

Electronic Trestleboard

Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145, A. F. & A. M.



Stated Communications

First and Third Thursday - 7:30 P.M.
24 Golway Street Manchester, CT 06042
<https://lodge145.ctfreemasons.net/>

Gabriel A. Garmendia
Worshipful Master

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Message from the East

By Gabriel A. Garmendia



Greetings Brothers, Families, and Friends of Friendship Tuscan Lodge #145. It is a surreal feeling to think that over 5 years ago 3 gentlemen, whom I've never met, knocked on my door. I was expecting their visit. I invited them in, and they asked me a series of questions about my life, my work and family, who I was and my background, among many other questions. I could tell they were trying to get a good read on and gauge the man sitting across from them. Through all the questions however, one stood out the most; why do you want to be a Freemason? There were many ways I could have answered; I could have said to be a part of a brotherhood, to learn and gain knowledge, to contribute to society, to be active in my community, or simply to hang out with like-minded gentlemen twice a month wearing our tuxedos and smoking cigars. However comical my illusions of the craft at the time and out of all the answers I could

have given, there was one that stood out for me, one that stood most true. So, I said; "I would like to be a cog on a big machine". After over 5 years on my Masonic journey those 3 gentlemen that knocked on my door that night became my brothers and through my experience with masonry, truer words were never spoken on my part.

We have completed the Installation of Officers for 2019 and I am honored to be a cog among many other cogs making this great machine of Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145 work for another year and many more to come. A heartfelt thanks to all the Brothers who have helped me on this journey to the East and to the Past Masters for a truly memorable installation. I am honored by the attendance and participation of my family in the installation. Thank you to my love, my wife, and best friend Adela. Not only for her help with the Installation and many other events, but for her endless patience and support for me throughout my Masonic journey. You will never know how much I appreciate and love you. I'm sure all the brothers can attest that behind every good man is an even better woman helping us smooth out the edges of our rough ashlar.

I would be remiss not to recognize and thank my parents for not only being the best parents a guy could ask for, but also for their constant support and love for everything I do. Thank you!

To my father Antonio for creating and reciting a poem in Quechua, specifically for that occasion. Muchísimas gracias Pop. Te quiero muchísimo! (Thank you very Much. I love you!)

To those Brothers who guided me and could only attend in spirit; I sorely missed you. I know in my heart that if you could have attended, you would have.

WB Dave LaFargue, thank you for leading our lodge this past year and thank you for all your support and good counsel to me in preparation for my year in the East.

As we look towards 2019, I believe community outreach is a vital part of our success as a Lodge. Reaching out to churches, schools and local organizations to see if we could assist them in any fundraisers, charities or events would not only promote our service to the community, but I believe it would also promote our presence in the community. It lets more people know that there is a Masonic Lodge at 24 Golway Street, and we are here to help. This, in turn, could possibly encourage more people to help with our events, establish meaningful relationships here in town, but also, perhaps create an interest of perspective members for the craft, which we all know is vital to our Lodge and masonry as a whole. I have some ideas on this that I will update everyone with throughout the year, but of course would welcome any and all ideas from the brothers as well.

For those who are interested, September 13th thru September 15th, 2019 the Lodge is planning on traveling to Salem, MA for our annual trip. There will be more updates and information to follow.

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and I wish each and every one of you a prosperous New Year. I look forward to leading our Lodge and playing my part as a cog on this great machine. Here's to what I hope is another great and successful year for Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145.

From the Secretary's Desk

By Anderson H. Zeidler Jr.



At our last meeting in November of 2018, we had the closing of the books for the 2018 fiscal year. This is nothing new as we have been doing this in some form since 1976. Prior to that year, if the Lodge was running short of money, they would send out the dues notices early to get some more money in. Likewise, not all of the expenses incurred during a particular Master's year were paid in that year. They might have been pushed off until such a time as the Lodge had the money to pay them. The result was that it was difficult to determine what the financial status was in any particular year. In 1976, it was the decision of WM Robert McBride that he would take the financial "hit" and we would attempt to straighten out our financial year. That was definitely a courageous decision as that meant that

his year showed a definite loss on the financial front. We didn't send out dues bills early and we tried to pay all of the expenses that occurred during his year. Every year since then we have tried to do the same thing. Since the Master's year begins, financially, on December first, that indicated that we had to wrap up the previous year at our last meeting in November. This has led to some very interesting situations over the years.

In the early days of the Lodge, it was our custom to have a sit-down dinner for our annual meeting. However, the new stewards had not yet been given any money to provide for refreshments for the year yet and the previous stewards had been told to spend all their money so that none was returned to the Lodge, so where was the money going to come from for the dinner? Very quickly the new Stewards started talking to the old Stewards and got them to spend their remaining money on food and supplies for the annual meeting dinner. This quickly evolved to the practice of the outgoing Stewards spending any money they might have left over to buy supplies and equipment for the following year.

Every fall, there is a meeting with the Wardens, Secretary, Treasurer, a member of the Trustees and whoever else the Master thinks should be there. At that time, the current year's budget is looked at to see where we are and is usually the basis for the next year's budget. The incoming Master puts forth his ideas for the year and the budget is set for his year. It is hoped that each Master will at least break even for the year and not have to get any money from the Trustees to balance his budget.

At that last meeting in November, if there has been enough income, the Lodge makes donations to various charities. These have been in the budget all year but are not funded until that last meeting. Some years, we have not been able to fund all the charities we would like due to a shortage of income. This year, I'm happy to say, we were able to use \$4,000.00 for charities. Not bad for a \$40,000.00 budget. We were able to give money to the Manchester Scholarship Foundation, The Shriner's hospital for Children, Manchester Area Conference of Churches for their food pantry, The Masonic Charity Foundation and many more in addition to helping our own members that needed it. In addition, WM LaFargue was able to return some money to the Trustees and add a small sum to the Regalia Fund for purchasing new jewels and aprons at some future time. I, for one, am very proud to be a member of a Lodge that is able and willing to do these kinds of outreach.

In order to be able to do these things, each Master has been encouraged to have some fund raising. For the last ten years, or so, most of that has come from our concession stand at the UConn football games. Interestingly enough, the sum that we generate from the football games finances all these good things that we are able to do each year. If we are to continue to do good works, we need this fund-raising event; and we need your help. We have a core group but need people to work with us. This is a fundraiser that requires us to only supply the people; the Lodge does not have to put up any money. That's a good deal. We'd like your help to continue these good works. If you get a call to ask you to work at a game, please say yes. We can use the help.

Lodge Calendar

Date	Event
Jan 3	Business Meeting (C)
Jan 12	Lodge of Fun <i>Check website for details</i>
Jan 17	Business Meeting (C)
Jan 30	Blue Lodge Council
Feb 7	EA Degree (F)
Feb 16	Lodge of Fun <i>Check website for details</i>
Feb 21	Business Meeting (C)
Feb 24	Brotherhood in Action Annual Breakfast, 9am-Noon <i>25 East Center St, Banquet Hall, Manchester, CT</i>

Full Calendar: <https://lodge145.ctfreemasons.net/calendar/>

All Stated & Special Meetings - Dinner 6:30 pm

F = TUX, SF = Suit & Tie, C = Jacket /Tie

2019 Lodge Officers



Worshipful Master
Gabriel A. Garmendia



Sr. Warden
Marcos G. Garcia



Jr. Warden
Jordan B. Porcher



Treasurer
Russell L. Scull, II



Secretary
Anderson H. Zeidler, Jr.



Sr. Deacon
James B. Young (Brad)



Jr. Deacon
Richard M. Balboni, Jr.



Sr. Steward
Jeffrey S. Mayer



Jr. Steward
Charles J. Jenkins, Jr.



Marshal
Peter V. Letteri



Chaplain
Dwight C. Mertens



Tiler
Richard M. Clark



Historian
Donald A. Janelle

Active Past Masters

Richmond G. Shuttleworth	1975
Stephen T. Penny	1979
John DiCioccio, Jr., PAGM	1980, 2007
James H. Wilson, Jr.	1982, 2009
Russell F. Haugh, Jr., 33°	1983
Richard G. Claing, PAGM 6-A	1985
Donald W. Dean, PDD	1987
Dustin C. Wood, Jr.	1989
Carl E. Benson, II, PDD	1990, 1992
Anderson H. Zeidler, Jr., PDD 6-A	1991
Wilbert E. Nead	1992, 1999
Dwight C. Mertens, PDD	1993
Albert J. Reid	1993, 1996, 2000
Michael T. Agnew	1994
Scott T. Reid	1995, 1998, 1999, 2010
Stanley H. Ostrinsky	1997
Stephen K. Kraft	1997
Paul A. Edberg, PDD	2000
Eugene A. Bacon	2001, 2002
John A. Pierce, Jr.	2004
Christopher D. Ramsey	2005
Stephen K. Spencer, PAGM	2006
Jose C. Dias	2008
Andrew S. Warren	2011
Eric H. Hoy, PDD	2012
Russell L. Scull, II	2013
Madhu Renduchintala	2014
Scott D. Pierce	2015
Dennis W. Bellamy, Jr.	2016, 2017
David S. LaFargue	2018