

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 20th of November 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	X	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	X	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 Nick Kaufman, DRI		WB Mike Shepherd	Bro Jose Ascencio
RW Brian Clouse, GSB #164		WB Gary Sargent #164	
RW Mike Stienhardt, GC #164			

There were 18 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 October 16th, 2025, that were distributed via email, were discussed. These minutes were approved as distributed.

Sickness and Distress:

WB Chris Bailey advised of a recent experience while out dining with family. He was approached by a stranger at his table that was very upset that he would be out in public wearing clothing that displayed a square and compasses. He was taken aback by the confrontation and asked advice on how to handle in the future.

Bro Ryan Carroll advised that his wife's family in Jamaica was badly impacted by the recent hurricane and asked that anyone seeking to provide donations could see him after the meeting.

Joys and Celebrations:

None offered.

Presentation of Bills:

<u>Bill For</u>		<u>Bill For</u>
Completely Clean (inv. 398)	\$292.80	
Amazon (kitchen supplies)	\$89.00	
ShopRite (Bread of Life supplies)	\$21.70	
Amazon (Bread of Life supplies)	\$19.20	
Macoy Publishing (lodge supplies)	\$45.95	

The total for bills this evening is \$468.65. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills, when properly audited.

Communications:

The Secretary advised on the following:

1. Notice of election results from GL that were emailed to all the brethren.
2. Notice of 2026 GL Assessments was received and there were no changes from last year. Will remain at \$76.00 per member.
3. Received the letter from Grand Master to all brethren and was read in lodge. Letter will be included with these minutes.
4. Receive a communication from RW John Jennings requesting to withdrawal his dual membership in Harmony Lodge.

*The lodge proceeded to vote on the request. It was approved by the brothers present. The Secretary will update the records and notify our RW brother.

The Worshipful Master called RW George Stypolkoski and Bro Jose Ascencio to the East in order to perform the Master Mason proficiency. The Worshipful Master congratulated Bro Ascencio on a job well done and thanked RW Stypolkowski for his efforts. Bro Ascencio was invited to sign the ancient book of by-laws and presented with his lodge name badge.

Petitions:

The Secretary received the committee report on petitioner, Mr. Ryan McKenzie, and it was read in lodge. The report was favorable.

Ballots:

The Worshipful Master, having received a favorable report from the investigation committee, spread a ballot for membership for Mr. Ryan McKenzie. All Master Masons present voted. The ballot being clear in the South, West and East, the Worshipful Master declared Mr. Ryan Mckenzie elected to membership by initiation.

The Secretary provided an update on the annual review of the NPD list. After discussion, a motion was made, seconded and carried to ballot on the list collectively.

*The Worshipful Master then spread the ballot collectively to suspend for Non-Payment of Dues as of 12/31/2025 following brethren:

Bro Connor Sokol
Bro Robert Gerald
WB Eugene Ingraham III
Bro Oscar Ortiz
Bro Brian Ukson
WB Luke Wikander

The ballot, exceeding a 2/3 majority in the South, West and East, the Worshipful Master declared the list of brethren Suspended for Non-Payment of Dues, effective at midnight on 12/31/2025. These brothers will be notified by the Secretary and if payment is received prior to 12/31/2025, this vote will be nullified for that brother.

REPORTS

Treasurer's Report:

The Secretary provided the proxy report from the Treasurer this evening:

The main operating account has a balance of \$3,861.75 and the investment account a balance of \$318,957.08. With more expenses anticipated thru the end of the year, the Treasurer requests that an amount of \$5,000.00 be withdrawn from the investment account to cover this overhead.

*A motion was made, seconded and carried to authorize the Treasurer to withdraw \$5,000.00 from the investment account to cover expenses thru the end of this year.

Buildings & Grounds:

Bro Dugan advised that the outdoor building lights have been repaired, that the flag pole light has been repairs and a new flag installed out front. Special thanks to WB Dan & Matt Kaufman and Bro George for making this happen.

Charity:

Bro Dugan advised that the next Bread of Life event is happening this Saturday, 11/22. We are well situated food wise and that all brethren are welcome to attend and assist with the setup and serving. The next event is scheduled for the Saturday after Christmas. Assistance with food preparation is still needed. Please contact Bro Dugan if you can assist.

Rental Report:

WB Matt Kaufman advised that there have been (11) rentals in 2025, the last being this weekend. It has been a strong year for rentals and is already taking bookings into 2026.

Unfinished Business:

The Worshipful Master declared nominations for officers for the 2026 Masonic year closed. The Worshipful Master appointed a judge (WB Dan Kaufman) and tellers (Brothers Torres and Brown) to review and compile the nominations.

The Judge reported the following nominations and the Worshipful Master polled the nominees:

Worshipful Master:	Bro Steve Dugan (will serve if elected)
Senior Warden:	RW George Stypolkowski (will serve if elected)
Junior Warden:	Bro Arjune Sharma (will serve if elected) WB Clay Kraemer (respectfully declined) WB Matt Kaufman (respectfully declined) Bro Ryan Carroll (respectfully declined)
Treasurer:	Bro Curvey Purkett, Jr (will serve if elected) Bro Arjune Sharma (ineligible)
Secretary:	Bro Barry George (will serve if elected)
Trustee:	RW Eric Grove (will serve if elected)

Proxy to GL: Bro Carlos Torres (respectfully declined)
Bro Ryan Carroll (respectfully declined)
Bro Chris Brown (will serve if elected)

A motion was made, seconded and carried that if but one name in nomination, a unanimous ballot may be cast for each position at the next meeting.

New Business:

Bro Woldt advised of local food drives (Stuff the Bus) and provided a list of locations. He encouraged all the brethren to contribute if possible.

Announcements:

11/24 MWPM/DLI @ Blairstown #165 (dinner @ 6:30 pm)- ***all officers are required to attend.***
12/4 Annual Communication @ Harmony #8 (election of officers)
12/1 Kittatinny #164 Open Installation
12/10 Musconetcong #42 Closed Installation
12/11 Blairstown #165 Annual Meeting/Installation (dinner @6:30pm)
12/13 Wreaths Across America service @ Old Newton Cemetary
12/13 Harmony #8 Open Installation
12/18 Mansfield #36 Open Installation

The Worshipful Master call RW Brian Clouse, RW Mike Stienhardt and WB Sargent to the East and tendered the gavel of the lodge to RW Stienhardt.

Closing:

As there was no further business, the Lodge was closed short for by RW Stienhardt at 9:15 pm, assisted by RW Brian Clouse, WB Sargent and RW Fred Fox.

Fraternally,

Bro Barry W George

*Secretary 2025
Harmony Lodge No.8 F&AM*

