

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 Twp), NJ
 On the 7th of May, 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 Nick Kaufman, DRI | RW Eric Grove, PDDGM | WB Dan Kaufman | Bro Steve Boutillette |
| | RW Fred Fox, PGC | WB Abraham Jacinto | |
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There were 18 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.

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

The Worshipful Master admitted to the lodge Brothers EA Ron Genier, Eli Rodriguez and Ryan McKenzie.

The Worshipful Master called Bro Chris Brown and Bro EA Ryan McKenzie to the East to demonstrate the EA proficiency.

The Worshipful Master and the brethren present congratulated Bro EA Ryan McKenzie on a fine proficiency and thanked Bro Brown for his mentoring efforts.

Minutes:

The minutes from the Regular Communication on April 16, 2026 (EA Degree), that were distributed via email, were discussed. These minutes were approved as distributed.

Sickness and Distress:

RW George Stypolkowski advised the WB Mike Shepherd has been in and out of the hospital as he continues to deal with leg issues that severely impair his mobility. He is currently at a rehab center in Morristown but is in good spirits. A card will be sent.

Joys and Celebrations:

Bro Arjune Sharma advised that his wife continues to recover nicely following her shoulder surgery and thanked the brethren for all the well wishes.

Presentation of Bills:

| <u>Bill For</u> | | <u>Bill For</u> |
|--|----------|--|
| Completely Clean (May cleaning svc) | \$292.80 | Masonic Leadership Conference (Bro Sharma) |
| Bears Landscaping (April lawn service) | \$219.25 | \$275.00 |
| ShopRite (BOL supplies) | \$18.27 | |
| Amazon (kitchen supplies) | \$22.90 | |
| | | |

Total for bills this evening is \$828.22. ***A motion was made, seconded and carried to pay the bills when properly audited.***

Communications:

The Secretary noted that Grand Lodge recently sent an email to all the brethren with an updated 2025 GL Budget that added actual values. A hard copy is at the Secretary's desk should anyone wish to see it after the meeting.

Petitions:

N/A

Ballots:

N/A

REPORTS

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer advised on the current account balances:

Operating fund: \$4,843.70
Bread of Life: \$748.32
Grand Lodge: \$2,912.00
Harmony Foundation: \$100.00
Layton Scholarship: \$100.00

He also advised of a payment to Vonage in the amount of \$21.45, First Energy \$303.40 and Liability Insurance \$733.43.

Buildings & Grounds:

WB Dan Kaufman advised-

1. That he is working on a replacement for the broken lodge door closer. A new unit will cost in the neighborhood of \$200.00. The Worshipful Master directed him to proceed with this building maintenance task.
2. An AC start up service is scheduled for Monday 5/11. The technician will clean and service the AC units throughout the building in advance of the summer cooling season.

Charity:

The Worshipful Master advised that the April BOL event was successful and that the next BOL event is on 5/23 (Memorial Day weekend). More to follow.

*He also reported on the recent efforts to host a BOL Spaghetti dinner fundraiser. Unfortunately, the event had to be cancelled due to a lack of support from the BOL group. A \$400 donation to the group was provided from the Master's charity fund instead.

Rental Report:

WB Matt Kaufman advised that there has been a steady stream of rental inquiries and (1) new booking this month. He is optimistic that we will see more.

Unfinished Business:

The Secretary provided an update on the status of dues payments for the 2026 Masonic year:

(27 of 90) Brothers have yet to remit their dues, totaling more than \$8,000 in revenue for the lodge.

The Secretary also reminded the brethren present that lodge night dinners are an expense for the lodge. Dinner donations of \$10 are expected from those that partake to help offset these costs.

The Worshipful Master advised that he continues his efforts to contact his accountant nephew to see if he can provide services to the lodge with regards to bookkeeping and auditing. He will provide an update as soon as he has more information.

New Business:

Bro Sharma advised that he has begun making wellness calls the brethren we do not see in lodge. He provided a report on those to which he had spoken. He expressed his desire for the lodge to reconnect with all the brethren, including potential visits when possible. He invites any brethren that wish to assist in this effort. More updates to follow.

The Worshipful Master advised that the Andover Borough Fire Department is hosting a 100th Anniversary event and that he would like a \$100 donation in honor of their 100 yrs of service, perhaps from the Harmony Foundation.

Announcements:

5/11 Baldwin Chapter RAM

5/12 1st, 11th & 14th Districts Reception

5/13 EA Degree @ Musconetcong #42

5/16 250TH Anniversary Event, Honoring Revolutionary War Veterans @ Old Newton Burial Ground (Noon)

**RW Stypolkowski advised that both he and Bro Carroll are scheduled to speak and are looking for more brethren to participate.*

- 5/19 Rehearsal- FC Degree (7pm)
- 5/21 Regular Communication- (dinner @ 6:30 pm, gavel @ 7:30 pm)
- 5/23 Bread of Life
- 5/24 1st District Memorial Day Parade- Blairstown
- 5/26 District Lodge of Instruction (DLI) @ Musconetcong #42- **All officers are expected to attend**

The Worshipful Master spoke about the upcoming county sponsored US 250th anniversary event on June 7, 2026 at the SC Fairgrounds. Since Andover Twp Day was in conflict with the County event, the town elected to reschedule Andover Day to the following Saturday, June 13.

*He has yet to receive any information on how we can participate from the County.

*He did receive information from Andover Twp regarding sponsorships.

A discussion followed about sponsoring a table as an opportunity to elevate our visibility in the community. Bro Sharma offered to pay the sponsorship fee and many others to help staff the event. More planning and information to be provided later.

RW George Stypolkowski was granted time to address the brethren regarding planning for the next Masonic year. He was seeking feedback from the brethren on events and initiatives that they were willing to support. Support was expressed to continue our efforts with the Bread of Life, and the fisherman's breakfast. Should the Andover Day event prove successful, continued support would be warranted. He advised of his desire to seek new charitable entities to support and expand our efforts within the community beyond BOL. He also would like to host a table lodge. He noted that he invites any suggestions from the brethren and is open to such discussions going forward. All of which was well received by the brethren present.

Closing:

As there was no further business, the Lodge was closed in short form at 9:35 pm by RW Nick Kaufman, assisted by WB Steve Dugan.

Fraternally,

Bro Barry W George

Secretary

Harmony Lodge No.8 F&AM

