

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 2nd of October 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	X	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 Walter Siri, Jr (Euclid #47)	WB Mike Shepherd	

Advanced station night:

Bro Steve Dugan sat in the East for the WM, WB Mike Shepherd for the Jr Warden, RW George Stypolkowski for the Sr Warden, RW Nick Kaufman for the Sr Deacon, Bro Carlos Torres for the Jr Deacon, Bro Chris Brown for the Treasurer and Bro Patrick Harrison for the Jr Master of Ceremonies.

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 September 18th, 2025, that were distributed via email, were discussed. These minutes were approved as distributed.

Sickness and Distress:

RW Fred Fox advised that Bro Henry Repp is scheduled to have knee surgery on 10/13. A card will be sent.

RW Fred Fox advised that RW Eric Grove just had successful pacemaker replacement procedure and is recovering at home. A card will be sent.

Joys and Celebrations:

N/A

Presentation of Bills:

<u>Bill For</u>		<u>Bill For</u>	
Completely Clean	\$292.80	BJ's (GLI dinner)	\$57.83
Costco (GLI dinner)	\$87.20	ShopRite (GLI dinner)	\$29.07
ShopRite (GLI dinner)	\$65.13		
Commissary (GLI dinner)	\$392.12		

The total for bills this evening is \$924.15. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills, when properly audited.

Communications:

The Secretary received and Edict from the Grand Master regarding restorations from expulsions for three RW brothers and it was read in lodge (see attached document for details).

The Secretary advise the brethren to check their emails for a List of 2026 GL scholarships that was sent to all brethren this past week.

Ballots:

N/A

REPORTS**Treasurer's Report:**

No report provided, the Treasurer was not present.

Buildings & Grounds:

WB Dan Kaufman advised that he is working on procuring a replacement outdoor light fixture for our flag out front.

Charity:

Bro Steve Dugan advised that the last Bread of Life event, although lightly staffed, successfully served approximately (35) people. The next event is scheduled for 10/25/25.

*He advised that due to ongoing staffing issues, he intends to approach the Newton Fire Department regarding their potential support for the event and partner with them to staff it going forward. He will advise on these discussions.

*He advised that he had attended a BOL board meeting on 9/16, where issues related to a couple of unruly individuals as well as ongoing funding issues with their insurance premiums and are seeking donations.

Rental Report:

WB Matt Kaufman advised that there are currently (2) bookings in October and (1) in November.

WB Dan Kaufman advised that assistance is needed this evening to clean up the downstairs for an upcoming wedding rental.

Unfinished Business:

RW Fred Fox advised:

1. That Harmony was asked at the recent MW&PM meeting to discuss the possibility of donating \$200 toward a district sponsorship of the upcoming Festival of Trees event down in Burlington. There were questions regarding the full scope of what is required (providing a tree & decorations, buying/wrapping gifts, setting up a booth) and who will be providing the effort and additional expense. RW Fox was asked to obtain more information before the lodge could make a decision.
2. Provided a synopsis of the recent GLI @ Harmony. We were asked to demonstrate a closing on the EA Degree, and it went very well. Overall, it was a good night and feedback from the Ritual Committee was fair in their comments.
3. \$1,000.00 was spent on a most excellent dinner for the GLI (subsidized by the other lodges in the district equally).
4. We have prospect that is expected to complete his petition by the next meeting.
5. Advised that in past years, an allowance of \$350 toward a dinner for those brothers attending the Grand Lodge Annual Communication. He asked the lodge to approve the same amount for this year's event.
 - a. ***A motion was made to approve the expenditure of \$350 for dinner at the GLAC, seconded and carried by the brethren present.***
6. He also advised of a \$750 maximum budget expense for the cost of the Installation dinner. A motion was made to pay up to this amount and was seconded. After some discussion regarding the amount, what to do if the cost is higher and whether or not a motion was actually necessary for a budget item, the Worshipful Master tabled the motion for further review.

RW George Stypolkoski advised the he has been in communication with Wendy Whyman about the upcoming Wreaths Across America event (scheduled for Saturday, December 13th). She is asking that the lodge continue to be involved and purchase wreaths.

****A motion was made to authorize the purchase of the necessary amount of wreaths, not to exceed \$150, was seconded and carried by the lodge.***

New Business:

N/A

Program:

RW Fred Fox read a list of historical events from 50 yrs ago.

Announcements:

10/5 Funeral service for Bro Joseph Decker (Smith-McCracken Funer Home) @ Noon
10/6 Official Visit @ Kittatinny Lodge #164
10/8 Official Visit @ Musconetcong Lodge #42
10/16 Harmony #8 Regular Communication- nominations for 2026 Officers will be opened.
10/27 MW-PM/DLI @ Musconetcong #42 (dinner @ 6:30pm)
11/4-6 Grand Lodge Annual Communication
11/11 EA Degree at Blairstown #165

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

Closing:

As there was no further business, the Lodge was closed in in harmony and good order at 8:55 pm by Bro Steve Dugan, assisted by RW Fred W Fox.

Fraternally,

Bro Barry W George

Secretary 2025
Harmony Lodge No.8 F&AM

