

Blairstown Lodge No. 165 Free & Accepted Masons

Met in a Regular Communication in their hall at the Masonic Temple,
 11 Stillwater Rd, Blairstown, NJ
 On the 26th of February 2026 A.L. 6026

Officers Present

WB William Chadwick	X	Worshipful Master
Bro Joshua Williams-Como	X	Senior Warden
Bro Tom Bulger	X	Junior Warden
WB Michael D Park	X	Treasurer
Bro Barry W George	X	Secretary
Bro Steve Kazmierciewicz	X	Senior Deacon
Bro John Caruso	X	Junior Deacon
RW Brian Sneed, PGSB	Absent	Senior Master of Ceremonies
Bro Tyrone Coronato	X	Junior Master of Ceremonies
WB Robert S Moorhead, Jr	X	Senior Steward
RW Eric P Neuffer, PGC	Absent	Junior Steward
Bro Robert Agolio	Absent	Chaplain
Bro Arjune Sharma	X	Tyler
WB Walter S Orcutt, Jr	X	Marshal
Bro Jesse Woll	X	Historian

Brothers Present

<u>Current Grand Officers</u>	<u>Past Grand Officers</u>	<u>Brothers Present</u>	
RW Nick Kaufman, DRI	RW George Stypolkowski	WB Ed Lubas	
		WB Matt Kaufman	
		WB Dan Kaufman	

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 on February 12th, 2026, that were distributed via email, did generate comments (adding details about recent roof repair and discussion related to 501-C3) and were thus amended. These minutes were approved as Amended.

Minutes of the Emergent Communication on February 19, 2026 (EA proficiencies) were discussed and amended to more accurately reflect the opening and closing times.

*A motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the minutes as amended.

Sickness and Distress:

It was reported by WB Steve Dugan to the Secretary that WB Mike DiCiccio passed away last evening. No details were available at that time. More information to follow.

Joys and Celebrations:

None reported.

Presentation of Bills:

None to present.

Communications:

The following Grand Lodge Communications were noted by the Secretary:

1. Passing of RW George "Flash" Gordon from Phillipsburg Lodge. He was a PDDGM of the 14th District.
2. Notice from Alpha Lodge concerning their upcoming 155th Anniversary event in October of this year.
3. Notice of the upcoming Grand Lodge town hall events at the Salaam Shrine on Saturday 2/19.
4. Notice from Atlas Pythagoras Lodge concerning their upcoming 200th Anniversary event in June of this year.

Petitions:

Update from the investigation committee on the petition of Mr. Rob Stachowicz- meeting still being scheduled. Anticipate a completed report for the Secretary by the next meeting on 3/12.

Ballots:

N/A

REPORTS

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer advised that the lodge's accounts are solvent. Balances as follows-

Charity account:	\$4,648.00
Operating account:	\$9,207.00

Buildings & Grounds:

No report at this time.

Charity:

WB Moorhead advised that the Chili Cookoff event this Saturday is coming together. There is a white board in the hall listing assigned rolls. Additional assistance is still needed. He detailed the prizes being offered this year and that there are new judges. There are approximately thirteen or fourteen competitors registered at the time of this meeting.

Rental Report:

WB Moorhead advised that there were (2) rentals this past weekend and another immediately following the Chili Cookoff on Saturday. He advised on the assistance needed to prepare the building for rental after the event.

Unfinished Business:

The Secretary provided an update on 2026 dues payments:

*Currently (33) of (60) members have paid. Reminder statements will be going out on 3/1 via email to those that have yet to remit payment.

Bro Sharma provided an update on his research into re-establishing the lodge's 501-C3 tax exempt status. He advised that it will require a completed application, which he will begin to fill out, and a fee of \$600.00. No additional fees will be required once reinstated, but an annual filing will be necessary to maintain.

*A motion was made, seconded to pay the \$600.0 fee and file the application. After some discussion, it was noted that the fee would be drawn from the charity account and the entity name (Blue Lodge Santa) could later be edited to actual lodge name after being reinstated. The motion was carried.

New Business:

None at this time.

Program:

The Worshipful Master provided commentary about the theme this evening, Levis Straus Jeans, and the parallels of their corporate values with Masonry. He described the meaning of the "golden handshake" and how it correlates to Masonic values.

Announcements:

2/28 Chili Cook-Off!!

3/2 FC Degree Rehearsal 7pm

3/8 Daylight Savings

3/12 Regular Communication-Fellow Craft Degree

3/24 MWPM/DLI @ Mansfield #36 (dinner @ 6:30 pm)- **ALL officers are required to attend.**

Closing:

As there was no further business, the Lodge was closed in harmony and good order at 8:50 pm by WM Bill Chadwick.

Fraternally,

Bro Barry W George

Secretary

Blirstown Lodge No.165 F&AM

