

Harmony Lodge No. 8 Free & Accepted Masons

Met in a Regular Communication in their hall at the Masonic Temple,
519 US Highway 206, Newton (Andover Township), NJ
On the 4th of September 2025 A.L. 6025

Officers Present

RW Fred W Fox, PGC	X	Worshipful Master
Bro Stephen J Dugan	X	Senior Warden
WB Christopher A Bailey	Absent	Junior Warden
Bro Arjune M Sharma	Absent	Treasurer
Bro Barry W George	X	Secretary
RW George Stypolkowski, PDRI	X	Senior Deacon
Bro Curvey A Purkett, Jr	Absent	Junior Deacon
Bro Ryan M Carroll	Absent	Senior Master of Ceremonies
Bro Carlos Torres	X	Junior Master of Ceremonies
Bro Chris Brown	X	Senior Steward
Bro Patrick Harrison	Absent	Junior Steward
WB Clay Kraemer	X	Chaplain
WB Matt Kaufman	X	Tyler
Bro Henry F Repp	Absent	Organist
WB Dan Kaufman	X	Marshal
Bro Robert Woldt, DB	X	Historian

Brothers Present

<u>Current Grand Officers</u>	<u>Past Grand Officers</u>	<u>Brothers Present</u>	
RW Nicholas J Kaufman DRI	RW Eric G Grove PDDGM	WB Mike Shepherrd	Bro Jose Ascencio

RW Eric Grove sat in for the Jr Warden, RW Nick Kaufman for the Treasurer, and Bro Carlos Torres for the Jr Deacon.

There were 14 Master Masons present.

Opening:

The Lodge was opened in due and ancient form at 7:30 PM at labor on the Master Mason Degree, with a salute to the Flag of the United States of America.

Minutes:

The minutes of the Regular Communication of June 19th, 2025, and Emergent Communication August 27th, 2025 (AMENDED) that were distributed via email, were discussed. These minutes were approved as distributed.

Sickness and Distress:

N/A

Joys and Celebrations:

RW Nick Kaufman advised that 9/3 was WB Dan Kaufman's birthday and presented him with a gift.

Presentation of Bills:

<u>Bill For</u>		<u>Bill For</u>	
Completely Clean (June svc)	\$292.80	GLI catering supplies (WB Dan Kaufman)	\$142.91
Completely Clean (August svc)	\$292.80	GLI catering supplies (WB Dan Kaufman)	\$56.95
Grand Lodge (lodge supplies)	\$95.93	GLI catering supplies (WB Dan Kaufman)	\$37.53
Landscaper (lawn maint-all summer)	\$1,025.00	GLI catering supplies (WB Dan Kaufman)	\$32.95

The total for bills this evening is \$1,976.87. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills, when properly audited.

Communications:

A Flyer was received from Musconetcong #42 regarding their upcoming Casino Night on Saturday, September 13th. All are welcome.

There have been various communications that have gone out to the brethren via email from GL regarding the upcoming Annual Communication in AC. Please check your email for information.

A letter from Bro Michael Keegan was received after a phone conversation with the Worshipful Master. He requested that the lodge accept the attached check for payment in full for the dues owed by his son Michael P Keegan II, who is currently suspended NPD. His son has relocated to Louisiana and would like to resume his masonic journey down there. The Worshipful Master went into detail on what he knows about the situation and explained that even though the funds offered do not represent all the dues owed, it does cover all of the GL assessments that the lodge was charged. He asked that the lodge extend this kindness and accept the payment and forgive the balance.

*A motion was made and seconded to accept the check for \$240.00 as payment in full for all dues owed and request reinstatement from the NPD list. The motion was carried.

A letter was received from Bro Joseph Dumanov, requesting his withdrawal from Harmony Lodge. The Worshipful Master called for a vote to accept Bro Dumanov's request. The members present voted and accepted the request. The Secretary will update the records and advise Bro Dumanov of the results.

Ballots:

The Worshipful Master spread the ballot for the reinstatement from suspension for NPD for Bro Michael Keegan II. The request for reinstatement was approved by the members present. The Secretary will update the records and notify Bro Keegan II of the results.

REPORTS**Treasurer's Report:**

No report provided, the Treasurer was not present.

Buildings & Grounds:

Bro Dugan reported that the downspout had been repaired, the annual boiler inspection was completed successfully. He also advised that along with various other odds & ends that need attention, the boilers will need to be serviced this year.

WB Dan Kaufman provided an update on the lodge lighting upgrade project. He advised that the work in the lodge room had been completed (and demonstrated the dimming capabilities of the new LED's, a HUGE improvement). He thanked the many brothers that came out to assist he and WB Matt Kaufman with the work and for the food and monetary donations that paid for all the materials. He provided a detailed account of all the expenses to the Secretary (this report is available for anyone that requests a copy).

****Secretary's note:** This was a giant undertaking that was initiated during WB Dan's year as WM last year. Without his energy and determination, this task would not have gotten off the ground. The lights in the kitchen, banquet room, lounge, lodge room, vestibule and restrooms were all replaced with LED's. This will absolutely save money on the lodges electric bill.

Charity:

Bro Dugan advised that the next BOL event on Saturday, 9/27. Assistance during the event as well as food donations are needed.

He also advised that the organizing group is holding a meeting with all of the participating groups on 9/16. He will attend to represent the lodge and will provide a report at our next regular communication.

Rental Report:

WB Matt Kaufman advised of a steady flow of rental inquiries, with upcoming bookings on 9/6, 10/11 and 10/18.

Unfinished Business:

N/A

New Business:

RW George Stypolkowski made a motion to hold an open installation on Saturday, December 13, 2025. The motion was seconded and carried by the brothers present.

RW Eric Grove Inquired about the date of the annual Wreaths Across America event. RW Nick Kaufman advised that the event is scheduled for 12/13 as well and that the timing of installation should be coordinated to avoid conflict.

Program:

RW Stypolkowski took the opportunity to review with the brothers how ballots are reviewed and the appropriate responses from Junior and Senior Wardens for various kinds of ballots.

The Worshipful Master advised:

1. That he has been responding to several membership inquiries of late and that we should be seeing some prospects for dinner at the next meeting.
2. He recounted the recent Master Mason Degree at Kittatinny Lodge #164 where Bro Jose Ascencio was raised.

Announcements:

9/8 Baldwin Chapter RAM @ Harmony
9/13 Casino Night @ Musconetcong #42
9/17 Rehearsal @ Harmony 7:30pm
9/18 Official Visit of DDGM- Gold Token night (formal attired required for officers)
9/22 MW&PM/DLI @ Harmony (dinner @ 6:30pm)- CRITICAL Rehearsal for GLI
9/27 Bread of Life
9/29 GLI @ Harmony Lodge (dinner @ 6:30pm)- formal attire required.

*The Worshipful Master advised that he intends to cancel the regular communication scheduled for November 6, 2025, due to conflict with the GL Annual Communication.

The Worshipful Master called RW Nick Kaufman to the East and tendered him the gavel of the lodge.

Closing:

As there was no further business, the Lodge was closed in short form at 9:25 pm by RW Nick Kaufman, assisted by RW Fred W Fox and Bro Jose Ascencio.

Fraternally,

Bro Barry W George

Secretary 2025

Harmony Lodge No.8 F&AM

