



FRIENDSHIP 33

LODGE UPDATE

MARCH 2026

My Brothers,

I am pleased to say we had an extremely productive and action-packed month of March. On March 2nd we welcomed Brigadier General Francis Evon, Jr. the Adjutant General of the Connecticut National Guard who spoke on Leadership and an overview of “Connecticut’s Home Team” for the lodge as well as the young men of Marcus Holcomb / Nathan Hale Chapter of DeMolay. Dinner for the evening was a fundraising event for DeMolay where we raised \$850.



On March 9th, we held a Special Communication and conferred the Entered Apprentice Degree on our newest Entered Apprentice, Brother Christopher Hughes. The Officers presented an excellent degree as expressed by many visiting brethren.

That evening, I was pleased to present Brother Andrew Stribling with his new Traveling Apron as he was the first of two Friendship Brothers who have completed their traveling goal of 5 different lodges, witnessing two degrees. This initiative gives our Brethren exposure to other lodges, experiencing their ritual and strengthening Friendship’s ties to our neighboring lodges. I will be presenting another apron very shortly and with the attendance of Lodge Travel Nights, there may be more to follow. Congratulations Brother Andrew!



March 15th was the Annual Cabata Family St. Patrick’s Day Dinner to benefit the American Cancer Society raising over \$2,500 and growing. I am extremely proud of the work of those of you who helped with preparing and serving dinner, as the money goes directly to battle that horrible disease.

On the 16th, at our State Communication, we held the Annual Friendship Lodge Chili Cookoff. The winner moves on to compete in the 5th District Chili Cookoff in June. RWB Rudy Cabata walked away as this year's Chili Champion with an excellent chili.

We welcomed Brother Alessandro Ferreria, who is visiting from Brazil visiting his daughter who attends UCONN. Brother Alessandro is the current Junior Warden for his home lodge, St. John the Baptist Lodge, No. 169. MWB Chip Stamm contacted me as he knew Friendship has many Brothers who are from Brazil and could translate for him. A special thank you to Senior Steward, Brother Ede Santos who welcomed him with open arms. A Friendship Lodge pin was presented to Brother Alessandro as well as a second pin for the Worshipful Master of his lodge.



The Lodge Travel Day was to attend Unity Lodge No. 148, for an Entered Apprentice Degree. Worshipful Master Peter DiMauro welcomed all 15 Friendship Brothers who visited the lodge. The Officer team did a great job conferring the degree and New Britain and Plainville welcomed five new Freemasons into the Fraternity.

With the end of March, we have already completed the first Quarter of 2026. I am proud to lead a dedicated group of Officers and Brothers who have supported this year's events and initiatives. Our Lodge is strong and vibrant, which is apparent by your attendance and participation at Lodge and in the District. Routinely Worshipful Masters and Brothers during Lodge Travel Nights compliment us for such a strong showing and lodge.

If you haven't been able to make lodge or an event in a while, it couldn't be a better time to join us, we would love to see you! If you need assistance or a ride to lodge, please give me a call or text message and I will arrange for a ride.

Fraternally,


Jake Manke
Worshipful Master 2026
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UPCOMING DATES

March 29	Brunch with the Bunny \$10 per person, under 12 Free Egg Hunt for Children 10 years old and younger	11:00 AM – 1:00 PM <i>Brunch Served</i> 11 AM – 12PM
March 30	Blue Lodge Council Annual Meeting Valley Lodge 36, Simsbury Presentation: Masonic Trivia	6:30 PM Dinner 7:30 PM Meeting
March 31	Officer Meeting	6:30 PM
April 1	Martin & Max Hiram Lodge No. 18 3 Washington Ave. Sandy Hook, CT	6:30 PM Dinner 7:30 PM Lodge
April 6	Stated Communication Brotherhood Night (Dinner after Lodge) <i>Texas Tuxedo Night – Suit Jacket, Collared Shirt, Blue Jeans, Cowboy Boots (if you have them)</i>	6:30 PM Lodge Dinner Following
April 10	Grand Lodge Annual Session Banquet Marriot Hartford/Windsor Airport 28 Day Hill Road, Windsor	6:00 PM
April 11	Grand Lodge Annual Communication Marriot Hartford/Windsor Airport 28 Day Hill Road, Windsor	8:00 AM Start
April 13	Trowel Club Temple Corp	6:30 PM Dinner 7:30 PM Meeting
April 15	Degree Rehearsal Fellow Craft (Officers and Cast)	7:00 PM
April 18	Grand Master's Gala Aqua Turf	6:00 PM – 10:00 PM
April 20	Stated Communication Guest Speaker RWB Jeffrey Blayman	6:30 PM Dinner 7:30 PM Lodge
April 21	Degree Rehearsal Fellow Craft (Officers and Cast)	7:00 PM
April 29	Degree Rehearsal Fellow Craft (Officers and Cast)	7:00 PM

