. Drost, Northeast Department Commander.

The Christmas Address was given by SK Craig Nelson, Eminent Grand Captain General, who is also Prelate of Hamilton Commandery. He spoke on the Star of Bethlehem and its miraculous nature. It was a thought provoking and inspirational address.

Following the benedictions, the Sir Knights processed out of the Asylum, singing “Joy to the World.”

The afternoon concluded with a fine meal, and the warm fellowship of the Christmas season.





WB Robert F. Polito, Jr. Receives Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze

Worshipful Brother Robert F. Polito, Jr. was born on December 24, 1963, the first child and only son of Robert F. Polito, Sr. and Annette Yulo Polito. Brother Polito received his elementary education in the Cheshire Public Schools. Bob received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Public Policy and Government from Eastern Connecticut State University in 1986, a Masters Degree in Business Administration from the University of New Haven and a post-graduate business certificate from the University of Connecticut. During his college years and later Bob was enlisted as a member of the Connecticut Army National Guard, commissioned as a second lieutenant via ROTC at UCONN. Bob served as an infantry officer and company commander of Bravo Company, 1/169th Infantry Battalion. He served with distinction, retiring from the Guard with the rank of Captain. He holds the famed “Blue Cord” as a graduate of the Infantry School at Ft. Benning, GA.

After graduating from college Bob entered the banking field. He held positions of increasing responsibility with various Connecticut banks and has recently retired as Senior Vice President and Head of Government Guaranteed Lending of Webster Bank.

Brother Bob began his Masonic Career as a member of Trumbull Lodge No. 22, in New Haven. He was initiated as an Entered Apprentice on February 1,

1990, passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft on March 15, 1990, and Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on May 17, 1990. He entered the officer line at Trumbull in 1990 and served as Worshipful Master of Trumbull Lodge in 1996. He has served the lodge in many capacities, including service on the Finance Committee, and particularly as Treasurer since 2004. He is also a Dual Member of Madison Lodge No. 87 in Madison where he resides. Additionally, Bob is a member of Lafayette Consistory, Valley of New Haven, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, where he has assumed roles in the dramatic degrees performed by that body.

Brother Polito has served as Associate Grand Marshal in Masonic District 4A, and is currently serving as a Trustee of the Grand Lodge. In 2016, he was chosen by the Board of Trustees of Masonicare, on which he had served for many years, to be Chairman of the Board of Trustees. In this position Bob has been instrumental in successfully guiding the largest provider of geriatric healthcare services in Connecticut through a transitional period that was vital to the success and future of this charity. He continues to serve as Chairman of Masonicare today.

Bob Polito is dedicated to his family. He met and began dating Lori Alborghetti in his first month of college and they were inseparable throughout their college years. Bob asked Lori to marry him at the Officer’s Club at Ft. Benning, Georgia, where he had been stationed for training. They have



been married since 1987. He has been instrumental in the care of the older generation of his wife’s and his own families. Bob’s family has been involved with the Masonic Fraternity for generations.

In recognition of his service to our fraternity, his community and to the state of Connecticut, the most Worshipful Grand Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Connecticut is pleased to present WB Robert F. Polito, Jr. the Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze for Distinguished Masonic Service.



WB Robert J. Furce Awarded Pierpont Edwards in Bronze

Worshipful Brother Robert J. Furce was born on March 6, 1964 in West Hartford to Ronald and Margaret Furce. Bob, born with a congenital heart defect, was initially given only a year to live. Clearly, he overcame the odds to become the man and the Mason that we know and love today.

Throughout his childhood, Bob was heavily involved in his community. Not only was he involved with the Cub Scout, Weeblos, and Boy Scout organizations, but was also an acolyte at St. Paul's Episcopal Church and a volunteer at the Jaycees Haunted House in Brookfield.

Bob graduated Brookfield High School in 1982. He obtained his Bachelor's Degree from Western Connecticut State University in Danbury and his Masters Degree from Sacred Heart University in Fairfield. Bob was a Drum Major at Brookfield High School and at Western Connecticut State University. He also volunteered as an assistant director with Brookfield High School and Jonathan Law High School. Bob also volunteered as an assistant Scout Master, Committee Member and Merit Badge Counselor for Troop 24 in Milford.

Bob married his first wife Cynthia Briganti on October 17, 1992 and they had a son Christian in April 1997. On April 16, 2001, Bob remarried to Sherri Fugal Furce and they had a daughter together. Together they raised their three children: Christian Furce, Amber Furce, and stepson Christopher Piccolli in Milford.

Bob is currently employed by CVS Health in the Aetna Insurance Division as the Director of Development for the Enterprise Data Warehouse and Financial Data Reporting.

Bob's Masonic career began in 1992 at Aspetuck Lodge No. 142. He was initiated as an Entered Apprentice March 11, 1992, passed to the degree of Fellowcraft May 13, 1992 at Washington 19, and raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on June 10, 1992. Bob served as Worshipful Master of Ashar-Aspetuck Lodge in 1997 and 2004.

He sought further light in the Scottish Rite in February 2010. He has served as Most Wise Master of Pequonnock Chapter of Rose Croix, Thrice Potent Master of Dewitt Clinton Lodge of Perfection and currently serves as a Scottish Rite Ambassador, 2nd Lieutenant Commander Lafayette Consistory, Assistant Treasurer and Trustee of the Valley of Bridgeport, Board of Governors for

Dyslexia Centers for the Connecticut Council of Deliberation and Board of Trustee Member at Masonicare and Chairman of the IT Steering Committee. Additionally, Bob received the Frederick H. Loersson Meritorious Service Award in September 2015. He is also a member of York Rite Housatonic Chapter No. 13, Paugusset Council No. 16, and Hamilton Commandery No. 5, as well as Pyramid Shriners.

Bob currently serves as Almoner in Ashlar-Aspetuck Lodge and has proven to be a valuable mentor to

the newer masons and officers of the lodge. His constant guidance and wisdom as Trustee Emeritus has helped provide a vision and future for the lodge. Bob is also a member of Ansantawae Lodge No. 89 in Milford, CT.

In April 2019, Worshipful Brother Bob was appointed Associate Grand Marshall under District Deputy Mark Hawkins of Masonic District 1C and is also the Co-Chairman of the Technology Committee of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut.

WB Bob Furce has shown a lifelong commitment to serving and helping others, and he truly embodies the tenets of Freemasonry day in and day out.

In recognition of his service to our fraternity, his community and to the state of Connecticut, the most Worshipful Grand Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Connecticut is pleased to present WB Robert Furce the Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze for Distinguished Masonic Service



No Office To Hold, and a New Road to Travel

by Charles W. Yohe

It doesn't seem possible that I am approaching my 46th anniversary as a member of the oldest Fraternity in the world. Can it really be true, and can I actually be that old? The answer to both questions is inescapably the same. Just recently, I've undergone a dramatic change – for only the second time in 46 years, I will not hold an office in a Masonic lodge!

The old joke is that once one is elected secretary of a lodge, the only way to get out of the office is to die or move. Well, I'm following my recent predecessor in Montgomery Lodge No. 13 and moving to sunny Florida. My lodge's annual meeting and election of officers was almost eerie in that, effective with the installation of officers on December 21, I no longer would hold any office in a Masonic lodge.

When I reflect on my Masonic journey that began in 1973 with my petitioning of Hamilton Lodge No. 54 in Sharon, CT, I could never have imagined what Masonry had in store for me. When I was raised on March 1, 1974, and initially attended lodge meetings, I became distraught by the behavior of some of the members to the point where I was prepared to stop attending lodge. My recommender and mentor advised me that the only way I could effect positive change was by attending the meetings and remaining active. Accepting his wise counsel, I steadily moved through the chairs and found myself elected to serve as Worshipful Master in 1979. A year later, I was appointed as a District Deputy for District 2A and assumed that was the culmination of my Masonic career.

During the ensuing years, I served as Worshipful Master in three other lodges: Blazing Star No. 74, Cornwall Bridge; Annawon Lodge No. 115, West Haven; and Montgomery Lodge No. 13, Lakeville. I also served several years as the secretary of Housatonic Lodge No. 61 as the result of some 'arm twisting' by a few of the brothers there. When the Grand Lodge recently adopted the Grand View membership management platform, the Grand Lodge secretary, Debbie Fowler, noted that I had held so many offices in so many lodges that the files needed to be edited to accept more entries for my record.

Along the way, in 1988, MWB Norman L. Getchell called one evening and invited my wife, Barbara and me to dinner. Beware of invitations to "free" dinners! The result of the meeting was that I became MWB Getchell's replacement in the Grand Lodge line and eight years hence, was installed as Grand Master of Masons in Connecticut. I remember the Grand Lodge session on April 10, 1996 very well. It was MWB Samuel B. Walker's Grand Lodge session and during the night, a late season snowstorm had

dumped upward of a foot of wet snow. We awoke in the morning to no power in the hotel. At the appointed hour, M.W. Brother Walker opened the Grand Lodge in the hotel ballroom utilizing the light from a handful of flashlights. As the altar was being attended by the Grand Senior Deacon, MWB. Walker jokingly commented "Let there be light!" and almost simultaneously, power to the hotel was restored. All present cheered and got a good laugh from that one.

I've served in every station and place in the lodge except tyler and treasurer. Of all the offices in our Masonic lodge, the best one in my mind is the office of senior deacon! A good senior deacon can make or break a lodge. But, then the same can be said of just about any lodge office. I recall reading an annual yearbook from back in the 1940s in Maine. The book chronicled the reports by the district deputies regarding the condition of the lodges entrusted to their care. One particular district deputy pointed out numerous shortcomings in one of his lodges with the notation following each as being "the fault of the secretary."

I have had the enviable pleasure of associating with many great Masons over the years. I've been humbled by the honors that Masonry has bestowed and I thank each and every member of the Connecticut Masonic Family for the kindness and generosity which has been shown to me. I will continue to do whatever I can to support the great and good work of Masonry and our premiere Connecticut charity, Masonicare. I just won't be here in Connecticut most of the time. Thank you to each and every one of you for all you did and for all you continue to do.

Once again, I stand at a crossroad in my life. I can't believe that, after 49 years living in Northwestern Connecticut, Barbara and I are setting out to continue our lives in Palm Coast, Florida. As I write this, freezing rain is falling on the 4 inches of snow that covers everything around our Cornwall home. At the same time, the temperature in Palm Coast is 74 degrees! A little sign above the doorway in the kitchen of our soon-to-be new home states "Here we salt our margaritas, not our sidewalks." I'm ready to give that a try. May the Grand Architect of the Universe continue to shine his light on you and bless Connecticut Freemasonry.



Brother David James Stewart Receives Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze

David James Stewart was born on September 14, 1946 in Lawrence, Massachusetts to Mildred (Nichol) and James Fielding Stewart.

Mildred was a member of Eastern Star in Andover, Massachusetts, as was her husband James. James was a brother in Cochichewick Lodge, North Andover, Massachusetts. At age 15, David joined the Lawrence Chapter, Order of DeMolay Boys. He has one sibling, a younger brother Larry.

David grew up in North Andover, attended local schools, and graduated from North Andover High.

Upon graduating from North Andover High School, David attended the Thompson School of Agriculture at the University of New Hampshire, earning an Associate Degree in Forest Technology. He then embarked on a career with the United States Forest Service in Mississippi. This career move was cut short when the first birthdate pulled in the new Draft Lottery was September 14, David's birthday. Degree in hand, David chose to volunteer for Army Officer Candidate School at Ft. Gordon, Georgia. Upon receiving his Commission as a Second Lieutenant, David received orders to report to Karlsruhe Germany in November 1967.

In March 1968, while on leave, he married his childhood sweetheart, Sandra. Sandra had grown up just a few doors away from the Stewart residence, she and David had attended the same schools, and both actively participated in the Pilgrim Fellowship of Trinitarian Congregational Church in North Andover, Massachusetts. After their wedding he brought her back to Germany.

For almost two years they rented a small apartment from a German family and immersed themselves in everything



L-R: RWB Bruce R. Bellmore, GJW, WM Steven Blake, David Stewart, MWB Melvin E. Johnson

German. David was assigned to the Signal Corps, and Sandy worked as a Dental Assistant. They both learned as much German as possible between direct interaction and Berlitz Recorded lessons, and traveled extensively around Germany and Italy, as well as other parts of Europe, including a memorable, although emotional, trip to the Dachau Concentration camp. They enjoyed visiting the Alpine region and towns like Oberammergau. It was here that David more fully developed his interest in photography and Sandy started a cottage industry making window treatments.

In November 1970, 1st Lt. David and Sandy returned stateside. For a time, they lived in an apartment in Lawrence, MA. David was then recruited by the CIA as a satellite photography interpreter and analyst, requiring a move to Annandale, Virginia. While in Annandale, their first son, Todd, was born. Interested in moving back to New England, David applied for and landed a job with SNET, where he became an Asset Management Technician. In July 1972 they moved to Cheshire with second son Bret joining the family in October of that year.

David's career at Southern New England Telephone progressed and he eventually

became one of the small team that developed their electronic Inventory Management System, using barcodes. With system upgrades and enhanced technology developing at ever faster rates, SNET decided to outsource most of their Asset Management and Inventory systems. David decided to leave SNET, and in 1988, started his own company, Asset Management Technologies. David's company grew rapidly, becoming dominant in the region, particularly specializing in barcoding systems and supplies for the bedding plant industry and the medical field, especially hospitals.

After running his company for 24 years, and interested in new adventures, David sold the company in 2011, and established a new company, this time advancing his photographic interest and skillset. He is still the Owner/President of Crowfeather Photo.

Always one to become involved in his community, soon after arriving in Cheshire, David got involved with the Cheshire Historical Society, served on the Sewer Commission, ran for Town Council and joined the Jaycees. David worked his way thru the offices in the Jaycees, becoming President of the Cheshire Chapter in 1981-82. Recognizing his value and accomplishments, the Cheshire Jaycees nominated him for the JC International Senatorship Award, their highest international award. He went on to become State President in 1985.

David was recruited to join the Jaycees by his friend and co-worker at SNET, John Sturges, now WB John Sturges, in 1977. David petitioned Temple Lodge No. 16 in January 1983, was accepted and initiated as an Entered Apprentice in April 1983, passed to the degree of Fellowcraft in May and raised to the sublime degree

Continued on page 24

David Stewart Receives Pierpont Edwards Medal

continued from page 23

of Master Mason in June of that year. It was then David's turn, as he was asked for a petition by his friend John Sturges, which he gladly supplied, and recommended John for membership. After becoming a Master Mason, David started through the chairs at Temple Lodge, but consciously chose not to complete that journey. At Temple Lodge, David has always been one to assist with virtually every project of the lodge for years, including being one of the primary drivers of the Two Ball Cane Golf Classic, which has become one of the lodge's largest fundraising events for 14 years.

In 2011 David took on two major tasks at his lodge. He was appointed as Historian and elected Treasurer. He has continued to admirably fill both positions since then. With the 225th anniversary of Temple Lodge approaching in 2015, David started reading through the history of the lodge with the idea of updating a version of the lodge history written in

1990 by WB Bill Maturo. While doing so, David started to read through minute books, Treasurers' notes, and other materials, finding interesting items he believed should be included in the history. Before the anniversary date of November 11, 2015, David had completely re-written the history of the lodge and had beautifully hardbound books of 225 pages ready for distribution.

Since that anniversary, David has contributed countless hours, inventorying virtually every piece of paper in the lodge. They are no longer in storage, they are completely archived, cross referenced and accessible. He has not only earned the admiration of everyone in the lodge and been written up in the Connecticut Freemason, but on June 28, 2018 was appointed by the Grand Master to the Grand Lodge Archives Committee.

David has also headed up a group at Temple Lodge that has converted basement storage space into a first

class Fellowcraft Room. While many members of the lodge have assisted in this project, David has been the driving force, including convincing the Lodge to have an antique pool table restored as the focal point of the multi-purpose room. While engaged in the archives work and multi-talented craftsmanship with the room, David has also assembled a "Three Amigos" team of chefs, who for the past three years have put on a great dinner at least once a month prior to Stated Communications. In his spare time he is also the lodge photographer.

In recognition of his service to our fraternity, his community and to the state of Connecticut, the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Connecticut is pleased to present Brother David Stewart the Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze for Distinguished Masonic Service.

(800) 982-3919 The Only Number You Need Beyond 911

by Charles W. Yohe

Take a minute, reach in your wallet, and pull out your Blue Lodge dues card. First, check the expiration date on the front. New dues cards will be arriving within the next month! Now please turn the card over and look at the back. In the middle of the back you will find the telephone numbers that you can use to reach the Grand Lodge offices. However, on the bottom rear of the card is the most important number available to you and your family! It is the number for Masonicare Community Services – (800) 982-3919. **If you or a family member need help or assistance, that is the number to call.**

That number will connect you to personnel in RWB Carl Anderson's office. They will be able to advise you and direct you to the right help that best matches your situation. Remember, you may be calling for help for a family member or friend.

Also, you should alert your spouse, significant other or family member to call that number if you are unable to do so. By doing so, you will be connected to someone within Masonicare who can provide appropriate assistance. RWB Anderson is also the Grand Almoner, and in that capacity may be able to arrange for assistance outside of the Masonicare organization.

Remember, (800) 982-3919, it's the only number you need beyond 911 and it's on the back of your dues card.

Craft at Refreshment

For more details about any of these events, please contact the Lodge directly. In many cases, reservations are required, and they may or may not be open to the public.

All times are supplied by the lodges. The *Connecticut Freemasons* newspaper is not responsible for errors. When traveling, please contact the Secretary of the lodge to verify all times and events. **For recurring events and breakfasts, they may not take place during the summer months – call to check.**

RECURRING EVENTS

Every Tuesday, Day Spring Lodge No. 30, Hamden, 7 p.m., BINGO. *Open to the public, all Masons and Eastern Stars. Refreshments*

Every Thursday, Putnam Lodge No. 46, Putnam, 7 p.m., Thursday Night Meeting *Socializing, Rehearsing, Prepping.*

Second & Fourth Wednesday of the Month, Union Lodge No. 5, Stamford, 7 p.m., Fellowship Night at the Lodge. *Open to all brothers, friends. Refreshments and discussion. Please call to verify*

Third Thursday of the Month, Day Spring Lodge No 30, Hamden, 7:30 p.m., Masonic Information Night. *Open to all who may be interested in Masonry, with interesting presentations and discussion.*

RECURRING MONTHLY BREAKFASTS

First Sunday, 7 a.m.
Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140, Newington.
SBA Breakfast Fund-raiser

Second Sunday, 8 a.m.
Compass Lodge No. 9, Wallingford.
Fellowship Breakfast (8 a.m. to 10 a.m.)

Third Sunday, 8 a.m.
Washington Lodge No. 19, Monroe.
Country breakfast

First Thursday, 9 a.m.
8th District Lodges Niantic.
District Breakfast, *Groton Townhouse, Rt 12, Groton*

EVENTS

Wed., January 1, New Year's Day

Sun., January 12, 8 a.m., Annawon Lodge No. 115, West Haven, Annawon Lodge Breakfast, **\$7 All you can eat. Eggs, bacon, sausage, pancakes, toast, coffee and OJ.**

Sat., January 25, 6:30 p.m., St. Paul's Lodge No. 11, Litchfield. *Litchfield Fire Co, 258 West St, Litchfield, CT. Burns Night Supper. Tickets: \$50 each – They will go fast – only 100 available. Dress Code: Kilt or Smart Casual*

Sun., February 2, 3 p.m., Ionic Lodge No. 110, North Windham, 2nd Annual Superbowl Party, Start time is 1 hour before kickoff

Sun., February 9, 8 a.m., Annawon Lodge No. 115, West Haven, Breakfast, *\$7 All you can eat. Eggs, bacon, sausage, pancakes, toast, coffee and OJ.*

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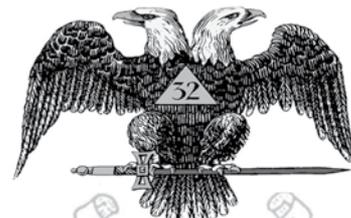
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For further information, please contact
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or any member of the Valley.

Craft at Labor

To have your lodge events appear in the newspaper, please update your lodge website calendars prior to the 10th of the previous month. If your lodge needs assistance accessing the website please have the Worshipful Master, Secretary, or Calendar Admin contact the Help Desk: <https://ctfreemasons.on.spiceworks.com/portal>.

All times are supplied by the lodges. If there is a dinner, the time in the heading reflects that. The *Connecticut Freemason* newspaper is not responsible for errors. *When traveling, please contact the Secretary of the lodge to verify all times and events and to inquire about dinner reservations.*

GRAND LODGE ANNUAL SESSSION

Saturday, March 28, 8 a.m., Cromwell, Red Lion Hotel

INSTALLATIONS

Sat., January 4,

Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88,
South Windsor

Sat., January 4, 2 p.m.,

Bay View Lodge No. 120, Niantic,

Sat., January 4, 12 p.m.,

Evening Star Lodge No. 101, Unionville

Sat., January 4, 3 p.m.,

Hiram Lodge No. 1, New Haven

Sun., January 5, 12 p.m.,

Union Lodge No. 5 Stamford

Sun., January 5, 3 p.m.,

Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125, New Haven,
Semi-Public Installation of Officers

Sat., January 18, 2 p.m.,

Columbia Lodge No. 25, South Glastonbury

ENTERED APPRENTICE DEGREES

Wed., January 15, 6:30 p.m.,

King Solomon's Lodge No. 7, Woodbury

Mon., January 20, 7:30 p.m.,

Meridian Lodge No. 77, Meriden

Tue., January 28, 7:30 p.m.,

Fayette Lodge No. 69, Ellington

Mon., February 3, 6 p.m.,

Compass Lodge No. 9, Wallingford, Dinner

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Connecticut Freemasons Have the Power to *DONATE LIFE*SM



“In a Forest of a Hundred Thousand Trees, No Two Are Alike” *by Richard F. Denno*

Thank you for your unique role in cultivating the Donate Life cause – and your support for the Masonic Organ & Tissue Donor Awareness Program.

The program was been involved in new projects this past year; and this is only the beginning. We took part in The Blue & Green Walk in April and were participants in East Hampton’s ‘Olde Home Day’ parade in July. As a part of the Donate Life CT group, we assisted the Bridgeport Rescue Mission’s Thanksgiving turkey and coats distribution in November.

In 2020 many new and exciting events will be taking place. This spring, Donate Life will be rolling out their Living Kidney Donor Registry. The Living Donor Registry will allow people who are interested in learning about and becoming a living kidney donor to register as donors. The registry will help transplant programs and potential donors to connect more easily. At this time, this is a Living Kidney Donor Registry. In the future the Living Donor Registry may include other organs such as liver and lung donations.

April 27 is the date for the 2020 Blue & Green Walk

in Windsor. We’ll have a huge tent set up for TEAM CT Freemasons. There’ll be food, fun, and fellowship for all Freemasons, their family and friends all to benefit organ donation. Let’s have the biggest group of volunteers at the Walk.

What unique projects will your lodge create and participate in during 2020? There are so many ways Freemasons and your lodge can make a lifesaving difference, while enjoying the projects you create. What about a chili cook-off? How about working with your community doing dances, dog shows, or tag sales? The ideas are as diversified as your lodge’s imagination. Passionate lodges, running important passionate projects within your communities are the best way of attracting potential brothers to Freemasonry.

Make 2020 that rewarding, exciting and yes, lifesaving year for Connecticut Freemasonry and your Masonic Organ & Tissue Donor Awareness Program.

Remember don’t take your organ to Heaven – Heaven knows we need them here.

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

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William Stuart Martus

Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140

John Franklin Mason

Widow's Son Lodge No. 66

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King Solomons Lodge No. 7

Arthur S. Moore

Uriel Lodge No. 24

Donald William Pattison

Coastal Lodge No. 57

Charles Bruce Sniffin, Jr.

Washington Lodge No. 70

Donald Buckingham Treadwell

Temple Lodge No. 65



My Masonic Musings

by Ricky McDonnell

Ed Note: RWB Ricky McDonnell was initiated into the Craft in Scotland and offers a unique perspective on the challenges faced by Masonic Lodges in our jurisdiction.

The article was not printed in full in the previous issue and is being re-run in its entirety

I was initiated, passed, and raised into Freemasonry in a little lodge in Scotland. I'd heard of the Masons, my wife having been a Matron in one of their elderly care homes, but being unemployed after my discharge from the Royal Marines, living in Wales and not being able to support myself and family, I couldn't join. Later, in 1991 and with my own business in Scotland, I could.

I knew most, if not all of the 10, yes 10, brothers on the investigation committee; I was still grilled on the reasons why I wanted to join. Being older at 38 years old (wow! I was that young?) I guess my maturity and worldliness got me through.

I got warmed into the ritual by being installed the Lodge Sword-bearer; I won't get into the differences compared to this jurisdiction, but it was different. The various degrees conferred either at our own lodge or other lodges went without a hitch as we put our heart and soul into the ritual. The trouble is we didn't have a clue (I didn't anyway) as to the teachings we were supposed to be imparting. Even when I left Scotland, joined a lodge in England, and got over the differences in their ritual, I was still focussed on ritual alone...and the camaraderie.

I came over to this, my adopted country, intent on becoming an American Freemason, so I joined St Peter's Lodge No. 21 in New Milford about 13 years ago. The ritual was so different I thought I was in another country! And I had no idea how, at my age, I was going to memorize this newness. However, I persevered and became Worshipful Master in 2013 then Associate Grand Marshall, and finally District Deputy in 2017.

My point in all of this? Because I wanted to learn the ritual and become a fully supportive member of my lodge, I learned not only the little blue book but also the Rules and Regulations. I noted how different lodges worked, and how some did just enough to get by. I noted that those Freemasons who wanted to be good at ritual for their own progression within the Craft, and those who weren't able to have memory retention, or didn't want

to 'parade' around the temple, learned to become better men by way of subduing their passions.

I fear our main reason for losing so many brothers once they have been raised is that they join for their own prestige in having the title Freemason; we must be going wrong at the onset with the investigation committee. I know we're not expert investigators but how many Worshipful Masters are just grateful to get an application, then appoint whoever is available for the committee no matter how long they've been in the Craft. Maybe we need to iron out some key points to be asked by a dedicated investigation committee. Don't get me wrong, I'm not casting aspersions, but this needs to be addressed and unless it is we shall continue losing brothers.

Once a brother has become a candidate, initiated, passed, and raised, where does he go? What does he do? What does he learn? Do we put him in the kitchen? I'm sure he joined for that one – or do we stick him outside the door as tiler? That's a good way to learn, eh? These 'little' things are part and parcel of what's happening.

Men join for various reasons, some good, some not:

1. He joins for the label of becoming a Freemason
2. He thinks it's an advance on his college fraternity
3. He wants to mingle with other men
4. He has heard of the charitable work that Freemasonry does and wants to contribute by being a part of it.
5. He has heard of the symbolism and esoteric history and wants to learn by being at the sharp end.
6. He wants or needs to adjust his lifestyle

There are probably other reasons one can add, but these are my musings and these are what I can think of for now.

One thing I have learned, and continue to learn, whilst being a member of this fraternity, is that when I'm with my brothers I feel a comfort, a feeling of ease because we're all treading that same path towards that spiritual building, that house not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens. So mote it be!



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The form to continue your financial support of this publication as a Booster is in page 27.

We Stuffed an Ambulance!

NCT and OES Annual Toy Drive for St. Mary's Little Ones

by Pat Kalinauskas

All the toys that were collected throughout the year were loaded into a waiting ambulance on Saturday, December 14, after a great brunch at the Dakota Restaurant. There were so many toys that the Trinity EMTs were barely able to close the ambulance doors. It was so amazing!

NCT Past National President Ray Geer greeted the group of folks who attended and made introductions. Toys were donated by National Camping Travelers members, Beacon Health Options in Rocky Hill, and Eastern Star members from all over the state when Worthy Grand Matron Jennifer Willich and Worthy Grand Patron William Greene, visited each chapter during the year. And there was an unexpected generous donation from the Grand Lodge of Connecticut AF&AM office.

St. Mary's Hospital has been the grateful recipient of this toy donation for 5 years. They serve the residents in Waterbury and surrounding towns in the Naugatuck Valley area. A focus in their emergency department has been to try to make a visit to the hospital unit a little less traumatic and scary for children. These toys fill the bill!

As secretary of NCT, as an OES member, and on behalf of St. Mary's, thank you, thank you, thank you, for all you have done to make things better for St. Mary's Hospital and the little ones.

If you are interested in National Camping Travelers please visit the Connecticut website masonicfamilycampers.org. And if you are interested in The Order of the Eastern Star, the website is ctoes.com.





2020 NUTMEGGER REUNIONS

PLEASE JOIN US AT THESE WONDERFUL NUTMEGGER REUNION LUNCHEONS AT ONE OR MORE OF OUR LOCATIONS.

Take this opportunity to meet and greet Bro. Melvin E. Johnson, Grand Master; Bro. JonPaul Venoit, Masonicare's President and CEO; and, Bro. Robert F. Polito Jr., Board of Trustees Chair; and to reconnect with many of your valued friends at this year's reunion!

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

The Holiday Inn – 4715 Helen Hauser Boulevard
Titusville, Florida

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Marion Dunn Lodge, 1846 SE 36th Avenue
Ocala, Florida

Friday, February 28, 2020

Timber Greens - 6333 Timber Greens Boulevard
New Port Richey, Florida

Saturday, February 29, 2020

The Meadows Country Club, 3101 Longmeadow
Sarasota, Florida

*** Sunday, March 1, 2020**

The Club at Olde Cypress
7165 Treeline Drive, Naples, Florida
This reunion will begin one hour later

- Registration at **11:30a.m.**
- Program at **12:00p.m.**
- Lunch at **1:00p.m.**

*** PROGRAM SCHEDULE (EXCEPT FOR MARCH 1ST)**

- 10:30 a.m.** Registration
- 11:00 a.m.** Masonicare Update
- 12:00 p.m.** Greetings by Bro. Melvin Johnson,

Most Worshipful Grand Master of
the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of CT
Lunch

12:15 p.m. Lunch
Cost: \$15 per person

FOR QUESTIONS

or if you plan to be in Florida and would like to attend one of the reunions, please contact RW Brother Carl Anderson at 203-679-6917.



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