



October 2023

Connecticut FREEMASONS



Grand Lodge of Connecticut, AF & AM
69 Masonic Avenue
Wallingford, CT 06492

IN THIS ISSUE

Six Scottish Rite Masons Receive the Rite's Highest Honor

Call to the Regular Semi-Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge

Official Notice of the Annual Meeting of Masonicare

2023- 2024 Officers of the
Grand Lodge Af & Am
of Connecticut



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*Bro. Shane Dufresne
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Deputy Grand Secretary

Bro. Robert F. Polito, Jr.
Assistant to the Grand Master



Table of Contents

Six Connecticut Scottish Rite Masons Receive the Rite's Highest Honor..... 3

Call to the Regular Semi-Annual Communication of the
Most Worshipful Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Connecticut..... 4

Grand Master's Message - Joseph J. Porco 5-6

Congratulations to Our 50-Year Brothers 6

In Memoriam - Worshipful Brother James Louis Vander Eyk 7

Official Notice of the 134th Annual Membership Meeting of
Masonicare Corporation 8

Grand Chaplain's Corner 9

Called by The Grand Architect..... 9

Grand Master's Appeal, Connecticut Freemasons Foundation 10

Proposed Amendment to Grand Lodge Rules and Regulations..... 11

We Are Your Masonicare 12

From the Desk of Jon-Paul Venoit..... 13

Ashlar Village Directions 14

Your Masonic Record is Now Online! 14

How to Write a Good Article -- "Where are the Five W's of Yesteryear?" 15

Lafayette Consistory 16

Sphinx & Pyramid Shriners..... 17

Pyramid Shriners March for Needy Children..... 18

Pyramid Shriners Shine at the Apple Festival 19

District 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9 19-29

A Singular Circumstance Continued..... 30

Visit to Annapolis Royal Lodge No 33, Nova Scotia..... 30

Booster Lists 31

Care Connect Navigation Services 32

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.

Not just a man. A Mason.



Volume 19 - Number 2

Publisher

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

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Six Connecticut Scottish Rite Masons Receive the Rite's Highest Honor

by Francis G. Way

"The temperature this morning is 33 degrees...and that's honorary."

-- Ill. Bro. Bob Steele, 33°

WTIC-AM Radio Personality

Coroneted an Honorary Member of the Supreme Council of Sovereign Grand Inspectors General, 33rd Degree... For a Scottish Rite brother, being coroneted an Honorary Member of the Supreme Council is the highest honor. Indeed, it is one of the highest honors in all of Freemasonry, given for exceptional service to the fraternity, to Scottish Rite and to mankind. Illustrious Brothers John Glenn, Ernest Borgnine, Harry Truman, and Connecticut's beloved radio icon Bob Steele are just a few of the well-known brothers who have been so honored.

The 33rd Degree is an honor bestowed. It cannot be solicited, it cannot be applied for, it cannot be campaigned for. Brothers who receive the 33rd are nominated by their state's Scottish Rite Deputy, and voted on by the Supreme Council. If voted to be coroneted an honorary member, the Deputy will notify the brother, usually by U.S. Mail, that his name was placed in nomination and that he was elected to receive the degree. These days, the degree is conferred every two years (odd years) at the Annual Meeting of the Supreme Council. It is an unforgettable experience for the brother and his lady, over the three days of the session.

Receiving the 33rd is not a call to honor. It is a call to service. It is not the culmination of a brother's service and sacrifice but the beginning of a call to higher service.

This year in August, in Lexington, Kentucky, six Scottish Rite brothers from Connecticut, Illustrious Brothers John A. Amarilios, MSA, 33°, William L. Greene, MSA, 33°, Walter Grube, MSA, 33°, William H. Morse, Jr., MSA, 33°, Frederick J. Taft, MSA, 33°, and Guy O. Whelchel III, MSA, 33° received the 33rd Degree. Two of those brothers, John Amarilios and Bill Greene, are regular contributors to this newspaper.

When you see these brothers out and about in your Masonic travels, be sure to congratulate them on their singular honor.

The Editor and staff of Grand Lodge Publications congratulate Connecticut's newest 33rds and wishes them well.



L to R Front: William L. Greene, William H. Morse, Jr., and Frederick J. Taft.

L to R Rear: John A. Amarilios, Walter Grube, and Guy O. Whelchel, III.

THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE
OF ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS
OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

JAMES M. ANDERSON
GRAND SECRETARY
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Wallingford, CT 06492



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REGULAR SEMI-ANNUAL COMMUNICATION OF THE MOST WORSHIPFUL
GRAND LODGE A.F. & A.M. of CONNECTICUT
October 21, 2023

The 2023 Regular Semi-Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Connecticut will be held in the auditorium of **The Hartog Activities Center at Ashlar Village on the Masonicare Campus in Wallingford, Connecticut, on Saturday, October 21, 2023.** You will need to follow the instructions of the Security Staff for parking. You may enter from either Cheshire Road or Masonic Avenue. Bus transportation will be provided as necessary. **Please note that the Masonicare Campus is a 100% smoke-free facility.**

The formal opening will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. Recommended arrival time is 8:00 a.m. Please note: It is anticipated that the session may extend slightly beyond noon, but it will conclude by 12:30 p.m.

This Regular Communication is called for the purpose of electing Grand Lodge Officers for the year 2024. In addition, we will receive certain committee reports, act on any legislation changes which may be in order for consideration and other issues, time permitting, as directed by the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Brother Joseph J. Porco. Section 8203 of our Masonic Law does permit action on changes to the Rules and Regulations that are raised from the floor or motions presented in Committee Reports at the meeting without prior notice to the Craft.

The pending legislation items may be published in the September 2023 issue of Connecticut Freemasons. Please bring the appropriate reference material with you to the meeting. Limited copies will be available. The current committee reports (October 2023) will be posted on the Grand Lodge membership system (Grand View).

Registration of delegates will begin at 8:00 a.m. **All brothers attending must present a 2023 dues card upon entering the tiled lodge.** All voting delegates must register at the registration table. Registration will be by lodge number as designated by posted signs in the area.

Should you not be able to attend in person as a principal officer of your lodge, or should you wish to proxy your vote representing your lodge so you can vote on your own behalf, if eligible, please fill out a proxy form that will be mailed to you under separate cover. If your proxy form is not properly filled out and signed by you, it will not be accepted at the session. Each officer, or his proxy, should bring the appropriate apron and jewel of his respective office. Sections 2300 and 2301 of our Rules and Regulations state that a Roll of Lodges will occur early in the opening of the session. **Proxy forms will be emailed directly to the lodge officers.**

With my fraternal best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James M. Anderson".

James M. Anderson
Right Worshipful Grand Secretary

Wallingford, Connecticut
September 1, 2023

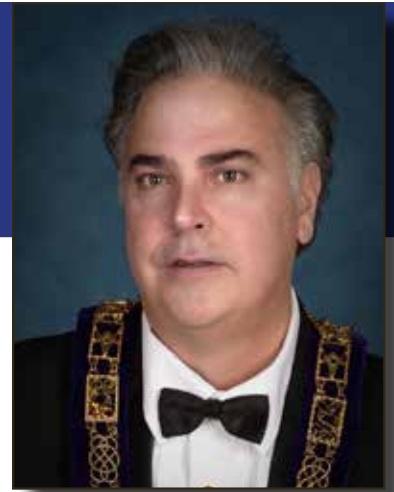
TO BE READ AT THE NEXT STATED COMMUNICATION UPON RECEIPT

DIRECTIONS TO ASHLAR VILLAGE ARE ON PAGE 15 OF THIS PUBLICATION.



Grand Master's Message

by MWB Joseph J. Porco



Warm greeting to all. I am sure many of you are interested in some information in advance of the upcoming Semi-Annual Communication on October 21.

The items for legislation are minimal, however I will be polling the sentiment of the voting Craft in regard to guarding the West Gate and the manner in which we desire to move forward. Once sentiment is abundantly clear I will issue an edict after the Session pertaining to guarding the West Gate which will carry us through until final legislation can be voted upon in April. It makes little sense to draft legislation that is not in alignment with the consensus of the Craft. Two options will be presented. Master Masons can log onto Grand View and review the memo titled "West Gate Options" located in the events-announcements section. Secretaries will be emailed a copy.

Beyond addressing the election of future Grand Line Officers and other standard reporting, I will be presenting the results of our membership program, Project Blue Wave. I will be calling upon a few lodges to stand and be acknowledged for the outstanding results they have achieved.

Regarding our membership program, we are exceeding expectations. The results Year-To-Date are impressive, and details will be shared on October 21. Since there are many who will be unable to attend the Session, I will share some highlights at this time. I am pleased to report that every District in our jurisdiction has achieved positive 'net' growth as of September. Well ahead of schedule, we have reversed the tide of the six-decade long membership decline. What was thought to be impossible by some has been accomplished by our lodges in five months. Congratulations. Well done, brothers!

The Acquisition and Retention Committee has created a process that is working extremely well. We are raising awareness and stimulating consistent interest in our fraternity. We have created something extremely special. After considerable front-end lifting, the program is optimized and is delivering substantial results. We have barely scratched the surface in penetrating the demographic count available and AD fatigue shows no signs of approaching. The A&R Committee can keep the program going for years to come. It is important to not interrupt this trajectory otherwise its optimization will be lost. The program's components, structure of the workflow, awareness videos and technology are in place. Although the vehicle has been created and is firing on all cylinders, this is not a "one and done" fix. Lodges must continue to turn the key and drive the car. Attention to membership and mentoring must remain an ongoing continual

process. Membership is the lifeblood of our organization.

Proof of viability and sustainability of the Blue Wave program has been clearly demonstrated. As of September 9, digital media awareness efforts resulted in 164 new brothers now in EA, FC, or MM status, with an additional 94 awaiting their EA degree -- **for a running combined total of 258 (initiated brothers and candidates awaiting)**. The ratio (conversion/outcome) from inquirer to petition is approaching 20%. New inquiries are flowing in at the rate of 300 per month and there are over 750 inquiries currently at the Lodge level (approx. 83 per district) being vetted at this time. Keep in mind, the numbers will continue to grow, now that all lodges are back at labor. Many new petitions will come forward between September 9 and October 21.

Here are a couple of quotes describing the impact Project Blue Wave is having on candidate outcomes and the Lodges.

- *"Blue Wave is bringing forward genuinely interested men, not just the curious. The videos are effective, and most of these men know what type of organization they are expressing interest in. They are knocking on our doors, more informed. They know they are reaching out to good men who are trying to do good things and they want to be part of it."* - WB Amos Brooks, Worshipful Master of Trumbull Lodge No. 22. [Result: 14 new brothers.]

- *"It's all positive. We have many new brothers and its only September. These young men are passionate about learning and are excited. The other day I got a call from one of our new EAs who forgot to write down the time for the next mentoring class. He didn't want to be late! Last week an EA asked when he could get one of those blue books. One brother has already learned the EA Q&A and performed it in Lodge. These new brothers want to be part of the fraternity, they want to be Masons. They are excited about the next steps. The mentoring doc is on Grandview. It couldn't be easier to follow. The key is to meet them right away, even if just for a cup of coffee. Don't wait for an event or Lodge meeting. I've never been prouder to be a Mason. I'm more stoked today than I have been in 33 years because I see these young men coming in looking for fellowship and finding it. They are finding us. They are*

Continued on page 6

Grand Master's Message continued from page 5

meeting their brothers." - RWB Anthony Neri, Prospect Manager of Hiram Lodge No. 18. [Result: 11 new brothers.]

We all recognize that we are not initiating men just to have more members. The "Why" behind our efforts goes beyond the common sense understanding that growth of membership is essential. Everything we are able to accomplish pivots off of membership. This includes the scope of our charitable contributions, the fiscal health of our lodges and condition of our buildings, the depth of engagement in community action, all operations at the lodge level inclusive of mentoring and the development of future leadership. The brotherhood we currently enjoy is amplified when we welcome new men into our ranks.

Still, there is an even bigger "Why" that we must not lose sight of regarding our labor and our effort to reach to men. My last message emphasized the importance of our acknowledgement of the invaluable contributions of the 1723 Constitutions. Long ago, Masonic lodges throughout the American Colonies offered a setting to foster a moral and civic culture that sustained America, the "Great Experiment." Freemasonry's tenets and teachings reinforce virtue and provide instruction for men to properly govern themselves. Our brothers that came before us risked their lives to profess the core ideals of the enlightenment. Among such notions were that is not by a man's birth right, nor the decree of a monarch or pontiff that a man's aspirations should be fulfilled, but rather by merit. This thinking and that which was mentioned above was the model for our republic.

We learn much from the instructive tongue regarding the mysteries of Masonry. We also know that those teachings need to be safely lodged into the repository of faithful breasts. There are thousands

of men in our communities with a void of brotherhood in their life. A great number of these men are good men, and that void will be filled with something. That is why we should want to fill the void with Freemasonry's virtues and respond to as many of these men expressing interest as possible.

What I have been sharing while traveling needs to be repeated here:

Our aim remains high standards of behavior, commitment, and effort. Kindness, putting others first, interpersonal civility, mentoring, education, and societal, and personal self-improvement have always been central to our purpose. These attributes were to distinguish Masons from others and to be the cement that unites men of diverse backgrounds. "Lodges were to be a place to invent the future by developing a culture for the transmission of thought, and fostering an environment where universal brotherhood, sociability, tolerance, and benevolence could flourish." ¹ The aim of a lodge was originally intended to be a gathering place for moral vision and discourse (i.e., schools of instruction). This should be part of our messaging to all Masons and should be emphasized during the mentoring process.

Brothers, it is your outstretched hand which can pull a man out of the sea of indifference into that school of instruction, into a lifetime of brotherhood, where he can join us in our labor and privileges. Remember when you help a man find his way among us, you are sharing a great gift, one which you once received.

References, Credits:

¹ 1723constitutions.com

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 50-YEAR BROTHERS!

Anthony J. Pulcinella
Corinthian Lodge No 63

David E. Haynes
Harmony Lodge No. 42





The Grand Lodge *of* CONNECTICUT

IN MEMORIAM

It is with sadness that we announce the death of

Worshipful Brother James Louis Vander Eyk

Worshipful Brother James Louis Vander Eyk served the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M. of the State of Connecticut as R.W. Grand Chaplain in 2012. He also served as Worshipful Master of Friendship Lodge No. 33 in 1992. Brother Vander Eyk passed away on Saturday, September 2, 2023.

Calling Hours will be held on Wednesday, September 13, 2023, from 5 pm to 7 pm at Prospect Memorial/The Palmerie Family Funeral Home, 122 Waterbury Rd., Prospect, CT.

A Masonic Funeral Service will be held at 6:15 pm. Brothers should arrive by 5:45 pm to assemble for the Masonic Funeral Service.

A mass of Christian burial will be held on Thursday, September 14, 2023, at 10:30 am at St. Anthony's Church, 4 Union City Rd., Prospect.

All those planning on attending are asked to meet directly at church. Burial with Military Honors will immediately follow at Prospect Cemetery.

Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers.

Fraternally,

James M. Anderson

R.W. Grand Secretary



TO: All Voting Members of Masonicare Corporation

FROM: Bro. Robert F. Polito, Chairman, Board of Trustees

OFFICIAL NOTICE

**ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-FOURTH
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
MASONICARE CORPORATION
•SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2023
MASONICARE AT ASHLAR VILLAGE
KNAPP AUDITORIUM
WALLINGFORD, CT 06492**

Time: 9:00 a.m. *

This meeting is being held as part of the Grand Lodge Semi-Annual Communication. Please make every effort to attend.

The purpose of the meeting is to vote upon the following issues:

- Approval of the 133rd Annual Membership Meeting Minutes
- Election of Trustees
 1. Bro. Bruce R. Bellmore, P.G.M., - Hiram Lodge No.1
 2. Bro. Shelby P. Jackson P.D.D., - Compass Lodge No. 9
 3. Sister Bonnie Shulz McWain, - Frederica Chapter No. 110, Order of the Eastern Star
 4. Honored Lady Susan Koty, P.G.R.M., - Eliza McCoy Court No. 1, Order of Amaranth Representative

Board of Trustees,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Polito", is written over a faint, circular official stamp.

Robert F. Polito
Chairman
Masonicare Corporation

* Actual time is at the discretion of the Grand Master.

22 Masonic Avenue • P.o. Box 70 • Wallingford, Connecticut 06492
888-332-4366 • 203-679-5900 • masonicare.org

Grand Chaplain's Corner

by Christopher J. Earle, Grand Chaplain



“The Way”

When addressing the young men of Connecticut DeMolay at the Annual DeMolay Conclave this past July, our Grand Master Joseph J. Porco talked about how organizations such as DeMolay, and Masonry illuminate the path of life with certain guidance and rules that “sometimes appear ‘in the way,’ but which, you will learn, are ‘The Way.’”

In Masonry we are often told that ours is an order that illuminates the pathway of a man toward a better life. The brothers who founded our modern fraternity in 1723 envisioned each Mason using the rules and teachings of the fraternity to create within themselves a better Temple. I have always been moved by certain passages in the Book of the Prophet Isaiah that foretold of “The Way.”

“Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” Chapter 43 Verse 19

“And a highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it, but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein.” Chapter 35 Verse 8

As Masons we learn about “The Wayfaring Man” and his search for light. What better way to inspire young people than by using the example of the Freemason’s search for light, as well as achievement of our primary virtues of brotherly love, relief, and truth. If we direct our steps through life as men, and Masons, according to the Light we here shall find, though often fools, we shall not err therein.

Amen

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

George R. Grandell
King Solomons Lodge No. 7

Donald Edwin Smith
King Hiram Lodge No. 12

Robert Abrams
George R. Churchill
Frederick Franklin Lodge No. 14

Richard Charles Memmott, Sr.
Annawon Lodge No. 15

Robert B. Burden
St. Peters Lodge No. 21

Quentin Charles Grant
Uriel Lodge No. 24

Les Brent King
Somerset St. James Lodge No. 34

McClure Edgar Ellsworth, II
Warren Lodge No. 51

William E. Lehr, Jr.
Brainard Lodge No. 102

Samuel Jack Urban
Daytime Lodge No. 144



CONNECTICUT FREEMASONS FOUNDATION, INC.

A 501(c) (3) Tax Exempt Organization

of the GRAND LODGE of ANCIENT FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS
of the STATE of CONNECTICUT



Joseph J. Porco.
Grand Master



PO Box 69
Wallingford, CT 06492

My Brothers, Family, and Friends,

June 15, 2023

We are taught that Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth are the foundational principles that unite us in this great fraternity. These principles are the basis for the formation of the Connecticut Freemasons Foundation, Inc., our 501(c)3 charitable arm. It is my honor this year to appeal to you to support the vital charitable activities of our Foundation, by making a tax-deductible contribution to the Connecticut Freemasons Foundation, Inc.

I have singled out three options for your special consideration. You may split your gift, if desired. Please check choices in the return section and indicate the amount of your gift that you desire to restrict to that category. A gift of any size is meaningful, so please consider contributing whatever is within your means. Thank you for your consideration of this appeal.

- First is our Grand Almoner's Fund. We are reminded continually of the importance of providing for "the relief of poor distressed Master Masons, their widows, and orphans." Our Almoners provide a focus for ensuring this duty is carried out and the fund is an important element of that relief.
- Second is our Matching Grant Program. It is designed to encourage Lodges to actively support charitable causes in their local communities by having the Foundation match the cash gifts made by the Lodges to those 501(c)3 charities. The size and scope of this activity will depend on the support you give to it in this Appeal. The goal is to raise enough to match up to the first \$1,000, on the dollar that Lodges gift to qualifying entities.
- Third is our General Endowment Unrestricted Funds Option which enables the Board of Directors to utilize the funds for any pressing circumstance which arises. In the past we have provided help to relieve human suffering caused by devastating hurricanes, tornadoes, and fires. We are one fraternal body, wherever so dispersed.

Fraternally,

Brother Joseph J. Porco
M.W. Grand Master 2023

*The CT Freemasons Foundation is a 501(c)(3) corporation organized to accept tax deductible contributions. **Your gift may be restricted by designating your specific charitable choice from the above list in the memo section of your check.***

Your support for 2022 totaling \$152,416 includes donations to:

- | | |
|---|---|
| • Grand Almoner's Fund | • George Washington National Masonic Memorial |
| • Grand Lodge Matching Grant Program | • Masonic Medical Research Institute |
| • CT DeMolay | • Masonic Model Student Assist Program |
| • International Order of Rainbow for Girls | • Masonic Service Association |
| • CIP (Child Identification Program) | • Masonic Organ Donor Program "Donate Life" |
| • The Masonic Charity Foundation/ Quality of Life | • Shriners Hospital: Boston Burns Unit/Hospital for Children, Springfield |
| • CT Freemasons Foundation General Endowment | |
| • 32nd Degree Children's Dyslexia Center of CT | |

The Connecticut Freemasons Foundation Inc.
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NOTE: Donations can be made via PayPal on the Grand Lodge website www.CTFreemasons.net
Located under "About Us" "The Connecticut Freemasons Foundation"

XXX-----XXX

Make check payable to: CT Freemasons Foundation – mail to PO Box 69, Wallingford, CT 06492-0069

To assist the Connecticut Freemasons Foundation in their ongoing work, I / we donate to the Grand Master's Appeal as follows:

- _____ Grand Almoner's Fund
- _____ Matching Grant Program
- _____ General Endowment (unrestricted)
- _____ Other-please note in the memo section of your check

If your donation is "**in honor of**," or "**in memory of**" (circle one) a loved one, please include their name below:

Please send notice of my gift to: _____

Please have someone contact me about how to include the Connecticut Freemasons Foundation as a beneficiary in my will. _____

THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE OF CONNECTICUT
ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS



The Proposed Amendment to Grand Lodge Rules and Regulations-Revised

Subpart 35 – Finances, Section 3500, currently reads:

Right of Lodge to Assess Its Members. A Lodge has a right to lay a tax, assessment, or dues upon its members. The necessity of funds for its support -- self-preservation -- is the ground upon which this right and power rests.

Change to read:

Right of Lodge to Assess Its Members. A Lodge has a right to lay a tax, assessment, or dues upon its members, *including Entered Apprentices and Fellowcraft*. The necessity of funds for its support -- self-preservation -- is the ground upon which this right and power rests.

Rationale:

There are several hundred Entered Apprentices and Fellowcraft in our jurisdiction who, for whatever reason, have chosen not to advance but still attend Lodge functions and events. These Brothers should be expected to support their Lodge.

This amendment empowers the Lodge to set its dues as it deems best for itself. This change provides clarification of what a Lodge is permitted to do when setting its dues. For Lodges that set their dues by vote, this change will not require a change to the existing bylaws. However, for those Lodges with set dues in their bylaws, a change in the dues structure will cause a need for bylaws change and those bylaws will need to be reviewed by the Committee on Legal Matters. (See GLRR Sec. 3003).

Subpart 47 – Nonpayment of Dues/Unassociated Mason, currently reads:

Method of Striking From Roll Members in Arrears For Dues. A Lodge may, upon compliance with the requirements hereinafter set forth, at its Annual Communication in December, strike from its roll of membership the name of any member who is in arrears of Lodge dues for that calendar year, providing that Proper Notice to pay dues or show cause, in accordance with the requirements of Section 4702, has been served upon such member at least 30 days prior to said Annual Communication. It is declared to be the policy of this Grand Lodge that no member shall be stricken from the roll if he has been unable to pay his dues or assessments because of sickness, financial distress or other involuntary inability.

Before sending the notice required by Section 4702, it shall be necessary that any such Brother in arrears, whose known address is within the State of Connecticut, shall be personally contacted, either by the Master of the Lodge, or some Brother designated by the Master for such purpose. Any

vote to strike a Brother from the roll of membership without compliance with the provisions hereof shall be void and of no effect.

The office of the Grand Secretary shall be notified of the names and addresses of any Brothers dropped in accordance with the provisions hereof on a form furnished by the Grand Lodge, signed by the Master, Senior Warden and Secretary of the Lodge, which form shall be filed with the December monthly report.

Change to read:

Method of Striking From Roll Members in Arrears For Dues. A Lodge may, upon compliance with the requirements hereinafter set forth, at its Annual Communication in December, strike from its roll of membership the name of any member, **Entered Apprentice, and/or Fellowcraft**, who is in arrears of Lodge dues for that calendar year, providing that Proper Notice to pay dues or show cause, in accordance with the requirements of Section 4702, has been served upon such member, **Entered Apprentice, and/or Fellowcraft**, at least 30 days prior to said Annual Communication. It is declared to be the policy of this Grand Lodge that no member, **Entered Apprentice, and/or Fellowcraft**, shall be stricken from the roll if he has been unable to pay his dues or assessments because of sickness, financial distress or other involuntary inability.

Before sending the notice required by Section 4702, it shall be necessary that any such Brother in arrears, whose known address is within the State of Connecticut, shall be personally contacted, either by the Master of the Lodge, or some Brother designated by the Master for such purpose. Any vote to strike a Brother from the roll of membership without compliance with the provisions hereof shall be void and of no effect.

The office of the Grand Secretary shall be notified of the names and addresses of any Brothers dropped in accordance with the provisions hereof on a form furnished by the Grand Lodge, signed by the Master, Senior Warden and Secretary of the Lodge, which form shall be filed with the December monthly report.

Rationale:

This change provides clarification for the instance if a Lodge decides to assess dues against Entered Apprentices and/or Fellowcraft. This change will empower such a Lodge to follow the same NPD procedures that currently exist to drop a Brother from the rolls if he fails to meet his financial obligations. This amendment is only appropriate if the prior recommended change to GLRR §3500 passes.



Keeping You or a Loved One Safe at Home

Being able to live in your own home – whether that home is a house, an apartment, a condominium, or even a senior living community – fulfills a desire for independence that everyone shares. But for the aging parent, spouse, or family member who may need some extra help to do so, there is **Masonicare at Home**.

Masonicare at Home provides non-medical care to assist elderly or disabled persons in performing their activities of daily living. These could include assistance with eating, bathing and personal hygiene, dressing, toileting, and basic mobility, preparing meals, transportation assistance, light housecleaning, laundry, shopping for essentials, and companionship. These services are available on an hourly or live-in basis across Connecticut and in Washington County, Rhode Island.

Executive Director Samantha Buonanno explained that Masonicare at Home can complement the skilled care an individual may already be receiving from a home healthcare agency, whether that agency is affiliated with Masonicare or not.

“As an example,” she said, “a client’s Medicare, Medicaid or private insurance might cover two or three home health aide visits a week. But if the client needs more assistance, they can supplement it on a private pay basis with Masonicare at Home.”

Samantha finds that it is typically adult children who reach out to Masonicare at Home on behalf of an aging parent.

“In many cases,” she said, “people wait to contact us until after a loved one has had a fall and suffered a significant injury. They may feel like they have no other options. I’d like to see families take a more proactive approach that puts certain supports and resources in place earlier so mom or dad can stay home longer, in safety.”

Securing care for yourself or a loved one can be overwhelming, especially if you don’t know where to turn for answers and support. Start by calling Masonicare today at 1-800-982-3919.

We are *your* Masonicare.

Learn more about our ageless commitment to caring at masonicare.org.



From the Desk of Bro. Jon-Paul Venoit

President & CEO of Masonicare

Masonicare is dedicated to providing high-quality care and customer service, and our employees are the key. Since 2019, nominations submitted by residents, patients, family members, and even coworkers through our GEM (Go the Extra Mile) program have enabled us to recognize hundreds of employees for going above and beyond on behalf of those we serve.

We recently rebranded the GEM program to align with our Core Values more closely: Innovation, Compassion, Accountability, Respect, and Excellence (or ICARE for short). The name may have changed but enthusiasm surrounding the program has not. Almost every day, I see nominations submitted for nurses, CNAs, drivers, maintenance personnel, and quite a few waitstaff ... which always makes me a little nostalgic, since that's how I got my start at Masonicare over 33 years ago: waiting tables in the dining room at our independent living community, Ashlar Village.

These days, if you were to take a poll of the residents of Masonicare at Mystic on which employees best represent our core values, there's a pretty good chance that Ava, lead waitstaff, would be at or near the top of the list. Ava is frequently cited by residents and coworkers for the dedication she brings to her role, team-first attitude, and desire to create enjoyable Masonicare experiences for everyone she serves. One recent ICARE award nomination read, "Upon meeting Ava in the Compass Dining Room, she made me feel welcome and special. And she still does. She is pleasant, warm, friendly, caring, and a definite asset to Masonicare."

As much as the residents adore Ava – who celebrated her second anniversary with Masonicare last month – it's clear the feeling is mutual. When I visited Mystic to surprise Ava with our ICARE recognition award, someone asked if she would be willing to show off her recent tattoo. At once, she rolled up her sleeve to reveal an older model walker. Of all the ways that Masonicare employees have chosen to honor the population we serve, that must be one of the most creative!

I hope to see you at the Semi-Annual Communication at Ashlar Village on Saturday, October 21, 2023. Until then, thank you for your continued support of Masonicare.

Sincerely and fraternally,



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SCOTTISH RITE**
Valley of Hartford
207 Deming Street
Newington, CT 06111

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* Reverence to God * Devotion to Country

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Contact Tony Angelica, 33°, at the Valley of Hartford, AASR: (860) 666-0712

Email: office@valleyofhartford.com

www.valleyofhartford.org

ASHLAR VILLAGE DIRECTIONS

From Hartford, Connecticut

- I-91 South to exit #17 (Wilbur Cross Parkway - Route 15 South)
- Take exit #64, at end of ramp there is a traffic light, turn left at light
- Immediately at next traffic light, turn right onto Cheshire Road
- Ashlar Village Main Entrance is ½ mile on the right

From Waterbury, Connecticut

- 84 East to exit #27 (691 East) towards Meriden/Middletown
- Take exit #10 (Wilbur Cross Parkway – Route 15 South)
- Take exit #64, at the end of ramp there is a traffic light, turn left at light
- Immediately at next light, turn right onto Cheshire Road
- Ashlar Village Main Entrance is ½ mile on the right

From Essex, Connecticut

- Route 9 North to exit #20S (I-91 South) on the left towards New Haven
- Take exit #17 (W. Cross Pkwy - Route 15 South)
- Take exit #64, at end of ramp there is a traffic light, turn left at light
- Immediately at next traffic light, turn right onto Cheshire Road
- Ashlar Village Main Entrance is ½ mile on the right

From New Haven, Connecticut via Route 15

- Route 15 North to exit #64
- Turn left at traffic light
- At second light, turn right onto Cheshire Road
- Ashlar Village Main Entrance is ½ mile on the right

From New Haven, Connecticut via I-91

- I-91 North to exit #13 (left hand exit)
- At traffic light, turn left then immediately turn right onto Toelles Road
- At stop sign turn right onto S. Turnpike Road
- At second traffic light, turn left onto Cheshire Road
- Ashlar Village Main Entrance is ½ mile on the right



Your Masonic Record is Now Online!

To access your record:

- **Visit the Grand Lodge of Connecticut website at <https://ctfreemasons.net> and select “Member Portal”.** This will bring you to the Grandview sign in page, select “**Member Registration**” at the top right and follow the directions.
- If you have any problems, please call the Grand Lodge office at 203-679-5903 or email at grandlodge@ctfreemasons.net for person-to-person help.

Once you are signed on you will have access to Masonic information, i.e. Rules and Regulations, Official Directory,

Membership Registration

A screenshot of a web form titled "Membership Registration". The form is set against a light gray background. It contains three input fields: "Lodge Number", "Member ID - Exclude Leading Zeroes -", and "Last Name - Case Sensitive -". Each field has a white text box with a light gray border. Below these fields is a blue button with white text that reads "Check Membership Status".

Master Path Program, etc. To reach general Masonic information go to “**My Portal**” then “**Resources**” and check things out.

Also under “My Portal” you will find “**Seminars**” and you will see a number of informational Masonic lectures that you may view at your leisure.

How to Write a Good Article — “Where are the Five W’s of Yesteryear?”

by Francis G. Way

When a medical evacuation is needed in the military, a procedure called a “9 Line” is used to communicate that need and all of the details. All of the important information is provided in a specific format (the 9 Line), so there is no loss of vital facts. Working out the 9 Line means that the radio call is not a hodge-podge of randomly ordered or partial facts. Civilian 911 operators are similarly trained to elicit important facts from sometimes frantic callers, asking specific questions to get the needed information.

In writing a newspaper article, a similar technique to the 9 Line has been used forever. I first learned it in 4th or 5th grade, and it was hammered home in freshman English class for all of our non-fiction writing – not to be confused with creative writing, as our teacher would sometimes have to remind us. That technique is the 5 W’s: Who, What, Where, When, and Why (not necessarily in that order). As I recall, it was not always necessary to include all five – the “why” might be self-evident, for example – but using as many of them as possible conveys the information clearly and succinctly. For most articles in the *Connecticut Freemasons* that are not opinion pieces, the 5W’s should be fairly easy to include: Who (a lodge, brothers), What (a degree, a picnic, a special occasion), Where (at the lodge, at a park, at a cemetery), When (date usually), and the Why is, as previously mentioned, often self-evident: We’re Masons.

But often, articles are submitted with some holes. In an article about a degree, the most important piece of information is the name of the candidate(s). Other information about visiting lodge brothers, whether or not the DD was there, or who did the Working Tools lecture, is nice to have, but really, isn’t the degree all about the candidates? In an article about a lodge supporting a fundraising event, either Masonic or profane, having the date and location of that event is a key piece of information – especially if the event is in the future in relation to the paper’s publication date, as others may also be able to support the event after reading the article.

Inclusion of the 5 W’s need not be formulaic. There is latitude so that every article doesn’t sound like it was stamped out with a cookie cutter, but working them in, especially the vital facts, makes for a good, informative article. And there are other techniques that can help, such as “don’t bury the lede” and “tell ‘em what you’re gonna tell ‘em, tell ‘em, tell ‘em what you told ‘em”, but they’re not as important as getting the 5 W’s in – the newspaper equivalent of Joe Friday’s “just the facts, ma’am.”

Writing and submitting a good solid article benefits everyone – other lodges can get ideas for new or different events, brothers can be inspired to think about the same old thing in a different way, or a new brother (especially now with the Blue Wave) can read his name in print and be excited about those early steps in his Masonic journey.

Take a moment or two to be sure that all the important information is included in an article, those 5W’s, and that article will be much more powerful and impactful.

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Mason
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You Better Than
Everyone Else.
It Just Makes
A Better You.

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THE LODGE OF PERFECTION

by John A. Amarillos (Valley Updates) and Bruce R. Bellmore (Membership)

October is a very busy month at the Valley of Bridgeport. There will be four degrees presented. On Monday, October 2, the 24th Degree will be presented live followed by the 22nd Degree on video. On Monday, October 23, the 29th Degree will be presented live, as will the 25th Degree, which will be put on by the Valley of New Haven. All of this will be at the theatre in Stratford.

Family life events this month will feature a railroad excursion on the Essex Clipper Train on Saturday October 7. This will feature a four-course meal served in a restored 1920's Pullman Diner Car pulled by a vintage Diesel locomotive. Then, on October 14, the Valley will be traveling to the Downtown Cabaret Theater to see a presentation of *Gyps & Dolls*. Availability is very limited please call the office for details and reservations (203) 375-0064.



Membership & Retention

Membership is an area of concern to all of us who love and cherish our institution. When I joined the fraternity in 1976, there were 37,000 Masons in Connecticut. Now we are around 8,000. Most of this decline is due to the passing of the men who joined our fraternity after World War II and Korea. They wanted to continue that sense of brotherhood and camaraderie that they experienced in the service. Unfortunately, time, that great leveler of all mankind, has seen many of the brothers complete their earthly journey and transcend to that Celestial Lodge above.

We must also be aware of another issue that has affected our membership. A recent study of Masonic Lodges across the country found that after 10 years, 40 percent of those who were raised were no longer members of the fraternity. The Scottish Rite of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction reached out to hundreds of brothers who left the fraternity to discover why they left. The overwhelming response was lack of engagement. It is interesting to note that of the 60 percent who are still members after 10 years, over 80 percent are members of the appendant and concordant bodies while remaining active in their Blue Lodge.

The Scottish Rite offers numerous opportunities to engage our brothers. The Valleys of Bridgeport, New Haven, and Waterbury along with Lafayette Consistory offer programs, degree teams, and

LAFAYETTE CONSISTORY



Attention All Master Masons!
SCOTTISH RITE DEGREES
Mon., Oct. 2nd, 7:30 p.m.
22nd and 24th Degrees (Live)
Mon., Oct 23, 7:30 p.m.
25th and 29th Degrees (Live)
Mon. Dec. 4, 7:30 p.m.
32nd Degree (Live)
Dinners are at 6 p.m. in the Shrine building unless otherwise stated.
Reservations required. Call the Consistory Office at 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.



assistance to help grow and strengthen our Blue Lodges. The old myth that Scottish Rite and York Rite take away from the Blue Lodge is just that – a myth. Most of our officers in the Valley of Bridgeport are also serving both their lodges and the Grand Lodge as officers.

Our Most Worshipful Grand Master, Brother Joseph Porco, a member of the Valley of Bridgeport, has initiated and promoted the Blue Wave Program to promote and grow our fraternity. Let the Valley of Bridgeport help you to engage and retain your members. If you would like the Valley to provide a program or assist with your degrees, please contact our office at (203) 375-0064. We stand ready to help, aid, and assist our Blue Lodge.



Sphinx & Pyramid Shrines

by Eric Pogg



Shrine Ceremonial time is fast approaching. Pyramid Shriners Ceremonial is on Saturday, November 4, and Sphinx Shriners Ceremonial is on December 2, at Composite Lodge No. 28, 150 Bridge Street, Suffield. It is an all-day event including the Ceremonial, Shriners Children's New England Tour in Springfield, MA., cornhole, axe throwing, camels' milk and three meals. To join the Shrine online go to <https://BeAShrinerNow.com>. Fill out the membership application and either Pyramid or Sphinx will contact you with further details.

The Mid Atlantic Shrine Association Fall meetings and festivities have concluded. The Pyramid Pipes and Drums, joined by the Kena Highlanders, Manassas, VA. and the Jaffa Highlanders, Altoona, PA., entertained a surprised crowd at Murphy's Pub in Virginia Beach. The three Shrine Temples played the pipes and drums to the very enthusiastic crowd. Cell phones went ablaze as the crowd went live. The set was concluded by the ever-emotional rendition of Amazing Grace.

The Sphinx Shrine Motor Patrol competed in the Mid Atlantic Association Shrine Motor Corps competition. Never ones to disappoint the crowd, the Sphinx Motor Patrol was perfect in inspection, then dazzled the crown with a flawless drill on the field. Difficult and new maneuvers earned the Motor Patrol 1st place once again. Led by Past Potentate Weston Bedore, along with Potentate Eric Pogg, Chief Rabban Nick DeRenzo and Aide Dean Gousse, not only did they win high point score in their division for field and drill, but they also won high point score among all of the motor classes including two-, three- and four-wheel vehicles.

Hospitality was abundant with a new Hospitality Room crawl. There were 20 hospitality rooms, spread over a three-mile stretch on Atlantic Avenue. The Imperial Potentate, Imperial Chief and Assistant Rabbans made the trek along with several hundred others. Sphinx hosted a Seafood Boil with the Mid Atlantic Association Shrine Motor Corps on the pool deck of its hotel. A shout out to PP Weston Bedore and Chief Rabban Nick DeRenzo, along with their ladies, for the all you can eat crab, shrimp, corn, sausage, and pulled chicken.

Cheers for Children, the biggest fundraiser for Shriners Children New England in Springfield will be held on Friday, October 20, 5:30-9 p.m., at the MGM Ballroom in Springfield. There are still a handful of tickets left. This is an adult (21 and over) event that will feature samplings from the area's finest restaurants, breweries, wineries, and distilleries. There will be live entertainment, games, cash bar, and silent auction with live auction updates to your cell phone. Free parking is available at the MGM garage. Go to Lovetotherescue.org to purchase tickets online.

Remembrance Sunday will be on Sunday, November 12, at 2 p.m., at the Scottish Rite Cathedral, 207 Deming St., Newington. Please join us in honoring the Nobles that have been taken by the Black Camel this past year.

Chief Rabbans Afternoon will be held on Saturday, November 11, at 11:30 a.m. at the VFW Post 511, 41 Veterans Drive, New Britain. There will be lunch, the Chief Rabbans plans for 2024, dealer run blackjack, roulette, tabletop horse racing and money wheel, (note that the Imperial Session will be in Reno, Nevada in 2024), and raffle drawings. This is a no cost event.

Following the Chief Rabbans afternoon, the Sphinx Motor Patrol will be hosting Italian Fest. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. with dinner at 6 p.m. This event is BYOB, featuring all you can eat chicken parmesan, homemade meatballs, baked ziti mozzarella, salad, bread, butter, desert and soft drinks included. Cost is military and veterans \$15, Adults \$25, Kids (5 to 12) \$5, 4 and under are free. There will be raffle prizes, 50/50 raffle and food auction. You can purchase tickets online at <https://ItalianFest2023.eventbrite.com>

The Sphinx Kids Christmas Party will be held at Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88, 1559 Main Street, South Windsor on Saturday, December 9. Santa is expected to be there with presents for the children in attendance.

The Sphinx Holiday Party and Basket Raffle is to be held on Sunday, December 10, from 1-5 p.m. at the East Street Eatery, 141 East Street, Wolcott, home of the Kaabans Shrine Club. The buffet includes garden salad, pasta with meatballs, roast pork loin, chicken franchise, oven roasted potatoes, vegetable, bread and butter, coffee, tea and soda. Cash Bar. \$25 per person.

Have you heard about the Naugatuck Shrine Club? Check out the Facebook page for meeting night locations. The Shrine Club visits different restaurants in its area. You do not have to be a Shriner to attend. The only requirements are a healthy appetite and willing to engage in fun and fellowship.

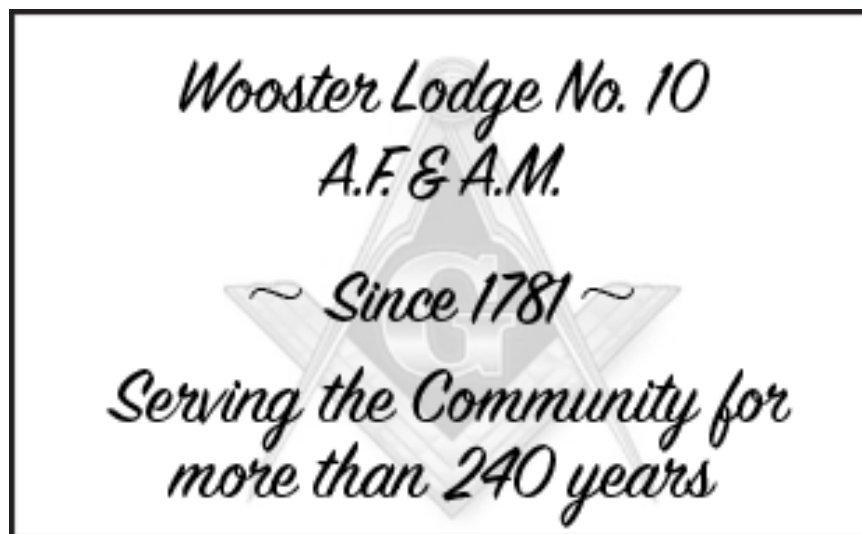
Don't forget about Pyramid Shrine's First Friday Nights. Event is themed each month. Fun, food and fellowship are plenty. Also, it's another great way to find out about what the Shrine is and what we do.

For any and all events please check out the Pyramid or Sphinx Shrine web sites and Facebook pages. A couple more parades will be held in Bristol and Southington before the end of the season. Pyramid and Sphinx will be supporting various car shows during the fall that will be hosting fundraisers for Shriners Children New England. Cheers!

Pyramid Shriners March for Needy Children

by Donald M. Casey, Jr.

Nobles from Pyramid Shrine Temple in Stratford celebrated Labor Day by marching in the 61st Annual Newtown Parade. The Motor Patrol, Legion of Honor, and Clown Units marched. Pyramid Shriners were able to share their mission of helping needy children receiving excellent medical care at Shriner's Hospital.



*I Am Your Brother
by Joseph L. LaRosa*

*I am your Brother,
Like many others.
Knocked three times,
Was well-received.*

*I am your Brother.
Like many others.
Guided by,
Your steady hand.*

*I am your Brother,
Like many others.
Knelt before my God,
Only to stand taller.*

*I am your Brother,
Like many others.
Seeking light,
Not riches or glory.*

*I am your Brother,
Like many others.
In my heart,
And soul.*

*I am your Brother,
Like many others.
A work in progress,
Tools in hand.*

I am your Brother.

Pyramid Shriners Shine at the Apple Festival

by Donald M. Casey, Jr.

Nobles from the Pyramid Shrine Temple in Stratford, participated at the Apple Festival in Monroe. Pyramid Shriners twisted many balloons and were able to share their mission of aiding needy children who are receiving excellent medical through the Red Sneaker Fund at the Shriner's Hospital.

The Red Sneaker Fund was started in 1973 by Noble Abe "Cooky" Flaks, a member of the Pyramid Shrine Temple Clown Unit. The intent of the Fund was to provide shoes and sneakers for children in the Shriner Burns Hospitals. Later, when the Fund provided all the sneakers and shoes for the children, the money left over was donated for burn research.

(l-r) Nobles Donald M. Casey, Jr., John O'Reilly, and Scott Adelman.



District 1

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



Washington Lodge No. 19 Holds Three Entered Apprentices Degrees in Three Months

Washington Lodge No. 19 has been busy. They have held an Entered Apprentice Degree every month for the last three months. The lodge would like to welcome its newest brothers. In June, WB Jonathan Redwood initiated his sons.



Bro. Einar Ulfson is congratulated upon receiving the Entered Apprentice degree in April.



Bros. Pedro Aleman (2nd from left, Redwood brothers (center)

Universal Fraternity Lodge No. 149 Holds 18th Family Picnic

by Roberto Pauleus

WM Jean Domond and the brothers of Universal Fraternity Lodge No. 149 held their 18th Universal Family Picnic on August 12, after a two-year hiatus because of COVID-19, with planning by WB Franklin Bartley. The brothers invited the Connecticut Army National Guard to participate in this year's picnic to thank them for their selfless service protecting the nation. Because a few brothers of the lodge are members of the Connecticut Guard, the invitation was welcomed by the 143rd Area Support Group leadership. Other distinguished guests at the picnic were MWGM Joseph J. Porco, MWPGM George S. Greytak, and the Mayor of Stratford, the Honorable Laura Hoydick.

MWB Porco thanks all the men and women who'd served and continue to server in the U.S. Armed Forces and especially the members of the CT Army National Guard who were present. He then introduced Mayor Hoydick who came to the picnic after attending church. The brethren were excited with the mayor's attendance at the picnic. She also thanked the servicemen and women for their service to the United States of America. Hoydick said it was her first time at a lodge picnic and that it was an honor to be at the picnic with the Grand Master.

The Connecticut Guard brought two tactical vehicles to the picnic – a HMMWV (Humvee) and a 5-ton Medium Tactical Vehicle. The adults as well as the kids were happy to take photos inside the vehicles. The lodge was also honored to have RWB Steven Bowen's WWII jeep at the event.

The Master and Wardens of the lodge, WM Jean Domond, SW Bermann Thelimon, and JW Mario Dorelien were happy to see everyone at the picnic. The brothers of the Universal Club of Universal Fraternity Lodge No. 149 are looking forward to their 19th annual family picnic.



Washington Lodge No. 19 Computer Award

In July, Bro. Anthony Agosto presented the Washington Lodge computer award to recent Masuk high school graduate Jamie Gross. Her parents, Jim and Joanne Grosso, couldn't be more proud.



Washington Lodge No. 19 Pig Roast

Washington Lodge No. 19 held their annual pig roast picnic in August. Close to 80 people attended on a beautiful day, and everyone had a fun time.



District 2

Lodges 13, 18, 21, 39, 40, 48, 49



Union Lodge No. 40 Initiates New Brother and has a Successful Inspection

by **David A. McClain**

The brothers of Union Lodge No. 40 remained active over the summer and are seeing the fruits of their labor. On Tuesday, August 15, the lodge initiated its first petitioner from Project Blue Wave, Bro. James Persantez.

A combination of newer brothers and reliable veterans combined to make the degree and inspection a success. The brothers of Union Lodge gave special thanks to WB Nathan Schoonover, AGM of District 2B, for working with the degree team to not just practice the degree, but to give his insight and understanding into some of the meaning and symbolism of this beautiful ceremony and its lectures.



Project Blue Wave Succeeding at Hiram Lodge No. 18

by **David A. McClain**

Under the leadership of MWB George Greytak and the hard work of prospect manager RWB Tony Neri, Hiram Lodge No. 18 has grown by leaps and bounds this year. At an Entered Apprentice degree Wednesday, August 23, the lodge initiated Bro. Alexander Pashaian along with Bros. Fabricio Vivaldi and Paul Steele of Union Lodge No. 40.

While the entire degree team did an outstanding job, it was Bro. Gabriel Sandrini who shined brightest with his performance of the First Section Lecture after just himself being initiated at the end of June.



Masonry. . .

It is organized as a fellowship of men, a system of morals, a philosophy taught by degrees through the use of symbol, story, legend, pictures, and drama. It has served as a center of union among differing backgrounds, cultures, and countries. It serves as the means of conciliating true friendship among persons, who, because of differences, must have otherwise remained at a perpetual distance. - Harry S. Truman

District 3

Lodges 7, 11, 12, 17, 42, 47, 55, 64, 76, 78

King Solomon's Lodge No. 7 "Ohana Pig Roast"

by Steve Lewis

On August 2, WM Lorenzo Guadiso sponsored a Hawaiian shirt picnic, known as a "Ohana Pig Roast." Ohana is a Hawaiian word that refers to extended family, which can include friends and other important social groups. More than half of the attendees were not from King Solomon's Lodge.



King Solomon's Lodge No. 7 Holds 10th Annual Food Drive

by Steve Lewis

On Saturday, September 2, the brothers of King Solomon's Lodge No. 7 of Woodbury, for the 10th year, conducted a food drive in front of LaBonne's Market on behalf of the Woodbury Community Services. Customers were invited to support those in need.

Woodbury's generous neighbors not only provided an enormous quantity of food and household items to help re-stock the Food Bank's shelves after the summer months but dug deep into their



WM Lorenzo Gaudioso and Alphonso

pockets and donated a considerable amount of cash, which Bob Taylor of Community Services uses to purchase additional necessities and to fund the Fuel Bank.

The Woodbury Food Bank provides weekly access to 125 families and seniors in need. This program serves both to support proper nutrition and to enable client families to conserve scarce financial resources for other household requirements.



Bob Taylor and Bro. Lee Warner



Bros. Rich Miska and Dennis Huebner

Continued on page 24

District 3 continued from page 23

Information on the programs of the Community Services Council may be obtained from the Executive Director, Robert Taylor at community.services.council@gmail.com or (203) 263-3869.

King Solomon's Lodge offers thanks to LaBonne's Market, all those who participated, and to Bob Taylor, for freely giving to those in need.

Brothers who helped with the food driver were WM Lorenzo Gaudio and Bros. David Forber, Mitchell Goldburgh, Dennis Huebner, Jeff Leavenworth, Steve Lewis, Rich Miska, John Novak, Don Sharpe, John Stack, and Lee Warner.



Bros. Jeff Leavenworth and Don Sharpe



Bros. David Forber and Rich Miska



Bob Taylor and Bro. Steve Lewis



Bro. John Novak and Bob Taylor

District 4

Lodges 1, 9, 16, 22, 30, 38, 63, 66, 77, 79, 87, 89, 97, 115, 125, 332, 401, 500



Widow's Son Lodge No. 66 Passes Three *by David Cole*

On Wednesday, June 28, at a special communication, Widow's Son Lodge No. 66 passed Bros. Daniel Majeed, Anthony Vlahos, and Robert Warner to the degree of Fellowcraft. SW Charlie Miller stepped up and presided in the East, while JD Edward Papero stepped up to Senior Deacon. RWB Brad Cooney sat in the West, Bro. Will Stokes of Madison Lodge No. 87 was in the South, WB Scott Atkins of Hiram Lodge No. 1 was Junior Deacon, Bro. Doug Turcotte III was the Senior Steward, WB Ken Jalbert was Tyler, and WM Rich Memmott was Chaplain.

Brothers from six different lodges assisted in the second half. MWPGM George Greytak sat in the East and gave the letter G lecture, WP Kyle Podpulich performed the Middle Chamber lecture, the Working Tools were presented by WB Hans-Erik Siewertsen, the Stewards Lecture by Bros. Stoke and Turcotte, and the Charge was given by WB Gary Cohen of Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125. In fact, only three brothers were in their usual chairs, and the rest were occupied by brother Masons, who came together to present a worthy degree to the new Fellowcrafts.



Day Spring Lodge No. 30 Annual Outdoor Master Mason Degree *by John Young*

On Saturday, May 27, Day Spring Lodge No. 30 held their annual outdoor Master Mason Degree in their backyard to kick off the Memorial Day weekend. The degree was performed by both Day Spring Lodge and Fidelity-St John's Lodge No. 3.

On this special night, five Fellowcrafts were raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. Fifty-three Master Masons witnessed the degree. WM Steven Bruner of Dayspring Lodge presid-ed over the first half of the degree, and WB Andrew Flasko of Fidelity St. John's Lodge served as Worshipful Master for the second half.



District 6

Lodges 4, 25, 28, 70, 73, 88, 145, 400



Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88 Summer Activities *by Pat Jones*

June marked the beginning of a busy summer at Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88. The brothers, their friends and families attended a Scottish Rite sponsored Yard Goats baseball game on June 23. RWB Tom Duclos, District Deputy of Masonic District 6B, and WB JohnLedoux, his AGM, did a fine job planning and organizing this event. Tara Lentini threw out the first pitch. Earlier in June, Hartford Evergreen Lodge and Manchester Lodge No. 73 agreed to a merger, which is awaiting final approval by the Grand Lodge.

In July the brothers did some yard work and planted a variety of fruit trees behind the lodge. WM Brian Warren, WB Dave Prior, and Bros. Kirk Montstream and Khamp Phimvongsas all helped. WM Brian would eventually like to share the fruit with the community. Also in July, the lodge held a Fellow Craft Degree.

Congratulations to Bros. Kirk Montstream, Raheem Vann-Davidson, and Joseph Stanley.

WM Brian Warren's Pushup Challenge for Wounded Warriors was the focus during August. His goal was to complete 1776 pushups in 30 days, despite a back problem required surgery soon after he completed the challenge. He met the challenge and raised more than \$500 for the Wounded Warrior Project.

Also in August, the Combined Family Picnic was held in West Suffield at Sunrise Park. The setting was ideal, and the weather was fine. Hartford Evergreen Lodge, Composite Lodge No. 28, and the Sphinx Shriners joined together to make this event a success. WB Eric Pogg's hard work and planning were very evident as approximately 40 brothers and their families enjoyed a delicious barbecue with hot dogs, hamburgers, homemade salads, and desserts.

This fall, the lodge will be holding a Master Mason degree at the 4H Camp in Marlborough.

Washington Lodge No. 70 Annual Summer Picnic

by Robert Dodge

On Saturday August 12, brothers, family, and friends of Washington Lodge No. 70 gathered in Northwest Park in Windsor for their annual summer picnic. The weather could not have been nicer, and the turnout was spectacular. First Lady Stephanie Dodge put on a Hawaii Luau themed party, much to the enjoyment of all the guests. WM Robert Dodge served flank steak, kielbasa, and hot dogs on the grill. Families brought side dishes and desserts to compliment the meal. With the lodge not meeting during the summer, the brothers always look forward to catching up with each other at the picnic.

Northwest Park is a wonderful location and a great host for the picnic. The pavilion is centrally located near the nature center and farm animal petting zoo. There is also a playground for the children and a history museum on the tobacco industry in Connecticut. For the adventurous, there are over 12 miles of hiking trails. Washington Lodge thanks Northwest Park for their hospitality.



Washington Lodge No. 70 Portrays Master Mason Degree

by Robert Dodge

On Monday, June 12, Washington Lodge No. 70 in Windsor portrayed a Master Mason Degree. WM Robert Dodge, with the help of the officers, brothers, and several visiting guests, raised Brother James Durant to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. The tragedy cast not only included members of the degree team but there also were fresh faces and visitors who participated.



Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145 50-Year Service Award

by Joe Grieco

On Thursday, September 7, Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145 returned to labor after their summer hiatus. The craft returned with the annual Hawai'ian shirt night, but with a special addition.

WB Dustin Wood was presented with his 50-Year Service award by RWB F. Matthew Heinrich, Grand Senior Deacon, assisted by RWB Gregory J. Stump, District Deputy for Masonic District 6A.

(Photos by Bro. Don Janelle)



Columbia Lodge No. 25 Donates to Killam & Bessette Farm

by *Walter Grube*

The Killam & Bessette Farm in South Glastonbury lost about 30 acres of crops due to flooding. The family has farmed this land for over 150 years. Columbia Lodge No. 25 donated \$1,000 to the farm to help defray some of the losses. WB Henry Killam has been a lodge member for 71 years.

(from left WM Dave LaFargue, Henry Killam, and lodge Secretary Walt Grube.



District 8

Lodges 10, 31, 34, 57, 102, 116, 120, 150



Coastal Lodge No. 57 Welcomes New Brother

by *Christian Tynan*

Coastal Lodge No. 57 met for an Entered Apprentice degree on Tuesday, May 16, at their usual venue in Stonington. The lodge welcomed Carter Kolehmainen to the fraternity. Everyone enjoyed an excellent dinner before the degree, thanks to MWB Roger Reed.

The lodge was also pleasantly graced by an appearance from WB Tod Lawyer, all the way from Pensacola, Florida. The brothers are looking forward to having him sit in lodge again, as his work now brings him closer to the lodge. Congratulations, once again, to Brother Carter.



District 9

Lodges 15, 24, 46, 60, 69, 110, 113, 122,



Fayette Lodge No. 69 Thank You and Open House

by *Perne R. Maynard*

This past spring, Fayette Lodge No. 69 in Ellington experienced a tragic fire. Because of the tremendous generosity of brothers and other lodges, it was a moment that brought the Craft the true meaning of Masonry. All of the active brothers committed to rebuilding the lodge to the stature it once held. Not only did they prevail but they are now experiencing a reawakening of Masonry and bringing younger brothers into the lodge.

Fayette Lodge No. 69 will celebrate 200 years of Masonry in two years. The lodge was created, grown and has been maintained by brothers with strength, perseverance, and grit.

To thank all who helped, and to show the results of the rebuilding, please join Fayette Lodge No. 69 at 141 Orchard Street, Ellington, CT 06029, for light refreshments at an open house on Saturday, October 14, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

To lodges and brothers, thank you for your generous contributions to the Fayette Fire Fund. It has been uplifting for the lodge's younger members to experience firsthand the tenets of the Craft -- Friendship, Morality, and Brotherly Love. The brothers are looking forward to meeting you at the open house.

The upgrades installed or made in renovating the lodge are:

All walls on the first and second floors were painted twice.



Ceiling tiles were replaced in the downstairs Fellowship Hall. The lodge was power washed, and the siding was replaced on the front.

New entry door and lock installed, replacing the burned entry door. All carpeting on the entire second floor was replaced.

All insulation and wiring are upgraded to the present code. A new sign and beautification in front of Fayette Lodge.



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A Singular Circumstance Continued...

by Arnie Grot

Continuing A Singular Circumstance via eBay (*Connecticut Freemasons* July/August 2022), this photo reinforces that we are joined as brothers even half a world away and a century apart.

On the morning of May 1, Bro. Wibo Schepel, of Lodge "Het Schietlood" No. 215, The Hague, The Netherlands and Bro. Arnie Grot, Columbia Lodge No. 25, met in Hartford and laid a bouquet of tulips in a mason jar on Silas Chapman, Jr.'s, grave. After, with his wife, daughter and son, Bro. Schepel, accompanied by Bro. Grot, toured Bushnell Park and the Connecticut Capital. The tale continues.



Visit to Annapolis Royal Lodge No 33. Nova Scotia

Bro. Gerald Emple recently visited Nova Scotia and visited several UNESCO World Heritage sites. The visit included Annapolis Royal Lodge No. 33 in Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia. He met the Worshipful Master, RWB Blair Hannam, who gave him a guided tour of the lodge, and allowed him to sit in the East for a photo.



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Introducing Masonicare's CareConnect Navigator Services, a complimentary program designed to help guide you through the process of acquiring the care and services you need, when you need them.

Who is the CareConnect Navigator?

Audrey Grove, Masonicare's CareConnect Navigator, has dedicated her career to working with older Americans as they transition through retirement and senior living. She facilitates support groups that focus on support for Independent Living, Assisted Living, Memory Care, and Long-Term Care Residents and their families. Audrey also coordinates a state-wide educational program for seniors and works with community partners to help craft better resources and opportunities for older Americans.

Who can utilize the Navigator services?

The program was designed specifically to support the fraternal family; however, like all Masonicare services the CareConnect Navigator program is open to all.

Is there a fee for using Navigator services?

No. The program is complimentary and you will not be charged for using Navigator services.

How do I reach the CareConnect Navigator?

1.888.332.0033 or email CareConnect@masonicare.org

What type of things can the Navigator help me with?

From referrals and recommendations to education and support, the CareConnect Navigator is available to assist you with accessing the services, care and support you or your loved one needs.

Will I be referred only to Masonicare services?

No. We strongly promote freedom of choice. You will be given recommendations and options so you can make the most informed decision about where you receive services.

How do I join the CareConnect mailing list where I can receive educational materials on health and wellness and support groups?

Email request to: CareConnect@masonicare.org

CareConnect Navigation Services. *Lighting the Way.*

