

Harmony Lodge No. 8 Free & Accepted Masons

Met in a Regular Communication in their hall at the Masonic Temple,
 519 US Highway 206, Newton (Andover Township), NJ
 On the 5th of September 2024 A.L. 6024

Officers Present

WB Daniel C Kaufman	X	Worshipful Master
RW Nicholas J Kaufman	Absent	Senior Warden
Bro Stephen J Dugan	X	Junior Warden
Bro Arjune M Sharma	Absent	Treasurer
Bro Barry W George	X	Secretary
RW Fred W Fox	Absent	Senior Deacon
Bro Brian J Ukson	Absent	Junior Deacon
WB Matthew C Kaufman	X	Senior Master of Ceremonies
Bro Robert Gerald	Absent	Junior Master of Ceremonies
Bro Connor M. Sokol	Absent	Senior Steward
Bro Scott M Waselik	Absent	Junior Steward
Bro Ryan M Carroll	Absent	Chaplain
WB Christopher A Bailey	X	Tyler
Bro Henry F Repp	Absent	Organist
Bro Curvey A Purkett, Jr	Absent	Marshal
Bro Johannes W DeWaal	Absent	Historian

Brothers Present

<u>Current Grand Officers</u>	<u>Past Grand Officers</u>	<u>Brothers Present</u>	
	RW Eric G Grove PDDGM		Bro Robert Woldt
	RW George J Stypolkowski PDRI		Bro Dave King

Bro Steve Dugan sat in for the Senior Warden, RW Eric Grove for the Junior Warden, RW George Stypolkowski for the Senior Deacon, WB Matt Kaufman for the Junior Deacon and Bro Bob Woldt for the Historian.

There were 9 Master Masons present.

Opening:

The Lodge was opened in due and ancient form at 7:30 PM at labor on the Master Mason Degree, then the Worshipful Master closed labor on the Master Mason Degree and opened the lodge again on the Fellow Craft Degree and completed the opening with a salute to the Flag of the United States of America.

Brothers Fellow Craft Jim Born, Chris Brown and Carlos Torres were then permitted admission to the lodge for the remainder of the evening.

Minutes:

The following minutes which were distributed via email over the summer, were discussed and there being no noted errors or omissions, were approved as distributed:

- 2024-06-20 Meeting Minutes-Regular Communication
- 2024-07-09 Meeting Minutes-Emergent Communication
- 2024-07-16 Meeting Minutes-Emergent Communication
- 2024-07-25 Meeting Minutes-Emergent Communication
- 2024-08-26 Meeting Minutes-Emergent Communication

Sickness and Distress: None

Joys and Celebrations: None

Presentation of Bills:

<u>Bill For</u>		<u>Bill For</u>	
Grand Lodge (degree supplies)	\$108.10	Bella Italia (dinner)	\$127.95
Completely Clean (Sept. service)	\$292.80	ShopRite (dinner)	\$73.07
JLM Property Svc (August Lawn Maint)	\$280.00		
Macoy Publishing (degree supplies)	\$285.45		

The total for the bills presented this evening is \$1,167.37. Motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills, when properly audited.

Communications:

Brother Secretary advised of an email from the DDGM regarding the upcoming combined district reception on 9/26, honoring RW Fred Fox. This is scheduled to occur the night before our trip to Washington DC.

Petitions: None

Ballots: None

REPORTS

Treasurer’s Report: (given by Brother Secretary in the Treasurer’s absence)

Provident Bank balances as of 09.04.2024:

- BOL: 2799 - \$730.00
- GLNJ: 2802 - \$6,274.00
- Foundation: 2772 - \$234.00
- Layton Scholarship: 2780 - \$184.00
- Operating Fund: 2426 - \$9,222.01

First Hope (Investment Fund) balances as of 07.30.2024:

- Account 3680-5648: \$271,755.72 an **increase/gain of \$17,997.90** or 7.09% from 01.01.2024
- Account 1799-0083: \$33,372.22 a **decrease/loss of (\$121.21)** or 0.36% from 01.01.2024

Account 4329-2704 (Harmony Foundation): \$38,931.98 a decrease/loss of (\$116.98) or 0.30% from 01.01.2024

RW Eric Grove provided additional updated investment fund data as of 9/5/24:

Harmony Foundation: \$40,052.00

Lodger Brokerage: \$34,828.00

Lodge Investment: \$280,979.00

Our investments over all are doing well.

Buildings & Grounds:

Bro Dugan reported a lot of activity over the summer, including the following:

Table repairs, water softener system repairs, fire extinguisher and kitchen suppression system inspections, vent hood cleaning, Health Department inspections, dishwasher repair, ice machine filter leak repair, primary sink drain clog repairs, lodge room AC unit service/repairs.

He hopes to get to perform the following before the cold weather sets in-

Repair the front sign lights, replace exterior lights that are out, exterior hole repairs, roof hatch repair.

*He also requested assistance from anyone willing and able to participate.

Many thanks to our Junior Warden for the invaluable service he has been providing to the lodge.

Charity:

Bro King reported that our regular monthly Bread of Life event is on hiatus while the ongoing dispute between the Bread of Life Ministries and the Newton Presbyterian Church continues. We have been advised that the two parties are continuing to work towards a resolution. However, we will have no location to deliver our services until such time as they do. The Worshipful Master requested that Bro King continue to monitor the situation and report back any changes so that we may resume our activities as soon as possible.

Rental Report:

WB Matt Kaufman reported that rental inquiries had slowed over the summer months, but that activity has picked up recently. He advised that we currently have only one rental left on the calendar for 2024, in November.

Washington DC Trip:

RW Eric Grove reported that the group intends to depart from the lodge at 5:30 am on Friday 9/27. There are still some minor agenda issues to be resolved, but the final itinerary will be distributed soon.

Unfinished Business:

Bro Bob Woldt reported that over the summer he had investigated the possibility of a sporting clays fundraiser at the Lehigh Valley shooting center. Although he was able to obtain the basic information, he discovered that the center is fully booked for such events for many months. He advised that this is not likely to be a large generator of revenue as a fundraiser. The Worshipful Master requested that he try to find some dates so that the lodge could at least offer an opportunity for the brethren to get together socially.

New Business: None

Program:

Membership- Bro Secretary advised the following on the current status of lodge membership:

(102) Current Master Masons on the roster, -Down (7) members from January 1, 2024 (4 deceased, 3 withdrawals)

(21) Brothers have yet to pay their 2024 dues and have been sent the appropriate NPD notification letters.

-It is anticipated that there will be at least (10) Brothers that will be voted NPD this year, further reducing our roster.

(54) Brothers of the (102) are ages 70+

>>There are but (17) active members of the (102)<<

Budget Updates-

The Worshipful Master reported that as of July 30, 2024, the lodge is performing much better than anticipated versus the budget for the year. Operating income is ahead by more than \$4,000.00 and expenses are less than anticipated by more than \$14,000.00. The net gain there is over \$18,000.00 thanks in no small part to our conservation efforts and a very good year in rentals. Although we do still anticipate other expenses in the last few months of the year, we expect to be in the black for the year overall.

Kitchen Refrigerator-

Brother Secretary reported on the status of the kitchen refrigerator. Over the summer, the Worshipful Master gave instructions to see if we could sell the old refrigerator in the kitchen. It is not used much, is inefficient, consuming a lot of electricity. Bro Shawn Leonardo was instrumental in getting this effort off the ground. Thru that process, it was determined that the unit was no longer functioning properly and could not maintain proper temperature. As such, no one would buy the unit. Having recently serviced the lodge room AC units, we know how expensive a refrigerant recharge can be and shutter at the potential cost to service the old fridge. The refrigerant in the unit is no longer used and expensive to obtain. Even if the lodge decides to have it repaired, we will still be left with an old inefficient unit. After doing a great deal of market research, it was determined that we could purchase two 30" wide units that would equal the size of the existing unit for approximately \$1,500 each and would be energy star rated. This would allow us to dispose of both the large unit and the residential unit in the hallway, replacing them with the two new units. The lodge would use one of the new units as its primary fridge (lockable) and the other for overflow, events and rentals as needed.

After some discussion, a motion was made and seconded to dispose of the kitchen and hallway units, as well as the old unit next to the freezer and purchase two new units as detailed by the Secretary. The motion was carried.

Announcements:

9/10 MM Practice @ No.8, 7pm

9/17 MM Practice @ No.8, 7pm

9/18 MM Degree @ St.John's

9/19 Official Visit @ No.8

9/24 MM Practice @ No.8, 7pm

9/26 1st/11th/14th District Reception, honoring Fred Fox

9/27-29 Washington DC Trip

10/5 1st District Bourbon Tasting event @ No.8

10/12 1st District MM Degree @ No.8

11/2 Casino Night at Musconetcong No.42

Closing:

As there was no further business, the Lodge was closed in harmony and good order at 8:55 pm by RW Eric Grove, with the assistance of WM Daniel C Kaufman.

Fraternally,

Bro Barry W George

Secretary 2024

Harmony Lodge No.8 F&AM

