ANCIENT FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS

19th Summer District Newsletter 2026

Saturday June 27th, 2026 R:. W:. Cliffard Brightman received his 75 year medal on his 99th birthday. Noquochoke lodge made this a very special night dedicated completely to his life!

A message from DDGM 19th East

Dear Brethren,

I hope the summer months have been a time of rest and refreshment for you and those who surround you. Our District and Fraternity have so many activities to support Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. It is the investment of our time that activates and brings to life these healthy tenets.

All five of our lodges are starting the Masonic year with new Masters. We had a powerful Lodge of Qualification in July for these new Masters. I look forward to making as many Installations as I can. It is a source of pride seeing lodges supporting one another when you can visit your lodge as well as other lodges.

As we begin the Masonic year, we also have Official Visits to each of the Lodges. Much of the work has already begun prior to the Official Visit. I want to thank all the lodge officers who are working diligently to prepare and review the necessary documentation in preparation for the Official Visit.

The Lodge of Instruction on Wednesday, September 23rd will be joint one with the 16th and 19 West Districts and will be held at Mayflower Lodge in Middleboro. This will be an amazing opportunity for our members to take part in an assessment of our lodges as we continue to strengthen our lodges for the coming years. I look forward to seeing you there.

I wish to thank the representatives from the lodges in the 19 East and 19 West District who have met several times and created a District Calendar-an incredible way to support one another. These representatives will be meeting routinely to continue coordinating the activities in our lodges.

Many others depend on your health, my brothers. The investment of your time for your health strengthens and supports our institution. When you have your annual wellness visits with your primary care provider, please support our Grand Master as he has asked that we observe September as Prostate Awareness month.

Thank you for your care and attention to one another. May your investment of time nourish and support your individual health in bringing light to your lives, your families, your lodges and to our larger communities.

Right Worshipful

Peter Webster Ham

District Debuty Grand Master 19th East Masonic District

A message from DDGM 19th West

What Does Good Look Like?

Brethren,

I want to offer you a question to think about: What does good look like? We often remind ourselves that Freemasonry is not just another organization. We are a fraternity built upon principles, traditions, obligations, and the development of men. But those ideals do not excuse us from the realities of running an organization. Freemasonry may not be a business in its purpose, but our Lodges must be operated with businesslike discipline. Think about our appendant and concordant bodies. Many of them have clearly identifiable missions, charities, foundations, hospitals, scholarships, and causes. They have an end result people can see. But where do many of the men who eventually support and sustain those bodies begin? They begin in our Lodges. The Blue Lodge is the foundation. Without healthy Lodges, without membership, without engagement, and without growth, that foundation weakens. Eventually, everything depending upon it weakens as well. That means leadership matters. You were elected by your Brethren. That election was not simply permission to wear an apron, sit in a particular chair, or have your name printed beside a title. You were elected to lead. Leadership means doing the unglamorous work too. Pay the rent. Pay the bills. Send the delinquency notices. Complete the reports. Answer the correspondence. Know your membership. Understand your finances. Prepare for meetings before you walk through the door. And hold your elected and appointed officers accountable for the responsibilities of their offices. If someone accepts an office, there should be an expectation that he performs the duties that come with it. But we also have to be willing to ask a question that sometimes makes us uncomfortable: What happens when he can't? What happens when an officer, for whatever reason, can no longer fulfill the responsibilities of his office? Ignoring it is not a solution. Doing his job for him indefinitely is not a solution. And allowing the Lodge to suffer because we're afraid of having an uncomfortable conversation is certainly not leadership. First, we help. We mentor. We train. We make sure the Brother understands what is expected of him and has the tools necessary to succeed. But if the duties still cannot be fulfilled, then what is the next appropriate course of action? Perhaps responsibilities need to be redistributed temporarily. Perhaps another Brother needs to be developed and prepared to step forward. Perhaps an honest conversation needs to take place about whether remaining in that office is what's best for the Brother and the Lodge. Sometimes leadership means recognizing that a chair cannot simply remain occupied while its responsibilities remain vacant. The work still has to get done. Accountability isn't punishment. It isn't personal. It is stewardship. And succession planning is part of that stewardship. If your secretary couldn't perform his duties tomorrow, who is prepared to help? If your Treasurer suddenly became unavailable, who understands the finances? If your Master could no longer serve, is the Lodge prepared for what comes next? If the answer is "I don't know," then we have identified a weakness that leadership should address before it becomes a crisis. A well-run Lodge should never depend entirely upon one Brother. And Leadership Does Not End When Your Term Does There is another group of leaders I want to address: Our Past Masters and Past District Deputy Grand Masters. Your experience matters. Your institutional knowledge matters. The lessons you learned while sitting in those chairs matter. But once your term has ended, your role changes. Your responsibility is no longer to drive your narrative. It is not to make sure the current Master does things the way you did them. It is not to remind everyone how things operated during your year. And it is not to become a second Master, a second District Deputy, or an unofficial authority operating from the sidelines. Your experience should be an asset, not an obstacle. Your responsibility now is to assist, provide guidance, and offer direction when it is needed. Give the current leaders the benefit of what you learned. Help them avoid the mistakes you made. Answer the phone when they call. Offer counsel when asked. And sometimes, perhaps most importantly, give them the room to lead. They will make decisions differently than you did. They may try something you wouldn't have tried. They may even make mistakes you wouldn't have made. That's leadership development. We should not be creating copies of ourselves. We should be creating leaders capable of eventually doing better than we did. A Past Master's greatest legacy should not be hearing someone say: "That's how he used to do it." His legacy should be seeing the Brothers who followed him succeed because he helped prepare them. The same applies to a Past District Deputy. You have already had your opportunity to lead the District. Now use that experience to strengthen the Brother who carries that responsibility today. Counsel without controlling. Guide without governing. Support without undermining. And when the current leadership succeeds, celebrate that success even when they arrived there by a different road than you would have chosen. That is mentorship. That is succession. And that is leadership too. We cannot continually blame Grand Lodge, changing generations, busy schedules, declining membership, or society for the condition of our Lodges while ignoring the things that are entirely within our own control. A struggling Lodge rarely becomes healthy by accident. And a successful Lodge rarely became successful by accident either. Someone created a vision. Someone established expectations. Someone followed through. Someone developed the next generation of leaders. Someone asked uncomfortable questions. And someone decided that "this is how we've always done it" was not a strategic plan. That responsibility now belongs to us. We as an organization will only do better if we do better. So I return to my original question: What does good look like? What does a successful Lodge look like to you? Is it simply having enough members present to open? Or is it a Lodge where men actually want to attend? Where candidates become active Brothers? Where new Masons find mentors? Where Past Masters remain engaged without needing to remain in control? Where officers understand their responsibilities? Where the bills are paid, records are current, communication is consistent, and the Lodge knows where it is going? Where every officer understands not only his own job, but is helping prepare the Brother who will eventually follow him? And perhaps most importantly: What is your end goal for your Lodge? If I asked you tonight where you want your Lodge to be one year from now, could you tell me? What about three years from now? What are you building? Because if we don't know what success looks like, we cannot possibly know whether we're moving toward it. Maintaining the status quo is not leadership. Leadership requires direction. Our obligation as elected leaders is not simply to preserve what was handed to us until our term expires. Our obligation is to leave it stronger than we found it. More organized. More engaged. More financially sound. More prepared. More accountable. And ready for the Brothers who will eventually take our places. So when you return to your Lodge, don't simply ask: "What do we have coming up?" Ask: "Where are we going?" Then ask: "Do we have the right people in the right positions to get us there?" And finally, ask yourself the hardest question: "What am I doing, in the role I hold today, to help us get there?" Because whether you are a current Master, an elected officer, a Past Master, a District Deputy, or a Past District Deputy, you still have a role in the success of this fraternity. The difference is understanding what that role is. Brethren, what does good look like for your Lodge?

And what are you willing to do to make it happen?

Right Worshipful

Stephen Sparks

District Debuty Grand Master 19th West Masonic District

For up-to-date information, please visit 19thmasonic.com

Greetings from the DNL Team

Hello brethern,

Well, this is the end of my term as District Information Officer and with that I hand over the role of creating and publishing the DNL to a very comptent and skilled team. Bro. Travers, Bro. Riggs, Bro. Allen & Bro. Moniz. These men will do this publication justice and help elevate it to new heights not yet imagined by us. Wor. Burke will be handing the website 19thMasonic.com going forward. I wish them all nothing but success and good will! Being part of the DNL project has been a dream come true. It has allowed me an outlet to connect with the district in creative ways I didn't think were possible prior. I want to sincerely thank R:. W:. Lawrence S. Santos for being chosen to do this! Thank you R:. W:. Joshua Bumpus, R:. W:. Stephen Sparks & R:. W:. Peter Ham for allowing me to continue in this roll for the last three years. As always, ***If you'd like your Event, Degree, Pictures, Story, Inside the Lodge, Traveling Man or anything else shared with the Districts in this Newsleter, please Email*** 19thDistrictNewsletter@gmail.com. Fairwell DNL it has been the time of my life. "Long Live the 19th Masonic District!"

Bro. Ian Michael Harcourt

District Deputy Grand Marshal 19th East Masonic District

Lodge of Instruction

Wednesday **September 23rd, 2026**

In Middleboro at Mayflower Lodge

Online Dinner Reservations

Please click here to secure your meal

Future Lodge of Instructions:

*Thursday Oct. 22nd New Bedford – Salvation Army

Wednesday Special Night Nov. 25th – New Bedford – Turkey Giveaway

*December TBA

CANIDATES CORNER

Entered	Passed	Raised
*Carlton Page **-Quittacus** *Daniel Raymond Roy **-Star in The East Lodge** Alfred Rego ***Noquochoke Lodge** Jacob Mallen ***Noquochoke Lodge** Shane Robert Roderiques ***Quittacus Lodge** Delvin Fitzgerald Tracey ***Star in the East Lodge** Alix Christopher Silvia ***Star in the East**	Christopher Scott Thrasher ***Abraham Howland Lodge** Logan Avelar ***Noquochoke Lodge** Jacob Piskara ***Noquochoke Lodge**	*Francis Joseph Rogan IV **-Star in The East Lodge**

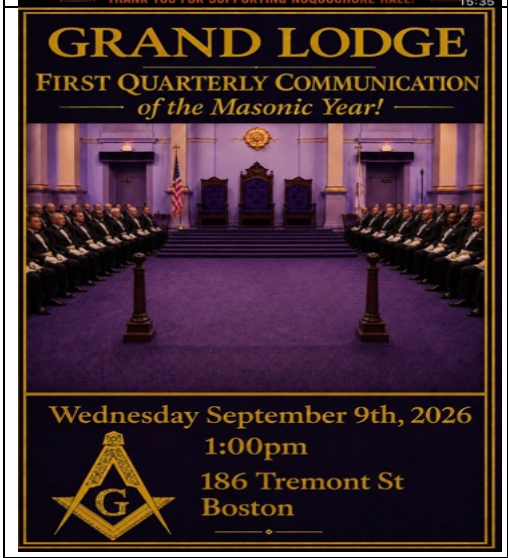
/G\ Recommend a Good man to become BETTER! /G

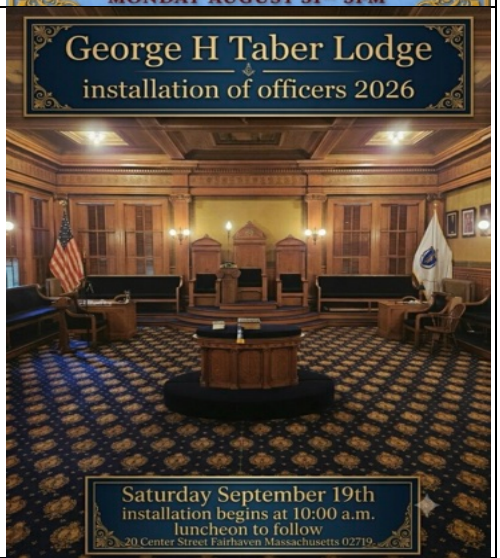
For up-to-date information, please visit 19thmasonic.com

Upcoming District Events

Help make your lodge event a success!

Email: 19thDistrictNewsletter@gmail.com with your info





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Official Visits Calendar Fall 2026

**Tuesday September 8th Pythagorean Lodge Official Visit R:. W:. Peter Webster Ham*
(Officers from Quittacus Lodge)

**Monday September 14th George H. Taber Lodge Official Visit R:. W:. Peter Webster Ham*
(Officers from Star in the East Lodge)

**Thursday September 22nd King Philip Lodge Official Visit R:. W:. Stephen Sparks (Fellowcraft Degree)*
(District Officers of the 19th West will fill in)

**Thursday October 1st Massasoit-Narragansett Lodge Official Visit R:. W:. Stephen Sparks*
(District Officers of the 19th West will fill in)

**Tuesday October 6th Mount Hope Lodge Official Visit R:. W:. Stephen Sparks (Closed Installation of Officers)*
(District Officers of the 19th West will fill in)

**Friday October 9th Social Harmony Lodge Official Visit R:. W:. Peter Webster Ham*
(Officers from Pythagorean Lodge)

**Tuesday October 13th Abraham H. Howland Jr. Lodge Official Visit R:. W:. Stephen Sparks*
(District Officers of the 19th West will fill in)

**Saturday October 24th Noqouchoke Lodge Official Visit R:. W:. Stephen Sparks*
(District Officers of the 19th West will fill in)

**Tuesday November 3rd Star in the East Lodge Official Visit R:. W:. Peter Webster Ham*
(Officers from George H. Taber Lodge)

**Thursday November 12th Quittacus Lodge Official Visit R:. W:. Peter Webster Ham*
(Officers from Social Harmony Lodge)

For up-to-date information, please visit 19thmasonic.com

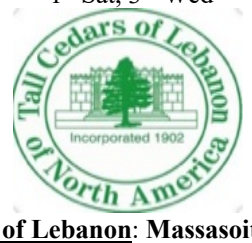
IN SEARCH OF MORE LIGHT?

Check out the Appendant bodies…

Eastern Star: Cortez Allen Chapter No. 161
Contact: (Chapter Secretary) PGM Judith A. Goss 508.493.3419
Dues: $50
Meetings: 2nd Wed. of the month @ Noquochoke Lodge Westport. *Open to all Master Masons and Ladies W/ Masonic affiliation*

Rainbow Girls: 13th Assemble Taunton MA
Contact: Mathew Westgate 508.330.8544
Dues: $25 a year to pledge group 7yo-10yo / 11yo-20 yo member.
Meeting: 1st Sat @ Mayflower Lodge

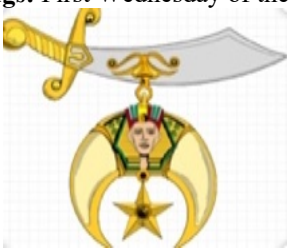
DeMolay: Phoenix Chapter/Middleboro Chapter
Contact: Dad Mathew Westgate 508.330.8544
Dues: $35 life membership ages 12yo -20yo
Meetings: Phoenix 1st & 3rd Mondays / Social Harmony Lodge
1st Sat, 3rd Wed



Tall Cedar of Lebanon: Massasoit Forest #91
Contact: Mathew Brodeur 774.263.5018
Dues: $50 Membership Fee $50
Meetings: 1st Thursday of the month

Scottish Rite: Valley of Southeastern Mass
Contact: Wor. John Ruggles 508.690.0013
Dues: $200 to join / $100 yearly
Meetings: Monthly changing nights / online at Nite at the Rite

York Rite: New Beford
Contact: Wor. John Ruggles 508.690.0013
Dues: $100 for Application
Chapter: $65 **Council:** $65 **Commentary:** $125
Meetings: First Wednesday of the Month

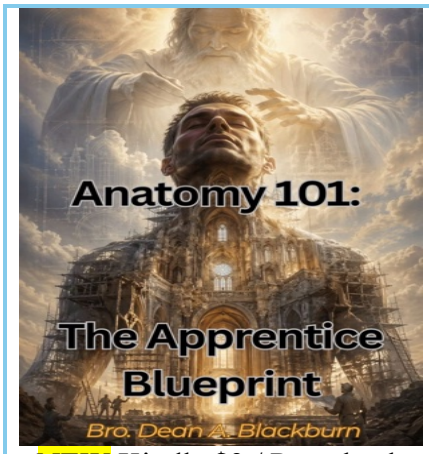


Shrine: Aleppo Shriners (Willington MA)
Contact: RW Michael Gagne 508.496.4852
Dues: $400 to join / $80 yearly
Meetings: are quarterly at the Ceremonials

Grotto: Azab Grotto
Contact: Wor. Adam Pimentel 508.245.4068
Dues: $150 to apply (Includes Fez / $50 a year for membership
Meetings: 4th Wednesday of the Month (Location Moves)

For up-to-date information, please visit 19thmasonic.com

The Corner Store



NEW Kindle $3 / Paperback $15 to purchase
https://a.co/d/05tYQ6lt

King Philip Lodge
New Challege Coin

$15 per coin

Please see Bro. Josue Romero to purchase.

The Seaside Degree/WM Fernandes Coin

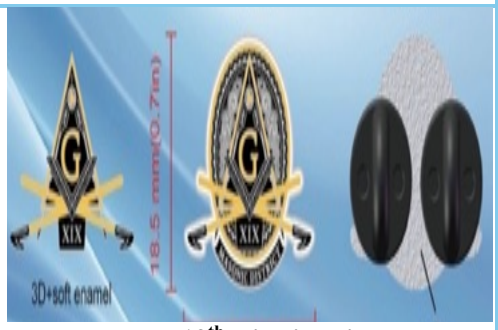
$20 per coin

Contact Wor. Brian Fernandes at 774-930-4436
ALL proceeds go to the SITE Brotherhood Fund!

Massasoit-Narragansett Lodge
New Challenge Coin

$20 Per Coin.

Please see Bro. Bill Travers to purchase.



New 19th District Pin

***Given to new EA's**

***$5 a pin for MM**

All monies support the entire 19th District!

George H. Taber Challenge coin!

Only $15 each

Available at ALL future business meeting or by contacting RW Eric Berg 774-328-0321 or Bro. Jeremy Lavender 508-454-3052

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*1st Friday @ **Social Harmony lodge in Wareham** ****NEW TIME NOW STARTING AT 6PM***
*3rd Friday @ **Pythagorean Lodge in Marian starting at 6:30pm**
No RSVP needed bring your favorite cigars and good conversation. Need more information? Contact Wor. McTague.

For up-to-date information, please visit 19thmasonic.com

*Charity within the Lenth of your CableToe...

Every little bit helps, every minute of your time can be utilized for the good, be the best part of our fraternity!

FREE TO THE PUBLIC! HOSPITAL EQUIPMENT LOAN PROGRAM
Call: 774 552-2199 or visit: www.capecodhelp.org

CAPE COD HELP, INC.
Lending medical equipment to those who need it.
capecodhelp.org

Cape Cod HELP, Inc., is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that seeks to match donated new/gently used durable medical equipment (wheelchairs, walkers, rollators, motorized beds, bathroom devices, etc.) with people who need them. Donations of such equipment (in "mom-ready" condition only) are also accepted. The organization is run by Freemasons from local Cape Cod Lodges, but no Masonic affiliation is required to borrow equipment from Cape Cod HELP. There are no deposits or rental fees associated with our products and we simply request you return them to us when they are no longer needed. We also appreciate cash donations, which help us maintain the equipment and operate our storage facility. If you wish to make such a donation please make your check payable to "Cape Cod HELP" and mail to: PO Box 463, Falmouth, MA 02541. The storage Facility is located at 1989 Falmouth Rd. (Rt 28) in Centerville and is open to the public for pickups and donations every Saturday (except major holiday weekends) from 10AM to noon.

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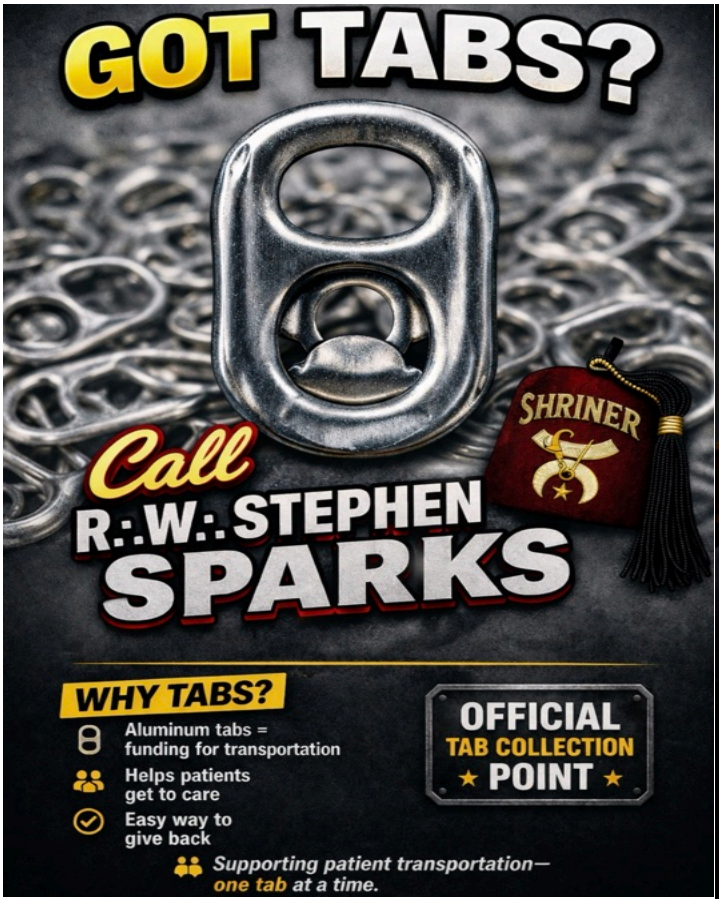

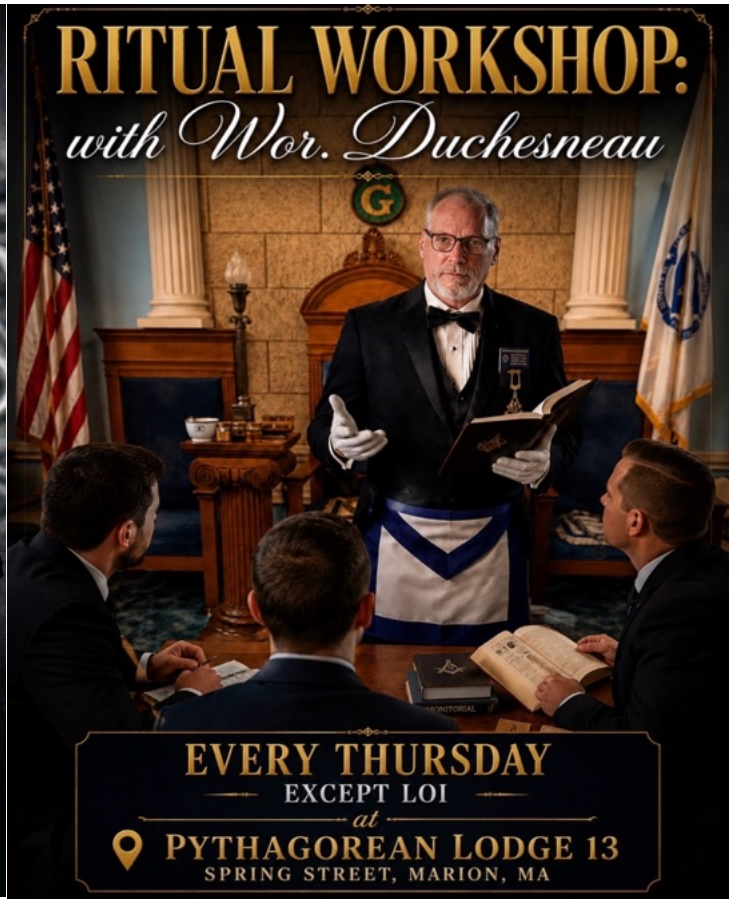

For up-to-date information, please visit 19thmasonic.com

SCENES FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT!

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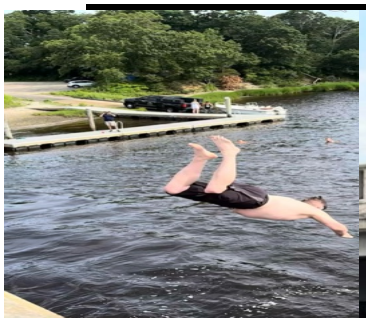
SCENES FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT!



For up-to-date information, please visit 19thmasonic.com

SPIN WITH JOSH

Midweek Reset • High Energy • Real Results

Wednesdays | 5:30 PM – 6:00 PM

WHY JOIN JOSH'S SPIN CLASS?

- **Burn Calories Fast**
- High-intensity intervals help torch calories in just 30 minutes
- **Boost Cardio & Endurance**
- **Reset Your Mind**
- **Low Impact, High Results**
- **Great Music & Motivation**
- Energizing playlists and positive keep you going strong

BEGINNER FRIENDLY • SET YOUR OWN PACE

- Fast-paced, guided ride
- Intervals, climbs, and sprints
- All fitness levels welcome
- You vs. you — go at your own pace

JOIN US

Every Wednesday at 5:30 PM

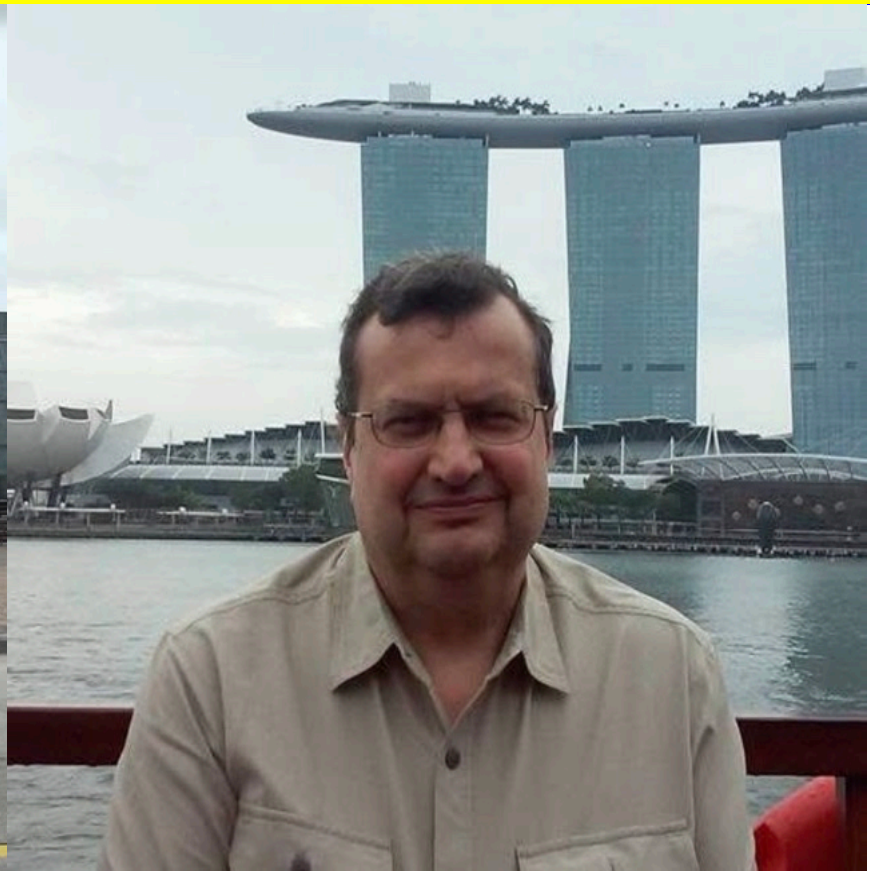
Bring water. Bring energy. Leave stronger.

For up-to-date information, please visit 19thmasonic.com

Inside the lodge: Meeting the members of the 19th District

Each month, we will showcase one brother from the West district and one from the East District. This will highlight their personal and masonic backgrounds, accompanied by a photograph. This will foster greater understanding and connection among the members.

19 East District: George H. Taber Lodge Wor. Michael Silvia



Mike grew up in Acushnet and currently resides in Fairhaven. He has been married to Coleen for over thirty years and is stepfather to Carla Gilbert and the late April Tavares and is a devoted grandfather to Millicent Gilbert. A graduate of Fairhaven High School. Mike holds degrees from Providence College and Columbia University. After working downtown for many years at the Registry of Deeds, he is now retired.

Mike served the Town of Fairhaven on its Selectboard, Finance Committee and Board of Health. Currently, he is a trustee of the Millicent Library but considers himself retired from public life in Fairhaven.

Mike's hobbies are reading and for the past ten years travel in Asia. He has visited China, Japan, Vietnam and other places, and hopes to make a return trip to China in the not-too-distant future.

Mike is Past Master of Taber Lodge and an affiliated member of Howland Lodge. He is a past Excellent High Priest of Adoniram Royal Arch Chapter and past Illustrious Master of New Bedford Council. Mike is a member of Sutton Commandery and Azab Grotto. In the future, he hopes to settle into the role of grouchy old guy at the lodges he attends.

Inside the lodge: Meeting the members of the 19th District

Each month, we will showcase one brother from the West district and one from the East District. This will highlight their personal and masonic backgrounds, accompanied by a photograph. This will foster greater understanding and connection among the members.

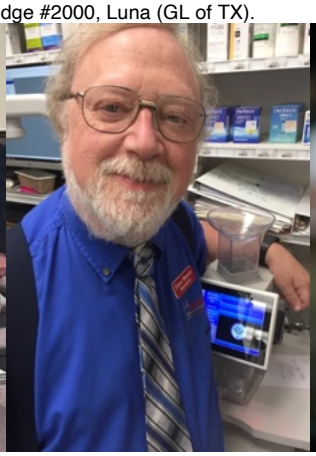
19 West District: Wor. Steven Mesnick King Philip Lodge

Steven Mesnick was born in 1948 and raised in Malden, Massachusetts, near Boston, graduating Malden High School in 1966. Although not from a Masonic family, he joined the Order of DeMolay in 1965, marking his beginning under the wings of the Masonic community. He graduated from the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy in 1971, beginning a career that featured excursions into the complexities of hospital and chain retail practice, and long-term care consultancy, but primarily in independent community practice, and is proud to have served as an accessible community "corner druggist" for the great majority of those fifty years. After a long-distance relationship of 17 years, he moved to RI in 1998 and in 2000 married Beth Needham (now sadly confined to a nursing home due to multiple medical issues). His small family includes an older sister, Linda, and his brother-in-law Jim in Florida. Having neither children nor nieces or nephews, he profoundly treasures his "chosen family" of Masonic brethren and his very many friends from his other associations spread around the world.

Harboring a life-long fascination with medieval history, enhanced by his DeMolay association, he is a long-time member of the Society for Creative Anachronism (www.sca.org), an international medieval and Renaissance historical re-creational and educational organization, in which he has achieved the organization's highest honors (equivalent to knighthoods) in both service and artistic and scientific achievement, and a very rare lifetime achievement award. His primary activity focus is in research into and adaptation for Society use of period ceremonies for coronations, knightings, etc., in which his many years as an avid Latinist serve him well, and he is often called upon to help translate period materials for others' historical research. Several years ago, at the 19th Lodge of Instruction, with the assistance of several other Masonic SCA members, he presented (in medieval costume) the Middle Chamber Lecture, which he had translated into medieval Latin. He recently returned from the SCA's largest event, the two-week, 9000-attendee Pennsic War (https://tinyurl.com/48cmy3xa), where he taught classes on phonetics for SCA heralds, singers, and others dealing in multiple languages and name sources.

Besides Freemasonry and medieval re-creation, he enjoys science fiction, exploring museums, and travel (of which he hopes to do more). He is also a self-described "lingogeek", being obsessed with language and linguistics.

After some time focusing on school and his beginning career, he was raised in Mt. Scopus Lodge, Malden, in 1976, making this his 50th anniversary year. He immediately joined the line as Senior Steward and thus began a 20-year stretch of assiduously avoiding the East, becoming something of a perennial Warden. He finally assumed the Chair in the 1996-97 term. Having moved to Rhode Island in 1998, but wishing to remain within the jurisdiction of Massachusetts, he visited several lodges through connections with joint SCA-member Masons, and experiencing the spirit and warmth of King Philip Lodge, immediately knew he was home. Joining the District line under RW Michael Gagne, and now as District Deputy Grand Secretary for 19 West under RW Stephen Sparks, widened his horizons to this dynamic community. He is also currently Junior Deacon, Proxy, and Trustee at King Philip Lodge; King at St. Mark's Royal Arch Chapter; and Deputy Master at Fall River Council RSM. Additionally, he is a Senior Knight of Fred K. Bauer Priory, DeMolay; Past Patron, Unity #14 OES; 32nd Degree AASR; and a member of Tranquility Lodge #2000, Luna (GL of TX).



For up-to-date information, please visit 19thmasonic.com

Worshipful Jeremy Lavendier George H. Taber Lodge

1.) Please start by telling us a little about yourself and your Masonic Journey.

My Masonic journey began in 2002, and not long after being raised I was making my way through the chairs. After 5 or so years, I stepped out of the line while going to school and didn't make it to Lodge very often. My path towards the east was revitalized years ago when R.W. Eric Berg became Master again and asked me to step back into the line, and I never looked back.

2.) What will be your main focus' for the upcoming Masonic year?

Promoting mentorship – Inspired by my own Masonic mentor, whom I leaned on since joining, and still lean on, I reason that having a mentor for every new member for at least the first couple of years, will greatly enhance the engagement of both the candidate and also the mentor, after all, a candle loses nothing by lighting another candle!

3.) How do you plan to engage brethren in your lodge who have been absent from masonry?

I will invite brothers we haven't been seeing regularly to come to dinner or breakfast on me and intentionally seat them with an intention mix of Brethren which I hope will engage and reignite their curiosity in Freemasonry. I also plan to have a lot more communication to all brethren on everything going on and opportunities to serve the community.

4.) What role will family play in lodge activities?

Apart from Lodge meetings, I would love to see family and friends attend and support all other functions we have whether its breakfasts at the Lodge, our cigar event, or any of our charitable events like the ringing of the bells, or fundraising activities. I would also like to plan an annual casual event like cookout for Brethren to bring a man they think would make a good Mason, not to pressure but to introduce them to the fellowship and connection with other men they may be seeking.

5.) Our craft is symbolized as a three-legged stool; one part for Charity/Community, another for Fellowship/Fun & the last part for Self-improvement. How will you balance stool in your lodge for your term in the East?

My plan is to engage in several charity/community endeavors in addition to what we normally do, at a minimum complete some of the charitable things we have discussed but never taken action on. For fellowship and fun I would like to continue the breakfasts and events we have been doing and will ask the brethren for suggestions of other things they would like to do. For self-improvement, I will be having notes red aloud before degrees to help brothers understand the true teachings of the degrees in the hope they will get more out of seeing them.

6.) How will charity in your community play a part in the upcoming year?

Along with R.W. Eric Berg we are already in discussion with the Salvation Army to assist with feeding people in need. Also, for some time we have discussed using a portion of our charity funds for a scholarship for Fairhaven High Schools students who will be attending college of trade schools, etc.

7.) What do you see as the biggest challenges in your lodge?

I think our biggest challenge is getting more brothers excited to volunteer time to give back to the community and to the lodge. I hope to inspire more to give whatever time they can, even if it's just an hour a month, so they can experience the joy of helping and healing others.

8.) How will you keep newly raised brothers involved and excited in freemasonry?

This meshes perfectly with what I said earlier about promoting mentorship, having a long-term mentor for every new member for at least the first couple of years, not just through the degrees, will make them comfortable within the district and beyond and expose them to the many sides of Masonry.

9.) Will fundraising be a focus of your time in the Oriental Chair?

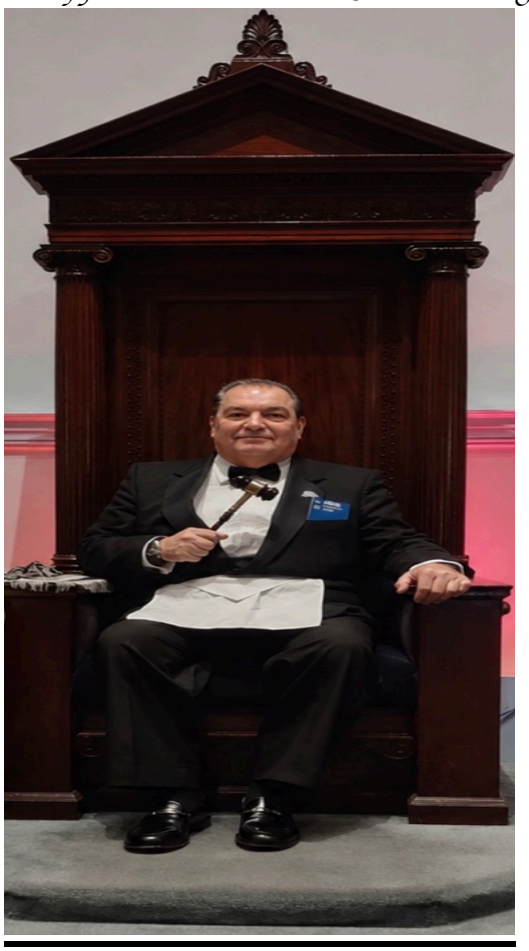
I wish all of Freemasonry had a mysterious benefactor that financed all of our endeavors, but alas, fundraising is a necessary part of what we do. Again, touching upon my previous answers, I hope to inspire more members to be engaged and participating in, or sharing our efforts to raise funds, even for quick moments whether in person or online or with family etc. for both the Lodge and the district.

10.) Freemasonry continues to evolve over time from the heydays after World War II to the struggles we have with membership today. What are your predictions of the craft in the future?

Today, the struggle to attract new membership and maintain continuity is very real for most Masonic Lodges. I truly believe that harmony is the strength and support of our institution. Sadly, my prediction is that in the not too distant future we will all see Lodges we know need to merge, or collapse. While this period of change will be difficult, it may provide opportunities for lodges to merge and grow and inspire them with finding new ways to attract men to the Craft to secure into the future of Freemasonry.

Please Visit & support George H. Taber Lodge & Wor. Jeremy Lavendier the second Monday of the month 6pm in Fairhaven.

Worshipful John Kareores Quittacus Lodge



1.) Please start by telling us a little about yourself and your Masonic Journey.

I'm a "Brockton boy" whose family moved to Whitman (Southshore MA) in the 1950s and stayed there until 2013 when my sister and I sold the house after my Mother passed away. Graduated from Whitman- Hanson Regional High School in 1971 and the College of the Holy Cross in 1975.

My Dad worked for Grossman's Lumber (50 years) and gave me my first real "paycheck" job cleaning up the yard, straightening stacks of lumber and unloading train box cars full of lumber products (by hand - no forklift when I started back in 1965....). My Mother received her MA teaching certificate in the 1960's and was a permanent Substitute teacher at my high school. Some may think that would be a problem but I always knew where to get a hall pass if I was "skipping" a class.....
I've always had wanderlust and after graduating from HC I shortly worked for Grossman's Corporate but moved to New Orleans in the 1970s and never looked back. Over the years I criss crossed the country building Mall stores and have also worked/lived in NYC and Miami besides various cities/towns in MA after moving back to MA.
My mainstay business was always involved in the lumber trade and the construction business. After many years of Project Management and owning my own remodeling business it finally caught up with me - falling off (3) roofs took a toll on my body and I had to reinvent myself. I went back to school and received a degree in CIS (Networking) and started a new career path for myself. This actually led me to Masonry.
Working for a small IT company in Fairhaven I was tasked to attend the BNI (Business Network International) meetings held on Thursday morning in New Bedford. There I met Larry Santos in 2017 who has become my mentor but more importantly my dear friend. I noticed his Masonic ring and asked a few questions to which he responded, "Come to

dinner next Thursday", which I did. The first person to meet me at the Dining Hall that next Thursday was the legend himself, Gus Cote. The rest is history

2.) What will be your main focus' for the upcoming Masonic year?

Unfortunately for Quittacus we have had (3) Brothers step out of the Officers line in the past 1 1/2 years so rebuilding the line is my top priority. This means actively seeking out candidates to shore up the line in the coming years.

3.) How do you plan to engage brethren in your lodge who have been absent from masonry?

First, putting together a Committee not only to call each brother to find out why they don't/can't attend Lodge (health reasons/out of state/etc) and see if the Lodge can relieve/remove some of the obstacles with them attending a meeting or event.

4.) What role will family play in lodge activities?

Planning events that Brothers and their families can enjoy is not a new idea, but I feel that we need to look outside the box to create more interest in those events. I plan to ask the members what they and their families would like to do in the future. It is my hope that as a District we can plan these type of events together rather than having several distinct but poorly attended ones.

5.) Our craft is symbolized as a three-legged stool; one part for Charity/Community, another for Fellowship/Fun & the last part for Self-improvement. How will you balance stool in your lodge for your term in the East?

The pandemic put a stop to some of our local community charity work, and I would like to reestablish some of those events. In years past Quittacus would provide free lunch at a local church every few months - I'd like to do that again in the coming year.

As I mentioned above - asking the members what interests them and then figure out how to make that happen hopefully with other Lodges.

Suggesting more Masonic themed LOIs, hold cipher training, constant rehearsing of degree work and getting newer members involved with classes like Deacons Academy.

6.) How will charity in your community play a part in the upcoming year?

Charity plays an important role in any Lodge and Quittacus is no different. Most Brothers reading this are aware of our annual Turkey Dinner drive held the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. From a small effort of 5-6 boxes years ago to the 100+ box juggernaut it has become today, we are pleased that is has become a District effort with over 70+ attendees last year. I am inviting the Major of the New Bedford Salvation Army to hopefully speak at LOI in October to discuss the effect that the District's Ringing of the Bells has on their organization. Plus explain how to volunteer during the year, not just one day.

7.) What do you see as the biggest challenges in your lodge?

The biggest challenge is solidifying the Officers Line for the coming years.

8.) How will you keep newly raised brothers involved and excited in freemasonry?

Newly raised Brothers will immediately wear ankle bracelets, recite cipher (24) hours a day and never be allowed to leave the Lodge - that is until I come up with a better idea.

9.) Will fundraising be a focus of your time in the Oriental Chair?

I plan to send out a questionnaire to all the brothers asking what charities they want to support and how we can raise money for those ideas. We need a plan not just a someone getting up in Lodge suggesting a donation to some organization willy-nilly.

10.) Freemasonry continues to evolve over time from the heydays after World War II to the struggles we have with membership today. What are your predictions of the craft in the future?

Until Masonry as a whole can, manage to dispel all the false information about the Craft available (24/7) online I believe we will not see a dramatic increase in membership. We must engage younger men to see the value of what Masonry has to offer them and their families. One of my suggestions is that Grand Lodge start an actual publicity campaign to get the truth out about what the Craft actually symbolizes and does on a daily basis. Many people have no idea that the Shriners hospital is actually associated with Masonry or any of the other acts of charity we do statewide and nationally. This needs to change - I realize we not do boast or brag about our good deeds but a little self-promotion would not hurt the Craft

Please Visit & support Quittacus Lodge & Wor. John Kareores the second Thursday of the month 6pm in New Bedford.

Worshipful Dana Savary Social Harmony Lodge

11.) Please start by telling us a little about yourself and your Masonic Journey.

Meet your new "old" Master. Wor. Dana Savery. Brethren This year will mark my fourth time in the East and my eighteenth year in Masonry. I have been Master of Mariners Lodge in Cotuit, (where I grew up) three times. I'm active in three lodges and in the York Rite. My wife and I have lived in Manomet for 38 years and are active with the Second Church of Plymouth. Our daughter, a Biomechanical engineer, lives in Boston.
I retired as a civilian from the Massachusetts Military Division. I enjoy flying, driving racecar, snowmobiling and are an avid deer hunter.

12.) What will be your main focus' for the upcoming Masonic year?

My focus this year will be to engage and support the officers of Social Harmony in their journey to the East. We are fortunate to have a line which shall produce "first time" Masters. They are the future of the lodge.

13.) How do you plan to engage brethren in your lodge who have been absent from masonry?

I plan to contact all current and some former members thru phone and mail and ask what would it take to bring them back.

14.) What role will family play in lodge activities?

We are currently planning to open as many activities to family and public as possible. Installation of officers, by-monthly potluck, and other lodge events not restricted to Brothers.

15.) Our craft is symbolized as a three-legged stool; one part for Charity/Community, another for Fellowship/Fun & the last part for Self-improvement. How will you balance stool in your lodge for your term in the East?

I see Increased involvement by the membership as the only way to balance the stool. The Master cannot do this alone.

16.) How will charity in your community play a part in the upcoming year?

Social Harmony Lodge already has several programs in place, blood drives, Christmas bell ringing, use of building & others, which we shall continue to support and encourage further involvement.

17.) What do you see as the biggest challenges in your lodge?

Getting Brothers to be active in Lodge along with membership. Work and family are often in the way of involvement in the Lodge. We need to be supportive but not overburden our brothers. I have always maintained that I am a "bad example" being an officer in three lodges and the York Rite.

18.) How will you keep newly raised brothers involved and excited in freemasonry?

Communication and encouraging attendance and participation in lodge activities.

19.) Will fundraising be a focus of your time in the Oriental Chair?

Yes, but I have not yet decided upon how yet.

20.) Freemasonry continues to evolve over time from the heydays after World War II to the struggles we have with membership today. What are your predictions of the craft in the future?

I believe that the pendulum is about to swing in a favorable direction as people look for escape from technology and the burdens of life. There are good men out there that wish to be better.

Thank you so much for participating Worshipful. We look forward to seeing you in the East for the fourth time!

Please Visit & support Social Harmony Lodge & Wor. Dana Savary the second Friday of the month 6pm in Wareham.

Worshipful Shawn Thimas Star in the East Lodge

1.) Please start by telling us a little about yourself and your Masonic Journey.

I have been a Mason for 12 years and am proud to call Star In The East Lodge my Masonic home. During that time, I have had the opportunity to serve in both Steward positions, both Deacon positions, both Warden positions, as Assistant Secretary, and previously as Worshipful Master from 2020 through 2022. I have also filled in at virtually every other station and place in the Lodge, with the exception of Treasurer and Inside Sentinel. My interest in Freemasonry actually began before I became a Mason. My college fraternity was founded by men who had direct connections to Masonry, and much of its ritual was influenced by Masonic tradition. That connection initially piqued my curiosity and made me want to learn more about the Craft. What ultimately drew me to Masonry, however, was my passion for philanthropy and my desire for genuine brotherhood. Over the past 12 years, Freemasonry has given me opportunities to serve, lead, learn, and build relationships with men I might otherwise never have had the opportunity to know.

2.) What will be your main focus' for the upcoming Masonic year?

My main focus for the upcoming Masonic year will be brotherhood and camaraderie. There can sometimes be a desire to have the biggest event of the year or the event with the highest attendance, but that has never been how I measure success. I would rather have an event with 25 people where everyone has the opportunity to sit down, talk, laugh, and genuinely spend time with one another than an event with 250 people where most of us never have a conversation with more than a fraction of the people in the room. For me, Masonry is at its strongest when we actually know our Brothers, rather than simply recognizing their faces at meetings. I want to create opportunities for meaningful interaction and the kind of camaraderie that makes Brothers genuinely look forward to spending time together. If we finish the year knowing one another a little better and feeling a little closer as a Lodge, I will consider that a successful year.

3.) How do you plan to engage brethren in your lodge who have been absent from masonry?

I want to create more opportunities for Brothers to reconnect with the Lodge in ways that fit their lives. I plan to hold a Brotherhood Night once a month where there is no meeting, no ritual, and no Masonic business. The Lodge will simply be open for Brothers to come by, spend time together, have conversations, and enjoy fellowship. Sometimes reconnecting with a Brother does not need to begin by asking him to attend a meeting. It can simply begin by giving him a comfortable reason to walk back through the door. I would also like to continue our tradition of holding a Daylight Lodge. For some Brothers, work schedules, family responsibilities, age, health, or other circumstances can make attending our regular evening meetings difficult. Giving them another opportunity to attend Lodge helps them remain connected to the Craft. I also intend to include families in a number of our events. Sometimes a Brother becomes less involved not because Masonry is no longer important to him, but because his responsibilities and priorities have changed. I do not want participation in Masonry to always mean having to choose between the Lodge and his family. The goal is to give Brothers multiple ways to reconnect and once again feel that they are part of the Lodge.

4.) What role will family play in lodge activities?

Although the tenets of our fraternity place a strong emphasis on friendship and brotherly love among our members, I believe it is extremely important that our wives and families also feel welcomed and included in the life of the Lodge.That is especially important here in the 19th District, where there are not as many opportunities through appendant bodies for spouses and family members to become involved, outside of programs such as our DeMolay Chapter. I plan to have at least one meeting each quarter that includes a guest speaker or program appropriate for families to attend. I also intend to hold a couple of dedicated family nights during the year where Brothers can bring their wives and children and simply enjoy time together. I also want to encourage Brothers whose wives or family members have ideas and would like to help with events to bring those ideas to me. Whenever possible, I will do everything within my ability to help facilitate those ideas and give them an opportunity to see their vision come to fruition. Brotherhood will always be at the center of what we do, but I believe strengthening the relationships around our Brothers can strengthen the Lodge itself.

5.) Our craft is symbolized as a three-legged stool; one part for Charity/Community, another for Fellowship/Fun & the last part for Self-improvement. How will you balance stool in your lodge for your term in the East?

I believe all three parts of that stool are necessary for a healthy Lodge, and my goal is to make sure none of them is neglected. Fellowship and fun will naturally be a major part of my year. Between Brotherhood Nights, family events, and other opportunities to simply spend time together, I want to create an environment where Brothers genuinely enjoy being around one another. For charity and community involvement, I would like to build upon the work Worshipful Brian Fernandez began during his year. He did a great deal of groundwork establishing relationships with outside organizations that our Lodge could potentially work with. I see this coming year as an opportunity to take the next step and turn some of those relationships into actual service. Self-improvement will also have an intentional place in our programming. We have already planned an etiquette night, and we will also hold a motivation and self-improvement night featuring a guest speaker specifically focused on helping us grow as individuals. To me, the three work together. Masonry should give us opportunities to improve ourselves, serve the communities around us, and build meaningful friendships along the way. If we are doing all three, I believe we are doing Masonry well.

6.) How will charity in your community play a part in the upcoming year?

Charity and community involvement will be an important part of the upcoming year, and I would like that involvement to take several different forms. Worshipful Brian Fernandez did a great deal of work establishing relationships with outside organizations in our community. I believe the next step is to build on that foundation by finding meaningful ways for our Lodge to actually work alongside those organizations. That may mean providing Brothers who are willing to volunteer their time and manpower, collecting needed goods and supplies, or supporting fundraising efforts when financial assistance can make the greatest impact. I do not believe charity should always be limited to simply writing a check. Sometimes the most valuable things we can give are our time, our effort, and our willingness to show up. My goal is to work closely with Worshipful Fernandez and the organizations he has already connected with, identify genuine needs, and determine how Star In The East can be most useful. Whether that means service, fundraising, donations, or a combination of all three, I want our charitable work to be something our Brothers can actively participate in and our community can truly benefit from.

7.) What do you see as the biggest challenges in your lodge?

I believe one of the biggest challenges I will face is helping position the Lodge for the future, particularly when it comes to developing our line and keeping Brothers actively involved. Lodges naturally go through periods where the officer line is very strong and periods where fewer Brothers are ready to step into those roles. Coming out of COVID, I believe we saw a surge in membership because people were looking for somewhere to belong, something meaningful to do, and people to be around. At the same time, many of those new Brothers entered Lodges where the officer lines were already fairly full. Some eventually focused their attention on Lodges where there were more immediate opportunities to become involved, while others simply stopped attending because they did not feel there was anything meaningful for them to do. Our challenge is making sure involvement does not depend entirely on having an open chair in the officer line. There are committees to serve on, events to help organize, charitable projects to lead, programs to develop, and many other ways a Brother can contribute. One of my goals will be to identify Brothers who want to be more involved, learn what interests them, and give them genuine opportunities to take ownership of something within the Lodge. If we can do that successfully, we are not simply filling positions for today. We are developing the Brothers who will carry Star In The East forward in the years to come.

8.) How will you keep newly raised brothers involved and excited in freemasonry?

I think one of the best ways to keep newly raised Brothers involved and excited about Freemasonry is to make sure they feel that they have a voice in what happens at the Lodge. I plan to hold a variety of Brotherhood events throughout the year, but I do not want to assume that I already know what every Brother wants to do. I intend to speak directly with our newer members, find out what types of events and activities interest them, and whenever possible incorporate those ideas into our plans. If a Brother comes into Masonry with an idea for something he would enjoy doing with the Lodge, I want him to feel comfortable bringing that idea forward. Giving newer Brothers an opportunity to help shape activities also gives them a sense of ownership and another reason to remain involved. Becoming a Master Mason should not feel like the end of the journey. It should be the point where a Brother really begins discovering his own place within the Lodge and within Freemasonry.

9.) Will fundraising be a focus of your time in the Oriental Chair?

Fundraising will always be important because it gives the Lodge resources to support its programs, activities, and charitable efforts. We have already discussed a couple of programs that we plan to work on during the year that will also serve as fundraisers for the Lodge. My goal is to make fundraising purposeful and, whenever possible, connect it to activities that Brothers can enjoy participating in rather than making fundraising feel like an obligation. It will certainly be part of my time in the Oriental Chair, but I want fundraising to support the larger goals of the Lodge rather than become the sole focus of the year.

10.) Freemasonry continues to evolve over time from the heydays after World War II to the struggles we have with membership today. What are your predictions of the craft in the future?

That is a difficult question because I do not think any of us can predict exactly what Freemasonry will look like in the future. What I do believe is that the future of the Craft will depend heavily on what we choose to do with it today. We cannot simply look back at periods when membership was larger and expect those days to return on their own. We have to give men a reason to become interested in Masonry and, just as importantly, give them a reason to remain involved once they join. That means listening to our Brothers, creating meaningful opportunities for them to participate, strengthening the sense of brotherhood within our Lodges, remaining active in our communities, and being willing to adapt where necessary without losing the principles and traditions that make Freemasonry what it is. I believe there will always be men searching for brotherhood, purpose, self-improvement, and an opportunity to serve others. If we continue to provide those things in a meaningful way, then I believe the Craft can have a very strong future. Ultimately, the future of Freemasonry is going to depend on us and what we are willing to do to ensure that it continues to grow and remains meaningful for the generations that come after us.

Please Visit & support Star in the East Lodge & Wor. Shawn Thimas the First Tuesday of the month 6pm in New Bedford.

Worshipful Norman Duchesneau Pythagorean Lodge

1, Please start by telling us a little about yourself and your Masonic Journey.

I am 60 years old. My Masonic journey started 26 years ago. I knew my friend's dad was a Mason, so, I asked him for a recommendation. Brother Charles R. Phillips Jr. sponsored me and instilled in me a love of tradition and ritual. In my first year after being raised, I was installed as Junior Deacon and progressed from there. This coming year will be my second time in the East of Pythagorean Lodge.

2, What will be your main focus for the upcoming Masonic Year?

For this next year, I hope to increase attendance. I am hopeful that by engaging the brethren more actively, I can help fill the sidelines. If not fill them completely, then at least raise attendance enough that the secretary needs to count.

3, How do you plan to engage the Brethren in your Lodge who have been absent from masonry?

I plan to do this through personal invitations, encouragement to past members from the district to visit more often, and by providing interesting topics beyond business meetings and announcements.

4, What role will family play in Lodge activities?

Hopefully, family will play a large role. Here at Pythagorean Lodge, we have had no fewer than four new children born to our brethren in the last 18 months, and I happen to know at least one more is due soon. Because new babies can make attending Lodge difficult, I hope that by engaging the families of the brethren, I can foster an environment of combined effort through family game nights, shared meals, and maybe even field trips.

5, Our Craft is symbolized as a three-legged stool, one part for charity / community, another for fellowship. / fun. And the last part for self-improvement. How will you balance the stool in your lodge for your term in the East?

For this first year, I believe my focus is going to be completely on engaging and re-engaging the brethren in the activities of the Lodge. Unfortunately, my Lodge is currently a bit unbalanced regarding the engagement of the brethren, and my first priority will be to adjust that. Once I have the brethren involved in the Lodge, I can then focus on balance.

6, How will charity in the community play a part in your upcoming year?

I have a few programs that I would like to initiate. However, as I said previously, until I can engage the brethren and get a workforce involved, I will have difficulty initiating any new plans, charitable or otherwise.

7, What do you see as the biggest challenges in your lodge?

Currently, the largest challenge is the re-engagement of Rusty Brothers and attendance at large meetings. I believe that even a slight uptick in attendance would encourage the brethren to attend more often, as every man enjoys the fellowship. But as attendance dwindles, so does the joy of that fellowship. I hope to remind my brothers of this.

8, How will you keep newly raised Brothers involved and excited in Freemasonry?

Not every brother wants to, or should, follow an officer's path in Freemasonry. There are many ways for a man to be involved in the Lodge and its activities. Unfortunately, the focus in the past has often been on creating new officers, as there always seems to be a hole in the line somewhere. I would rather see new Masons become involved with the other operations that happen within the Lodge, perhaps in the preparation of meals, social gatherings outside of the Lodge, and more visitations within the district. I believe that nothing keeps a new Brother involved more than the continued excitement of meeting new Masons on a consistent basis.

9, Will fundraising be a focus of your time in the Oriental Chair?

Unfortunately, not immediately. As I have said in almost every answer up until now, my focus will be on the re-engagement of the brethren and getting the sidelines more full and more active.

10, Freemasonry continues to evolve over time, from the heydays after World War 2 to the struggles we have with membership today. What are your predictions of the craft in the future?

Ask me this at the end of my first term. At this point, I am having a great deal of difficulty predicting what next month will bring, much less the future. I must focus on the immediate issues at the Lodge before I can turn my attention to the future of the fraternity.

Please Visit & support Pythagorean Lodge & Wor. Norman Duchesneau the second Tuesday of the month 6pm in Marin.

Worshipful Joshua Moniz King Philip Lodge

1.) Please start by telling us a little about yourself and your Masonic Journey.
I had always been curious about masonry, and a coworker's husband said I should attend the local open house. I went. That was 17 years ago, but it was only recently that I felt ready for the responsibilities of the line and to start my journey through the chair from Junior Steward to Master.

2.) What will be your main focus' for the upcoming Masonic year?
I want to focus on education, fellowship, and charity. Continue the great work of our past master and expand upon it.

3.) How do you plan to engage brethren in your lodge who have been absent from masonry?
I want to have activities outside of lodge that "rusty" brothers can come and enjoy some fun and fellowship and maybe bring them back into the Brotherhood. I want them to feel welcome and not forgotten.

4.) What role will family play in lodge activities?
Our families are so important to the craft. I want to work with my building association to bring Family Fun Day back to the Fall River Building and with the other lodges for more ladies' nights & family-friendly events. Family and masonry should exist alongside each other and be part of the masonic experience.

5.) Our craft is symbolized as a three-legged stool; one part for Charity/Community, another for Fellowship/Fun & the last part for Self-improvement. How will you balance stool in your lodge for your term in the East?
Like the 3-legged stool, you need those pillars of Charity, Fellowship, & Self-improvement to stand strong. To do that, I want to engage in charitable events where brothers can work together and improve their community. By improving their community, I hope brothers will also find opportunities to improve themselves.

6.) How will charity in your community play a part in the upcoming year?
While raising money is part of charity, Charity is more than raising money. I would like to partner with other organizations and our families to serve the community.

7.) What do you see as the biggest challenges in your lodge?
I don't see any crises in my lodge, but the challenge of maintaining the momentum that our Past Masters have built, with many of our events becoming traditions, such as the Mother's Day breakfast and the paint night. Our challenge is to ensure what we built continues to grow.

8.) How will you keep newly raised brothers involved and excited in freemasonry?
I want to build on our current mentorship, first by having newly raised brothers witness degrees & travel through the district. Secondly, I want to have more discussion and education. Lastly, I want to involve new brothers; I will appoint them to committees and help out with all the events throughout the district. An engaged brother is an excited brother.

9.) Will fundraising be a focus of your time in the Oriental Chair?
Like all lodges, fundraising is necessary for both the running of the lodge and charity. I want to continue our current fundraising activities and expand upon them for the next generation of masons. All while having fun & building fellowship

10.) Freemasonry continues to evolve over time from the heydays after World War II to the struggles we have with membership today. What are your predictions of the craft in the future?
The craft will change slowly; some of which we already see, such as Zoom calls, etc., but our core values for Faith, Hope, Charity, and Brotherly Love will not go away. I don't expect membership numbers to return to our heyday; however, I do see the opportunity to develop and engage the next generation of Brothers.

Please Visit & support King Philip Lodge & Wor. Josh Moniz the Fourth Tuesday of the month 6pm in Fall River.

For up-to-date information, please visit 19thmasonic.com

Right Worshipful Michael S. Gagne Massasoit-Narragansett Lodge

1.) Please start by telling us a little about yourself and your Masonic Journey.

Greetings Brethren, My Name is Michael S. Gagne, and I am currently Master/Receiver of Massasoit-Narragansett Lodge, and JW of Noquochoke lodge as well as the president of Noquochoke Hall Association. I am a Past Master of Noquochoke Lodge and then Massasoit-Narragansett lodge and eventually DDGM of the 19th, then the 19th West District. I was installed Master of Massasoit-Narragansett Lodge in April and later made Receiver of said Lodge in June.

2.) What will be your main focus' for the upcoming Masonic year?

The Main focus I have in rebuilding Massasoit-Narragansett lodge is not only strengthening our line, and making masonry fun again, but education and fellowship with family-oriented events.

3.) How do you plan to engage brethren in your lodge who have been absent from masonry?

We will be bringing back some old events as well as new ones. Communication is pivotal and an absolute must. If the Master and Wardens cannot communicate with each other. They could never communicate successfully with their membership. Our biggest challenge is regaining the brethren's trust and support along with education.

4.) What role will family play in lodge activities?

We will plan and encourage family to attend and be involved with our lodge through events we will put on.

5.) Our craft is symbolized as a three-legged stool; one part for Charity/Community, another for Fellowship/Fun & the last part for Self-improvement. How will you balance stool in your lodge for your term in the East?

Our biggest challenge is regaining the brethren's trust and support along with education.

6.) How will charity in your community play a part in the upcoming year?

We have a desire to support local charities; we will use money collected from collation as we've done in the past.

7.) What do you see as the biggest challenges in your lodge?

Masonry is forever changing and we need to adapt and accept those needs to change. How? By the advice and ideas of the brethren. Make calls. Speak with individual brethren separately. Everyone has ideas, thoughts, and feelings, ask them.

8.) How will you keep newly raised brothers involved and excited in freemasonry?

By Mentorship one-on-one. Offering them space in the lodge wherever they have desire and interest.

9.) Will fundraising be a focus of your time in the Oriental Chair?

Fundraising will be a major part of this upcoming year. Our building needs some repairs and through our events, we plan to raise money to these repairs completed.

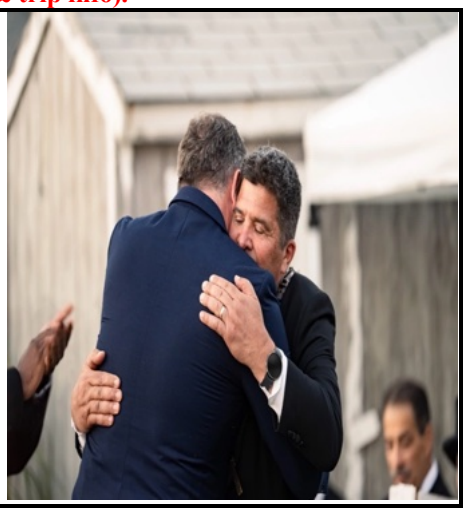
10.) Freemasonry continues to evolve over time from the heydays after World War II to the struggles we have with membership today. What are your predictions of the craft in the future?

A perfect plan is not practical, plans change. Adopt them and try new if necessary. Don't be afraid.
Attack new challenges head on and allow membership to help and have confidence to let them head up or lead these challenges. We can only move forward if we move forward together.

Please Visit & support Massasoit-Narragansett Lodge & R:. W:. Michael Gagne the first Thursday of the month 6pm in Fall River.

For up-to-date information, please visit 19thmasonic.com

***Every month, we are looking to feature a brother that has traveled outside the 19th District and tell their story. (Email 19thdistrictnewsletter@gmail.com with pictures & trip info).**



SATURDAY JULY 11TH, 2026

Star in the East Lodge presented The Seaside degree. This started out as a vision to create a degree that would show off the wonderful nautical features of New Bedford. It far surpassed that. The weather was a beautiful 78 degrees that night. The venue was Wor. Gunner Bergs house in Fairhaven MA. Imagine for a minute, a remote house at the end of a street with a seawall at the end of the property. Shortly after 5pm, the District Deputy Grand Master was received right after opening of the lodge and the work was to confer the Master Mason Degree on Francis Joseph Rogan IV. Chip as we call him, exemplified in open lodge and then was escorted to the anti-room. Then the work began. After the first section, our chefs for the evening Bro. Bob Cunha & Bro. Brad Fish made a delicious clam boil. A Fish and Chips meal was also offered from a local restaurant. Then we return to finish the work of the night. The degree work was excellent. The bible was the Book of Kell's, there was an Irish flag laying over an old treasure box we used for an altar. There was even a 250th as well as an American flag flying above the lodge room. Bro. David Allen & Bro. Water Alford were raised just a month earlier and they were asked to be part of the degree. This was special. Finally at the end of all the work. All three Newly raised Master Masons were brought to the West of the alter and Wor. N. Douglas Schneider performed the Canadian Charge. Truly an amazing night that will never be forgotten.

Do you have a Traveling Man story that you would like to share with the district? YOU COULD BE NEXT… Please reach out to The District Newsletter Committee @ 19thdistrictnewsletter@gmail.com and share your story. You could be featured in the next Traveling Man!!

The 19th Masonic District Organization

The 19th East District Officers

*District Deputy Grand Master: **R:. W:. Peter Webster Ham**,
508-965-7234 c, PeterWHam@comcast.net

*District Deputy Grand Secretary: Wor. Dylan W. Arsenault,
cell 508-789-8599, Dylan@arsenaultpower.com

*District Deputy Grand Marshal: Bro. Ian Michael Harcourt,
cell 978-551-5782, Bro.Ian.Harcourt@gmail.com

*District Deputy Grand Treasurer: Bro. Jeremy A. Lavendier
cell 508-454-3052, jeremylavendier@gmail.com

*District Ambassador: Wor. Keith L. Amorin,
Cell 508-951-9824, klamorin@icloud.com

*District Service Officer: Wor. Mark E. White,
cell 508-965-9030, mew2012@icloud.com

*District Youth Offier: Bro. Bradford F. Anselmo,
cell 774-930-6403, n1vuf@yahoo.com

*District First Responders: Wor. Norman R. Duchesneau,
cell 508-509-1124, unit12a@yahoo.com

*District Rejuvenation Officer: R:. W:. Joshua D. Bumpus,
cell 508-728-9450, josh19th@outlook.com

*District Veterans Officer: Bro Bradford J Fish,
cell 508-328-2565, brad0829@comcast.net

*District Webmaster: R:. W:. Joshua D Bumpus,
508-728-9450 c, Josh19th@outlook.com

*District Information Officer: Bro. Ian Michael Harcourt
cell 978-551-5782, Bro.Ian.Harcourt@gmail.com

*District Chaplain: Wor. Donald F. Valenti Jr.
home 774-327-1291, jetblast857@gmail.com

*District Photographer: Bro. Kristian V. Berg
Cell 774-328-0840, krisb853@gmail.com

The 19th West District Officers

*District Deputy Grand Master: **R:. W:. Stephen Sparks**
cell 619-318-3878, Stephen.a.sparks13@gmail.com

*District Deputy Grand Marshal: Wor. Patrick W. McNerney
774-461-4001, mcnerneys796@netzero.net

*District Deputy Grand Secretary: Wor. Steven H. Mesnick
401-440-2384, mesnick@pobox.com

*District Deputy Grand Treasure: Wor. N. Douglas Schneider
508-965-4452, Ndschneuder42@gmail.com

*District Deputy Grand Treasure: Wor. Robert Jose
774-406-0021, Medtrans95@aol.com

*District Ambassador: Wor. Adam Miranda
508-789-2650, Arm66@live.com

*District Service Officer: Bro. Gilberto S. Costa
401-965-9532, Gilbertoscosta72@hotmail.com

*District First Responder: Bro. David Aguiar
401-226-1975, Daguiar089@gmail.com

*District Rejuvenation Officer: Bro. Josue Romero
774-294-1016, Josueromero31@gmail.com

*District Youth Officer: Bro. Roger R. Lambert
508-642-2225, Dapriate89@gmail.com

*District Veterans Officer: Bro Tony Rodriguez
904-439-0705, Trod57.tr@icloud.com

*District Information Officer: Bro. William N. Travers
cell 508-496-5996, emt1216pd@aol.com

*District Webmaster: R:. W:. Joshua D. Bumpus
508-728-9450, Josh19th@outlook.com

*District Historian: R:. W:. Michael S. Gagne
508-496-4852, Michagag8@aol.com

*District Chaplain: Wor. Paul J. Vento Jr.
774-263-6472, Pauljventojr@gmail.com

The 19th East District Lodges

Social Harmony	Wareham	1883	2nd Friday
Star In The East	New Bedford	1823	1st Tuesday
Quittacus	New Bedford	1857	2nd Thursday
Pythagorean	Marion	1861	2nd Tuesday
George H Taber	Fairhaven	1872	2nd Monday

The 19th West District Lodges

Mount Hope	Fall River	1824	1st Tuesday
King Philip	Fall River	1866	4th Tuesday
Noquochoke	Westport	1878	Saturday on or before Full Moon
Abraham H Howland Jr	New Bedford	1915	2nd Tuesday
Massasoit-Narragansett	Fall River	1915	1st Thursday

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