

Merchantville Lodge No.119, F. A.M.
6926 Park Avenue Pennsauken, New Jersey 08109-2471
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MINUTES of the Regular Communication for Thursday, May 8, 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 7:30PM with the indicated installed OFFICERS in their regular stations and places

WM: Luis A. Valentin, PM X

X – Indicates PRESENT

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

Filling in were: WB Santiago for JD, WB Eric Johnson for JW, WB Eugene Wallace for Chaplain

Members Present

WB Fred Berman

Greetings from the Worshipful Master

WM Luis A Valentin greeted the members, some of which he acknowledged as not having seen for quite some time, like WB Berman, WB Wallace and WB Santiago, and thanked those filling in officer seats.

Reading of Minutes

A motion was made by Brother Sr Warden 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

Reading of Treasurer's Report

Reading of Bills

Regular bills were acknowledged and a bill from Bevan for resetting the fire alarm system and replacing a smoke detector from the cold pyro machine from the rental.

A motion to pay the bills was made by Brother SW and seconded by WB Rosario. Motion passed.

Birthdays and Masonic Birthdays

W,DB Rosario 17 yrs, WB Roberts 8 yrs.

Reading of Petitions and or Balloting

Committee Reports

Square Club
None

Trustees
None

Merger and consolidations

The joint committee met and discussed what we could agree upon. The name would be Merchantville-Mozart

Lodge #119. Meeting night would be at 7:30pm on the 1st Tuesday of each month, except in July and August, held at the Merchantville Temple. There was discussion regarding dues, and the committee agreed that it would be set to the current Merchantville Lodge amount of \$89 + GLA, which was \$76 (Total \$165) in 2025. The next steps are to send the report to the secretaries, which are the committee chairs, to hand to the Worshipful Masters at the corresponding June meetings. The secretaries will then send a summons to every member of their lodge to attend the September Communication to vote upon the consolidation. Summons cannot be sent any more than 90 days prior, no less than 14 days prior to the September meeting.

Membership

Open house to be held on Friday, May 9th at 7:30pm. 9 registered. A motion was made by the Secretary to spend up to \$300 on food and beverages for the open house, 2nd by SW, motion passed.

Blood Drive

A blood drive was held at the Haddonfield Temple this afternoon, collected 31 pints. Discussions will happen for an upcoming drive.

Sick and Distressed

WB Martinez sciatic is getting bad. Bro Will DeFoney's wife just had another child. WB Ray Santiago thanked the brethren for their support during his Brother in Law's passing. WB Eric Johnson's wife had her last chemo treatment this morning. Bro Eric Valentin's wife is in the hospital and his mother-in-law has dementia, WM's uncle, who raised them and is 88, was sent home with an oxygen tank.

Rental\Building

Linda the "Flower Lady" and Karl donated \$500 from their sales. 2 rentals in April, 2 in May. Need to update the agreements to explicitly disallow pyro and smoke. Would like to get some sort of boxes for the fire alarm pull handles, if not against code. Need to get the lights changed and money for other improvements. A new AED was received via a grant program that WB Roberts was able to get for us. We need a first aid kit also.

We need to get quotes for painting, striping the lot, columns out front and some siding that has fallen off the building. Brother Secretary made a motion to grant a \$500 petty cash fund for building needs that can be reimbursed with receipts. 2nd by Bro Junior Deacon. There was no discussion and the motion passed.

WM brought up a thought regarding possibly getting ropes to close off the upstairs during rentals.

A question was made regarding the rental fees, and the amount is \$400 for a brother and \$1000 for the public.

WB Knaus informed the brethren about the Merchantville Ladie's Club who will begin meeting at the building in September. They will be using the hall for a few hours, one time per month and we'll be charging the \$125/month.

Old Business

Ladie's Night at Filomenas, Past Master's Dinner at Pennsauken Country Club

New Business

WM Would like to run a Cigar and Bourbon event to utilize the patio as well as a possible table lodge in September.

Masonic Light

Lodge Closing

Closed in due and ancient form at 9:05PM with the officers in stations and places.

Attest:

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