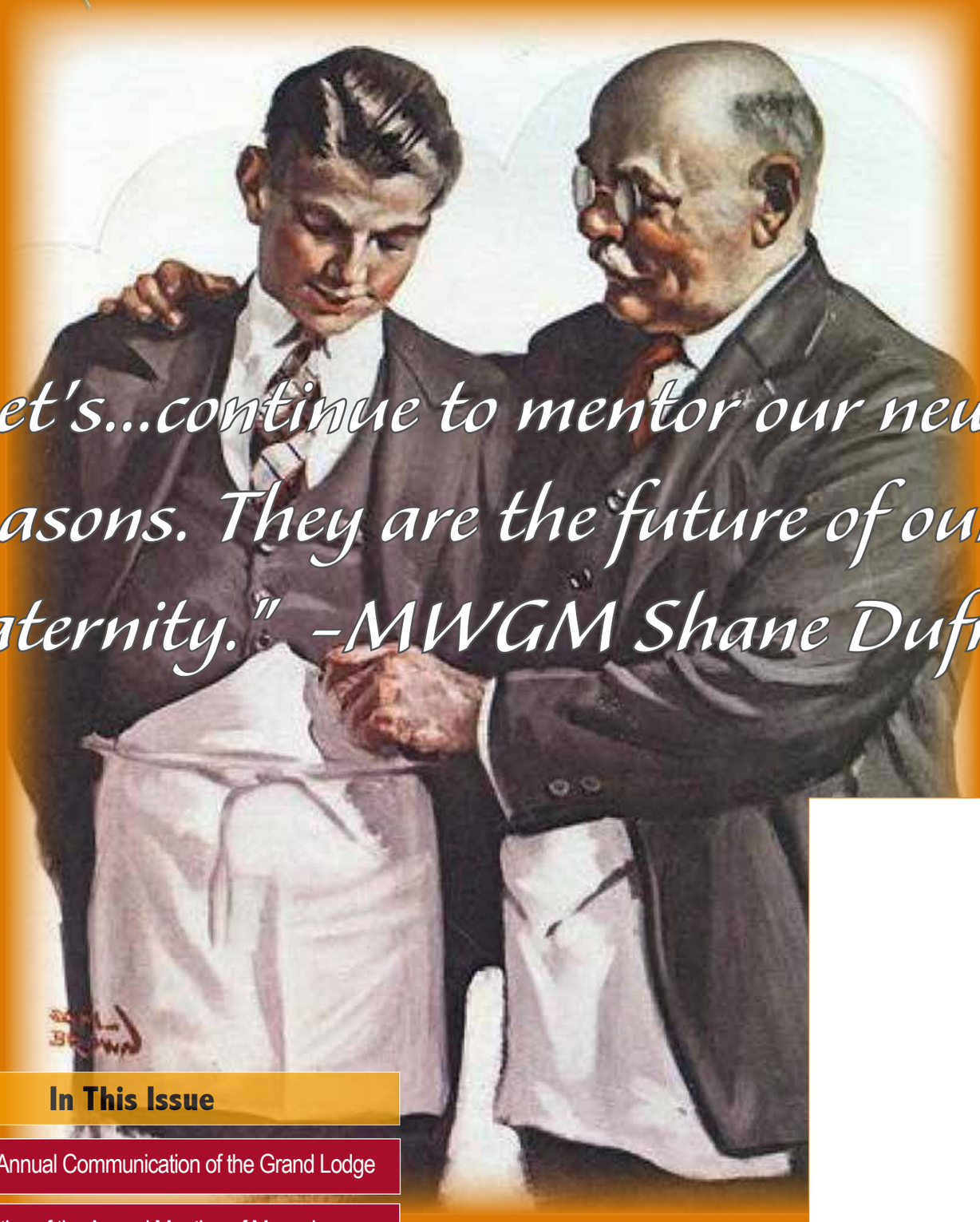
September 2026

Connecticut FREEMASONS



"Let's...continue to mentor our newest Masons. They are the future of our fraternity." -MWGM Shane Dufresne

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Call to Semi-Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge

Official Notice of the Annual Meeting of Masonicare

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

2026- 2027 Officers of the Grand Lodge AF & AM of Connecticut

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Deputy Grand Secretary

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Assistant to the Grand Master

Not just a man. A Mason.

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Letters, articles, and advertisements may be sent to the Editor Frank Way at **submissions@ctfreemasons.net** and are due on the10th of the month prior to the next issue.

Connecticut FREEMASONS

Volume 22 Number 1
THE GRAND LODGE OF CONNECTICUT AF & AM

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"Do You Remember the Twenty-First Night of September?" by Francis G. Way

"Our hearts were ringing, in the key that our souls were singing…" — Earth, Wind & Fire

September has always been a bit special. My birthday is in September, late in the month, so as a kid I'd have the whole month to look forward to that day. And all my life I have felt it was also the start of the best run of days and events of every year – my birthday, then Halloween, then Thanksgiving, then Christmas. When I was a kid, that ride would take forever. Now it seems to almost breeze by.

Later, when I was in college at Central, someone was always playing Earth, Wind & Fire's "September" in the student center where I'd hang in the afternoons between classes -- "Ba-dee-ya, say do you remember?" is woven into the aural tapestry of those times for me, going on 50 years later…

For the last 30 years, September has been no less special for Masonic reasons. Progressing through the chairs, September was always a milepost – a reminder that I needed to evaluate how well I'd been preparing for the next year. Did I know the responsibilities of the next chair? Did I have the opening, closing, and degree ritual memorized? Would the Middle Chamber lecture be ready for a possible Fellowcraft Degree the following February? If the answers to any of those questions were no, at least I had a little time to catch up.

Most lodges elect not to meet in July or August, so there is also something quite special about returning to labor together in September – very much like a family get-together. I looked forward to it as an officer. I also looked forward to it when I was Master – I was ready for the warmth of fellowship and labor, and quite aware that my year would be over very soon. I didn't have to worry about next year's ritual, but I did need to take stock of any programs that might be lagging. The September stated communication in my first term as Master was made unforgettable for another reason – it was on September 10, 2001. I have never forgotten how innocent, unassuming, and almost inconsequential that evening was compared to the next day and then the weeks that followed.

And so, for all the brethren who haven't enjoyed a stated communication since June, welcome back. While the summer probably included some great lodge and Masonic "at refreshment" events, that first night back at labor is something to look forward to. Enjoy the fellowship and enjoy the labor. And don't blink, because this lodge year will be wrapping up before you know it!

This September 2026 issue of the *Connecticut Freemasons* is a hard-copy, U.S. Mail edition. It follows our first digital-only issue (July 2026). I did not field any inquiries about "Hey, where's my paper?" (at least to the point of this writing), so either everyone got the message, or no one cared. I'll assume the former.

As a gentle reminder, October will be digital, November will be hard-copy, and December will be digital.

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

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CALL TO THE REGULAR SEMI-ANNUAL COMMUNICATION OF THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE A.F. & A.M. of CONNECTICUT
October 17, 2026

The 2026 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 17, 2026.** You will need to follow the instructions of the Security Staff for parking. You may enter from either Cheshire Road or from Masonic Avenue. Bus transportation will be provided as necessary. **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 run 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 2027. In addition, we will receive certain committee reports, act on any legislative changes that may be for consideration, and other issues, time permitting, as directed by the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Brother Shane Dufresne. Section 8203 of our Masonic Law does permit action on changes to the Rules and Regulations which are raised from the floor or motions presented in Committee Reports at the meeting without prior notice to the craft.

The Pending legislation items may be published in the September 2026 issue of CT Freemasons. Please bring the appropriate reference material with you to the meeting. Limited copies will be available. The current committee reports (October 2026) 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 2026 paper or virtual 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,

James M Anderson

Wallingford, Connecticut

James M. Anderson
Right Worshipful Grand Secretary

TO BE READ AT THE NEXT STATED COMMUNICATION UPON RECEIPT

Directions to Ashlar Village on Page 12

Grand Master's Message

by MWB Shane Dufresne

This year's Grand Masters Day was an absolutely spectacular day. To start, the weather was flawless. The sun shone brightly, the temperature hovered around 80° with no humidity, and there was just a light breeze. The parade was kick-started by a cannon blast from the members of the Litchfield Artillery Company. From there, we stepped off on the 0.1-mile parade route to the top of the hill. Along the way, we were greeted by a large crowd of Masonicare residents, family members of those marching, and many smiling children. It was heartwarming and amazing to see everyone's smiles and waves. To reiterate a comment I made from that day: the day is called Grand Masters Day, but for me, it's a celebration of the residents and the amazing work by the employees of Masonicare.

I was informed that the number of marchers, units, and bands was an all-time high. It was incredible and patriotic to see the Revolutionary War units, participants from all of the appendant and concordant bodies, the seven bands, and the numerous amounts of brothers and lodges that participated.

For the first time, there was also a car show. All the cars were beautiful, and picking the winners proved tough. But taking home trophies for 1st place was a 1934 Ford, owned by Mike Scheidel; 2nd place, a 1957 Pontiac Safari, owned by Noel and Starr Evans; and 3rd place, a 1967 Pontiac 2+2, owned by Jack White.

I was happy to march with and share the stage with MWGM Daniel L. Blackmon from the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Connecticut Free and Accepted Masons. We watched as several people received awards and recognition for their exemplary work within the fraternity and the community. Doug Barry III received his Perfect Ashlar Award. WB Ken Roach II and MWPGM Mel Johnson were recognized for their service to the country in the military. WB John Deer was given the Hometown Hero Award for his service to the towns of Naugatuck and Oxford as a Fire Police Officer and his work in the EMS field. Cindy Sorrentino, Worshipful Brothers Al Johnson and Jerry Nero received a Grand Master certificate of appreciation for meritorious service for the countless meals they have cooked at dozens of Masonic-related events over the years. Brother David Gessert was presented with the Luke Lockwood Award by the Board of Trustees of Masonicare.

For me. There was no rest over the summer. My first wingman, Michelle, and I traveled to Tampa Bay for the Shriner's Imperial Session. A couple of weeks later, we went to Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. to participate in those Grand Jurisdictions' events that celebrated the country's 250th anniversary. We had an incredible time, and at all of these events we were in the company of dignitaries not only from this country but from around the world. It was also a chance to talk to other Grand Masters and Grand Lodge Officers about some of the obstacles and challenges we all are facing. Although daunting and challenging, we all feel optimistic about the future of Freemasonry, provided that we can adapt to the changing times. We also attended some lodge events scattered throughout the state.

On August 9th, I, several Grand Lodge officers, Sir Knights of the Commandery, and numerous other Masons marched in the 65th Annual VJ Day Parade in Moosup. I was thrilled at the response the fraternity received. As we passed by groups of people, I observed that the other groups and organizations in front of us did not receive a shout-out or claps of appreciation. But as we passed by, I heard several times, "thank you" or "thank you, Masons." To me, it is clear that brothers in the area work hard in their community, and the community appreciates and recognizes their efforts. Well done, brothers!!

As we head back to labor, I respectfully remind everyone of our goal this year: back to the grassroots of who we are. Please consider doing a ladies program, a once-or-twice "call 'em all" to the brothers that we don't see at lodge, and working on our ritual. Let's also continue to mentor our newest Masons. They are the future of our fraternity.

Please join us on August 29 at Fort Nathan Hale in New Haven, where a Colonial Degree team will present an Entered Apprentice degree on five candidates or less. Several notices have been sent out, and there is an advertisement in the paper on how to purchase a ticket. Included in the cost is a meal and a challenge coin.

In the near future, all Master Masons will receive an email from the Grand Lodge Office containing a video presentation from me, RWB Tom Gondek, Grand Treasurer, and RWB Bob Polito, Grand Trustee. This will be the same presentation that we have done in person at seven of the nine Blue Lodge Councils since April. The remaining two will be done in September. In it, we talk about the upcoming budget, Grand Lodge finances, and legislation that will need to be voted on by voting members at the Semi-Annual Communication. We welcome feedback and questions.

Finally, I want to recognize all of the Grand Lodge Officers. They work tirelessly to improve our operations. We are constantly seeking better ways to serve the craft, and I could not be prouder to work alongside these dedicated and hard-working brothers.

Masonicare
An Ageless Commitment to Caring

OFFICIAL NOTICE

ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-SEVENTH
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
MASONICARE CORPORATION

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2026
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 for all Voting Members of Masonicare. Please make every effort to attend.

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

- Approval of the 136th Annual Membership Meeting Minutes
- Election of Trustees
  1. Bro. Bruce R. Bellmore - Hiram Lodge No. 1
  2. Bro. Kerry Brown – Madison Lodge No. 97
  3. Sister Bonnie S. McWain - Frederica Chapter No. 110

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Christopher J. Earle
Chairman, Masonicare Corporation Board of Trustees

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

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**

Shane Dufresne
Grand Master 2026

PO Box 69
Wallingford, CT 06492

My Brothers, Family, and Friends,

June 1, 2026

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 the 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 that 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,

Shane Dufresne
M.W. Grand Master 2026

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 2025 included donations to:

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

The Connecticut Freemasons Foundation Inc. Board of Directors:

Christopher J. Earle, Chairman, Trumbull No. 22
Paul L. Watson, Secretary/Treasurer, Uriel No. 24
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Shane Dufresne, Harmony No. 42
Dee A. C. Smith, Fayette No. 69
Marshall K. Robinson, King Hiram No. 12
F. Matthew Heinrich, Jr., Hartford Evergreen No. 88

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

GRAND LODGE OF CONNECTICUT
Ancient Free and Accepted Masons

PROPOSED LEGISLATION — REDLINE

Section 7013 — Participation in Public Events

Adding a Dispensation-Free Exception for a Small Lodge Contingent in a Parade

• Purpose

This amendment would permit a Lodge to place a small contingent — not less than seven members — in a parade in Masonic clothing without first obtaining a dispensation from the Grand Master, provided the participating members are clothed consistently as the Worshipful Master directs.

The general rule is unchanged: a dispensation remains required for a Lodge appearing or participating in public in aprons and jewels. The amendment adds a fourth item to the existing list of exceptions.

Each year the Grand Master puts forth a dispensation to allow Lodges to march in parades wearing their jewels and aprons. As this is now standard practice, this will allow that a regular dispensation to be codified in the Grand Lodge Rules and Regulations, ensuring that this will be a permanent change to encourage the visibility of the lodge in the community following dignified guidelines.

• Scope of the Amendment

Three changes are made:

1. A fourth exception is added for parade participation by seven or more members.

2. The inline enumeration "1) 2) 3)" is converted to lettered subsections a. through d., conforming Section 7013 to the house style used throughout the Rules and Regulations. Section 7013 is presently the only Section in the volume using inline parenthesis-numbered items.

3. A stray closing parenthesis in the final cross-reference is corrected.

No other Section requires a conforming amendment. Section 3800 (Dispensation Defined) already contemplates dispensations authorizing Masons to "participate in public events outside the lodge room," and is unaffected. See, however, the note on Nickerson's Digest Decision 207 at the end of this document.

****

• Redlined Text of Section 7013

Section 7013. Participation in Public Events. Masons may appear or participate in public events, wearing aprons and jewels or only an apron, provided the brother(s) or lodge receives a dispensation from the Grand Master. Dispensation is not required for ~~1) installation of officers; 2) a Masonic Service for a departed brother; or 3) by vote of the lodge, to attend divine worship.~~:

a. Installation of officers;

b. A Masonic Service for a departed brother;

c. By vote of the lodge, to attend divine worship; or

d. Participation of not less than seven (7) members of a Lodge in a parade, provided that all participating members are clothed consistently, as determined by the Worshipful Master.

(See Section 3800) concerning dispensations)(See Section 3800 concerning dispensations.)

[End of Section 7013.]

• Clean Text as Amended

For the convenience of the Committee, the Section as it would read upon adoption:

Section 7013. Participation in Public Events. Masons may appear or participate in public events, wearing aprons and jewels or only an apron, provided the brother(s) or lodge receives a dispensation from the Grand Master. Dispensation is not required for:

a. Installation of officers

b. A Masonic Service for a departed brother

c. By vote of the lodge, to attend divine worship

d. Participation of not less than seven (7) members of a Lodge in a parade, that all participating members shall appear in a suitably dignified manner, shall be clothed consistently, and participation shall be conducted in a manner to reflect credit upon the fraternity as determined by the Worshipful Master.

(See Section 3800 concerning dispensations.)

• Note on the Effect on Nickerson's Digest Decision 207

Decision 207 (Barlow, G.M. 1880, 20) holds that a Lodge which turned out and marched in procession in Masonic clothing, officers wearing jewels, violated the rule forbidding a Lodge to appear in public except under dispensation or to attend funerals. The Digest annotates it to the present Section 7013.

Upon adoption, that Decision would be partly superseded as to a contingent of seven or more. Recommend the annotation be amended to read: "For present regulation see GLR&R, Sections 3912, 7013; see also Section 7013(d) as to parade participation by not fewer than seven members."

Decision 239 (G.L. Smith, G.M. 1969, 33), granting two Lodges approval to participate in a town Bicentennial parade in regalia, remains illustrative and requires no change — it concerned Lodges participating as such, which continues to require a dispensation. Decision 404 (Lockwood, G.M. 1873, 243) is already marked obsolete and needs no attention.

• Committee Action

Prepared by the Committee on Legal Matters pursuant to Section 2208.

PROPOSED LEGISLATION — REDLINE

Section 3515 — Grand Lodge Lifetime Membership Plan

Closing the Plan to New Applicants While Preserving Existing Participants

• Purpose

This proposed change to Section 3513 of the Grand Lodge Rules and Regulations would close the Grand Lodge Lifetime Membership Plan to new applicants while preserving, in full, the rights of every Master Mason whose application was approved before the effective date

Section 3513 is NOT repealed. A repeal would leave existing Lifetime Members without any textual basis for the dues and Per Capita exemption they have already paid for, and would strand the remittance obligations in Subsection m., which continue for ten calendar years following a Lifetime Member's death. The Section must therefore survive until no Lifetime Membership remains outstanding.

Life memberships cannot scale equivalent to the needs of the budget changes required for proper balanced budgets presented by the Grand Lodge. All brothers who already participate in the program would not be affected, but no new applications will be accepted after January 1, 2027.

• Scope of the Amendment

The amendment touches the Section heading and the introductory paragraph only. Subsections a. through m. and the provisions governing Management of the Funds are unchanged and continue to govern grandfathered participants.

Section 3513 has no textual cross-references elsewhere in the Rules and Regulations. The index entries at DUES, PLURAL MEMBERSHIP, PRIMARY LODGE, LODGE DUES and TRUSTEES cite the Section by number only and resolve correctly without amendment. No conforming changes to other Sections are required.

****

• Redlined Text of Section 3513

Section 3513 Grand Lodge Lifetime Membership Plan

Closed to New Applicants.

~~Grand Lodge may establish a Lifetime Membership plan to allow Master Masons to pay in advance their Primary Lodge dues and Grand Lodge per capita tax based on criteria established by the Budget and Finance Committee and approved by Grand Lodge~~.

The Grand Lodge Lifetime Membership Plan, established to allow Master Masons to pay in advance their Primary Lodge dues and Grand Lodge Per Capita tax, is closed to new applicants effective January 1, 2027. No application for Lifetime Membership received by the Grand Secretary on or after that date shall be accepted or approved.

Any Master Mason whose application for Lifetime Membership was approved by the Grand Secretary before January 1, 2027. shall retain all rights, exemptions, credits and obligations under this Section as it existed at the time of such approval. Subsections a. through m. and the provisions governing Management of the Funds shall continue in full force and effect as to such members and shall not be repealed until no Lifetime Membership remains outstanding and every remittance required by Subsection m. has been completed

Nothing in this amendment shall alter the rights of a participant as set forth in Subsection c., of this section, or to complete the requisite installment payments as set forth in Subsection b., provided that the application was approved before January 1, 2027.

[Subsections a. through m., and the provisions headed "Management of the funds," are unchanged and are reproduced below for reference.]

• Subsections a. through m. — Unchanged

a. Application for Lifetime Membership shall be on a form prescribed by Grand Lodge and shall be signed by the applicant, the Secretary of the applicant's Primary Lodge and the Grand Secretary.

b. Payment of amount due shall be included with the application when submitted to the Grand Secretary.

1. Applicant may elect to pay the amount due in installments subject to a nonrefundable administrative fee of ten percent of the deferred payment which shall be paid with the application.

2. The minimum installment payment is fifty percent with the application and the balance paid within one year from the date the application was approved by the Grand Secretary.

3. Failure to pay the installment balance when due will result in termination of participation in the Plan. Participant will be entitled to a refund of the amount paid reduced by the administrative fee, the Per Capita tax and the lodge dues credited to the lodge.

c. Once approved, the payment becomes non-refundable after sixty (60) days following the acceptance of the application. The Grand Secretary shall establish procedures to request a withdrawal from the plan during that sixty (60) day period.

d. The Lifetime Membership shall become effective on January 1st of the year following the acceptance of the application.

e. The participating member shall not be subject to the Grand Lodge Dues, Assessments or Per Capita tax and the dues of his Primary Lodge (at the time of application) during his lifetime. He shall be liable for future assessments levied by his Primary Lodge.

f. The member shall be subject to dues and assessments levied by a lodge in which he maintains affiliate membership.

g. The Lifetime Membership is not transferable by the member to another Master Mason.

h. Should the Lifetime Member voluntarily sever his membership with the Primary Lodge (at the time of application), the successor Primary Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction shall, for the purposes of this Section, be credited with the amounts described in Subsection m that had been payable to the original Primary Lodge. The Lifetime Member may be liable to the successor lodge for lodge dues and assessments more than the annual credit the lodge will receive.

i. Subpart 47 Nonpayment of Dues/Unassociated Mason shall not apply to a Lifetime Member's Primary Lodge (at the time of application) but will apply to 1) dues of a successor Primary Lodge more than the annual credit the lodge will receive, and 2) dues owing to his affiliate lodge membership(s).

Continued on page 10

Proposed Legislation - Section 3513 continued from page 11

j. Should a Lifetime Member be subject to Masonic Trial and subject to an involuntary loss of membership in his Primary Lodge he shall have his Lifetime Membership suspended until his membership in his Primary Lodge is restored. If a sentence of expulsion is imposed, unless his membership is restored in accordance with Section 4403 within five (5) years, he shall forfeit his Lifetime Membership. If the Lifetime Member has not been restored to the Primary Lodge membership rolls by December 31st, the annual credit due the Primary Lodge against the Per Capita tax shall be omitted.

k. Should the Primary Lodge merge into or consolidate with one or more other lodges, the Lifetime Membership shall transfer to the successor lodge as prescribed in Section 4100(f). The Lifetime Member may be liable to the successor lodge for lodge dues and assessments more than the annual credit the lodge will receive.

l. Should the Primary Lodge surrender its charter, the Lifetime Member shall continue to be a Master Mason in good standing, and he shall notify the Grand Secretary of his successor Primary Lodge in accordance with Section 4006 or Section 4100(e). The new Primary Lodge in this event shall succeed to the payments owing to the former Primary Lodge and the Lifetime Member may be liable to the successor lodge for lodge dues and assessments more than the annual credit the lodge will receive.

m. Annually, the Grand Secretary shall report to each lodge the Master Masons who have a Lifetime Membership and shall show as credits against the Grand Lodge Per Capita assessment the following amounts:

1. The Grand Lodge Per Capita Assessment unless the member is otherwise exempt by Section 3508.

2. The Primary Lodge dues that were assessed in the year of application, increased by a compounding factor of 1.00 percent annually beginning with the second year. The remittance of the lodge dues will continue for ten (10) calendar years following the death of the Lifetime Member.

3. If the Primary Lodge exempts members from lodge dues and the amount paid with the application is based on the lodge exemption, then the payments to the lodge shall end in the year the member would no longer be subject to the Primary Lodge dues.

• Management of the Funds — Unchanged

a. The Grand Trustees shall hold and invest the funds in trust having received the same from the Grand Treasurer.

b. At the discretion of the Grand Trustees a separate subaccount may be established for the funds received.

c The Grand Trustees shall invest the funds consistent with the investment strategies utilized for other investments held by the Trustees.

d. The fund may be assessed for investment expenses incurred consistent with investment expenses incurred for other funds held by the Trustees.

e. Annually, on or about March 1st, the Grand Secretary shall notify Trustees of the amount required to be distributed to Grand Lodge in accordance with Subparagraph m.

• Committee Action

Prepared by the Committee on Legal Matters pursuant to Section 2208.

MMRI Donation

by Shane Dufresne

Recently, you and your lodge may have been shown a presentation on the groundbreaking research and studies being conducted by the Masonic Medical Research Institute (MMRI) in Utica, New York. They are doing fantastic work on cardiovascular disease, autoimmune disorders, and neurocognitive research.

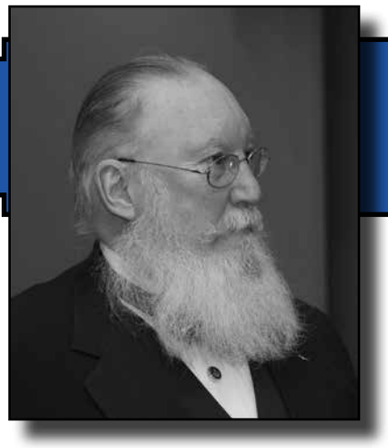
Our Grand Jurisdiction, through the generosity of the CT Freemason Foundation, has contributed annually since 2011, when MWGM Jim McWain first proposed that we add it to the list of organizations and charities we support.

MMRI is currently running an international fundraising initiative named 3-5-7 (sound familiar?). They are asking each lodge to donate $357 to this fundraiser to help continue their research into areas that affect all of us in some way, either personally or with family and friends.

I am proud to say that our state is the first Grand Lodge Jurisdiction, and still the only one, to achieve the milestone of 100 percent participation. This was done after the Executive Director of MMRI, Dr. Maria Kontaridis, did a presentation about their research and mentioned the 3-5-7 initiative at our Saturday Banquet on April 12. The CT Freemason Foundation called for a special meeting at the banquet and achieved a quorum. They voted to pay the $357 for each of our lodges.

What we are asking now of the lodges, after seeing the MMRI presentation, is whether your lodge would like to donate the $357, as it would offset the donation by the CT Freemason Foundation. But I would like to make it clear that no lodge is obligated to do this. It is not a requirement or a request. It is strictly voluntary if the lodge would like to participate. We will still hold the distinction of achieving 100 percent participation.

I encourage each lodge to contact their district officer about having the presentation done at lodge or at a Blue Lodge Council. I encourage each brother to look up MMRI and see what they do. In the near future, I will receive a link from MMRI to share with all of you so you can see the amazing work they do.



From the Desk of the Grand Chaplain'

by WB Harold A. (Hal) Elwell

Brothers,

It's time for homecoming. Summer is over, Labor Day picnics have finished, kids have gone back to school, and lodges are resuming work after a hopefully refreshing and relaxing break. Now it is time to come back to work, back to our home lodges.

The Bible has many stories about coming home. Probably the best known is the story of the prodigal son. After leaving his father's house, squandering his inheritance and finding himself in desperate circumstances, he decides to return. He has no assurance that he will be welcomed, but he goes home anyway. His father sees him coming, runs to meet him and welcomes him back. There is something particularly powerful about that story. The son has been away, but he has not ceased to be part of the family. His absence has not erased his place in the household.

Consider how closely these ideas fit with our Masonic experience. We refer to our lodge as our Masonic home. We call each other brother. We speak of the Masonic family. Those terms are so familiar that we may sometimes overlook their significance.

But a building is not really a home simply because it has walls and a roof. It becomes a home when it is inhabited, cared for, and filled with the relationships that make it meaningful. The same is true of our lodges. A lodge can have a beautiful building, an impressive history and a room filled with Masonic furnishings, but without Brotherly Love it is still only a building.

We spend a great deal of time talking about membership. We talk about bringing men into Masonry, retaining the men we have and increasing attendance at our meetings. All of these things are important, but perhaps we should ask a slightly different question.

Have we made our lodge a place to which a Mason wants to come home? Think about the brother who has been away for some time. When he walks through the door, does someone greet him? Does anyone ask where he has been? Does he feel that his absence was noticed? What about the new Mason? When he first enters the lodge, does he see a group of men conducting a meeting, or does he see a family that is pleased to have him there? We sometimes forget that Freemasonry is not simply about the meetings that we attend. It is something that we become a part of.

In the June message, I remarked that we are exhorted to practice outside the lodge what we learn within it. That is particularly important when we consider the lodge as a home. We should not come to our Masonic home simply to be comfortable, only to leave everything we have learned behind when the meeting ends. As in life, we come home to be strengthened. Then we leave home to do the work.

Finally, there is one more homecoming that we need to consider. Every Mason is ultimately traveling toward the Celestial Lodge above. Our earthly lodges are temporary. Our homes are temporary. Our occupations, possessions, and accomplishments are temporary. We are all travelers, and eventually our earthly journey will come to an end. The Celestial Lodge above reminds us that there is a final homecoming beyond this one.

And so let us use our trowel to strengthen the bonds between us. Let us remember the obligations represented by our cable-tow. Let us keep the Holy Bible at the center of our Masonic lives. Let us continue building our individual temples, recognizing that there will always be more work to do. And most importantly, let us make sure that when a brother comes home, he is welcomed.

Welcome home, brothers.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 50-YEAR MEMBERS!

Edward L. Gibbs

Old Well-St. John's Lodge No. 6

Ronald E. Mastro

Shepherd Salem Lodge No. 78

Eric J. Sinnamon

Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88

Grand Historian's Corner

Bro. David J. Stewart

\e

I'm The Guy That Never Came Back

Every newly initiated brother is a rough ashlar, and it is the responsibility of the Craft to help shape and encourage him, not leave him standing alone. These are not simply words we repeat during ritual; they are principles we are expected to demonstrate every time a man enters our lodge. It is not about titles, not about who wears the hat, carries the gavel, or sits in the East. It is about the brother sitting quietly in the corner. The brother who raised his hand to become a Mason because he believed this fraternity was different from the world outside. That brother who walked through our doors hoping to find friendship instead found silence.

He believed he would find men who would become his brothers. Instead, he found "cliques." He found conversations that never included him. He found people who knew everyone except him. He volunteered; no one noticed; he missed meetings, no one called, no one texted, no one knocked on his door. Eventually he simply disappeared. It is not so much that he left, but the real sad part is that the lodge never realized he was gone.

Freemasonry has never been about filling chairs. It has always been about building men, "making good men better." Every Entered Apprentice who knocks on our door is placing his trust in us. Not just to teach him ritual, but to teach him brotherhood. We cannot expect men to remain committed to an organization where they never feel connected or wanted.

A degree impresses a man for a day. A relationship lasts a lifetime. Too often we ask, "why aren't we growing?" Maybe the better question is, "who did we overlook?" How many brothers quietly walked away because no one learned their name? How many stopped attending because no one noticed they were absent? How many became discouraged because they never felt needed?

Membership retention begins long before recruitment. It begins with a handshake, a smile, a phone call, and an invitation to sit beside another brother. Or even the simple question, "Brother, how are you doing?"

Our working tools remind us that every stone has value. No craftsman throws away a stone simply because it is rough; he works it, shapes it, and polishes it. Should we do anything less with our brothers? We should never allow anyone to say, "I was there all along…and nobody saw me." Every brother deserves to feel welcomed; every brother deserves to feel appreciated; every brother deserves to know he matters, because when one brother leaves unnoticed, the whole lodge loses something.

As a reflection on what I just presented, I'll leave you with three questions: (1) Who have you spoken to lately that usually sits alone? (2) Who have you checked on that hasn't attended lodge recently? (3) If a new brother walked into your lodge, would he feel like a visitor or would he immediately feel like family?

Let us never become so busy searching for new members or attending to other duties that we fail to care for the ones already entrusted to us. Some brothers may forget the ritual, the symbolism, or the Steward's lectures. But they will never forget how we made them feel.

If we truly live by Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth, then no brother should ever have to say, "I'm that guy who never came back."

ASHLAR VILLAGE DIRECTIONS

The Masonicare Campus is a 100% Smoke-Free Facility.

From Hartford, Connecticut
- I-91 South to exit #17 (Wilbur Cross Parkway - Route 15 South)
- Take exit #58A, 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 #1B (Wilbur Cross Parkway – Route 15 South)
- Take exit #58A, at 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 #30 (I-91 South) on the left towards New Haven
- Take exit #17 (W. Cross Pkwy - Route 15 South)
- Take exit #58A, 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 #58A
- 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 #11
- At traffic light turn left Route 22 (CT-22 W) turn left take ramp onto CT 15N (Wilbur Cross Pkwy) toward Hartford
- Route 15 North to exit #58A
- Turn left at traffic light
- At second light, turn right onto Cheshire Road
- Ashlar Village Main Entrance is ½ mile on the right

From the Desk of Bro. Jon-Paul Venoit

President & CEO of Masonicare

Last month, Masonicare honored a record 200-plus employees celebrating milestone anniversaries. These included team members celebrating 5, 10, 15, 20… all the way up to an incredible 40 years with our organization. I was excited to congratulate many of them personally at an Employee Appreciation and Awards Celebration at the Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville.

Working, as we do, in an industry known for its high turnover rate, it's important for us at Masonicare to acknowledge all those whose resilience, dedication, and commitment to our mission defied the odds and played a critical role in Masonicare's success.

I've been asked why so many people decide to spend so much of their professional lives with Masonicare (I hit the 35-year mark last April!). I think there are several reasons, starting with our reputation for delivering outstanding, person-centered care that prioritizes the safety, dignity, independence, and quality of life of everyone we serve. We also invest in programs designed to have a positive impact on our employees, their families, and the lives they lead outside of work, from physical, emotional, and financial wellness to educational assistance and leadership development opportunities.

And I think our employees' longevity can be attributed to the same reasons so many men join our Masonic fraternity and remain active for decades: camaraderie, shared values, a sense of belonging, and the satisfaction of making a positive impact on the community.

Just a week after our big employee appreciation event, we gathered at Ashlar Village in Wallingford to recognize the 2026 recipients of the Norma J. Brandt Nursing Scholarship. This year, Masonicare was pleased to provide academic scholarships to 22 individuals pursuing careers as Registered Nurses – the most ever. It's been 20 years since a generous gift from the late Bro. John O. Brandt, Jr. established this scholarship at Masonicare in loving memory of his wife, Norma, a former nurse. I can't begin to calculate the impact it has had on our industry, or the number of lives it has impacted. But I'm honored that we can continue to help Masonicare employees, children of employees, and others with ties to the Masonic Family realize their dream of becoming a Registered Nurse.

We're holding two Masonic cornerstone and ribbon-cutting ceremonies this month, with the first taking place on Wednesday, September 2 to celebrate Masonicare at Mystic's new outdoor pavilion. Then, on September 3, we'll mark the grand opening of the Ashlar Village Golf & Gathering Complex. My sincere thanks to all the Grand Lodge Officers of the Grand Lodge AF & AM of Connecticut for their help in making these occasions extra special.

By the time you read this, these events may have already passed. But we'll have plenty of photos to share in the October issue of *Connecticut Freemasons*!

Yours fraternally,

Jon-Paul Venoit

Jon-Paul Venoit

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Of Secrecy and Silence

by John A. Amarilios, membership@lafayetteconsistory.com

The fall season is upon us, and the degree work recommences at the end of September. The degrees for this season are set forth below, so mark your calendars and save the evenings for a sumptuous dinner and uplifting night of superbly cast and costumed degree work!

Sept. 28 — 6th Degree live, 7th Degree video
Oct. 26 — 11th Degree live, 8th Degree video
Nov. 16 — 27th Degree live, 23rd Degree video
Dec. 7— 32nd Degree live

If you are new to the Rite, an initiatory 4th Degree presentation will be made available prior to the regularly scheduled degree work, so that you might Journey On! You must contact the office prior to the evening of the degrees.

Family Life events this season include:

Oct. 3 — Dinner train outing in Essex
Nov. 26 — Annual Turkey Trot in Stratford
Dec. 5 — Radio City Music Hall, NYC
Dec. 18 — Annual Holiday Gala in Branford

Please contact the Consistory office for details, costs, and availability during office hours at (203) 375-0064. The Family Life events sell out early, so make your reservations as soon as possible to avoid disappointment!

Secrecy and silence are often considered as basic virtues and a mode of behavior which are essential to the development of a Mason's character. In reality, they are fundamental behaviors that must be adhered to if a brother desires to attain a goal that is significant to him.

Many of the ancient mystery schools divulged the operational details of this process to their best adherents. Exoterically, they simply alluded to it. For example, in the Pythagorean school, a five-year novitiate was imposed upon each pupil, to be passed in total silence and in religious and philosophical contemplation.

In Calcott's *Candid Disquisition* (Masonic Book Club Vol. 20) "We shall find that the old Egyptians had so great a regard for silence and secrecy in the mysteries of their religion, that they set up the god Harpocrates, to whom they paid peculiar honor and veneration, who was represented with the right hand placed near the heart, and the left down by his side, covered with a skin before, full of eyes and ears, to signify, that of many things to be seen and heard, few are to be published." The sign alluding to Harpocrates was made by the Egyptians by pressing their index finger of their right hand to their lips. The number of ancient orders that heralded the importance of silence is legion and spans most all cultures globally.

Having gone through your three degrees of Freemasonry, you might ask yourself what is such a great secret that cannot be revealed? In this era of

Lafayette Consistory

Attention All Master Masons!

2026 SCOTTISH RITE DEGREES
Reservations required.

Call the Consistory Office at (203) 375-0064.

Mon. Sept. 6, 6th Degree (live) 7th degree (video)
Mon. Oct. 26, 11th Degree (live) 8th Degree (video)
Mon Nov. 16, 27th Degree (live) 23rd Degree (video)
For the latest copy of the Lafayette Consistory News visit https://ctfreemasons.net/appendantbodies/lafayetteconsistory/

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

Valley of Bridgeport	Valley of New Haven	Valley of Waterbury
2422 Main Street	285 Whitney Avenue	529 Highland Avenue
Stratford, CT 06615	New Haven, CT 06511	Waterbury, CT 06708
Office@LafayetteConsistory.com	Kirk_Trofatter_Jr@yahoo.com	sharky53@snet.net
203-375-0064	203-269-0336	203-565-3024

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

AI and the internet, there is nary a crevice or corner of Masonic lore and literature which has not been "exposed and revealed." Secular outsiders suspect that there are secrets passed mouth to ear which are not reduced to writing, and of course they are wrong in such suppositions. We find many an Entered Apprentice who joins the Fraternity in hopes of possessing secrets, who fall by the wayside when they realize that there are no secret algorithms or manuals by which they can attain their materialistic desires.

And yet the process works, is real, and operates to enable the proverbial Masonic builder to attain his personal goals and desires. As in all matters worthy of attainment, the process involves no small amount of personal sacrifice, a restraint of personal passion, and the employment and focus of one's faculties to whatever the goal at hand might be. Together, in the issues to come, we will explore this process of how to create your own personal trestleboard and how to manifest the proverbial drawings thereon into your own personal reality! Remember: the foundation is built on a bedrock of subdued passions.

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.

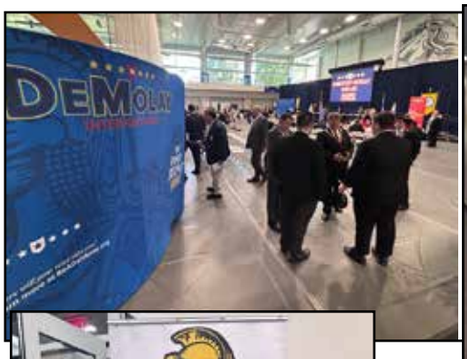
DeMolay Conclave: The Future Looks Bright

by Jeffrey Blayman

It was a proud day for many parents as the young men of DeMolay gathered at the University of New Haven campus to pass the torch of leadership to a very capable slate of officers. The Conclave began with State Master Councilor Aiden Nielson offering his gavel to MWGM Shane Dufresne before proceeding with opening remarks.

Many thoughtful awards were presented, but none more touching than when the current officers made Dad Brian Beals an honorary State Master Councilor, having him add his name to the list of leaders at the back of their Bible.

Once the pleasantries and awards were finished, officers circumambulated the room again on their way out. The new line of state officers, led by State Master Councilor-Elect Owen Plourde, made their way west of the altar to be installed. These fine young gentlemen will no doubt lead with courage and tenacity, illuminating the path for future generations.



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Marcus Bertrand Toureaux

King Solomon's Lodge No. 7
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Clayton Gustafson
Michael Plank
Jeffrey Francis Reignier
Justin Michael Roberts
Thomas Gedge Williams

Compass Lodge No. 9
Ilya Alex Avdeyenkov
Manuel Alejandro Blanco-Labrada
David Ramonas, Jr.
Tyler Conrad Timek
Robert Andrew Vanacore, Jr.
Ethan Jon Venoit
David Lee Vidic

Wooster Lodge No. 10
Alan Edwin Taylor

St. Paul's Lodge No. 11
Jeffrey Francis Reignier

Trumbull Lodge No. 22
Koray Aysin
Ryan Leslie Cole
Jeremy Adam Gray
Evan Lepack

Uriel Lodge No. 24
Jeremy Scott Dunkley

Seneca Lodge No. 55
Marc Compere

Corinthian Lodge No. 63
Isa M. Bammami
Lucas Nathaniel Hoffman

Meridian Lodge No. 77
Carlos Alberto Carrero
Max Matthew Halla
Anthony Bernard Larco

Oxoboxo Lodge No. 116
Andrew Robert Hyland

Ashlar Aspetuck Lodge No. 142
Thomas Pitera
Matthieu Louis Regney
Exel Rivera

Universal Fraternity Lodge No. 149
Marc Compere

A Night at the Quarry

by Michael Lawlor

It is not my lodge night, but I am at the metaphorical "quarry," working away.

On some evenings in this quarry, I respond to inquiries from Blue Wave prospects, ensuring the men who have knocked at the West Gate receive a warm and timely welcome. On other nights, I listen to a Masonic podcast, chipping away at my own rough ashlar through the wisdom of others. Lately, I have been spending long hours in this quarry preparing for my year in the East. The lectures must be learned, the bylaws studied, the vision polished.

Just as in a real quarry, I first perform a safety assessment of my surroundings. If I am making a phone call that requires my full and undivided attention, I might lock the door to my basement first. Perhaps I have a quick check-in call, in which case my quarry might be the Bluetooth feature in my Honda. When working at my kitchen table, I like to put on ambient music to simulate the environment in which Master Masons of the past might also have worked. Just think of the noise a Colonial-era Worshipful Master had to talk over in a tavern while discussing next year's dues.

We are bound by several charges as Master Masons, several of which direct us to continue our work outside a tiled lodge. We may never know when we are called on to provide aid or assistance, but our quarry might become that location and situation. Preparations for such eventualities should be in order. A real quarry has to notify neighbors when rock blasting is occurring, and local first responders are often called to be on-site. Does your lodge have a brother who can be a first responder if called upon?

So, whether we are studying ritual in a quiet room, welcoming a prospect by phone, or simply driving home with a Masonic lecture playing through the speakers, remember you are still in the quarry. And the work we are bound to perform, the work we obligate ourselves to perform, must continue on.

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

Bjarne C. Abildgaard
King Hiram Lodge No. 12

Bruce P. Anderson
Evening Star Lodge No. 101

Donald John Baumgarten
Temple Lodge No. 16

Orson N. Benedict
Montgomery Lodge No. 13

John E. Biggerstaff
Composite Lodge No. 28

C. Eugene Bishop
St. Albans Lodge No. 38

Robert M. Blackman
America-St. John's Lodge No. 8

Burton E. Boardman
Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125

Norman L. Christensen
Frederick Franklin Lodge No. 14

David Michael DelGiudice
Hiram Lodge No. 18

Robert L. Deveau
America-St. John's Lodge No. 8

Paul David Estefan
Ark Lodge No. 39

Edmund C. Holcombe, Jr. Valley Lodge No. 36

Lemuel Golden Johnson, Jr.
Temple Lodge No. 65

Roland D. Kamens
Ansantawae Lodge No. 89

Paul B. Kovacs
Union Lodge No. 40

Michael John Kranyak
Corinthian Lodge No. 104

Willis I. Leslie, Jr.
Seneca Lodge No. 55

William Donald Maturo
Temple Lodge No. 16

Richard Ira McKee
Compass Lodge No. 9

Malcolm Bennet Olins
Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125

Albert Andreas Osswald, III
Coastal Lodge No. 57

Christopher Michael Reade
St. Andrew's Lodge No. 64

Winfield A. Redman, Jr.
Corinthian Lodge No. 63

Robert A. Reggiani
King Hiram Lodge No. 12

Alan F. Rogers
Columbia Lodge No. 25

Lynn H. Sheffield
Village Lodge No. 29

Noel K. Smith
Corinthian Lodge No. 63

Howard A. Swanson
Frederick Franklin Lodge No. 14

Earl R. Wilcox
Wyllys-St. John's Lodge No. 4

Bruce Frederic Young
St. Andrew's Lodge No. 64

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Semiquincentennial Lodge No. 250 by Shane Dufresne

I have created a lodge under dispensation named Semiquincentennial Lodge No. 250. Any Mason who takes all three of his degrees in the 2026 calendar year is automatically a member of the lodge. A lapel pin and challenge coin will be gifted to these brothers as a commemorative token of their accomplishment. They will be presented with these tokens on the night of their MM Degree, or as close as possible, by me or my representative.

Any other Master Mason in good standing can also join. We will ask those brothers for a one-time fee of $17.76. This is to help offset some of the cost for the pin and coin. Going forward, there will be no annual cost or fee.

If you would like to join, please send a check for $17.76, made out to the Grand Lodge of CT. Please indicate if you would like them mailed to you, or if you would like to get them in lodge. You can also stop by the Grand Lodge office during normal business hours to pay for and pick them up.

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Connecticut Brothers Attend Graveside Service for MWB Edward C. Page by Shane Dufresne

On Saturday, June 20, 18 Connecticut brothers made the nine-hour round trip to the Chadwick Hills Cemetery in South China, Maine, to attend a graveside committal for MWB Edward C. Page, who passed away on January 14. The committal was done in conjunction with his mother, Mary Page, who passed away three weeks prior on December 25.

Brothers from Central Lodge No. 45, MWB Page's lodge in Maine, performed a touching and beautiful Masonic service. Reverend and RWB Carl Anderson officiated at the service.

From the Quarry: The Quiet Strength of Humility

by Paul Ladd

The longer a man lives, the more he begins to understand how much he has in common with every other man. When he is younger, it is easy to measure himself by visible differences: position, accomplishment, experience. These things can create the impression that some men stand higher while others stand lower.

Time has a way of softening that illusion.

Years of living tend to reveal that every man carries burdens that others cannot easily see. Each has known disappointment, faced difficult choices, and struggled at times to live up to the standards he has set for himself. Experience has a way of reminding him that no one walks through life untouched by those challenges. That realization often changes how a man sees others.

The Craft gives us a simple symbol that speaks to this truth: The Level.

For the operative mason, the level ensured that the stones of a structure rested evenly. No matter how large or small the stone might appear, each one had to meet the same standard if the building was to stand properly. The symbolism is easy to recognize.

Within the lodge, titles and occupations carry little weight. The distinctions that may separate men in the outside world fade quickly when brothers meet together on common ground. What remains is something far more important.

We meet as equals. This principle carries a lesson that extends well beyond the walls of the lodge. Humility grows when a man begins to see others with greater understanding. It develops when he recognizes that every person he encounters is navigating the same human journey, with its successes, struggles, and uncertainties. That awareness changes the way a man listens.

It softens the tone of his words. It tempers the quick judgments that sometimes come too easily. It encourages patience where frustration might once have appeared. Humility does not diminish a man. In many ways it strengthens him.

A man who understands his own limitations remains open to learning. A man who recognizes the shared struggles of others often becomes more patient in his dealings with them. Over time, that perspective shapes the way he leads, the way he listens, and the way he treats the people around him.

If we pause to think about it, most of us can remember a moment when pride spoke a little sooner than wisdom. Perhaps we dismissed another person's perspective too quickly or allowed frustration to shape our response. Those moments are familiar to nearly every man, and they often become the experiences that remind us to approach the next conversation with a little more patience.

The level teaches a quiet but powerful truth. No matter how different our paths may appear, we all stand on the same ground. A man who remembers that lesson begins to move through the world differently. He listens more carefully. He becomes slower to judge. He understands that respect offered to others often strengthens the character of the one offering it. In that way, humility becomes not a weakness, but a quiet strength.

Reflection

In your recent interactions with others, where might greater humility have helped you listen more carefully or respond more thoughtfully?

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Hometown Hero: Worshipful Brother Mark Zuccerella

Born and raised in Greenwich, WB Mark Zuccerella has spent his life in service to his community. A graduate of St. Mary's High School in Greenwich and Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, he began his law enforcement career as a Deputy Sheriff in Florida before returning home to the Greenwich Police Department. At GPD, he rose through the ranks to his current position as Deputy Chief of Police overseeing field services. In 2026, he completed the prestigious FBI National Academy at Quantico. Among his many accomplishments, he founded the Greenwich Special Victims Section and, while serving as Sergeant, received the Dr. John Clarke Award, the department's highest honor.

Mark was raised at Ashlar-Aspetuck Lodge No. 142 in 2014, served as Worshipful Master in 2020, and has been Secretary since 2021. He is affiliated with Acacia Lodge No. 85 in his hometown, where his family roots run deep. His ritual work is exemplary, and his Masonic life reflects the same values that have defined his career: integrity and courage are the basis of his personal sense of honor.

The Hometown Hero award was presented to WB Zuccerella by MWB Shane Dufresne and RWB Mark Hawkins at a Blue Lodge Council First Masonic District meeting, a fitting recognition before his Masonic brethren.

Do You Know A Hero?

The Grand Lodge of Connecticut is proud to reintroduce the Hometown Hero Award. If there is a brother or a member of your community you feel is a Hometown Hero, we encourage you to nominate him or her for this special award for service. Whether a first responder or someone who has made a difference in your hometown, we want to pay them special recognition for their achievements.

The application may be found in the Resources section on GrandView. We look forward to recognizing YOUR Hometown Hero in the near future!

New Haven Masonic Temple Celebrates Semiquincentennial

by Sal Ferrigno

The New Haven Masonic Temple kicked off its celebration of the country's 250th Anniversary with the help of the Valley of New Haven, AASR. Banners featuring images of the founding fathers and patriotic messages were hung on the building's front façade. The community feedback was great, with hundreds of people walking and driving past the building every day.

During the week of Independence Day, the Temple also displayed patriotic bunting and an 8-foot Betsy Ross flag out on the pole. The banners also began the start of the Centennial celebration for the building itself, which opened in 1926 and has operated for 100 years.

Look for more information about big "Centennial Events" coming in October.

Most Worshipful Brother Joseph J. Porco Receives Pierpont Medal in Bronze

On behalf of Hiram Lodge No.18, it is an honor to rise in recognition of a brother whose service has strengthened both his lodge and this jurisdiction – Most Worshipful Brother Joseph J. Porco.

Bro. Porco's Masonic roots are firmly planted in Hiram Lodge No. 18 in Sandy Hook. There he did not merely hold office – he bore responsibility. He served as Worshipful Master of Hiram Lodge in the immediate aftermath of the tragedy that struck the Sandy Hook community in December 2012. In a time when sorrow weighed heavily upon that town, the lodge stood not separate from its neighbors, but among them. And under Bro. Porco's leadership, it acted. He guided his lodge in organizing and conducting a fundraiser that benefited the affected families, ensuring that the tenets we profess were demonstrated not only in ritual, but in relief. That work was not done for recognition; it was done because it was needed. Such leadership reveals character.

From that same lodge, Bro. Porco progressed through the Grand Line with steady purpose, serving faithfully in each station entrusted to him. Installed as Most Worshipful Grand Master for the 2023-2024 Masonic year, he accepted the mantle of statewide leadership during a challenging time for our fraternity. He responded not with hesitation, but with initiative. His "Blue Wave" program renewed energy around membership and engagement, helping this jurisdiction experience positive momentum. But beyond programs and numbers, what defined his year was presence, visiting lodges, strengthening unity and reinforcing the values that bind us.

Those who know him best know that humility defines him as much as service. When presented with the David Wooster Medal and Citation, among the highest honors in our fraternity, he remarked that it was the second-greatest award of his life, the first being when his wife placed his wedding ring upon his finger. Brethren, that is the measure of the man. Family first, duty embraced, service rendered quietly and faithfully.

The Pierpont Edwards Medal bears the name of one of the early architects of Connecticut Freemasonry. His signature appears upon the original charter of Hiram Lodge No. 18. There is meaningful continuity in that fact. The lodge whose charter bears that historic signature produced a brother who, generations later, would guide it through one of its most difficult seasons and go on to lead this Grand Lodge with steadiness and vision. We recognize not merely a title held, but a labor performed. Through trial, through responsibility, and through leadership at every level of this fraternity, Most Worshipful Brother Joseph J. Porco has exemplified the best of what we strive to be.

In recognition of his service to our fraternity, his lodge and community, the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the State of Connecticut is pleased to present MWB Joseph J. Porco the Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze for distinguished Masonic service.

Brothers Recognized for Membership Efforts by Jon Wilson

MWB Joseph Porco and WB Doug Barry were presented with plaques recognizing their hard work, dedication, and steadfast focus on building the strength of the fraternity. This was specifically for their implementation and stewardship of the Blue Wave Membership Development Program.

Their efforts began during MWB Porco's year as Grand Master in 2023-2024. With the initial assistance of a handful of lodges and their prospect managers, District Deputies, and Grand Lodge Officers, this year, membership additions exceeded losses for the first time in decades, producing positive 'net' membership additions.

WB Barry's award was presented at the Grand Lodge Annual Communication and MWB Porco's award was presented at a separate ceremony at Hiram Lodge No. 18 on June 27.

District Deputies and Associate Grand Marshals 2026-2027

1 A

District Deputy
RW Waldemar Jimenez
Associate Grand Marshal
WB Dean E. Buzzell

1 B

District Deputy
RW Christopher M. Holms
Associate Grand Marshal
WB David C. Gianetti

2 A

District Deputy
RW Matthew J. Fitzgibbons
Associate Grand Marshal
WB Jerry M. Myers

2 B

District Deputy
RW Robert J. Gorman
Associate Grand Marshal
WB Charles S. Ruiz

3 A

District Deputy
RW Joseph A. Zannino, Jr.
Associate Grand Marshal
WB Robert F. Namias

3 B

District Deputy
RW Kenneth R. Tarwood, Jr.
Associate Grand Marshal
WB Matthew K. Kuhr

4 A

District Deputy
RW Timothy J. Vendetti
Associate Grand Marshal
WB Scott R. Atkins

4 B

District Deputy
RW Kirk C. Trofatter, Jr.
Associate Grand Marshal
WB Amos A. Brooks

4 C

District Deputy
RW Michael Abrahamson
Associate Grand Marshal
WB Daniel D. DeVoe, III

5 A

(No photo available.)

District Deputy
RW Nathaniel Jillette
Associate Grand Marshal
WB Kevin Hobson

5 B

District Deputy
RW Rudolph L. Cabata
Associate Grand Marshal
WB Keneth A. Crooker

District Deputies and Associate Grand Marshals 2026-2027

6 A

(No photo available.)

District Deputy
RW Christopher D. Ramsey
Associate Grand Marshal
WB Deepak Saluru

6 B

District Deputy
RW Robert C. Dodge
Associate Grand Marshal
WB Jeremy M. Gaffney

7 A

District Deputy
RW James A. McKinney
Associate Grand Marshal
WB Peter M. Proto

7 B

District Deputy
RW Michael S. Masselli
Associate Grand Marshal
WB Robert J. Grismer

8 A

District Deputy
RW Jason A. Fletcher
Associate Grand Marshal
WB Frank J. Saviano, III

8 B

District Deputy
RW Andrew J. Pedro
Associate Grand Marshal
WB Axel Mahlke

9 A

District Deputy
RW Chad Dufault
Associate Grand Marshal
WB John W. Richmond

9 B

District Deputy
RW David R. Chouinard
Associate Grand Marshal
WB David L. Boland

District Deputy at Large
RW Frederick A. Marotti

Masonry was not made to divide men, but to unite them, leaving each man free to think his own thoughts and fashion his own system of ultimate truth. All its emphasis rests upon two extremely simple and profound principles, love of God and love of man. -Joseph Fort Newton

Associate Grand Almoners 2026-2027

Associate Grand Almoner
WB Adam J. Plotnick
District 1

Associate Grand Almoner
Bro. Paul J. Garavel
District 2

Associate Grand Almoner
WB Robert F. Namias
District 3

Associate Grand Almoner
RW Gary E. Cohen
District 4

Associate Grand Almoner
WB Allyan L. Lopes
District 5

Associate Grand Almoner
WB Richard E. Berson
District 6

Associate Grand Almoner
RW Richard E. Boardman
District 7

Associate Grand Almoner
RW Michael S. Brinson
District 8

Associate Grand Almoner
RW Christopher T. Carrott
District 9

District Grand Lecturers 2026-2027

District Grand Lecturer
WB Kenneth J. Krasko
District 1

District Grand Lecturer
RW John E. Feinson
District 2

District Grand Lecturer
WB Charles R. Harrell
District 3

District Grand Lecturer
WB Kyle J. Podpolucha
District 4

District Grand Lecturer
WB Maroun G. Zoghbi
District 5

District Grand Lecturer
WB Jonathan B. White
District 6

District Grand Lecturerr
RW William H. Field
District 7

District Grand Lecturer
WB Michael R. Cantwell
District 8

District Grand Lecturer
WB Brian N. Keith
District 9

"NO SUBMISSIONS IN THE BODY OF THE EMAIL"

by Francis G. Way

"What does it all mean, Basil?" – Austin Powers

For the last 12 years, the submissions guidelines for the *Connecticut Freemasons* have prohibited two submission methods that are a hard "no": submitting content in PDF format and submitting content in the body of the submission email.

Of late, more and more submissions arrive with text content "in the body of the email," and we began to realize that some submitters may have no clue what "the body of the email" really is. The "body of the email" is the part where you usually type your message – not the To:, not the From:, and not the Subject: lines.

Since a picture is worth the proverbial 1,000 words, we decided to illustrate it. I sent two test emails to the submissions email address with a simulated submission. In the first, I put the text "in the body of the email," and in the second, I made a quick Word document and added it to the email as an attachment.

Why do we have this restriction?

In the early days of email, teletypes and dumb terminals were primary I/O entry devices. It was very much like typing on a standard typewriter, and early mail clients pretty much only used carriage return and line feed for formatting – think of hitting the big lever on a manual typewriter or hitting "return" on the old warhorse IBM Selectric. It was plain text all the way, no fancy formatting, and if you could find a way to copy/paste it, it came out pretty much "what you see is what you get."

These days, most email clients are browser- or GUI-based and embed and send many formatting characters which you don't see (the "non-printing characters" we're always talking about). Those characters allow you to bold and underline text, employ different fonts and add emojis – things that were impossible on an old VT-100 terminal back in the day. And that's just the start; there are many other hidden formatting characters….

If during editing I was to simply copy and paste that email message from the "body of the email" into a Word doc and send that on to Pat for layout, when she puts it into her layout software all hell breaks loose – not only messing up that particular article layout, but quite possibly affecting the entire rest of the layout she's working on. That is not good. So, if I am forced to copy/paste that email message, I paste it into a Word document and then have to comb through it, scrubbing all that cruft that we don't want or need before I can make it available to her.

Considering that we can have between 25 and 40 submissions in any given edition of the *Connecticut Freemasons*, that can be a lot of work before I ever begin to edit any text.

How the heck do I make a Word doc or plain txt file and attach it?

This varies from system to system. Microsoft Word works pretty much the same on a Windows PC or a Mac. If you have basic Word skills, you can write the file, save it as a docx, and then attach it to the email – email clients differ, but look for a paper clip (in Gmail) or an attach button (Outlook, unless they have changed it), or something similar.

If you don't have Word, then almost every computer has something like Windows Notepad. Open that, write the file, save it (ideally as a.txt file), and attach it the same way.

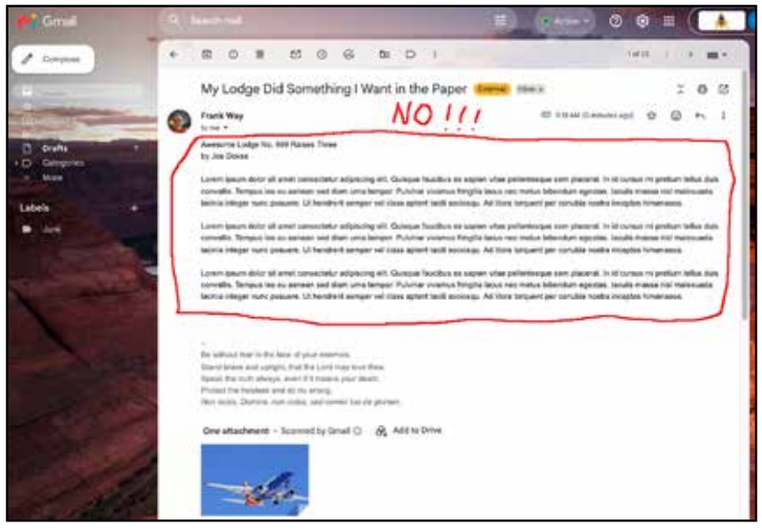
And if you're working on Linux, if you don't know already, you will figure it out because that's what Linux users do...

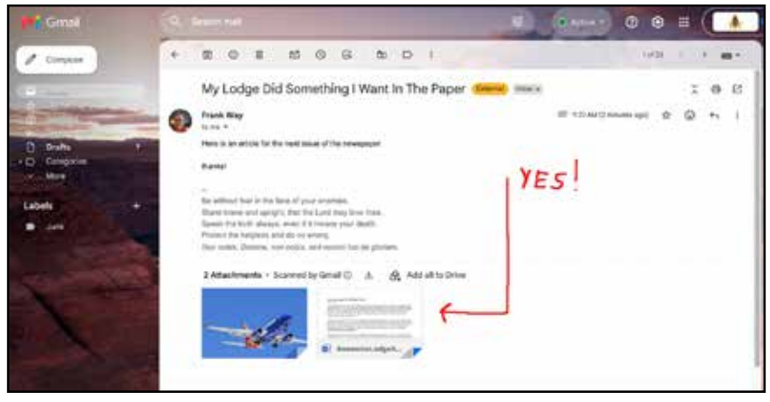
PRO TIP: if any of that "saving as a docx" or "open up Notepad" sounds like gibberish, just ask ChatGPT or Gemini or Copilot (or any other AI agent) "how do I…" and you'll get a set of steps that you can follow. Or, worst case, tell ChatGPT to create a Word docx file or plain txt file and include the text (your article) in the prompt. It will give you a docx or txt file you can download and attach to the email.

Conclusion

Our submission guidelines are not meant to be a pain, but rather to help us in putting together each month's edition as efficiently as we can. Time spent editing and laying out is much better than time spent scrubbing text.

We appreciate your cooperation and help with this. If you have questions, just ask.





Ashlar-Aspetuck Lodge Revives Chili Melee with Fellowship and Service by Kraig Gray

At its June stated communication, Ashlar-Aspetuck Lodge No. 142 in Easton revived its "Chili Melee" after many years, providing a great way to conclude the first half of the lodge year before going dim for the summer.

Inspired by the fellowship experienced at the Corinthian Lodge No. 104 Chili Cook-Off, Ashlar-Aspetuck Lodge brought the spirit of friendly competition back to Easton. Nine chili chefs offered their signature dishes, each presenting a unique flavor profile that made the judges' decision difficult. The competition was so close that the final round ended in a tie, requiring the judges to return for one last tasting before recently raised Bro. Thomas Pitera was crowned the “Chili King of Ashlar-Aspetuck Lodge No. 142” by WM Bob Curwen.

The evening, however, was about much more than chili. The lodge was pleased to recognize one of its scholarship recipients, Milo Lee, a Joel Barlow High School graduate who will be attending the University of Minnesota to study chemical engineering. Milo and his family joined in the festivities and fellowship. Exactly 10 years ago, RWB Joe Zannino established the Ashlar-Aspetuck Lodge scholarship program. Since then, the lodge has annually awarded two $1,000 scholarships to deserving local students. Milo's parents shared that they “didn't know what to expect, but the whole thing has been wonderful – the food, the fun, and everyone was so welcoming.”

The spirit of family and fellowship was evident throughout the night, including a special moment when the lodge paused to celebrate the birthday of a brother's wife, who attended with their children, as everyone joined in singing “Happy Birthday.” Bro. Chapman of King Solomon's Lodge No. 7 observed that “mixing fellowship and family, and not just meetings, is one of my favorite parts of Masonry.”

In support of a local Sea Scout's high school service project benefiting the Trumbull Food Pantry, brothers quietly filled seven full grocery bags with food and household necessities for local families in need. The project was led by a Sea Scout who is a neighbor of one of the lodge brothers, reflecting the many ways Masons seek to support their communities and those around them.

It was a great way to finish the first half of the year. While stated communications pause, the brothers have several fellowship events planned to keep the connections strong. And with some of the contestants already calling for a rematch, the brothers shall be sending their “Chili King” to battle with the Corinthian Lodge No. 104 “People’s Choice” award winner next year at their 2nd Annual Chili Cook-Off!

Ashlar-Aspetuck Lodge Chili cont.from page 26

Washington Lodge No. 19 Travels to Present 50-Year Pin

by Paul Knecht

On Sunday, June 14, eight brothers of Washington Lodge No. 19 traveled to Cooperstown, Pennsylvania, to present a 50-year pin to WB Paul Kelly, a Past Master of Washington Lodge. RWB Mark Hawkins conducted the ceremony and presented Paul with his pin, certificate of service, and permanent dues card.

After the ceremony, everyone enjoyed a wonderful luncheon at the Kelly home prepared by Paul's wife, Karen. Additionally, Karen, as a token of her love and esteem for the fraternity and in honor of WB Paul's 50 years of service, graciously presented Washington Lodge with a $5,000 check. This contribution will be used specifically to assist worthy brothers in need who require assistance with paying their dues.

The conversation and fellowship at lunch were what Masonry is all about. The Kelly family expressed their grateful thanks for making the event happen.

Temple Lodge No. 65 Passes Five Fellowcrafts

by Jonathan Achar

On a warm evening in mid-June, Temple Lodge 65 in Westport conducted a Fellowcraft degree, passing five brothers to the degree. Many Temple Lodge brothers participated in all roles within the degree, giving the entire evening a participatory and collective tenor.

The brothers passed were Bros. Philip DeVries, Peter DeMattio, Luke Montgomery, Aaron Kling, and Charles Hill.

It was a successful and enjoyable degree, and everyone enjoyed dessert and refreshments at the conclusion of the evening.

Temple Lodge 65 Supports Westport's National Night Out

by Jonathan Achar

The Town of Westport's municipal services, including police, fire, and EMS, held a community event, National Night Out, along the Saugatuck River on Tuesday, August 4. Temple Lodge No. 65 manned a booth, handing out cold water and providing Masonic information to interested attendees.

The event, also held in other towns across Connecticut, was designed to be a relationship- and community-building event for neighbors and friends to get to know the Westport PD, Fire, and EMS teams, with demonstrations of fire safety, drones, and K-9s as part of the fun and learning.

Temple Lodge's efforts were spearheaded by WM Bruce Duff and Bro. Nicholas Hatsiandrou and several other brothers. By any measure, a fun summer night in Westport.

Oldest Living Past Master of Ivanhoe Lodge No. 107 Reaches Milestone

by John Amarilios

Worshipful Brother Frank Booth, the oldest living Past Master of Ivanhoe Lodge No. 107, celebrated his 99th birthday in August at the Waveny Care Center in New Canaan.

Worshipful Brothers John Amarilos and David Polett and Brother Charles Jenney helped him celebrate the occasion.

Universal Fraternity Lodge No. 149 Celebrates 21st Annual Family Picnic by Roberto Pauleus

On July 25, the brothers of Universal Fraternity Lodge No. 149, families, friends, and members of the community gathered at Boothe Memorial Park in Stratford to celebrate the Lodge's 21st annual family picnic. A cherished tradition for the lodge, it provides an opportunity for brothers and their families to come together in fellowship and to welcome friends and members of the surrounding community. The day was filled with music, delicious food, games, laughter, and the spirit of brotherhood.

A particularly meaningful moment during the picnic came when MWPGM George S. Greytak addressed the attendees and reflected on the history of Universal Fraternity Lodge. He reminded the brothers and guests of the lodge's beginnings and the awarding of its charter. At that time, there were those who questioned whether Universal Fraternity Lodge would survive beyond its first five years. Twenty-one years later, the lodge continues to stand strong.

Members of the Connecticut Army National Guard were also present to share the day with the lodge. The brothers welcomed the soldiers and expressed their sincere appreciation for their service, dedication, and willingness to make sacrifices in defense of our communities and the United States of America.

The Connecticut National Guard Counterdrug Team brought its educational "Stash Away" trailer to the picnic. The trailer was designed to resemble a teenager's bedroom and provided parents, families, and community members an eye-opening educational experience. Counterdrug Team members explained that approximately 30-36 everyday-looking items inside the trailer contained hidden compartments or could potentially be used to conceal drugs, alcohol, vaping products, or drug paraphernalia. Seemingly ordinary objects, including beverage containers, wallets, books, picture frames, water bottles, deodorant and shampoo containers, clothing accessories, and other household items, could be modified or manufactured with hidden compartments. The presentation aimed to increase awareness and help adults better understand some of the methods young people may use to hide substances in plain sight.

The team discussed its broader mission throughout the state. Team members work with regional behavioral-health organizations to provide substance-use prevention and awareness, mental-health education, suicide-prevention resources, and assistance for individuals and families who may need help. They also provided Narcan training, emphasizing first calling 911, properly positioning the individual, and administering naloxone when appropriate.

Universal Fraternity Lodge's 21st Annual Family Picnic was therefore much more than a day of good food, music, games, and fellowship. It was also a day of community education, prevention, awareness, public service, and Masonic fellowship.

The response to the presentation was extremely positive, with everyone expressing their desire to see the team return next year for the 22nd Annual Family Picnic.

Universal Fraternity Lodge extends its sincere appreciation to everyone who helped make the 21st Annual Family Picnic a success.

Twenty-one years strong—and many more to come.

Ashlar-Aspetuck Lodge Brothers Gather For Fellowship Night by Kraig Gray

On July 29, the weather held out as brothers of Ashlar-Aspetuck Lodge No. 142 gathered in Cheshire at the home of RWB Bob Furce and his wife, Nicole, continuing a tradition the lodge has built around the full moon. Each month, brothers gather for a Full Moon Fellowship Night: no ritual, no business, just brothers together.

RWB Furce is a familiar face across the state's Masonic circles, and it showed in the turnout. Brothers from Ashlar-Aspetuck stood alongside Masons from across Connecticut, while wives got to know each other over classic summer food that Nicole elevated. She was clearly in her element, carrying the full moon theme through every detail of the decorations. Nicole also assembled a fantastic grazing table that quickly became a gathering place throughout the evening. Between the two of them, RWB Furce and Nicole were gracious hosts.

Brothers drifted between the deck, the lawn, and the house throughout the evening, playing games, relaxing, and enjoying conversations that wandered from lodge business to everyday life and back again. It's the kind of night every lodge hopes for; brothers cementing their bonds.

"We enjoyed hosting and bringing the brothers and their ladies together to have a relaxing time of fellowship and food," RWB Furce said.

St. John's Feast Day: An Evening of First Masonic District Service by Kraig Gray

On the Feast of St. John the Baptist, June 24, the brothers of the First Masonic District came together in a spirit of brotherly love, relief, and truth to render service to the community. Twenty-three brothers and guests, representing 11 lodges across the district, gathered at Filling in the Blanks, a Norwalk-based nonprofit that fights childhood hunger by providing weekend meal bags to children enrolled in free and reduced lunch programs.

For two hours, the "beehive" was in full effect. Working side by side, the industrious brothers packed 1,440 weekend meal bags, providing 5,760 meals to children across the district. The work was fast, focused, and deeply meaningful.

When the brothers passed the hat, the district donated $1,000. Unlike donating groceries to a local food pantry, where retail prices limit impact, Filling in the Blanks purchases its food at wholesale prices, so every dollar given goes considerably further. A generous donor then matched the gift dollar-for-dollar, further multiplying the power of the brothers' generosity! As more than one brother remarked, "This is what Masonry is all about."

When the work was done, a few brothers stayed to share a well-earned libation before returning to their families, refreshed from service and fellowship.

The brothers recommended creating a similar charitable evening in all districts. The experience was uplifting, fun, and the kind of event so many in the Craft crave. Special thanks to Samantha and Paula Resnick, who heard the call, had no Masonic connection beyond friendship, joined for the evening, and helped spread the word for a good cause. That spirit of community is exactly what this work is all about.

District 4

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

Masters Achievement Award Presentation at Ansantawae Lodge No. 89 by Bill Roots

At the June 19 stated communication of Ansantawae Lodge No. 89 in Milford, WB Julio Calvao was surprised to receive the Master's Achievement Award, only one of four awarded in the state for 2025. RWB Nicholas Ives, Grand Junior Deacon, presented the award.

(l-r) RWB Ives, WB Calvao, and WM Jeffrey Scepanski.

District 3

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

The Summer Never "Goes Dark" at King Solomon's Lodge No. 7 by Steve Lewis

RWB Albin Weber, WB John Stack, Bros. Clayton Gustafson, Paul Gonzales, and Jeffrey Reignier.

In some contexts, "going dark" in Freemasonry means that the lodge temporarily halts its stated communications. This reflects both the practical realities of members' lives and the Order's symbolic use of darkness as a preparatory stage. In days gone by, the months of July and August were extraordinarily busy months at the homestead, on the farm, or as families sought vacations in cooler and less humid climes.

According to the Masonic Lodge of Education, "In Masonic tradition, darkness symbolizes ignorance or a preparatory state before receiving 'light' (knowledge). This draws on ancient mystery traditions where candidates were shrouded in darkness as part of their initiation. In modern Masonry, 'going dark' can also be seen as a period of rest, reflection, or preparation before resuming lodge business."

While the brothers of King Solomon's Lodge in Woodbury may not be meeting ceremonially, the summer months are seen as valuable days to keep the 187-year-old building and grounds in top functioning shape. Building repairs, grounds maintenance, and community service never cease, even though ritual activity in the Temple may be absent.

The end of August is also the time the brothers prepare to assist the Woodbury Community Services Council by conducting an annual food drive in town over Labor Day weekend. This will be the 13th year King Solomon's Lodge replenishes the food bank after their busy summer months.

Staying active over the dark days of July and August is an important element of keeping brothers connected year-round.

Bros. Dennis Huebner and John Novak.

Bro. Mitchell Goldburgh

Wooster Lodge No. 10
A.F. & A.M.
~ Since 1781 ~
Serving the Community for more than 240 years

District 6

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

Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145 Awards Night by Joe Grieco

On Thursday, June 18, after a wonderful dinner and traditional strawberry shortcake dessert, brothers and guests of Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145 in Manchester gathered in the lodge room for the annual Awards Night.

Many brothers were recognized for their service: Bros. Aram Bolduc and Patrick Ramsey (5 years); WB Jeffrey Mayer, WB Lawrence Mogret, and Bros. Richard Balboni, and Henry Claudio (10 years); Bros. Peter Letteri and Robert DaBica (15 years); RWB Eric Hoy and Bro. Nathan Anderson (20 years); WB Stephen Spencer and WB Jose Dias (25 years); Bro. Christopher Poulos (40 years); and Bros. Ernest Ritchie and William Craft (45 years).

RWB F. Matthew Heinrich Jr., RWB Robert Dodge, and Bro. Jeremy Gaffney presented Bro. Ronald Hodgkins with his 50-year certificate and pin. His lady, Linda, pinned him. His daughter, son-in-law, and brother, Bro. Gerald Hodgkins were also there to celebrate the occasion.

WB Russell Haugh and Bro. Alan Goldstein also received 50-year certificates and pins but could not attend the ceremony.

RWB Heinrich presented the Trestleboard of Excellence Award to the lodge, which was accepted by WB Grieco and WB Spencer.

Finally, RWB Dodge presented WB Grieco and WB Spencer with Traveling Man pins.

Multi-Lodge Fellowcraft Degree in the 6th District by Joe Grieco

On Sunday, July 26, Hartford-Evergreen Lodge No. 88 in South Windsor hosted a Fellowcraft Degree with candidates from Hartford-Evergreen Lodge, Composite Lodge No. 28 and Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145. WM Duane Mason of Hartford Evergreen Lodge congregated the lodge, and RWB Dave LaFargue opened and presided in the East.

(photo by Bob Dodge)

The Middle Chamber was presented by RWB Robert Malt, the Letter G Lecture by Bro. Dan Jacques, the First Section Lecture by Bros. Dan Jacques and Joe Nolti, and the Charge by RWB Eric Hoy.

After congratulations by RWB Robert Dodge, District Deputy of Masonic District 6B, RWB F. Matthew Heinrich, Jr., Deputy Grand Master, offered his own congratulations and brought the warm and fraternal greetings of MWB Shane Dufresne. WM Duane Mason closed the lodge, and everyone enjoyed lunch in the fellowship hall.

Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88 News by Pat Jones

Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88 joined with Friendship Tuscan No. 145 and Composite Lodge No. 28 in late July to pass nine Fellowcrafts. Bros. Brandon Velasco and Michael Green of Hartford Evergreen Lodge became Fellowcrafts that day.

It is well known in the Masonic world that there is a benefit to traveling to other lodges to meet and work with other brothers. On July 25, WM Duane Mason escorted Bro. Joe Noti to Moosup Lodge No. 113 to be raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. This was a great example of Masons working together, generating much satisfaction and fellowship. Bro. Joe has proven himself to be a valuable addition to the lodge. He is a skilled cook with a willingness to volunteer and help with all the lodge's activities. Congratulations Joe!

On August 8, a group from Hartford Evergreen Lodge joined brothers from various lodges at the 6th District Masonic Picnic at Sunrise Park in West Suffield, where they found plenty of food, fun, and fellowship. The beautiful and rustic surroundings of Sunrise Park served as a backdrop for a wonderful day for the brothers and their significant others.

District 9

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

Uriel Lodge No. 24 and Wolcott Lodge No. 60 Combined Awards Night by Chuck Straub

RWB Schiller presents a 70-year pin to WB Winthrop Horton Richardson, Jr.

RWB Chouinard presents a 50-year pin to Bro. Sterling J. MacPherson, III.

On a warm Saturday, June 13, Wolcott Lodge No. 60 of Stafford combined with Uriel Lodge No. 24 of Merrow for a joint annual awards ceremony and picnic at Uriel Lodge. WM Robert M. Stack presented service pins, assisted by WB James Talamini

The presentation of longevity pins was made by WM Robert M. Stack of Uriel Lodge, and WM James Talamini of Wolcott Lodge presented service pins. RWB David Raymond Chouinard, District Deputy of Masonic District 9B, and his AGM, WB David Borland, presented a 50-year service pin, while RWB Howard B. Schiller, Secretary of Uriel Lodge, presented a 70-year service pin.

Receiving pins, either in person or by mail, were:

Bros. Jacob Allan Richard Spurlin, Matthew S. Dietrich, Zachary Deutscher, Carl Leon Graveline, and Joshua Allen Todd (5 years); Bro. Lincoln Folsom Clark (10 years); Bros. Anthony J. Guardiani, Samuel Garrett Richardson, and Wayne Shaw (20 years); Bros. Joseph Gary Champagne, Brian Stuart Newman, Kenneth Alan Richards, and Brian Jay Dickstein (25 years); Bro. Robert A. Baker (30 years); Bro. William R. Trueman (35 years); Bros. Albert Louis Goodhall, Bruce Allen Ekenbarger, John R. Toman, Kenneth Pauze, and Harvey Edwin Naeser, III, (40 years); Bros. Mark J. Richens, David A. Salsbury, Robert L. Sedelow, and Paul E. Sheehan (45 years); Bros. Wilfred T. Bigl and Manuel A. Rodrigues (55 years); Bros. Carlton R. Csiki and Joseph Csiki Jr. (60 years); Bro. Gerald K. Russian (65 years); Bros. Douglas C. Glazier, and Winthrop Horton Richardson, Jr. (70 years).

Bros. Raymond F. Barker, Jr. and Sterling J. MacPherson, III, were recognized by Grand Lodge with 50-year pins.

WB Schiller, Bro. MacPherson, RWB Chouinard, WB Richardson, and WM Stack.

Warren Lodge Celebrates 215th Anniversary by Jeffrey Blayman

On a beautiful Sunday, August 1, the friends, family, and brothers of Warren Lodge No. 51 of Portland gathered at the Portland Riverfront Park to celebrate another milestone for the lodge, and also for our country. The lodge is celebrating its 215th anniversary, having been chartered August 1, 1811.

WM David L. Rutter, Jr., wanted to organize a festive gathering that also allowed other civic organizations to represent themselves and promote the good deeds they do in the community. This thoughtful outreach led to the park being provided at no cost to any local group or organization that wished to hold a BBQ, thanks to the town of Portland.

As people came and went throughout the day, many tasty side dishes were brought and enjoyed, along with a healthy portion of grilled delicacies and cold beverages. WM Dave wishes to thank all those who took time out of their day to be with the brothers of Warren Lodge and their families.

SOME OBSERVANCES IN SEPTEMBER:

SEPT. 7 – LABOR DAY (FEDERAL HOLIDAY HONORING WORKERS)
SEPT. 11 – PATRIOT DAY (OBSERVANCE FOR 9/11 VICTIMS)
SEPT. 11 – ROSH HASHANAH (BEGINS AT SUNDOWN)
SEPT. 20 – YOM KIPPUR (BEGINS AT SUNDOWN)
SEPT. 22 – FIRST DAY OF FALL (AUTUMNAL EQUINOX)

Brainard Lodge No. 102 and Union Lodge No. 31 Celebrate America by Ray Geer

On Tuesday evening. June 24, brothers of Brainard Lodge No. 102 and Union Lodge No 31 installed a sign at the Bayview Masonic Temple in Niantic celebrating America's 250th anniversary and honoring Freemasons contributions to American liberty.

It was also Brainard Lodge's annual potluck picnic, held indoors due to inclement weather, and approximately 35 brothers and their families attended.

Union Lodge No. 31 Mans Water Station at Half Marathon by Ray Geer

On Saturday, August 1, brothers from Union Lodge No. 31 in Niantic manned a water station at the 64th running of the John & Jessie Kelly Half Marathon in New London. The race starts and ends at Ocean Beach Park.

Bros. Wayne Ford, Fred Driscoll, Gerald Swope, Santos Cardero, Marvin Troelsen, and Ray Geer, all from Union Lodge, passed out water to the runners. *all photos by Ray Geer*

BOOSTERS Thank you for your generous contribution! Update: August 12, 2026.

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Lodges & Organizations

Master Mason Level $250 +

Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88
Ivanhoe Lodge No. 107
King Hiram Lodge No. 12
Lafayette Consistory, A.A.S.R.
Union Lodge No. 5

Fellowcraft Level $150-$249

CT Widows Sons Masonic Riders Assn.

Entered Apprentice Level $75-$149

Coastal Lodge No. 57
Columbia Lodge No. 25
CT Masonic Scouters Assn.
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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 instrictions indicated ** above. The funds are used to help cover the printing and mailing expenses of the paper.

Craft at Labor

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

Semi-Annual Communication

Sat Oct 17 8 a.m., Hartog Auditorium, Wallingford

Entered Apprentice Degrees

Fri, Sept 18, 6 p.m., Universal Fraternity Lodge No. 149, Stratford

Mon, Sept 21, 6 p.m., Compass Lodge No. 9, Wallingford, Dinner

Tues, Sept 22, Frederick-Franklin Lodge No. 14, Plainville

Tues, Sept 22, Acacia Lodge No. 85, Cos Cob

Tues, Sept 22, Brainard Lodge No. 102, Niantic

Sun, Oct 11, 5:30 p.m., Masonic Scouters Association, Winsted, Dinner, *Camp Workcoeman, 169 Camp Workcoeman Rd, New Hartford, Register online: https://sites.google.com/view/ctmasonicscoutersassociation/events/camp-degree*

Fellowcraft Degrees

Wed, Sep 16, 6:30 p.m., Union Lodge No. 5, Darien, Dinner

Tues, Oct 27, Brainard Lodge No. 102, Niantic

Master Mason Degrees

Sat, Sep 12, *Coastal Lodge No. 57, North Stonington, Outdoor Master Mason Degree, 622 Pendelton Hill Rd, North Stonington*

Thu, Oct 8, 6:30 p.m., Hiram Lodge No. 1, New Haven, Dinner

Other

Sun, Nov 15, 10 a.m., Harmony Lodge No. 42, Waterbury, Grand Order of the Sword of Bunker Hill, *Portrayed by the newly reactivated Nutmeg Order No. 106, $30 lifetime membership fee*

Camp Cedarcrest Benefit Golf Tournament

by Jeffrey Blayman

Members of the New Haven Kiwanis Club Foundation gathered with fellow golfers at Lyman Orchard Golf Club to benefit the kids of Camp Cedarcrest. As Masons tend to be quite benevolent, many golfers were also members of the Fraternity.

Under the stewardship of RWB Chris Earle, the tournament went off without a hitch. Throughout the round, many familiar brotherly faces crossed paths, among them WB JP Venoit, RWB Sal Ferrigno, and MWB Ted Nelson.

After the round, everyone headed inside for a fabulous meal and quite possibly the best raffle ever held at a tourney. The number of prizes was extensive, and everyone left with a full belly and a smile to be sure.

Reach out to RWB Chris Earle to get on the list for next summer's Kiwanis Club Tournament extravaganza.

Continued on page 39

Craft at Refreshment

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

All event information is supplied by the lodges and pulled from various calendars. The "Connecticut Freemasons" newspaper is not responsible for errors. When traveling, please contact the secretary of the lodge to verify all times and events.

For recurring events and breakfasts, they may not take place during the summer months – call to check.

Recurring Events

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

Recurring Breakfasts

First Sunday of the Month, Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140,
Newington, 7 a.m., SBA Breakfast Fundraiser

First Thursday of the Month, 8th Masonic District,
Groton, 9 a.m., *Groton Townhouse Restaurant*

Third Saturday of the Month, Frederick Franklin Lodge No. 14,
Plainville, 8 a.m., *Uncle Bob's Ham & Eggers, 2 Linden Street, Plainville*

Events

Thu, Sept. 10-Sat., Sept. 12, Grand Commandery of Knights Templar Bicentennial Celebration, Courtyard by Marriott, 4 Sebethe Dr, Cromwell *Contact James Whitaker, jaywhit0302@gmail.com for more info.*

Sat, Sept. 12, 11 a.m., Hiram Lodge No. 1, New Haven,
Annual Lodge Picnic, Ashlar Village Pavillion, Ashlar Village, Wallingford

Sat, Sep 19, 11:30 a.m., Valley Lodge No. 36, Simsbury,
6th Annual Charity Golf Event, Simsbury Farms, *West Simsbury, CT. 11:30 a.m. registration, 12:30 p.m. shotgun start, 5 p.m. dinner*

Sat Sep 19, 6 p.m., Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140, Newington,
Oktoberfest. *Paid reservations REQUIRED, Donation: $35/adults, $15/teens, $5/kids https://lodgelocator.com/sequin-level-140/page/payments*

Sun., Sept. 27, 1 p.m., Wolcott Lodge No. 146,
Wolcott, Scholarship Golf Tournament, 141 East St., Wolcott
$105 to play, $50 meal only. Proceeds benefit lodge scholarship fund

Thurs, Oct 1, 6:30 p.m., Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140,
Newington, Festive Board for Dummies – An Evening With Christopher L. Hodapp, *Seven course meal, $50/pp, reservations: j_zarrella@yahoo.com. Sequin-Level brothers have first priority.*

Sat, Oct 3, 10 a.m., New Haven Masonic Temple,
New Haven, Open House & Rededication Ceremony
Celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the New Haven Masonic Temple. Grand Master and Grand Lodge Officers rededicate the building, tours and displays, light refreshments

Sat, Oct 24, 6 p.m., New Haven Masonic Temple
New Haven, Gala Celebration Masonic Temple Centennial
Formal dinner with musical entertainment, presentations, $55/pp

Camp Cedarcrest continued from page 38

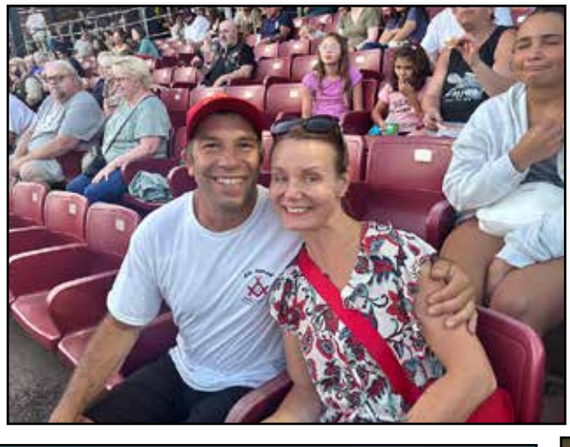
Play Ball! 4th Annual Masonic Family Day at Dodd Stadium

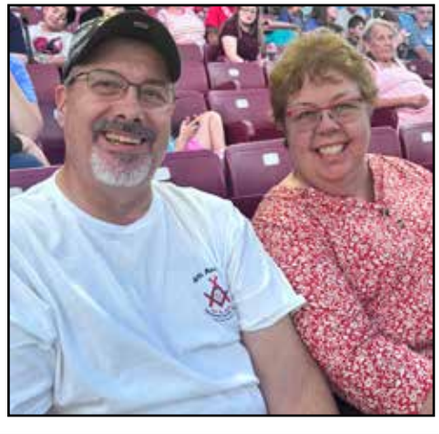
by Jeffrey Blayman

Once again, brothers from all over the state, along with friends and family, gathered at Dodd Stadium in Norwich for the 4th Annual Masonic Family Day to raise money for Masonicare. Thanks to the Norwich Sea Unicorns organization, 50% of ticket proceeds went to Masonicare.

Deputy Grand Master, RWB F. Matthew Heinrich, Jr., had the honor of throwing out the first pitch, followed by a rendition of the National Anthem by WB Tim Wilkins of Hiram Lodge No. 1.

Just before the start of the game, a $4,500 check was presented by event organizer RWB Jeffrey Blayman and Dodd Stadium General Manager Lee Walter, Jr. to the CEO of Masonicare, Jon-Paul Venoit, and Kim Magalhaes, VP of Residential Service. They were accompanied by a delegation of Grand Lodge Officers, including RWB Mark Hawkins, Grand Senior Warden, and RWB F. Matthew Heinrich, Jr., Deputy Grand Master. A donation resulted from Freemasons' ticket sales, totaling 900 tickets for this game.





Everybody was elated as the game went on, socializing and enjoying the gorgeous summer weather until after the final out, when the darkness offered a fabulous backdrop for a vibrant fireworks display to end yet another successful season of fundraising and brotherhood.

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Call To Arms: All Past Swordsmen of Nutmeg Order No. 106, Sword of Bunker Hill

Brothers of the Order, and future new brothers:

I am pleased to announce that the long-dormant Nutmeg Order No. 106, Order of the Sword of Bunker Hill, is now back in business. This is our generation's chance to make a meaningful, lasting difference in Connecticut Masonry.

Our intention is to recruit the many new brothers who show great yearning for Masonic meaning and Masonic importance. The Order imparts something worthwhile for Masons in our original colony. We are extending a welcoming hand to the many brothers who never had a chance to feel this warmth since the Nutmeg Order went dormant decades ago.

To date, much has been done, but there is much more yet to complete! Just as our colonial brethren faced shortages and incredible odds, we have local deadlines that must be met. I am asking for your help, as we cannot do this alone. "United we stand, divided we fall!"

What is the Sword of Bunker Hill?

The Grand Order of the Sword of Bunker Hill is a historical and patriotic order founded to perpetuate the principles of American liberty, and to indelibly impress upon the minds of each generation the sacrifices made by our Masonic forefathers in forming and establishing the United States of America.

The Order of the Sword of Bunker Hill is not a Masonic degree, but rather an Order conferred upon a Master Mason in good standing. There are 129 local Orders in states from New England to Colorado. The Order has been conferred on over 100,000 Master Masons over the past several years. At one time, over 800 members were confirmed in Connecticut (through approximately 2004).

Current State of Nutmeg Order No. 106

- To date, we have the original charter, degree floorcloth, and a few swords in our armory.
- Recently, the first board meeting of past members took place.
- The incorporating documents have been organized with the State of Connecticut Secretary of State, and all requirements of the National Grand Order have been met. One all-important requirement to reinstate the Order was a letter from Shane Dufresne, Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in the State of Connecticut, with his approval. That, I am happy to acknowledge, is complete.
- Our website and Facebook page is complete thanks to Honorable Commander of the Right Douglass Barry Jr. III (https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61590382352527 Short URL: https://bit.ly/4hXjsMs).
- Past members are stepping up to fill positions and train in the heroic ritual, such as Honorable Commander of the Left Barry Bozzell.

However, we still need many of the tools and implements required to properly hold the events with the appropriate style. We need swords, and we need lots of them. The Order has a lending and/or gift form to facilitate your generous donation or lending – see the email contact below to arrange giving or lending of swords.

How Do I Become a Member?

It's easy. A Regular Membership is $30 for a lifetime membership.

All past members become Charter Members when they re-register with the newly activated Nutmeg Order No. 106 and will receive a ritual and historical book for a $10 fee.

The first conferral is Sunday, November 15, 10 a.m. at Harmony Lodge No. 42 in Waterbury, the Grand Master's home lodge.

If you have questions, or for more information, contact:

RWB Albin Weber
Grapefisher55@gmail.com
Cell: (203) 206-1867 text or call.

VJ Day Parade in Moosup

by Jeffrey Blayman and Greg Webster

On Sunday, August 9, American Legion Post 91 in Moosup held the 65th Annual VJ Day Parade honoring the sacrifices of many WWII veterans. Grand Marshal and Korean War veteran Vern Collins led the parade through the quaint rural mill town of Moosup. Parade goers and families braved the heat and packed the sides of the streets, celebrating in their own ways with flags, signs, and numerous patriotic yard displays.

MWGM Shane Dufresne and his Grand Lodge officers, marching behind the Moosup Lodge No. 113 banner, led Masonic brothers, Sir Knights from the Commanderies of Knights Templar, and Sisters Judy Behler, Worthy Grand Matron, and Heidi Webster, Grand Conductress of the Order of the Eastern Star of Connecticut.

Music filled the air, as did the sound of vintage airplanes that performed flybys along the parade route before circling back for another run. There was a huge show of support from numerous veterans organizations like the American Legion Riders of Milford and groups from Rhode Island, ensuring the event was jam-packed with participants!

The parade is one of only three still held anywhere in the United States, and the Moosup parade is the only one held east of the Mississippi River. It was truly a special day held to honor the victory over Japan in the Pacific theater of World War II and honor our veterans for their sacrifices all those years ago.

The Concentric Circle has Grown!

New move-ins:

Masonicare is offering a 24-month, 5% discount on base monthly fees (excluding healthcare charges) in our Residential Living communities!

Eligibility requirements:

You must be a Mason for 5 years; applies to Masons, widows of Masons and OES

Additional Concentric Circle Benefits include:

- **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 - 5% off base rental rate for 24 months
- **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) and 5% off base service fee for first three months
- **$5,000 OFF ENTRY FEES** for Masonicare at Ashlar Village and Masonicare at Chester Village

Masonicare
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Masonicare.org

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