



FRIENDSHIP 33

LODGE UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2026

My Brothers,

We are winding down February and are jumping into March. This month we were visited by Richard Branigan, CEO of Red Cross for Connecticut who provided us with an overview of the Red Cross and their vast network of programs that are aimed at helping our fellow man. He thanked all those Brothers in attendance who were veterans of the United States Military as he is extremely proud of the work the Red Cross does overseas with those deployed defending our country.



The Lodge Travel Day was to attend Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140, for an Entered Apprentice Degree. Worshipful Master, Most Worshipful Brother Chip Stamm welcomed all 19 Friendship



Brothers who visited the lodge. The Officer team did a great job conferring the degree and Newington welcomed three new Freemasons into the Fraternity.

During the February Trowel Club meeting a proposal to replace the Officer's collars, jewels, and aprons as well as the visitor aprons was approved for \$3,000 with the caveat that should a Brother or Brothers choose to donate to the new paraphernalia, remaining funds would be returned to the

Trowel Club. Should you like to donate to this project, please contact MWB Gary Arseneau, Secretary at friendship33.1975@gmail.com.

Brothers should begin to receive phone calls on a campaign to check on all Friendship Brothers. This effort is being led by Junior Deacon, Brother Eric Vargas and supported by the Officers. We look forward to hearing from you if you have not been able to be at lodge for a while.

Finally, Monday, March 2, 2026, at the Stated Communication we will be hosting Major General Francis Evon, the Adjutant General or Commanding Officer of the Connecticut National Guard who will be speaking on leadership. This will be a dual event as dinner will be a fund raiser for the Marcus Holcomb / Nathan Hale Chapters of DeMolay. We are looking forward to presenting a nice donation to the young men of DeMolay so please attend dinner and if you would add a little extra to the basket every dollar would help. If you cannot make it, you can still donate to DeMolay by sending a check to the lodge and identify that in the note “DeMolay,” or contacting MWB Arseneau.



Fraternally,

Jake Manke

Worshipful Master 2026

UPCOMING DATES

March 2	Stated Communication MG Francis Evon, CT National Guard DeMolay Dinner Fundraiser	6:30 PM Dinner 7:30 PM Lodge
March 9	Special Communication Entered Apprentice Degree	6:30 PM Dinner 7:30 PM Meeting
March 15	Cabata Family St. Patrick's Dinner	4:00 PM – 7:00 PM
March 16	Stated Communication Chili Cookoff	6:30 PM Dinner 7:30 PM Lodge
March 23	Candidate Instruction and Ritual Practice	7:00 PM
March 28	Brunch with the Bunny	11:00 AM – 3:00 PM
March 30	Blue Lodge Council Valley Lodge, Simsbury	6:30 PM Dinner 7:30 PM Meeting

