

Harmony Lodge No. 8 Free & Accepted Masons

Met in the **Regular Communication** in their hall at the Masonic Temple,
 519 US Highway 206, Newton (Andover Township), NJ
 On the 5th of February 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	Absent	Tyler
Bro Henry F Repp	Absent	Organist
Bro Patrick Harrison	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 Fred Fox, PGC	WB Dan Kaufman	Bro Steve Renninger #164
	RW Eric Grove, PDDGM	WB Abraham Jacinto	Bro EA Ryan McKenzie

There were 17 Master Masons present. WB Chris Bailey sat in for the Tyler.

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.

The Worshipful Master Closed labor on the Master Mason Degree and opened labor on the Entered Apprentice Degree.

Minutes:

The minutes from the Regular Communication on January 15, 2026, and the Emergent Communication on January 29, 2026 that were distributed via email, were discussed. These minutes were approved as distributed.

Sickness and Distress:

N/A

Joys and Celebrations:

WB Clay Kraemer advised that he had visited WB Mike DiCiccio at the Homestead to check in on his recovery and found that he is doing better and welcomes any visitors.

Presentation of Bills:

<u>Bill For</u>		<u>Bill For</u>	
Snow Removal (Bears inv. 190825)	\$750.00	Amazon (lodge supplies)	\$44.27
Snow Removal (Bears inv. 190875)	\$675.00	Amazon (BOL supplies)	\$25.00
Cleaning Service (Inv. 478)	\$292.80	Neco Fire & Safety (inspections)	\$160.00

The total for bills this evening is \$1,942.07. A motion was made and seconded and carried to pay the bills, when properly audited.

Communications:

The Secretary reported that a letter was received from WB Fred Rosenberg, our most senior living past master. He requested that the lodge extend him the courtesy of a dues exemption, due to his circumstances and many years of service to the lodge.

**The Secretary noted that he is a 62-year member of the lodge and made a motion to change WB Rosenberg’s dues status to exempt. The motion was seconded and carried by the brethren present.*

Petitions:

None at this time.

Ballots:

None at this time.

REPORTS

Treasurer’s Report:

The Treasurer reported the following account balances:

- Bread of Life \$890.00
- Grand Lodge \$5,766.00
- General Fund \$8,552.00
- Investment accounts \$335,797 and \$34,607

Buildings & Grounds:

N/A

Charity:

Recent Bread of Life event, 1/24/26, was successfully executed as an outdoor event (very cold). There is a meeting next week with the church and the BOL people to review the current situation. An update will be provided at the next meeting. The next BOL event will occur on 2/28/26 and continue as an outdoor grab and go style event until further notice.

Rental Report:

As the Rental Coordinator was not in attendance, his report was provided by the Secretary:

In 2025, there were (11) total rentals, four of which were brothers. This is the same amount of activity as 2024, generating net income of \$7,075 for the year. This is a decrease from 2024 by approximately \$2,500, but over our budgeted income of \$4,500.00 (a \$2,500 surplus).

Booking activity in 2026 has been slow, with no events currently scheduled. However, there has been a great deal of interest as inquiries have been frequent. He is hopeful of seeing some of these inquiries turn into bookings very soon.

Unfinished Business:

The Secretary presented the following resolutions for 2026 and read them to the brethren:

2026-1 Update to authorized signatories to the Lodge investment accounts

2026-3 Update to authorized signatories to the Lodge PO Box account

**A motion was made, seconded and approved by those members present to accept the resolutions as read and spread them upon the minutes.*

New Business:

Secretary's 2025 Annual Report (membership):

(1) Brother raised	Net membership changes in 2025: (-4)
(2) Brothers reinstated from suspension	Total membership as of 1/1/26: (90)
(1) Brother affiliated	
(2) Brothers demitted	Total GL Annual Assessment for 2025: \$6,572.50
(2) Brothers passed	
(4) Brothers Suspended NPD	

2025 Lodge Receipts: Dues	\$28,324.00
Donations	\$2,400.00
Rentals	<u>\$7,075.00</u>
Total	\$37,799.00

Trustee's 2025 Annual Report: Provided by RW Eric Grove, detailing the status of insurance and lodge investments.

**A motion was made, seconded and carried to spread the report upon the minutes.*

Harmony Foundation's 2025 Annual Report: Provided by RW Eric Grom, detailing the status of the foundation's investments and charitable contributions.

**A motion was made, seconded and carried to spread the report upon the minutes.*

Treasurer's 2025 Annual Report: Provided by Bro Arjune Sharma. He advised that the GL Fiduciary report was not yet completed but provided a Profit & Loss statement for the brethren.

**A motion was made, seconded and carried to spread the report upon the minutes.*

2025 Annual Audit Report: As RW Nick Kaufman was not present, the report was provided on his behalf by the Secretary. The report summarized what was audited and the methods employed. Its findings are stated with recommendations for improvements. The Secretary advised that he and the new Treasurer are working to implement the recommendations.

**A motion was made, seconded and carried to spread the report upon the minutes.*

Program:

N/A

Announcements:

- 2/9 Baldwin Chapter RAM
- 2/19 Regular Communication (dinner @ 6:30 pm, gavel @ 7:30 pm)
- 2/24 MWPM/DLI @ Harmony #8 (dinner @ 6:30, gavel @ 7:30)- All DLI's changed to Tuesdays
(All officers are expected to attend)
- 2/28 Bread of Life
- 2/28 Chili Cookoff @ Blairstown #165

RW George Stypolkowski advised that Wendy Wyman contacted him to offer thanks for participating in the recent Wreaths Across America ceremonies at the Old Newton Cemetery. She also invited the lodge to participate in an upcoming memorial in honor of the country's 250th anniversary on May 15th. It was suggested that we should do so if our calendar permits.

The Worshipful Master advised that he is looking to get the lodge involved in the annual Andover and Sussex County Days coming up in June. He is also looking to get involved with the Newton Memorial Day parade.

Bro Ryan Carroll advised that the Newton St. Patrick's Day parade is coming up and we can consider participating in this event as well.

Closing:

As there was no further business, the Lodge was closed in harmony and good order at 9:15 pm by WB Steve Dugan.

Fraternally,

Bro Barry W George

Secretary
Harmony Lodge No.8 F&AM

