

# Harmony Lodge No. 8 Free & Accepted Masons

Met in the ***Annual Communication*** in their hall at the Masonic Temple,  
519 US Highway 206, Newton (Andover Township), NJ  
On the 4<sup>th</sup> of December 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	X	Treasurer
Bro Barry W George	X	Secretary
RW George Stypolkowski, PDRI	X	Senior Deacon
Bro Curvey A Purkett, Jr	X	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	Absent	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 Kaufman, DRI	RW Eric Grove, PDDGM		Bro David King

There were 17 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 November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025, that were distributed via email, were discussed. These minutes were approved as distributed.

**Sickness and Distress:**

The Worshipful Master advised that RW Mike Stienhardt injured his shoulder at home.

**Joys and Celebrations:**

RW Nick Kaufman advised that the GL festival of trees event was successful and that his fiancé won a prize.

Bro Purkett advised that he just found out that he is going to be grandfather, again (his daughter is pregnant).

**Presentation of Bills:**

<u>Bill For</u>		<u>Bill For</u>	
Completely Clean (Dec. service)	\$292.80		
Liquor Liability premium 2026	\$1,903.50		
Snow removal	\$575.00		
Bro Sharma (heating oil delivery)	\$1,878.62		

The total for bills this evening is \$4,649.92 A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills, when properly audited.

*\*A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills over the holidays as necessary.*

**Communications:**

None at this time.

**Petitions:**

None at this time.

**Ballots:**

None at this time.

**REPORTS****Treasurer's Report:**

The Treasurer advised the balances of the following:

Primary operating account: \$7,897.40

Investment: \$358,037.90

**Buildings & Grounds:**

Bro Dugan advised that the closer on the inner door of the outer doorway is broken and in need of replacement. He will endeavor to make the necessary repairs.

**Charity:**

Bro Dugan advised that the last event was very successful and well-staffed by lodge members and family. The food was abundant.

The next BOL event scheduled December 27 (Saturday after Christmas). He is asking for volunteers to cook the ham the lodge has in the freezer for the next event.

### **Rental Report:**

WB Matt Kaufman reported that there were (11) rentals this past year and the revenue from them totaled \$6,675.00 (exceeding the budgeted amount of \$4,000.00). He also advised that we have been receiving bookings into 2026 and is optimistic that this trend will continue.

### **Unfinished Business:**

The Secretary provided an update on the membership status of WB Eugene Ingraham. At the last meeting, WB Ingraham was voted to be on the NPD list. He has since been in contact with the Secretary, submitting his dues payment with a request to demit. After some discussion, there was concurrence amongst the brothers present that this would simply not be acceptable. That, due to WB Ingraham's many years of dedicated service to the lodge, he should be exempted from having to pay dues in the future.

***\*A motion was made, seconded and carried to grant WB Ingraham EXEMPT membership status going forward and will be asked to donate the amount of his GL assessment each year should he be able to do so.***

### **New Business:**

The Worshipful Master opened discussions as required at the Annual Communication for the following:

1. **Lodge dues for 2026** (currently \$300.00): The Grand Lodge assessment for 2026 is to remain at \$76.00. There was discussion on the merits of raising dues to cover increases in expenses as well as keeping it at the current level (after a significant increase last year).

***A motion was made, seconded and carried to retain the overall lodge dues at the current amount (\$300.00).***

2. **2025 Conferral Fee** (currently \$600.00)- will remain the same if not voted to change.  
***After discussion on this topic, no motion was made to change the fee, therefore this will remain the same as in 2025 (\$600.00).***

3. **2024 Honorariums:**

Previously approved as- Forgiveness of annual dues for the current Worshipful Master, Treasurer, Secretary, Rental Coordinator, and Buildings & Grounds Committee Chair.

After some discussion, ***a motion was made, seconded and carried to forgive the 2026 dues of the following 2025 officers: Worshipful Master, Treasurer, Secretary, Rental Coordinator and Buildings & Grounds Committee Chair.***

4. **Election of officers for the 2026 Masonic year:**

The Worshipful Master appointed WB Dan Kaufman as Judge and Brothers Chris Brown and Carlos Torres as tellers.

The nominations for the following positions were made at the previous meeting and their responses noted-

<b>Worshipful Master:</b>	Bro Stephen Dugan (will serve if elected)
<b>Senior Warden:</b>	RW George Stypolkowski (will serve if elected)
<b>Junior Warden:</b>	Bro Arjune Sharma (will serve if elected)
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Bro Curvey Purkett, Jr (will serve if elected)
<b>Secretary:</b>	Bro Barry George (will serve if elected)
<b>Trustee:</b>	RW Eric Grove (will serve if elected)
<b>Proxy to GL:</b>	Bro Chris Brown (will serve if elected)

*\*A motion was passed at the previous communication that if there be but one candidate for a position, that a unanimous ballot be cast.*

As the nominations are all unopposed, the Worshipful Master called upon each nominee to declare whom they wish to cast their unanimous ballots:

**Worshipful Master:** Bro Stephen Dugan requested that RW Fred Fox cast his unanimous ballot.

*Judge & tellers reported that a unanimous ballot for Bro Stephen Dugan had been cast.*

**Senior Warden:** RW George Stypolkowski requested that Bro Sharma cast his unanimous ballot.

*Judge & tellers reported that a unanimous ballot for RW George Stypolkowski had been cast.*

**Junior Warden:** Bro Arjune Sharma requested that RW Stypolkowski cast his unanimous ballot.

*Judge & tellers reported that a unanimous ballot for Bro Arjune Sharma had been cast.*

**Treasurer:** Bro Curvey Purkett, Jr requested that Bro Dugan cast his unanimous ballot.

*Judge & tellers reported that a unanimous ballot for Bro Curvey Purkett, Jr had been cast.*

**Secretary:** Bro Barry George requested that WB Dan Kaufman cast his unanimous ballot.

*Judge & tellers reported that a unanimous ballot for Bro Barry George had been cast.*

**Trustee:** RW Eric Grove requested that WB Dan Kaufman cast his unanimous ballot.

*Judge & tellers reported that a unanimous ballot for RW Eric Grove had been cast.*

**Proxy to GL:** Bro Chris Brown requested that Bro Torres cast his unanimous ballot.

*Judge & tellers reported that a unanimous ballot for Bro Chris Brown had been cast.*

The Worshipful Master congratulated the newly elected line and thanked the Judge & Tellers for executing their rolls and discharged them.

The Secretary presented **Lodge resolution 2026-2** to update banking information for new officers and read it for the brethren present.

***\*A motion made, seconded and carried to approve Lodge Resolution 2026-2 as read.***

The Worshipful Master discharged all those brethren from the lodge room that are not past masters, then conferred the Worshipful Master qualification ceremony for WM-elect Bro Steve Dugan.

### **Memorial Service:**

The following brothers were reported to us this year as having been called to the lodge on high-

	<u>Initiated</u>	<u>Passed</u>	<u>Raised</u>	<u>Called to the lodge on high</u>
Bro Daniel E McCole	2/1/1968	3/7/1968	4/4/1968	12/23/2024
Bro Robert WJ Bears	1/16/1997	2/20/1997	3/19/1997	3/14/2025
Bro Dante V Fortini	3/1/1961	3/15/1961	4/19/1961	4/19/2025

The bell was tolled and the brothers remembered.

*\*The Worshipful Master closed the lodge of sorrow for the year 2025.*

***A motion was made, seconded and carried to open the lodge of sorrow the entirety of 2026.***

### **Announcements:**

12/10 Musconetcong #42 Closed Installation

12/11 Blairstown #165 Annual Meeting/Installation (dinner @6:30pm)

12/13 Wreaths Across America service @ Old Newton Cemetery (@ Noon, please arrive early)

12/13 Harmony #8 Open Installation (dinner @ 6pm, followed by the ceremony)

12/18 Mansfield #36 Open Installation

12/30 Rehearsal 7:30 pm

**\*No meeting on January 1<sup>st</sup>\***

1/6 Rehearsal 7:30 pm

1/12 Baldwin Chapter RAM

1/13 Rehearsal 7:30 pm

1/15 Regular Communication (dinner @ 6:30pm)

1/15 FC Degree a Mansfield #36

**1/21 Emergent Communication- EA Degree @ Harmony #8**

The Worshipful Master to time to thank all those that supported him and the lodge during his year.

The Worshipful Master called RW Nick Kaufman to the East and tendered him the gavel.

**Closing:**

As there was no further business, the Lodge was closed in short form at 9:23 pm by RW Nick Kaufman, assisted by RW Fred W Fox.

Fraternally,

*Bro Barry W George*

Secretary

Harmony Lodge No.8 F&AM

