

Union Lodge No. 19, F. & A. M.

Regular Communication

April 7, 2025

The Lodge was Opened in Due and Ancient Form, on the Master Mason Degree, at 7:35 PM, the following Officers present and in their respective Stations and Places:

Worshipful Master: RW Roy Kowalski

Senior Warden: WB Eric D. Wolff

Junior Warden: WB Leroy Schneider, Pro-temp

Secretary: RW Raymond P. Helge, PDDGM

Treasurer: RW David B. Littman, PGC

Senior Deacon: WB Alfred J. Rodriguez

Junior Deacon: Br. Kent W. "Kenny" Simpson, Pro-temp

Chaplain: WB Larry C. Hriczak

SMC: vacant (pro-temp at JD); JMC: vacant

Sr. Stew.: Br. Gregory Dohn; Jr. Stew: vacant

Marshal: vacant; Tyler: DB John A. Dougherty

Brothers in attendance:

RW Bernhard W. "Ben" Hoff, PGH

Visiting Brethren:

RW Donald V. Skaar, AGM (MilltownPalestine #294)

Minutes:

A Motion was made by WB Eric D. Wolff, and seconded by WB Leroy Schneider, to accept the Minutes of the March 3, 2025 (03/03/2025) Communication as read.

Motion carried.

Treasurers Report:

RW David B. Littman, Treasurer reporting.

Lodge Checking Account (Northfield Bank) Balance: \$11,410.62 as of close of the last meeting.

Franklin Founding Fund Investment Account Balance: \$86,290.36 as of December 31, 2024, statement.

A Motion was made by WB Larry C. Hriczak, and seconded by WB Eric D. Wolff, to receive the Treasurer's Report as given.

Motion carried.

Communications:

Letter from Br. Jeffery Andeson requesting a Demit from Union Lodge No.19, F&AM.

Email, 2025 Grand Master's Golf Tournament. Monday, June 2, 2025, 8:00 AM-3:00 PM. Gambler's Ridge Golf Club, Cream Ridge, NJ. 121 Burlington Path Rd., Cream Ridge, NJ. 9:00 AM Shotgun Start. \$160.00 per Golfer, \$40.00 Lunch only. Hole Sponsors also requested. Posted on Lodge bulletin board and emailed to the members.

Email; 2025 Salaam Shrine Family & Friends Summer Picnic. Saturday, August 16, 2025, starts at 1:00 PM. Location: Kittatinny Masonic Lodge No.164, 336 US Highway 206, Branchville, NJ. \$15.00 per person, kids under 12 free. Posted on bulletin board and emailed to members.

Bills and Vouchers:

A Motion was made by WB Eric D. Wolff, and seconded by WB Larry C. Hriczak, to pay Vouchers No.1765 (039) through No.1768 (042) as read. Motion carried.

Vouchers Itemized:

No.1765 (039) – Amount: \$288.98; To: Optimum; For: Lodge internet and cable service 4/01-4/30/2025.

No.1766 (040) – Amount: \$97.37; To: Greg Dohn; For: Dinner 4/07/25.

No.1767 (041) – Amount: \$46.00; To: Grand Lodge of New Jersey F&AM; For: 2025 Dues cards and 1 – 65-year service award replacement.

No.1768 (042) – Amount: \$600.00; To: Arthur H. Campbell, III; For: Stipend for Worshipful Master in 2023 (for PM ring).

Petitions and Balloting:

Ballot (manual sign, majority required) on the Request to Demit from Br. Jeffery Anderson. The ballot was Unanimous. Demit granted.

Committee of Investigation for Mr. Obiora John Okagbue, of Somerset, NJ. WM replaced DB Arthur Schneier and appointed WB Eric D. Wolff to the Committee. RW David B. Littman, Chairman, Br. Dylan Moynihan on Committee. RW Littman will schedule a time with the petitioner and arrange with committee.

Trustees' Report:

None.

Committee Reports:**Sickness & Distress:**

WB Eric Wolff reported that DB Arthur Schneier is feeling better but still not up to driving to attending meetings.

WB Eric Wolff reported that RW Bertram Kovash had fallen in the nursing home and required hip replacement surgery. After discharge from the hospital, he fell again and required hip replacement surgery on the other hip. He is recovering at the nursing home under supervision.

Please keep both these brothers in your thoughts and prayers. They both welcome phone calls.

Blood Bank:

Remaining Blood drive dates for 2025: Saturday, May 31 (5/31); Monday, August 4 (8/4); Saturday, November 8 (11/8). Times will be announced as the dates get closer. We are looking for Brothers to donate, also for brothers to be present for the Blood Drives.

Candidate Instruction:

RW Ben Hoff reported: Br. Greg Dohn and Br. Dylan Moynihan he is working with them and hopefully they will do their Master Mason proficiency exam soon.

RW Hoff reported: Both Br. FC Thiago Carvalho and Br. FC Yu-Chuan "Archuan" Hu have been unavailable, due to travel and/or family commitments.

Exterior Sign:

Worshipful Master, RW Roy Kowalski stated he would be taking the signposts home to paint them in preparation for setting the posts in the ground.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

WB Alfred J. Rodriguez brought up that he had spoken with WB Arthur H. Campbell, III. WB Campbell had never received a stipend from the Lodge for a “Past Master’s” ring or some similar award. The Lodge had given WB Campbell his personalized Past Master’s apron and case, but not the stipend for a ring. A stipend for a PM’s ring has been a tradition in Union Lodge. WB Rodriguez suggested that we should give WB Campbell this stipend.

A discussion ensued, inquiries as to what the traditional and customary amount is for such a stipend/gift. The figure of \$600.00 was settled upon.

A Motion was made by RW Raymond P. Helge, and seconded by WB Alfred Rodriguez, to give WB Arthur H. Campbell, III, a stipend of \$600.00 for the purchase of a Past Master’s ring or some similar award of his choosing.

Motion carried. Voucher No.1768 added to the approved vouchers for this payment.

WB Eric D. Wolff presented two ideas about additional possible fundraiser events for the Lodge. 1) Canoe Trip on the Delaware River, such as those done through “Kittatinny Canoes.” 2) A “Paint Ball Tournament.” WM Roy Kowalski thanked brother Wolff for his hard work and ideas. He suggested that WB Wolff and most of the active brothers already have a lot on their plates. We should table these ideas for a future time.

Masonic Light and Education:

RW Bernhard W. “Ben” Hoff, PGH lead a discussion of Masonic Officers in different jurisdictions. Discussing different titles, different or similar duties and/or over-lapping duties.

Announcements and Good of the Order:

RW Roy Kowalski reminded the brethren present that the Official Visit of the Grand Master to the 10th and 12th Masonic Districts, and Grand Lodge Reception in honor of Grand Lodge Officers from our Districts will be on Monday, April 28, 2025, at the Pines Manor in Edison, NJ. He encourages all brothers to attend. It is an Open Reception, invited non-Masons can attend. Tickets are available. Information on this is posted on the lodge bulletin board and has been emailed to the Brothers.

RW Kowalski reported on the joint Master Mason Degree. The Degree on Saturday, April 5, 2025, was conducted under the Warrant of St. Stephens Lodge No.63, at the Historic Trenton Masonic Temple, 100 Barrack Street, Trenton, NJ. Brothers from St. Stephens No.63, Princeton No.38 and MilltownPalestine No.294 were raised. The Degree was well supported by Brothers and Lodge from the 12th District and others from throughout New Jersey. The Ritual work was performed well and he believes the newly raised brothers were duly impressed.

RW Kowalski, Worshipful Master of Union Lodge, called for ritual rehearsals on Monday, April 14, and Wednesday, April 16, in preparation for our Official Visit of the District Deputy Grand Master of Monday, April 21, 2025.

RW Kowalski announced that the Union Lodge No.19 family picnic, jointly with the Princeton Shrine Club of Crescent Shrine, will be held on Saturday, July 12, 2025, starting at 1:00 PM. Roy Kowalski and his wife Lisa, will again be hosting this event at their home in Plainsboro, NJ. A Committee will be appointed at the future meeting to coordinate this event. All members, their families and invited guests are welcome. More details to follow.

Closing:

The Lodge was Closed in due and ancient form by RW Roy Kowalski, assisted by the Brethren, at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

RW Raymond P. Helge, PDDGM

Secretary, Union Lodge No. 19, F. & A. M.