

# 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 15<sup>th</sup> of January 2026 A.L. 6026

## Officers Present

WB Stephen Dugan	X	Worshipful Master
RW George Stypolkowski, PDRI	X	Senior Warden
Bro Arjune Sharma	X	Junior Warden
Bro Curvey A Purkett, Jr	X	Treasurer
Bro Barry W George	X	Secretary
Bro Carlos Torres	X	Senior Deacon
Bro Ryan M Carroll	X	Junior Deacon
Bro Chris Brown	X	Senior Master of Ceremonies
WB Chris Bailey	X	Junior Master of Ceremonies
Bro Jose Ascencio	Absent	Senior Steward
WB Patick Conroy	Absent	Junior Steward
WB Clay Kraemer	X	Chaplain
WB Matt Kaufman	X	Tyler
Bro Henry F Repp	Absent	Organist
Bro Patrick Harrison	Absent	Marshal
Bro Robert Woldt, DB	Absent	Historian

## Brothers Present

<u>Current Grand Officers</u>	<u>Past Grand Officers</u>	<u>Brothers Present</u>	
RW Nicholas Kaufman, DRI	RW Fred Fox, PGC	WB Dan Kaufman	
		WB Abraham Jacinto	

There were 15 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 Annual Communication on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025, that were distributed via email, were discussed. These minutes were approved as distributed.

**Sickness and Distress:**

Bro Sharma advised that Bro Ascencio was feeling under the weather this evening and could not attend.

The Worshipful Master advised the WB Mike Shepherd is home from the hospital, recovering from a serious medical condition.

RW Bro Stypolkowski reported that WB Mike Diccio is very ill and not doing well. The Worshipful Master requested that card be sent.

**Joys and Celebrations:**

Bro Carroll advised that it was his daughter's 4<sup>th</sup> Birthday this past Monday.

Bro Purkett advised that he has retired from military service and that his daughter is pregnant.

**Presentation of Bills:**

<u>Bill For</u>		<u>Bill For</u>	
Grand Lodge (lodge supplies)	\$45.00		
Liability Insurance for 2026	\$8,067.63		

The total for bills this evening is \$8,112.73. A motion was made and seconded. After some discussion about the new insurance policy, the motion was carried to pay the bills, when properly audited.

The Secretary advised on the Grand Lodge Annual Assessment. The total being \$6,572.50 to be paid by the end of the month. More details will be provided at the first meeting in February when all of the lodge's annual reports are presented.

**Communications:**

The Secretary reminded the brethren that the list of Masonic Charity Foundation college scholarships is on the desk for anyone interested after the meeting.

**Petitions:**

The Secretary read two petitions in lodge and the Worshipful Master appointed investigation committees:

Bro Stephen Corte Boutillette (for reinstatement from suspension), 200 County Rt 628, Wantage, NJ

\*Committee: Bro Sharma, Bro Carroll, Bro Brown

Mr. Eli Jose Rodriguez (for membership), 88 West End Ave, Newton, NJ

\*Committee: WB Matt Kaufman, RW Nick Kaufman, WB Kraemer

**Ballots:**

None at this time.

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

The Treasurer reported that the lodge is solvent and more detailed information will be provided at future meetings.

### **Buildings & Grounds:**

No report provided

### **Charity:**

The Worshipful Master advised that there have been recent reports of issues during BOL events during the week that have required the Police to be dispatched at the Church. As a result, the church elders have mandated that BOL needs to provide security during events and guests may not enter the church hall to be served. This is very problematic for our lodge, and the Worshipful Master has requested clarification on what church is requiring. Until more information is provided, the plan will be to provide bag lunch style meals outside. More details will be provided as information becomes available.

Next BOL event scheduled for January 24, 2026

### **Rental Report:**

WB Matt Kaufman advised that there has been steady flow of inquiries. He will provide a summary report for 2025 at the meeting in February.

### **Unfinished Business:**

The Secretary advised that Wendy Wyman (Wreaths Across America) sent us some pictures of the recent event at the Old Newton Cemetery. They at the desk for viewing after the meeting.

The Worshipful Master put the lodge on refreshment to allow the Harmony Foundation to hold their annual elections and reorganization.

### **New Business:**

The Secretary advised that Blue Cards for 2026 are now available for those that have paid their dues upon request. See the Secretary after the meeting.

The Worshipful Master advised that he is seeking participants for a committee to put together the next Fisherman's Breakfast (Saturday, April 11, 2026). He hopes to have the group in place by the next meeting.

### **Program:**

The Worshipful Master read an article about George Washington that he found at masonrytoday.com.

### **Announcements:**

1/20 Rehearsal @ Harmony #8 (7:00 pm)

1/24 Bread of Life event

1/27 MWPM/DLI @ Kittatinny #164 (dinner @ 6:30, gavel @ 7:30)- All DLI's changed to Tuesdays  
Work likely to be focused on EA Degree ***(All officers are expected to attend)***

**1/29 Emergent Communication- EA Degree @ Harmony #8**

RW Bro Fox advised that Musconetcong Lodge #42 will be stating a Rainbow Girls chapter this year.

### **Closing:**

As there was no further business, the Lodge was closed in harmony and good order at 9:10 pm by WB Steve Dugan.

Fraternally,

*Bro Barry W George*

Secretary

Harmony Lodge No.8 F&AM

