

**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, April 10th, 2025 AD, 6025 AL**

A Regular communication of Merchantville Lodge #119, F&AM was held. The Lodge was opened on the MASTER MASON DEGREE in DUE and ANCIENT Form at 7:30 PM with the indicated installed OFFICERS in their regular stations and places

**WM: Luis A. Valentin, PM    X**

**X – Indicates PRESENT**

<b>SW:</b>	Andrew S. Knaus, PM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>JW:</b>	Anthony J. Starkus, PM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>TR:</b>	David K. Martin, Jr, PM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>SEC:</b>	Shawn M. Roberts, PM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>SD:</b>	El Donaldo F. Vid Al, PM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>JD:</b>	Rev. Jorge A Martinez, PM	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SMC:</b>	Luis Francisco Ruiz	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>JMC:</b>	Gerald D. Jeitner, PM	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SS:</b>	David R. Saunders	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>JS:</b>	Joseph M. McGuckin, Jr	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>CHP:</b>	Raynaldo Santiago, PM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>MLS:</b>	Christian P. Kochon, PM	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>TYL:</b>	DB Enrique Rosario, PM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>HST:</b>	David K. Martin, Jr, PM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Filling in were WB David Martin, Jr in SW, Brother Luis Melendes in JD, RW Pete Buschert in Chaplain.

**Members Present**

**Greetings from the Worshipful Master**

WM Luis A Valentin greeted the Visitors, RW Pete Buschert of Mozart Lodge and Brother Luis Melendez of Logia Campana de Libertad and thanked them for filling in officer seats.

**Reading of Minutes**

A motion was made by Brother SW to dispense of the reading of the minutes and accept as distributed, which was Seconded by Brother JW. The motion passed.

**Reading of the necessary Correspondence**

A complaint of the Pennsauken Fire Department was read due to the fire alarm system which was activated during a rental on Saturday April 5<sup>th</sup>, due to a “cool smoke” machine and “sparkler towers” being used during the bride and groom’s first dance. The fire watch log for the full time the building was in use and proof of the fire alarm being re-activated is needed to suffice the violation, with a reinspection prior to 4/22.

**Reading of Treasurer’s Report**

With Brother Treasurer sitting in the SW seat, Brother Secretary stated the account balance was \$9,680.92 with bills needing to be paid and deposits needing to be made. The investment account information will be requested for the next meeting on May 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Reading of Bills**

Motion to pay bills was made by Brother JW, and seconded by Brother SW, which was passed.

**Birthdays and Masonic Birthdays**

There were no Masonic or April birthdays celebrated.

**Reading of Petitions and or Balloting**

There were no petitions for membership.

**Committee Reports**

**Square Club**

None

**Trustees**

None

**Merger**

We need to have a meeting of the 2 lodges to work out the next steps of the merger.

**Membership**

The WM spoke about membership. There are 16 prospects in Grandview he will reach out to. The open house schedule for March was postponed to not conflict with the funeral services for RW James Miller's wife.

**Blood Drive**

Thursday May 8<sup>th</sup>, noon – 5pm at Haddonfield Temple

**Sick and Distressed**

WB Enrique Rosario spoke regarding WM Jorge Martinez, who has a lot of pain for his sciatica. He also spoke regarding a catastrophe in the Dominican Republic where a building collapsed.

Brother SW spoke regarding RW Robert Hertneck JR, PDDGM, who seems to be getting better.

The WM spoke about RW Jim Butler's wife Candy Butler who had passed.

**Rental\Building**

The WM spoke about PSE&G who will be out Tuesday to replace the Gas Meter in the utility closet. The gas to the stove was turned off until this work is done. WB Jorge Martinez will be onsite during the work.

Brother SD spoke about banning smoke and pyro in the rental contracts.

**Old Business**

- The open house needs to be rescheduled. Would like to have it on a Friday evening with food and beverages, a PowerPoint presentation and pamphlets regarding Freemasonry for the 16 prospects that will be invited. The date of 5/9 was decided upon. Brother Secretary will make an Eventbrite event to share with other lodges, brothers and prospects.

**New Business**

- Lady's night was discussed. Issues with venues, but maybe we can have a dinner somewhere. It was decided that a date would be set for May 31<sup>st</sup> and the WM and RW Pete Buschert will talk to venues to see if they can accommodate us. Filomena's, Blue Monkey were suggested.
- Past Master's night was also discussed. We can open it up to Mozart and Campana Lodges. WB Roberts will find a restaurant for this.
- The WM discussed a possible Cigar and Bourbon night and in October, the Trunk or Treat.

**Masonic Light**

WB El Donaldo F. VidAl spoke regarding the DR building collapse and the importance of building safely and the rules of inspections are for certain purposes we may not fully understand, but they are there for our safety. Much like the building of King Solomon's temple.

**Lodge Closing**

Closed in due and ancient form at 9:00 PM with the officers in stations and places.

**Attest:**

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