

# 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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	X	Tyler
Bro Henry F Repp	Absent	Organist
Bro Patrick Harrison	Absent	Marshal
Bro Robert Woldt, DB	X	Historian

## Brothers Present

<u>Current Grand Officers</u>	<u>Past Grand Officers</u>	<u>Brothers Present</u>	
RW Dwayne A Dolly, III DDGM	RW Fred Fox, PGC	WB Dan Kaufman	
RW Nick Kaufman, DRI			

There were 16 Master Masons present. WB Dan Kaufman sat in for the Marshall.

### 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 from the Regular Communication on February 5, 2026, that were distributed via email, were discussed. These minutes were approved as distributed.

### Sickness and Distress:

N/A

**Joys and Celebrations:**

RW George Stypolkowski noted that the US Women’s Hockey team won the Olympic Gold Medal today. RW Nick Kaufman noted that the Junior Deacon’s birthday occurred this past Monday. The DDGM advised that RW Nick Kaufman’s birthday will occur on Saturday, also marking his 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of working with him professionally.

**Presentation of Bills:** (none to present)

<u>Bill For</u>	<u>Bill For</u>

**Communications:**

None to report at this time.

**Petitions:**

The Secretary advised that a new petition for membership was received for a Mr. Ronald Genier of Newton. As it was in good order and the appropriate monies received, the petition was read in lodge.

\*The Worshipful Master appointed an investigation committee that will meet with the petitioner and provide a report to the Secretary:

Bro Arjune Sharma (chair), RW George Stypolkowski, Bro Chris Brown

The Secretary advised that investigation committee reports had been received for petitioners Bro Stephen Boutillette and Mr. Eli Rodriguez. Both being favorable, they are ready for ballots.

**Ballots:**

The Worshipful Master spread the ballot for reinstatement to membership for Bro Stephen Boutillette. All member Master Masons present voted. The ballot, being clear in the South, West and East, the Worshipful Master declared Bro Boutillette reinstated to membership. The Secretary will send the necessary notifications.

The Worshipful Master spread the ballot for membership for Mr. Eli Rodriguez of Newton, NJ. All member Master Masons present voted. The ballot, being clear in the South, West and East, the Worshipful Master declared Mr. Eli Rodriguez elected to membership by initiation. The Secretary will send the necessary notifications.

**REPORTS**

**Treasurer’s Report:**

The Treasurer reported the following account balances:

- Bread of Life \$890.00
- Grand Lodge \$2,076.00
- General Fund \$11,071.98

He also noted that auto payments for electricity (\$233.19), internet (\$134.08) and garbage collection services (\$177.00) had been made since the last meeting.

### **Buildings & Grounds:**

The Worshipful Master noted that the annual fire extinguisher inspection had occurred recently. He also expressed his desire to obtain water based extinguishers for both the lounge and lodge rooms to supplement our current equipment in those areas. He had obtained a quote from Neco Fire Protection to provide these units for an amount of \$400.

\*After some discussion, a motion was made, seconded and carried to purchase said equipment.

***Although, donations toward the purchase will be accepted.***

### **Charity:**

The Worshipful Master reported that the BOL-Newton group has, at the request of the church, hired a security guard for the events on Saturdays. In doing so, we will be permitted to allow guests into the building to serve and eat the food provided, but only when the guard is present. We will continue to have normal access to prepare and clean up as we always have.

\*As the expense of a security guard is one the BOL-Newton group can hardly afford, the Worshipful Master reported that a spaghetti dinner at the lodge on May 9<sup>th</sup> is being planned as a fundraiser to help them offset the costs.

The Worshipful Master advised that the next BOL event is scheduled for Saturday, 2/28, and additional food donations and servers are needed. Several brothers expressed their desire to assist. For more information, please contact the Worshipful Master directly.

### **Rental Report:**

WB Matt Kaufman advised that although there continues to be a steady stream of inquiries, bookings are slow right now. However, there is a 4-H event occurring at the lodge this Sunday.

### **Unfinished Business:**

The Worshipful Master provided an update on the planned Fisherman's Breakfast on Saturday, 4/11. He noted that the production of flyers is in progress and will potentially be advertised on local radio.

\*A discussion regarding ticket prices and social media advertising followed.

The former conversation resulted in Bro Chris Brown volunteering to head a new events committee (to include brothers Torres and Carroll), that will oversee any related social media ads going forward. The Worshipful Master requested any legacy systems and access be provided to Bro Brown.

Bro Ryan Carroll advised that our application to participate in the annual Newton St. Patrick's Day Parade (Saturday, 3/7) had been accepted. He noted that the town has requested that the lodge arrive early to assist in the parade staging area at Thor Labs. More information to follow.

### **New Business:**

The Secretary noted that a request for membership dues exemption for WB Cornelius "Bud" Martin (50+yr member) was received, delivered by RW Fred Fox. He advised that this was the second such request received that last few weeks and suggested a discussion about the merits of granting one of these requests at a time versus granting exemptions for all 50+ year members in one fell swoop. After some discussion on the impact to the lodge in revenue and continued costs, the Worshipful Master advised that he wants to continue to review such requests on a case-by-case basis.

\*A motion was then made, seconded and carried to grant a dues exemption to WB Martin. The Secretary will send the necessary notifications.

**Program:**

N/A

**Announcements:**

- 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
- 3/5 Regular Communication (dinner @ 6:30 pm, gavel @ 7:30 pm)
- 3/7 Newton St. Patrick's Day Parade
- 3/9 Baldwin Chapter RAM

RW Fred Fox advised that a Rainbow Girls membership meeting will be held at Musconetcong #42 on 2/27.

RW Dwayne Dolly noted the following events:

- 2/28 GL Town Hall meeting will be held at the Salaam Shrine
- 2/28 NJ Special Olympics Polar Plunge (contact him for more information)

The Worshipful Master called the DDGM to the East and tendered him the gavel of the lodge.

RW Dayne Dolly called for the Grand Honors to be given to WB Stephen Dugan.

**Closing:**

As there was no further business, the Lodge was closed in harmony and good order at 9:35 pm by WB Steve Dugan.

Fraternally,

***Bro Barry W George***

Secretary  
Harmony Lodge No. 8 F&AM

