

November 2023



Connecticut FREEMASONS



IN THIS ISSUE

Grand Lodge
Semi-Annual Communication

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

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



Bro. Joseph J. Porco
Most Worshipful Grand Master

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RW Deputy Grand Master

*Bro. Rinaldo F. Magliano
RW Grand Senior Warden

*Bro. Shane Dufresne
RW Grand Junior Warden

Bro. Thomas Gondek
RW Grand Treasurer

Bro. James M. Anderson
RW Grand Secretary

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RW Grand Senior Deacon

Bro. Mark H. Hawkins
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Connecticut FREEMASONS

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OF CONNECTICUT A.F. & A.M.

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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.

Not just a man. A Mason.

Grand Lodge Semi-Annual Communication

by Francis G. Way

The Grand Lodge of Connecticut, AF&AM held its semi-annual Communication on a rainy Saturday, October 20, in the Hartog Auditorium. After a few early issues with the sound system, the meeting went off without a hitch, efficiently and expeditiously presided over by Most Worshipful Grand Master Joseph J. Porco. After opening at 9 a.m., Grand Master Porco went to the altar and offered a prayer of thanks to the Almighty.

Immediately there followed the roll call of Grand Lodge officers who answered their summons to the Celestial Lodge Above in the past year, seven in all including Grand Senior Warden Les B. King. The altar was draped and Grand Chaplain Christopher Earle offered a prayer.

After a roll call of lodges to ensure a quorum was present, the Grand Master proceeded to deliver highlights from his report, the full copy of which included in the records packet available to attendees. The Grand Master attended, and delivered the charge, at all 13 District Deputy presentations, accompanied by his line of Grand Lodge officers. He attended the ceremonies for the 300th Anniversary of the 1723 Constitutions. He also offered many thanks to various brothers and officers.

The highlight of the Grand Master's report was undoubtedly the great news about the Blue Wave program. To date, all districts have positive growth. Compared to the 3-month period before Blue Wave was introduced, petitions are up 492% overall, EAs by 517%, FCs by 469%, and Master Masters by 513%. These are phenomenal increases, which can only grow as more lodges become adept at working within the Blue Wave guidelines, and the Craft was most impressed. The Grand Master listed the 16 lodges who'd had growth of seven or more as part of the Blue Wave:

King Solomon's Lodge No. 6, Frederick-Franklin Lodge No. 14, Columbia Lodge No. 25, Temple Lodge No. 65, Hartford-Evergreen Lodge No. 88, Brainard Lodge No. 102, and Unity Lodge No. 148: 7

Shepherd-Salem Lodge No. 78: 8

Fidelity-St. John's Lodge No. 3, Hiram Lodge No. 18, Friendship Lodge No. 33, Annawon

Lodge No. 115, and Universal Fraternity Lodge No. 149: 11

Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145: 12

Hiram Lodge No. 1: 15

Trumbull Lodge No. 22: 17

The Grand Treasurer reminded lodges that the assessment and insurance premiums must be paid on time. The budget passed, with no increase in assessment and a return to full mailing of the *Connecticut Freemasons* newspaper.

Following refreshment, at which time the Masonicare Annual meeting was held, labor resumed with a very emotional presentation of the Hometown Hero Award. Grand Junior Warden Shane Dufresne, a Plainville police officer, presented an award to Brother Dave Wallace of Unity Lodge No. 148. Bro. Dave is a police dispatcher for the Bristol Police Department and was on duty on the night of October 12, 2022, when Lt. Dustin Demonte and Sgt. Alex Hamzy were killed in the line of duty. It was an exceptionally emotional moment, especially for current and past first responders in the room.

Legislation was presented to provide lodges the ability to charge Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts dues. There are some lodges in the jurisdiction where some brothers have remained Fellowcrafts for years, partaking in all the advantages of lodge life, but paying no dues. The measure passed, as did a follow-up housekeeping measure allowing lodges to drop EAs and FCs for non-payment of dues, subject to all the procedures previously outline for dropping a Master Mason.

The election was held, and the following brothers were elected to serve the Grand Lodge for the upcoming year: Grand Master-elect, RWB Edward C. Page; Deputy Grand Master-elect RWB Ronaldo F. Magliano; Grand Senior Warden-elect, RWB Shane Dufresne; Grand Junior Warden-elect, RWB F. Matthew Heinrich, Jr.; Grand Treasurer-elect, Thomas Gondek; Grand Secretary-elect James Anderson, and Trustee-elect, MWB Charles Yohe.

The Grand Master took a "soft poll" for solutions of the background check situation. Recent changes in national and Connecticut law regarding background check would have resulted in many more regulations, forms, procedures, and

cost to be universally implemented by all lodges. The Grand Master wanted to gauge the Craft's wishes regarding the three proposed solutions that has been outlined in Grand View and emailing. The Craft overwhelmingly voted for the second proposal: lodge investigation committees searching three specific public websites (provided by Grand Lodge) and then making a favorable or unfavorable report to the lodge. Lodges would need to be mindful that the sex offender and criminal conviction information would apply only locally, and they should take extra care with petitioners who have recently moved into the area. Based upon those results, legislation will be drawn up by the Legal Matters Committee to be voted on in April.

RWB Carl Anderson, Grand Almoner gave a quick presentation on the Masonicare Navigator program, where one Masonicare employee is dedicated to answering and providing assistance to brothers who call the number on the back of their dues card. Inquiries about Masonicare services, senior healthcare, Medicare and Medicaid can all be easily provided. He also covered the new Women's and Widows program to bring women and widows together. A book and resources will be provided to the lodges and the program will be rolling out in November.

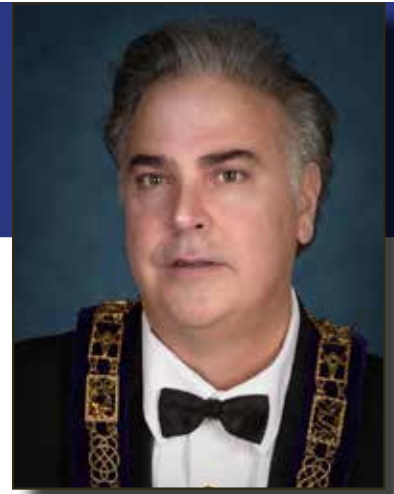
The Deputy Grand Master, RWB Edward C. Page then spoke on programs for his year as Grand Master. He remains committed to continuing the Blue Wave program. He feels that lodges need some help with ritual and is creating District Lecturer offices and asked the permanent members in their district meetings to provide him with names. He will be starting a Grand Master's Physical Fitness Council to help brothers attend to their physical well-being by providing Fitbit fitness trackers to any brother who wishes and outlined several fundraisers for the year (Table Lodge, Golf Tournament, Grand Master's private label bourbon and GM private label cigar). The theme of his year will be "God, Unity and Service." The words form an acronym, GUS, which was his father's nickname.

After presentations of the Perfect Ashlar Awards, the Grand Master closed the session in ample form, 30 minutes ahead of schedule.



Grand Master's Message

by MWB Joseph J. Porco



A warm greeting to all. Thanksgiving approaches. Most of us here in Connecticut have so much to be thankful for. Yet for those that are enduring hardship, we do pause in acknowledgement and offer our outstretched hand. If you are in need, please reach out to a brother so that we can help.

As we know, there are areas around the globe that are beset with horrific troubles, and we pray for peace and relief. At the time of writing this message the surprise missile attacks upon Israel had begun and escalated. As Israel navigates through its need to defend itself, we pray for divine intervention and the minimization of the loss of life and some pathway to peace. For those of us spared from unrest and struggle, with humble hearts, we remain grateful. Perhaps these poetic words are a fitting reminder for the fortunate:

*...thou, O God, wert merciful.
Thy mighty hand o'er all the land Hath still been open to bestow
Those blessings which our wants demand From heaven, whence all blessings flow.
Thou hast, with ever watchful eye, Looked down on us with holy care,
And from thy storehouse in the sky Hast scattered plenty everywhere.
- Paul L. Dunbar*

Brothers, I remain immensely grateful for the opportunity to serve. I have passed through the halfway point of my service as Grand Master and I will continue to be mindful of the obligation I have taken for the balance of my term in office and beyond.

In my first message to you back in April, I announced that I would endeavor to move this jurisdiction forward with tactical actions that would strengthen our membership and enhance our outreach to men in our local communities. I told you that doubt did not reside in me and with the help of the Grand Architect and a team of dedicated brothers, we would be able to achieve that goal. A significant number of our Lodges have embraced the plan and worked hard on execution. Degree work has been performed and active mentoring is occurring. I am pleased to announce that every district in the jurisdiction has achieved a positive membership growth rate over the last six months. RWB Nicholas Ives has recently completed a statewide mentoring class which has received glowing reviews. Similar classes will be offered.

Perhaps equally important as the success we are having in welcoming new brothers into our ranks is the public relations impact that we are having on thousands of Connecticut men. Over the last six months, we have been delivering positive internet content 'front and center' which dwarfs the negative internet content in comparison.

What is really exciting is that our professional digital media team along with the internal help of WB Douglas Barry of King Solomon's Lodge No. 7, is successfully placing the rich content (produced by the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction) before the eyes and ears of thousands

and thousands of Connecticut men. The largest segment of men clicking on the content are between the ages of 25 to 50 and we are targeting men who are interested in social issues. When men choose to engage, they find themselves on very fast loading pages where our content can be viewed. There have been thousands of clicks, engagements and views and we have received over 2,000 inquiries. At the time of drafting this message we have a running total for 2023 of 360 new men that are now either now EAs, FCs, MMs or petitioners waiting for their first degree. By November, when you read this message, the count will be higher.

If we continue at a similar pace, by April 2024 we should have a total of 700 new brothers with another 100 awaiting their first degree. State EMR Coordinator, RWB Mark Hawkins has informed the lodges that by simply adding an additional prospect manager at the lodge level, the workload will be easier. This simple action will help increase follow-up substantially. Brothers, the decision as to how far you wish to exceed expectations is in your hands. Have fun in the vineyard! Enjoy the harvest.

What some had thought was unsolvable, moreover impossible, has proven to be the opposite. Ultimate credit must be given where credit is due. We need not struggle aimlessly toward our goals, whatever they may be, as long as those goals are in alignment with the Almighty's purposes. In that regard, the truth of the matter is simply this: the Grand Architect has allowed favor to be poured out upon us. I believe this is in response to beseeching Him. Let us be grateful.

There is nothing beyond the Grand Architect's ability to repair, restore, or bring to pass. The Grand Architect is faithful to the promises He makes. However, it is essential that we know what those promises are, to seek out His promises and when found to hold tight to them. Those promises are in the center of every lodge room, in the Good Book.

Brothers, all of us knelt at the altar and acknowledged our faith in the Almighty. Did we not? In the book of the Prophet Isaiah, 43:10, it is written, "You are My witness. You are My servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe in Me and that you understand that I am He." Brothers if we choose to be, each one of us can be a witness for the Grand Architect and Freemasonry. Sometimes the Almighty chooses to empower us not only for that which we can do for others, but to also build our own faith.

In John 15:11, "These things have I spoken unto you, that My joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full." Elsewhere,

Continued on page 5

Grand Master's Message continued from page 4

powerful words are recorded such as in the Bhagavad Gita (17.3) "The faith of a man is in semblance his nature, a man is made of faith as his faith is, so he is."

My point is this, whatever your belief, as it pertains to your thoughts and actions in the Craft, if you walk in faith, and continually beseech the Grand Architect, you will discover that He is working in the in-between to strengthen, equip, and prepare us for that which He has planned. We can embrace each day with confidence, humility, and strength of character. Never give up on trusting the Almighty because He will never give up on those that call upon him. These words I have spoken before in faith and now I repeat them in gratitude.

The Grand Architect will go before us to straighten the path, level the mountains, and make a way through the wilderness of challenges as

he has done throughout time. The needs of this jurisdiction and your personal needs in life are no exception. If we truly place our trust in the Almighty, hold fast, because our best, your best, is about to come. When you have time, please re-read the October message written by RWB Christopher J. Earle, our Grand Chaplain, titled 'The Way.'

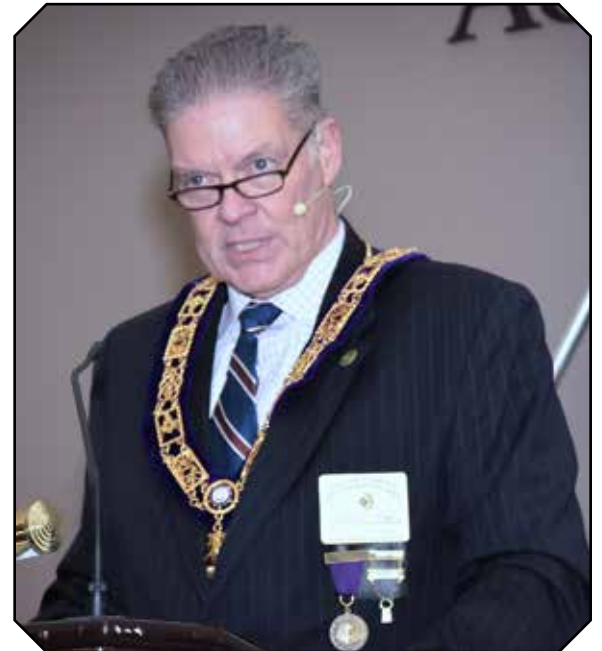
I hope this November message fills your heart and empowers you. Keep pulling men out of the sea of indifference so that many more will join our ranks. We want them to learn our virtues and lessons of self-governing, tolerance and leadership. Please continue to reach out to the men in your community so they too can be blessed with brotherhood, as you have been. I wish you and your families the Happiest Thanksgiving and a wonderful harvest in your personal lives.



Semi-Annual Communications October 21, 2023



Semi-Annual
Communications
October 21, 2023



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 75-YEAR BROTHERS!

Robert F. Donnellan
Granite Lodge No. 119

Merrill W. Feyk
America St. Johns Lodge No. 8

John H. Haden, Jr.
Moosup Lodge No. 113

Edward E. Herrick
Composite Lodge No. 28

Robert Alan Jacobs
Hiram Lodge No. 1

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 50-YEAR BROTHERS!

Richard E. Beattie
Ansantawae Lodge No. 89

William Law Beeson
Hospitality Lodge No. 128

Phillip Danishevsky
Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125

John DiCioccio, Jr.
Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145

Jonathan Norton Dresser
Columbia Lodge No. 25

Paul Arvid Edberg
Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145

William Palmer Enlow
Montgomery Lodge No. 13

Arthur Richard Hersh
America St. Johns Lodge No. 8

Raymond C. Holmstrom, Jr.
Unity Lodge No. 148

Richard Patrick Jarrell
Union Lodge No. 31

Gary L. Katz
America St. Johns Lodge No. 8

Michael John Kranyak
Corinthian Lodge No. 104

David D. Manson
Washington Lodge No. 19

Arthur F. Mascola
Hiram Lodge No. 1

William L. McCornick, Jr.
Village Lodge No. 29

Pasquale Nastri, Jr.
Ansantawae Lodge No. 89

Harry Edward Needham, III
Harmony Lodge No. 42

Stephen T. Penny
Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145

John Walter Plaster
Temple Lodge No. 16

Roger Theodore Ramm
Estuary Lodge No. 43

Millard A. Rolston, Jr.
Composite Lodge No. 28

Thomas E. Schiebel
Manchester Lodge No. 73

William R. Schwolow, Jr.
Ashlar Aspetuck Lodge No. 142

Dustin C. Wood
Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145

Bruce Tyler Work
Composite Lodge No. 28

Grand Chaplain's Corner

by Christopher J. Earle, Grand Chaplain



Going Home

On September 24, the officers of the Grand Lodge and many brothers and friends assembled at the Norwich Holiday Inn for religious and Masonic Services in memory of our recently departed Grand Senior Warden Les B. King. Somerset St. James Lodge No. 34 performed the Masonic Service. I was honored to assist MWB Bruce R. Bellmore, RWB Carl Anderson, and WB William Weisert with the religious devotions.

I am sure that you have read in the pages of Connecticut Freemasons how very suddenly and tragically RWB Les was taken from us. Less than three weeks before his death, MWB Bruce and I had, what seemed at the time, the pleasure of visiting RWB Les in Backus Hospital in Norwich. He was very lucid and talked about when he would be going home. Bruce led the three of us in prayer that his recovery would be swift and his going home a reality. On the ride back to New Haven we spoke with Grand Master Joseph J. Porco, who informed us that the diagnosis for Les was dire and that the end could come soon. Indeed, Les was transferred to the Masonic Healthcare Center in Wallingford and passed away on July 22.

Several brothers and RWB Les' stepfather eulogized him at the memorial service. Something that Deputy Grand Master Edward Page said in his remarks about RWB Les really struck me. He said that, after each of his many visits to RWB Les he would pray that he recovered and would soon be going home. Right Worshipful Brother Edward then said "God answers all prayers. Unfortunately, sometimes that answer is 'No.'"

As Masons we listen to Ecclesiastes Chapter 12, Verse 5 in the Master Mason Degree lament that there is great sorrow "because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets...Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was; and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it." So, you see, RWB Edward's prayer was ultimately answered in the affirmative, for Right Worshipful Brother Les was, indeed, going home.



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

James Donald Adams
Moriah Lodge No.15

Ian Carr Lewis
Granite Lodge No.119

Charles F. Baldwin
Jerusalem Lodge No. 49

William O. Manwaring
Brainard Lodge No.102

John M. Baulski
Meridian Lodge No. 77

Salvatore Orlando
Washington Lodge No. 81

Robert William Harriman
Ansantawae Lodge No. 89

Marc A. Pennino
Ashlar Aspetuck Lodge No.142

Peter Nelsen Ingvertsen
Evening Star Lodge No.101

Kevin M. Sullivan
King Solomons Lodge No. 7

Stanley W. Jennings
St. Lukes Lodge No. 48

Harry R. Wilcoxson
America St. Johns Lodge No. 8

Anthony Francis Keegan
Wyllys St. Johns Lodge No. 4

Roger K. Wilson
Uriel Lodge No. 24

The Apartments on Masonic Avenue COMMUNITY and CONVENIENCE



Back when he was a District Deputy, RWB **Richard Bogart** used to give new Masons tours of Masonicare's Wallingford campus. Even after relocating to Florida, he followed with interest the growth of Masonicare, including the construction of the Apartments on Masonic Avenue, an independent living retirement community designed for active seniors aged 55 and up who want privacy, security, and easy access to the full Masonicare continuum of care.

Bro. Richard now enjoys all the above as a Masonicare resident, which he has been since returning to Connecticut in 2014. A studio in the Johnson Apartments suited his needs for a few years but, when he needed a little more space, he upgraded to a one-bedroom in the Wells Apartments.

All the Apartments on Masonic Avenue are adjacent to Masonicare Health Center, so residents like Bro. Richard can take advantage of quality healthcare and support services from Masonicare whenever needed, along with the Health Center's library, auditorium, convenience store, gift shop and other amenities.

"What I enjoy most about living here are the people," he said. "And that goes for my neighbors as well as all the employees. No matter what job a person has at Masonicare, they go out of their way to help you. I'm very happy here."

To request a tour or learn more about any of Masonicare's services, please call **1-800-982-3919**. And remember: **Masonicare's Concentric Circle Policy offers move-in specials for members of the Masonic Family!**

Bro. Richard recently received his 65-year pin, presented at Ashlar Village by RWB Richard Boardman and RWB Rinaldo Magliano



We are *your* Masonicare.

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

Masonicare 
An Ageless Commitment to Caring

From the Desk of Bro. Jon-Paul Venoit

President & CEO of Masonicare

The longevity of Masonicare employees really is something to behold. We attract great people and, very often, those people decide to put down roots with us that last decades.

Every November, we honor all the employees celebrating milestone anniversaries during that calendar year, starting with five years and up. This month, for the first time, we're going to hold a single Milestone Party for all the honorees at Ashlar Village. These include 78 employees with at least 10 years of service, 27 with 20 or more years, and one – a nurse at Masonicare Health Center named Carolyn – who has been with us for an incredible 40 years! I'm very happy that we can give back to our employees in a way that, quite honestly, we could not have done six or seven years ago when our long-term financial outlook was less optimistic.

Whether here for 40 years or 40 days, our employees are key to Masonicare's strategic plan and our ability to continue to adapt to the ever-changing healthcare landscape. One way that we're doing that is by responding to the rapidly growing demand for geriatric behavioral health beds. We're adding seven more beds to our Behavioral Health Hospital at Masonicare Health Center, bringing the total number to 50. We're also continuing to explore partnerships and/or leasing opportunities with larger health networks across the state, provide consulting services through our GenM affiliate, and keep an eye out for possible acquisitions.

This is the first year that we are facing a "triple-demic" of flu, COVID and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), all potentially circulating at the same time. The good news is that, per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), it's also the first fall/winter virus season in which vaccines will be available for all three of these viruses which are responsible for most hospitalizations. Our leadership team and clinical

experts will continue to meet to discuss the best strategies to protect our residents, patients, staff, and others.

I want to thank everyone who supported or participated in the Walk to End Alzheimer's, an event that raises awareness and funds to fight Alzheimer's disease. I was honored to again serve as Chair of the Greater New Haven Walk, where the Masonicare Memory Keepers more than doubled their fundraising goal and had the most walkers at the event with 104 (a record for us). Meanwhile, Masonicare at Mystic's team finished FIRST in dollars raised at the Eastern Connecticut Walk with \$11,360 (through Oct. 5).

And I was thrilled to learn that Masonicare was among this year's winners in the Record-Journal Readers' Choice Awards! We have won in three categories: Best In-Home Care, Best Independent Living Community (Ashlar Village) and Best Skilled Nursing (Masonicare Health Center). We were also named a finalist in the Best Assisted Living Community category. Thank you to all who voted for us!

In this season of gratitude, I want to thank you for your support of Masonicare and helping make it possible for us to enhance the quality of life of everyone we serve.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Jon-Paul Venoit



Semi-Annual
Communications
October 21, 2023





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 |
| • CT Freemasons Foundation General Endowment | for Children, Springfield |
| • 32nd Degree Children's Dyslexia Center of CT | |

The Connecticut Freemasons Foundation Inc.
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Paul L. Watson, Secretary/Treasurer, Uriel No. 24
Robert H. Everest, Valley No. 36
Les. B. King, Somerset St. James No. 34
Edward C. Page, Moriah No. 15
Joseph J. Porco, Hiram No. 18
Garret W. Post, Temple No. 16
O. James Purnell, Fayette No. 69
Marshall K. Robinson, King Hiram No. 12

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. _____

District 1

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



Temple Lodge No. 65 Raises Four

On Thursday, October 12, Temple Lodge No. 65, with the help of the Scottish Rite degree team, raised four of their long awaiting Fellowcrafts to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason.

Congratulations to Bros. Adam Greenberg, Kit Somal, Henry Hittle, and Nick Tarzia.



District 2

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



St. Luke's Lodge No. 48 at the 38th Annual CAMA Fall Festival

St. Luke's Lodge No. 48 were hard at work to raise money for charity, selling grinders and chili CT Antique Machine Association's 2023 Fall Festival, September 22-24, in Kent, CT.



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 Ladies at the Table

by David Cole

On Wednesday, September 20, Widow's Son Lodge No. 66 honored the women in their lives with a Ladies at the Table lodge. Twice each month the brothers go to lodge, meet, and enjoy fellowship. For those brothers with families, none of this would be possible without the support of their ladies. This, then, was a chance to give our thanks and let them know how important their support is.



Wooster Lodge No. 79 News

Closer To Free Ride

On September 9, Bros. Matt Erasmus, Dave Maliar, and Justin Quick rode 100, 100, and 65 miles respectively at this year's Closer to Free Ride to benefit Yale/Smilow Cancer Center. This was the second consecutive year the trio from Wooster Lodge rode, raising over \$6,000 for the charity.

All three brothers have taken to cycling as a part of self-improvement in health and fitness while hoping to encourage others to join in such positive lifestyle changes. In preparation for the ride each brother pedaled hundreds of miles over several months.



(l-r) JW Matt Erasmus,
Bro. Dave Maliar, and JD Justin Quick.

Riding under the checkered jerseys, each brother stood out from the crowd and enjoyed not only contributing to the worthy charity but gave all other cyclists and spectators the opportunity to witness the positives brought by brother Freemasons in the community. Inspired by family and friends affected by cancer, the brothers hope that their example can be copied and that more will take up the challenge and ride. Each mile and each dollar raised help fight the disease. Each mile bringing comradery and fun.

Perhaps those noticing the square and compass on their jerseys and thinking about joining in cycling, helping raise money, or being one... will ask one!

Entered Apprentice Degree

Wooster Lodge No. 79 recently initiated Brothers Christopher Bishop and Quinn Colon. The lodge is pleased to welcome them to the fraternity.



RWB Kostas Antonou, DD 4B; WB Chris Reilly, AGM 4B; EA Christopher Bishop;
WM Alex Trasacco; EA Quinn Colon; Secretary Jim Kottage;
JW Matt Erasmus; and SW Anthony Maisano.

Annawon Lodge No. 115 Raises Nine Master Masons

by Kyle Podpolucha

On Saturday, October 7, Annawon Lodge No. 115 raised nine brothers to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. Older Brothers mentioned that they could not recall a time when so many were raised at once. This shows that the Blue Wave is not only working but is in full effect. The degree was well attended by brothers of all ages and brought out some brothers who hadn't been able to attend lodge in quite some time. A brother even flew in from California to see his friend become a Master Mason.

Annawon Lodge is grateful to have been chosen for the first wave of the Blue Wave Initiative. All inquiries are being handled by WB Dennis Frosolone, SW Joey McVety and WB Kyle Podpolucha. A schedule has been set where any potential candidates are called whether the inquiry is sent during the day or at night. Although nine new brothers were raised, the inquiries continue to pour in.



The evening started early, as the day was long -- almost seven hours from start to finish. WM Chris Belous presided in the first half and sat as Senior Deacon in the second half. King Solomon was portrayed by WB Kyle Podpolucha. Brother Steven Hildrich continued the tradition of doing a longer version of the Craftsmen's section. The degree team was a collection of current officers, Past Masters and WBrother Colin Souney of Saint Albans Lodge No. 38 who portrayed the Sea Captain.

The newly raised Master Masons, Bros. Joshua Dwyer, Peter King, Richard Cordero, Christian Hellwig, Steven Shappy, Scott Shappey, Joseph Viola, Raymond Wrightington, and Johnathan Terebessy, were presented with Masonic Bibles by the President of the Fellowcraft Club Joseph McVety. The evening was well attended and enjoyed by all.

District 5

Lodges 14, 29, 33, 36, 101, 128, 140, 146, 148



Friendship Lodge No. 33 Creates Historical Timeline

by Michael Leser

Southington's Friendship Lodge No. 33 unveiled a new lodge historical timeline on the walls outside their lodge room during the town's recent Apple Harvest Festival.

Bro. Mike Leser and historian Bro. Ron Mattson curated a representation of artifacts covering the last 228 years, including a copy of the lodge's first meeting on December 15, 1795, along with memorabilia from the 100th and 200th anniversaries.





Columbia Lodge No. 25 Initiates Four Entered Apprentices by Arnie Grot

On September 20, Columbia Lodge No. 25 initiated three Entered Apprentices. Junior Warden Deepack Saluru presided in the East with the officers and brothers ably performing their roles. Bro. Saluru gave the Approach Lecture; RWB Earl Evans delivered the Coming to Light Lecture; Bro. Dave Lockard presented the Apron; RWB Jeff Flynn delivered the Penniless Lecture; WB Jack Ranney presented the Working Tools; Bro. Mike Lombardi and WB Don Wills gave the First Section Lecture; and WB Walter Grube delivered the Charge. The new brothers, Exequiel Rodriquez, Phillip Crump, and Jason Felber expressed their gratitude and from their remarks, they were greatly impressed.

On September 25, the brothers traveled en masse to Washington Lodge No. 70 with a candidate Brian Dikun as he was initiated by WM Bob Dodge. All were impressed by the excellent degree performance of the Washington Lodge brothers.



(l-r) RWB Tom Ducos DD 6B, Exequiel Rodriquez, Phillip Crump, Junior Warden Deepack Saluru, Jason Felber, and WM David LaFargue.



(9th from left) Bro. Brian Dikun

Washington Lodge No. 70 Holds EA Degree by Robert Dodge

Washington Lodge No. 70 in Windsor portrayed an Entered Apprentice Degree on Monday, September 25. Candidates John Plotica of Washington Lodge and Brian Dikun of Columbia Lodge No. 25 were initiated.

WB Robert Dodge presided in the East, the Apron was presented by Bro. Sam Caligiuri, the Working Tools explained by Bro. Patrick Chagnon, the Lecture was given by WB Jon White, and the Charge by Bro. Kenneth Roach III.

Visiting guests included RWB F. Matthew Heinrich, Grand Senior Deacon, and WM David LaFargue of Columbia Lodge. After initiating the brothers, WM Dodge and WM LaFargue explained the differences between the Ancient Ritual used by Washington Lodge and Connecticut Standard Ritual used at Columbia Lodge.

Awards Night at Washington Lodge No. 70

The officers and brothers of Washington Lodge No. 70 in Windsor held their annual Awards Night on Monday, October 9, featuring Masonic anniversaries, recognitions, and one very special award from the Grand Lodge.

WM Robert Dodge invited brothers and guests into the lodge room for this semi-public event and received dignitaries RWB Edward Page, Deputy Grand Master; RWB Rinaldo Magliano, Grand Senior Warden; RWB Shane Dufresne, Grand Junior Warden; RWB F. Matthew Heinrich, Grand Senior Deacon; RWB Gregory Stump, DD 6A; WB David Larsen, AGM 6A; WB Mark Fernandes, Associate Grand Almoner, MWB Clifford Stamm II; MWB Charles B. Fowler Jr.; MWB Simon LaPlace; MWB Theodore Nelson; MWB Melvin Johnson; and MWB William Bohman.



Pins for years of service were awarded to Bro. Paul “Ted” Kerrigan, 25 years; WB Wayne Rettburg, 35 years; WB Mark Fernandes, Bros. Darrell Wilcox, Barry Graugard, and William L. Miller II, 40 years; Bro. Robert Howe, 45 years; Bro. Frank Collins, 55 years; and Bro. Edward Kemp, 60 years.

The highlight of the evening was recognition of MWB Charles B. Fowler’s 65 years of Masonic service. WM Robert Dodge presented MWB Fowler with his pin and several of the dignitaries recognized his achievement.

RWB Edward Page presented MWB Fowler the Oliver Wolcott Award, given to Masons or non-Masons in recognition of outstanding service to the community that exemplifies the ancient Masonic teachings of concern for the well-being of mankind and a belief in the worldwide brotherhood of man.

Also representing the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of CT, RWB Page in his office as Right Eminent Grand Commander, spoke of MWB Fowler’s years of service in Commandery and of the 35-plus men for whom he signed as recommender.

Representing Connecticut DeMolay was RWB Brian E. Beals, Executive Officer and Active Member of the International Supreme Council. He spoke of MWB Fowler’s joining DeMolay in his youth and of his contributions through the years.

Illustrious Brother Walter Grube, Commander-in-Chief of Nathan Hale Consistory represented the Valley of Hartford Scottish Rite and spoke of MWB Fowler’s ascent through the Scottish Rite. That culminated in MWB Fowler being coronated an Honorary Member of the Supreme Council of Sovereign Grand Inspectors General, 33° Degree.

Finally, RWB Michael Seamon (Most Eminent Grand High Priest) and Bro. William L. Miller, II, representing the Royal Arch Masons of CT, took turns relating the highlights and adventures of MWB Fowler’s many years in the Royal Arch.

MWB Fowler addressed the crowd, expressing his deepest thanks and appreciation for the recognition. He explained that seeing everyone gathered for the event, the lifetime of friendships in the many fraternal organizations, and the feeling of the Masonic family that filled the room, these are the reasons he tells people to join the Masonic fraternity.

The evening was rounded out by WM Dodge presenting Craftsman of the Year to Bro. Sam Caligiuri and WB Kenneth Roach II presenting flowers to his wife Joanne Roach, for her help in the kitchen for the past two years, and to First Lady Stephanie Dodge for her tireless help in planning and decorating the special events held at Washington Lodge.

WM Dodge thanks everyone who helped put on Award Night, and to everyone who helped make it a memorable evening.



Wooster Lodge No. 10
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Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145 Initiates Three

by Joe Grieco

On Thursday, October 5, WM John DiCioccio, Jr. of Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145 and his degree team initiated three new brothers: Steve Silburn, Ismael Robles, and Luis Echevarria. The new brothers were congratulated by RWB F. Matthew Heinrich, Jr., Grand Senior Deacon.

*(l-r) RWB Matt Heinrich, Bro. Steve Silburn,
WM John DiCioccio, Jr.,
Bro. Ismael Robles, Bro. Luis Echevarria*



Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88 4H Camp Master Mason Degree by Pat Jones

On the weekend of September 15-17, Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88 held a Master Mason Degree at the 4H Camp in Marlborough. Brothers and their families were able to sleep overnight in the numerous cabins on the campground.

Friday night was only for the brothers, intended to provide some time for fun and relaxation. Brothers enjoyed a bonfire and refreshment.

On Saturday, a light breakfast preceded all the festivities, and there was a delicious lunch of ham, roast beef, salami, and cheese sandwiches at refreshment during the degree. That evening, brothers and their families enjoyed a pig roast with shrimp and scallops on Saturday night.

Brother Kirt Montstream was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. The first section lecture was presented by Bro. Mike McClellan and WB Hiram Morales of Unity Lodge No. 148. WB Morales also explained the working tools. RWB F. Matthew Heinrich delivered the charge. The tragedy was performed with assistance of brothers from Ionic Lodge No. 110, Unity Lodge No. 148, and Daytime Lodge No. 144.

Worshipful Master Brian Warren said, “It was refreshing, but not surprising, to see the brothers working so well together. It made one proud to be a Mason.”



Brothers Helping Brothers at Washington Lodge No. 70

by Robert Dodge

When one of their brothers was in distress, the brothers of Washington Lodge No. 70 came to his relief without hesitation. This year has been exceptionally rainy. On Friday September 29, during another substantial downpour, Secretary Ed Menard came home to over a foot of water in his basement and still rising.

Once the water was finally pumped out, the daunting task of cleanup seemed overwhelming to Ed and his wife Stephanie. Ed put out a call for assistance, and when the dumpster arrived, the brothers were and there ready to go to work, assisted by family and friends. After everything damaged had been removed from the basement, swept, and vacuumed. Once the dumpster was filled, the brothers sat down to relax.

During this time, reflecting on the day's work, it reminded me of one of the many reasons why I became a Mason 35 years ago. A distressed worthy brother needed help, and the brethren came to his relief. No questions asked, and nothing expected in return — just brothers helping brothers.



Bro. Paul Ladola Receives 60-Year Pin by Bruce Work

On October 10, Brother Paul Lodola received his 60-year pin at Composite Lodge No. 28 in Suffield. The pin was presented by WM Andrew C. Work.

The presentation was preceded by a dinner and attended by several Past Masters and brothers of the lodge.

Bro. Paul now resides in Florida but was in Connecticut making his annual pilgrimage to the north before the snow flies.



District 7

Lodges 2, 43, 51, 81, 95, 112, 119, 131, 151



Diversity in Education by Jeffrey A. Blayman

On the third Thursday, in September, after breaking bread at the Portland Ale house, the brothers of Warren Lodge No. 51 gathered at the lodge for inspiration and education. They were enlightened by the informative nature of Bro. Jamie Pearson, a member of Masonic Lodge of Research, who returned a second time to elucidate on two very different topics.

First, he offered a notable lecture on Freemason and explorer Hiram Bingham. He was a member of the Old Lodge in New Haven and after serving in the military pursued an advanced Ivy League education. His discovery of Machu Pichu high in the mountains of Peru grabbed the attention of the world and garnered much enthusiasm for archeology. It's even speculated that movie hero Indiana Jones was modeled after Hiram Bingham.

For his second lecture, Brother Pearson shifted gears from archaeological exploration to musical composition as he discussed the Funeral dirge and its many variations. Foremost, he focused on the work of Ignaz Joseph Pleyel and his hymn from the 4th Quartet, opus no. 7, which he published in 1791. His life and career took many turns from his time as the maître de Chapelle at the Strasbourg Cathedral, through the French Revolution, and then as the manufacturer of fine pianos.

The evening went by quickly as brothers lost track of time engrossed in the storied lives of these two men and their relationship to Masonry. Warren Lodge once again thanks Bro. Jamie Pearson for his time and efforts to bring this education to the brethren.

If you would like to join us for dinner and education at Warren Lodge No. 51 in Portland on any 3rd Thursday, reach out to WM Jeff at (860) 334-5277.



Warren Lodge No. 51 Awards and Ladies Appreciation Night by Jeffrey A. Blayman

In September, Warren Lodge No. 51 held their Ladies Appreciation and Awards night at Campagnas Restaurant in Portland, enjoying an evening of celebration and good food.

Additional ambience was provided by RWB Robert Krawic, who filled the air with soft jazz and melodic standards on his guitar. He received an award of appreciation from the lodge for all the time he dedicates playing his guitar at degrees and functions.

WM Jeffrey Blayman then presented awards for years of membership, including our 89-year-old Bro. Wayne Duff who received his 30-year pin to a stirring round of applause.

WB Daniel Alexander of Anchor Lodge No. 112 was awarded a commemorative trowel for his support and dedication to a multitude of Warren Lodge events. As he was unable to attend, RWB Ron Magliano, a member of Anchor Lodge, accepted on his behalf.

A meritorious award was given to RWB James H Landry for his years of service to the fraternity. He served as Worshipful Master on three occasions, as District Deputy for Masonic District 7A, has maintained the grounds at the lodge for as long as anyone can remember, supported the annual Kenny Fletcher memorial car show, single handedly placed flags at the cemetery on Memorial Day, and much more.

The last award for the evening was Mason of the Year, awarded to Brian A. Anzelotti. Since affiliating with the lodge, he has given more energy and time to the success of the lodge than anyone could hope for. When brothers were in distress he came to their aid, when brothers were sick and needed help, he was the first to bring care packages and to check in on them. And even when the automatic stair-chair stopped working he borrowed a key to the lodge and fixed it the next morning all without being asked of which were done without ever being asked to do so.

Last but not least, the lodge thanked all the ladies who support the brethren by giving the love and support the brothers need to make a difference for the lodge, the community, and the fraternity.





The Memorial Service for RWB Les B. King

by Jeffrey A. Blayman

Like many days related to loss and sadness, the rain fell bringing with it the tears from heaven for the dearly departed. Brothers from throughout the state and beyond gathered to pay their respects to friend and brother, Les B. King.

The religious service was opened by MWB Rev. Bruce R. Bellmore, who offered thoughtful words of reflection for the assembled brothers, family, and friends. The Masonic memorial service was led by WB Frank Saviano of Somerset-St James Lodge No. 34, after which scriptures and words of remembrance were offered up by RWB Richard Allen, Bro. Christian Tynan, and Les's stepfather, while the craft listened intently to each heartfelt word. As brothers bowed their heads, a prayer of thanksgiving was offered followed by the Lord's Prayer.



After the benediction brothers were encouraged to stay and share memories with each other of this great man and all the acts of kindness he bestowed upon those around him. The afternoon was a shining example of a life well lived. Rest in Peace Brother Les.



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Semi-Annual
Communications
October 21, 2023





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MYSTERY SCHOOL

by John A. Amarilios, membership@lafayetteconsistory.com

The Valley of Bridgeport has been feverishly busy this fall with degree work and Family Life activities. The month of November will prove to be no different.

Degree work will include a live presentation of the 19th Degree followed by a video rendition of the 26th Degree on Monday, November 27 at 7:30 p.m. New candidates can avail themselves of a viewing of the 4th Degree prior to the beginning of the live degree.

On December 4, the Valley will present the ultimate degree of the Rite, the 32nd Degree, live at 7:30 p.m. Due to the high interest in that degree there are three seatings for dinner at 5 p.m., 5:45 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Reservations are required. Please call the office at (203) 375-0064 at least three days in advance so as to avoid disappointment.

The Family life events coming up include participation and race management of the annual Turkey Day 5K Trot on the early morning of November 23, from 6:30-10 a.m. The Valley will take a bus trip to Waterbury for The Nutcracker, with dinner, on December 3, and of course the annual holiday party will be in Branford on December 15. For details and reservations, please call the office as early as possible to avoid disappointment.



The Rite has always been known as the college of Freemasonry. The 29 degrees it offers further illustrate and expand on the basic Masonic principles that are given to us in the three Blue Lodge degrees. Some have gone on to explain that the entire institution of Freemasonry, if properly construed and correctly practiced, is akin to a modern-day mystery school.

This is news to many brothers who tend to view it as a jovial men's fraternity (which indeed it is), however underpinning it is some very serious work for those who desire to avail themselves of this opportunity. While the Rite of Perfection is so called, one might have to willfully further dip deeper into the main topic: attaining perfection.

Just as physical exercise is needed for the development of physical muscle, so is the development of the moral nature accomplished through the ever-present temptations that we are all confronted with on a daily basis. We know that our egos given free reign will exercise the choice that it most desires in whichever direction it might choose. Our ego learns from the mistakes that we make as well as from the right actions we do. We ever so slowly learn that if we conduct ourselves with right action, we tend to obtain better results, avoiding the pain and loss that unthinking desire driven acts yield us.

The Great Light illustrates this principle with the myth of Job who is subjected to temptations, loss, and disappointments. In our western civilization there is a wide body of musical work that transmits the

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Mon., Nov. 27, 7:30 p.m.
19th Degree (Live) and 26th Degree (Video)

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

For more information, contact the Valley near you or email Membership@LafayetteConsistory.com.

lessons of the seeker who seeks to empower his soul. The lessons are not only imbedded in the parables of the Great Light, but also in the great works of opera. Brothers Mozart and Goethe were actively involved in developing vehicles for this transmittal of guidance to seekers hoping to attain soul consciousness. Of course, everyone knows of the Masonic opera, The Magic Flute. However further instruction can be found in the operas Faust, Parsifal, The Ring of the Niebelung, Tannhauser and Lohengrin.

For those of you who are further interested in these topics, I suggest you might want to catch a copy of the Lafayette Consistory News starting with the January 2024 issue. We will be starting a quarterly examination of these operas and will be peeling back the lessons and mysteries contained therein. We will also be continuing on with our serial exposition on Masonic Alchemy. If you are a full or affiliate member of the Valley of Bridgeport, you will be getting these expositions when they are transmitted to our members. If you are not a member, you may want to consider joining the Valley of Bridgeport as it will open the door to further Light in Masonry, as well as a myriad of social events open to the membership, as well as the 29 Degrees of the Rite.

FIAT LUX!

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



Sphinx & Pyramid Shrines

by Eric Pogg



Fall is usually busy in the Masonic world, especially in the Shrine world. Pyramid and Sphinx have finished the parade season in various towns and cities across the state, ending with the Columbus Day parade in Bridgeport. Pyramid Pipes and Drums, the Pyramid Motor Patrol and the Sphinx Motor Patrol joined together for the last parade of the year. Shriners enjoyed a backyard picnic at Past Potentate Raymond Colette's house after the parade. The motorized units have until St. Patrick's Day to get the vehicles up and running in good condition for New Haven, Hartford, and Mystic.

Pyramid has been busy with a comedy night. Brother and Noble Randy Riggle from Syria Shriners in Pittsburg delighted the crowd with hours of comedy. The Divan visited Mecca Shriners in New York City for the Potentates Ball and official visitation. Mecca Shrine was the first Shrine Temple. The Pyramid Shriners Golf Tournament, rained out in September, was held on October 23.

America St. John's Lodge No. 8 contributed proceeds from their car show at Short Beach in Stratford. Thank you for continued support to the Shrine.

The Pyramid Shriners Fall Ceremonial will be held on November 4. Pyramid Shriners have been growing for a number of years.

Other visitations since the last article have been to Rhode Island Shriners in Cranston for the first full Ceremonial weekend for Rhode Island in many years. A joint Pilgrimage to Bektash Shriners in Concord, Anna Shriners in Bangor, Maine and Kora Shriners in Lewiston, Maine was held at the Poland Springs Resort in Poland, Maine. The last visitation will be at Crescent Shriners in Westampton Township, New Jersey in mid-November. Sphinx and Pyramid Shriners have visited collectively around 20 different Shrine jurisdictions over the past year and have enjoyed overwhelming hospitality.

On November 18, Sphinx will have the Chief Rabban's Afternoon at the VFW in New Britain. A casino fun filled day where Chief Rabban, Nick DiRenzo will unveil his plans for 2024. The 2024 Imperial Session will be held in Reno, Nevada so the casino theme may be prevalent during his year. After the Chief Rabban's afternoon, the Sphinx Shrine Motor Patrol will have its Italian Feast. It's an all-you-can-eat event that includes chicken parmesan, baked ziti mozzarella, and more. For ticket information go to the Sphinx Shrine Facebook page or website.

Remembrance Sunday will be held on Sunday, November 12 at the Scottish Rite, Valley of Hartford in Newington as we remember all that have been visited by the Black Camel and served both Masonry and the Shrine during their many years of service.

December starts off with full weekends for Sphinx. The Potentate Homecoming and Ceremonial will be held on Saturday, December 2 at Composite Lodge No. 28, 150 Bridge Street, Suffield. A fun filled

day with three meals, full Ceremonial, axe throwing, cornhole, pool, darts, camels' milk, fezzing ceremony and most importantly a visitation to Shriners Children's New England in Springfield, Massachusetts. Candidates and Nobles can register by contacting the Shrine office. New members can register membership online for either Sphinx or Pyramid at www.BeAShrinerNow.com.

The Kids Christmas Party will be held at Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88 in South Windsor on December 9. Santa will have a full bag of presents for the kids so don't miss out. The following day, December 10, the Sphinx Holiday Party will be held at the East Street Eatery in Wolcott starting at 1 p.m. The Annual Basket Raffle will be had at this event. Registration for these events can be made by contacting the Sphinx Shrine office.

The Pyramid Shrine web site has gone through some upgrades and updates. Go to PyramidShriners.com for information on units, clubs, events, contacts and much more. Using both the Pyramid and Sphinx web sites and Facebook pages you can keep up to date on many fun filled events during the course of the year. You can also sign up for email notifications by clicking the box on the Sphinx Shriners web page.

We as Shriners have fun so that we may help children. As the number of Shrine Temples increase across the world so does the outreach to the children that we serve. We are no longer 22 hospitals in North America, we are Shriners that support one hundred locations across the world and ever expanding. More children in more locations regardless of the ability to pay. The smile on a child's face is what we do as Masons and Shriners every day. I can say that I am "Proud to be a Shriner."





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Dual Membership Has Many Advantages

by **Russell L. Scull**

It's great to be a part of this incredible fraternity.

Having a dual membership has many advantages. For example, we are able to read both jurisdictions' newspapers or magazines, and, when available, to participate in the nonresident's jurisdiction Zoom meetings. Masons today face many challenges, and we need to observe how these challenges are met in our home jurisdiction and when possible, our mother jurisdiction.

Today's Masonic newspaper or magazine needs to reflect the entire Craft, from the local lodges and districts to the activities of all the Grand Officers. Master Masons also need to be aware of continuing opportunities that are available to them including York Rite, Scottish Rite, and the many other appendant bodies. There is so much to offer that we must realize that if we don't share what we know that knowledge will be lost.

I challenge every Mason that reads this article to write a paragraph about their lodge, district, or appendant body and submit it to this publication. You will be surprised to read all the amazing activities that we are doing.



Semi-Annual Communications October 21, 2023



Shriners March in Columbus Day Parade

by Donald M. Casey, Jr.

Nobles from Pyramid and Sphinx Temples marched in the 115th Annual Columbus Day Parade in Bridgeport. Nobles from the Motor Patrol, Legion of Honor, Pipes and Drums and Clown Units marched. Shriners were able to share their mission of providing assistance to needy children receiving excellent medical care at Shriner's Hospital.



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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.

Grand Lodge Of Connecticut, A.F. & A.M. Sign in Member Registration App

Membership Registration

Lodge Number

Member ID - Exclude Leading Zeros -

Last Name - Case Sensitive -

Check Membership Status

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

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- **PRIORITY ADMISSION / ACCESS** to Masonicare following the “Concentric Circle” guidelines for Connecticut Freemasons, relatives, and appendant bodies
- **REDUCED PRICING** on applications for our residential communities
- **FREE HEARING SCREENINGS** in the Masonicare Hearing Center
- **FREE BALANCE ASSESSMENTS** in the Masonicare Health Center Outpatient Rehabilitation Department
- **WAIVED ADVANCE PAYMENTS** on Masonicare at Home (in-home, non-medical homemaker-companion services)



[Masonicare.org](https://www.masonicare.org)



Masonicare Community Services **800.982.3919**

22 Masonic Avenue . Wallingford, CT 06492

Semi-Annual Communications October 21, 2023



O.E.S. Comes “Home” to Masonicare Health Center

by Adam Raider

The Grand Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star of Connecticut has come “home” to Masonicare Health Center. Over the summer, O.E.S. officers and Masonicare officials signed a lease to relocate the Grand Chapter’s offices into a renovated space on the third floor between the Wooster and Sturges buildings.

When the former Masonic Home and Orphanage opened in Wallingford on August 5, 1895, it featured furnishings donated by the members of various Eastern Star chapters from across the state. A few years later, Eastern Star also paid for the installation of electric lights throughout the entire Home!

Pictured at the ceremonial lease signing are (standing, from left): Gary Gonzalez, Masonicare’s Corporate Special Projects Supervisor, Ed Dooling, Masonicare’s Chief of Healthcare Services, Courtney O’Sullivan, Long-Term Care Administrator at Masonicare Health Center, Rev. and Brother Carl Anderson, Right Worshipful Grand Almoner and Vice President for Fraternal Relations at Masonicare, Wayne S. Rettburg, Worthy Grand Patron, Caroline V. Maselli, Worthy Grand Matron, Lynn S. Wakefield, Grand Secretary. Seated: WB Jon-Paul Venoit, President



and CEO of Masonicare, and William L. Greene, PGP, President, O.E.S. Board of Directors.

“Given the long, storied history that Eastern Star. has with Masonicare,” Bro. Greene said, “it’s fitting that our offices should be located on the Wallingford campus. We’re grateful to everyone at Masonicare who helped make this move possible and created this fantastic space for us.”

Walking for Children With Dyslexia

by Donald M. Casey, Jr.

Scottish Rite Masons held their annual Dyslexia Awareness Walk and Fundraiser in the Town Plot section of Waterbury on October 1.



This annual walk is to bring awareness to dyslexia so families who have children who struggle to read and write can apply to the Children’s

Dyslexia Centers of Connecticut. If accepted, they receive one-on-one professional tutoring at no cost. These centers provide the highest quality multi-sensory reading and written language tutorial services for children with dyslexia through a network of nationally recognized centers of excellence.

The main Dyslexia Center is in Waterbury with satellite centers in Bridgeport and Farmington. For questions/concerns or to make a charitable donation, contact the main Dyslexia Center in Waterbury at (203) 465-0830.



Masonic Medical Research Institute: Unlocking the Possibilities

by Jamie Pearson

The Masonic Medical Research Institute is an internationally recognized biomedical research institute founded by the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons in the State of New York in 1958. It is dedicated to improving the health and quality of life for all humankind. Their primary mission is conducting high quality biomedical and clinical research aimed at generating knowledge and information necessary for understanding molecular mechanisms of disease and development of medical cures and treatments of tomorrow. The Institute is also committed to providing education and training to basic scientists, clinical researchers and students who will perpetuate and extend the fight against disease worldwide.

The Institute's vision is to build scientific teams that can better understand diseases and cure them, sharing their data and research, collaborating, and doing whatever it takes to combat disease. This is like Jonas Salk, the inventor of Polio vaccine, donating his discovery to the world.

The hard work of the scientists and staff at MMRI has not gone unnoticed, In January 2022, New York Governor Kathy Hochul mentioned MMRI in her State of the State book, citing MMRI as a key example of the benefits of investing in "health and clean tech research infrastructure." Additionally, their scientists published 25 top-tier, peer-reviewed articles for scientific journals, increasing their overall nationwide footprint for research excellence.

In June, the American Heart Association awarded MMRI a Diversity Grant Supplement to promote diversity in science, and the institute reintroduced the Summer Fellowship program for the first time since

2019. And through iPS cell research they have been able to link autism with certain defects of the heart that could be potentially curable.

The Institute's faculty, postdoctoral fellows, technicians, students and visiting scholars are all part of a world-class team of scientists working together to improve the quality of life for all. Students are generally local to NY and NJ, postdoctoral fellows come from all over the world, currently they have postdoctoral researchers from Scotland, Brazil, and Australia.

The Masonic Medical Research Institute (MMRI) is administered by a Board of Directors, consisting of 15 distinguished Freemasons elected to three-year terms by the Grand Lodge of the State of New York, F &AM. Their selection is based upon their outstanding business and professional experience, and they all serve the Institute without compensation.

There are several ways to support the MMRI:

- One-time gift, recurring gifts, memorial gift, planned giving, Cornerstone Society, and Annuity/ Income.
- 1958 Club: \$19.58 monthly, lapel pin gift, annual gifts, member invitations. Visit www.mmri.edu/donate-now
- CT Freemasons Foundation for the last 8 years has budgeted around \$12- 15k per year.

MMRI measures their success by the number of grants applied for compared to received, as well as patents, and published peer reviewed articles and their relevance.



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Or, scan the QR Code on the right with your smartphone to go directly to the Connecticut Freemasons page on the website. Scroll down and follow the instructions indicated ** above. The funds are used to help cover the printing and mailing expenses of the paper.



Health & Senior Care Decisions Are Not Easy. But You Don't Have To Go It Alone.

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.*

