

**Merchantville Lodge No.119, F. A.M.**  
**6926 Park Avenue Pennsauken, New Jersey 08109-2471**  
**Phone: (856) 663-1719 Fax: (856) 663-3631**

**MINUTES of the Regular Communication for Thursday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

1. Lodge was opened at 1930 EST in Due and Ancient Form
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Greetings
4. Reading of Previous Minutes by the Secretary.
  - a. Motion was made to dispense with the reading of the minutes by JW, seconded by SW. The motion carried. Minutes are available via Grandview.
5. Bills Read:
  - a. Bills.
    - i. GL Assessment for 184 assessable members \$13524
    - ii. 2 Bills for Be Safe, f.k.a. Bevan Security, for annual monitoring and for fire system \$956.53 total
      1. WM Asked if there was anything less expensive, Secretary stated that we would need to replace the entire system and when this was investigated a year or 2 ago, this was the best choice at that time.
    - iii. Motion was made to pay the bills on the Secretary's desk by SW, seconded by JW. The motion carried.
6. Treasurer's Report:
  - a. Balance in Checking Account: 24,424.14
  - b. Balance in Investments: 198,398.76
    - i. Although we withdrew \$53,000 for the HVAC and other building improvements\needs, the balance is only about \$2,500 less than the start of the year.
  - c. Motion was made to accept the Treasurer's report by SW, seconded by JW. The motion carried.
    - i. SW mentioned the \$7k outstanding to electrician
    - ii. WM voiced concern regarding the \$7k to the Electrician + the GL Assessments, possibly depleting our bank account.
    - iii. Dues are not all paid with over 100 members still outstanding.
7. Reading of Communications
  - i. RW JGW Reception for Bernard J. Madgey IV will be on February 8<sup>th</sup>, BYOB at the Masonic fellowship center. Cost is \$60pp, cocktail hr 4pm, dinner at 5pm. If interested, talk to Secretary who will see if we can team up with Mozart to help fill a table.
  - ii. Scouts of America Eagle Scout Dinner flyer and Ad request read.
  - iii. Bro Robert Hermanns Jr moved to SC
  - iv. USS NJ is having a comedy night in our building next Friday the 17<sup>th</sup> 6pm, \$30 pp
8. Report of Committees
  - a. Building
    - i. Handrails installed in the lodge
    - ii. Great job Bro SW Knaus. Thank you.
  - b. Membership
    - i. 13 prospects on Grand view
    - ii. Leo Mercado reached out to by WM, meet with us and get to know some of us, possibly invite to Applebee's after next month's meeting

- iii. Another person looking but is back and forth because of religious reasons.
  - iv. Asking for help to contact these prospects.
  - v. SW will help the WM
- c. Blood Drive
  - i. Haddonfield being assessed
  - ii. Laurel interested in having one
  - iii. Next blood drive is unknown
- d. Health and Welfare
  - i. Joe Gismonde doing well
  - ii. Bob Collier passed on November 10<sup>th</sup>. He was a long time resident at the Masonic Home. When he passed, we were not notified.
  - iii. Roger Wells passed away on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - iv. WB Santiago in FL, his brother in law passed away, the secretary sent a sympathy card.
  - v. WB Dan Madgrial, WM of Campana de Libertad Lodge #376, had a fire in his home while his daughter was home alone. She is safe and unharmed. They were staying in a hotel but have found a rental home to stay in while their house is being remediated. It will take about 6+ months to get the home remediated.  
Sent information regarding the Almoners fund to him.  
He is not sure if he will be at their meeting on January 28th. Requesting brothers of 119 to assist if possible. He also cannot find his suits.
- a. Rental
  - i. Still getting rentals, even while they know there is no heat.
  - ii. Hope is that PSE&G gets done soon so we can get back with renting out. Will get advertising out once HVAC is back up.
- b. Petitions
  - i. For initiation - none
  - ii. For affiliation - none
  - iii. For Demit - 1
    - 1. Bro. Kevin Flannery, as of 12/31/2024
      - a. Majority hand vote
      - b. Passed unanimously

## 9. Old Business

- c. Merger & Consolidation meeting
  - i. Committee was formed at the November meeting.
    - 1. WBs Andy Knaus, Eric Johnson, Shawn Roberts, David martin and Luis Valentin.
  - ii. Meeting with Mozart on January 14<sup>th</sup> @ 1730 prior to rehearsal.
- d. Super Bowl Party
  - i. Funds available from Square Club.
  - ii. Interest? RSVP Google Form made and ready.
  - iii. Food, TV, projector?
  - iv. Idea was Bro Brandon Valentin, asking why don't we get together more often, during a football game, or sporting event? Something more, outside of the lodge meetings.
  - v. Send out RSVP to see who would like to attend to the Lodge, District and friends.
  - vi. Jr Deacon, Mozart would like to do joint events with Merchantville. Get Mozart members onto the TB list? Secretary will add the officers from Mozart onto the trestleboard

## 10. Masonic Light

- e. Refreshment
- f. An informative 10-minute video on King Solomon's Temple, layout building and information regarding it was played from links on Grandview.
  - i. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xt6lQAe8ues>

11. Events

- g. OV March 13<sup>th</sup>
  - i. 1st Section of EA
  - ii. Opening
  - iii. Ballot
- h. GLI will be September 4<sup>th</sup>.
  - i. Communicate with OES to see if they can relinquish their Rehearsal night.
  - ii. Same as OV, but DDGM is not yet sure if that's 100% yet
- i. Asking for assistance from Mozart, Campana, etc.
- j. Ladies Night – April, Include other lodges
- k. Table Lodge – June, Include other lodges
- l. Past Masters' night – Have a dinner again

12. Masonic Birthdays

- a. The appropriate song was sung, poorly for WB Andrew Knaus.

13. New Business

- a. No new business not brought up already

14. Announcements

- a. No other announcements.

15. The lodge was closed in Due and Ancient Form by the Worshipful Master at 2052.

Attest,  
WB Shawn M. Roberts, PM  
Secretary  
Merchantville Lodge #119 F. & A. M.

**Attendance:**

**Officers:**

Worshipful Master: WB Luis Valentin, PM

Senior Warden: WB Andrew Knaus, PM

Junior Warden: WB Anthony Starkus, PM

Secretary: WB Shawn M. Roberts, PM

Treasurer:

Senior Deacon: RW Michael Mattes, PGP

Junior Deacon: RW Pete Buchert, PGC

Tyler: WB Eric Johnson, PM

Jr Steward: Bro Joseph McGuckin

Marshal: WB Christian Kochon, PM

**Members:**

Bro Michael Passio

**Visitors:**

RW Michael I Mattes, PGP

RW Peter Buchert, PGC 2008 (WM Mozart 121)