



# FRIENDSHIP 33 LODGE UPDATE

APRIL 2026

My Brothers,

The month of April once again proved to be busy for Friendship Lodge. We started the month dressed in “Texas Tuxedos” for an early lodge meeting, which was followed by dinner at JD’s Restaurant for Brotherhood Night. We had 20 Brothers join us for dinner filling the booths at the restaurant. I asked WB David Walker to send the picture of us dressed in our “Texas Tuxedos” to his home lodge, Victory Lodge, 1160 in San Antonio, TX to have them dress in what they perceive how we dress in lodge. More to follow.



Grand Lodge Banquet was April 10<sup>th</sup> in South Windsor where Friendship was well represented for a buffet style dinner. On that Saturday, at Grand Lodge Session we welcomed a new Grand Master, Shane Dufresne who was installed along with RWB Rudy Cabata (District Deputy), WB Kenneth Crooker (Associate Grand Marshal), and Allyan Lopes (Associate Grand Almonor).

MWB Dufresne started his term with a bourbon tasting event at Worldwide Spirits here in Southington. Several Friendship Brothers attended this event where a special edition Litchfield Distilleries Bourbon was released bearing the MWB’s name to raise funds for Masonic charities to include the CT Freemason’s fund, Shriners, and Scottish Rite Dyslexia Centers. Those of you interested in purchasing a bottle, they are currently on the shelves at Worldwide.

Travel Night was April 16<sup>th</sup>, where 10 Brothers traveled to Cheshire to Temple Lodge No. 16 where they were received with open arms. Temple Lodge is Friendship Lodge’s Mother Lodge where in 1795, Temple Brothers petitioned the Grand Lodge to start a new lodge in Southington.



The Grand Master’s Gala in recognition of MWB Dufresne was held on April 18<sup>th</sup> at the Aqua Turf. Friendship Brothers purchased four tables

matching the Grand Master's home lodge, which represents the strength of our lodge, and it's committed to Connecticut Freemasonry. This banquet broke records by raising over \$10,000 and had an attendance of over 320 people. In my opinion, the Gala was an excellent event, and I am hoping we have more in the future.



Our second Stated Communication was held with MWB Arseneau hosting Masonic Jeopardy which as always is an excellent time where we have fun while learning about the Fraternity. The Craft voted to reinstate MWB Shane Dufresne as an affiliate member of Friendship Lodge at his request. We welcome the Grand Master back as a member of our lodge. We received two additional petitions, which if accepted we will have three candidates that will receive their Entered Apprentice Degree at a Special Communication on Monday, May 11, 2026.

I am truly thankful to every one of you supporting me as we are trying new programs and have a planned busy schedule. Our Lodge is strong, family-based, and capable of many things and as long as we continue to have dedicated Brothers our lodge has an extremely bright future. My favorite leadership book is "It's Your Ship", by Captain D. Michael Abrashoff, who details the value of listening to everyone within your group who can provide insight on how to make improvements from those who are directly impacted. If you have a suggestion on how we can become an even stronger lodge, please reach out to me.

Lastly, we are planning some fun events in the near future, to include a Lady's Night Dinner, the Memorial Day Parade, Lady's Tea, Award's Night, America 250 Night, and others. Please consider joining us at all these events and join in on the fun we are having this year. If you need assistance to attend an event or lodge, please contact me and we will coordinate with you a way to attend.

Fraternally,

  
**Jake Manke**  
*Worshipful Master 2026*  
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# UPCOMING DATES

May 4	Stated Communication	6:30 PM Dinner 7:30 PM Lodge
May 6	Entered Apprentice Degree Rehearsal	7:00 PM
May 11	<b>Special Communication</b> <b>Entered Apprentice Degree</b>	6:30 PM Dinner 7:30 PM Lodge
May 12	Officer Meeting	6:30 PM
May 18	Stated Communication Lady's Dinner	<b>6:30 PM Lodge</b> Dinner Following
May 25	Southington Memorial Day Parade	TBD
May 27	Blue Lodge Council Annual Picnic / Chili Cookoff Evening Star 101 hosted by Valley 36	6:30 PM Dinner 7:30 PM Meeting
May 27	Music on the Green	6:30 PM
June 1	Stated Communication Award's Night	6:30 PM Dinner 7:30 PM Lodge
June 15	Stated Communication America 250 Night. Wear your Patriotic Gear	6:30 PM Dinner 7:30 PM Lodge

