

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 17th of October 2024 A.L. 6024

Officers Present

WB Daniel C Kaufman	X	Worshipful Master
RW Nicholas J Kaufman	X	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	X	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	X	Chaplain
WB Christopher A Bailey	Absent	Tyler
Bro Henry F Repp	Absent	Organist
Bro Curvey A Purkett, Jr	X	Marshal
Bro Johannes W DeWaal	Absent	Historian

Brothers Present

<u>Current Grand Officers</u>	<u>Past Grand Officers</u>	<u>Brothers Present</u>	
RW Nicholas J Kaufman DRI	RW Eric G Grove PDDGM	WB Abraham Jacinto	Bro Robert Woldt, DB
RW Fred W Fox GC	RW George J Stypolkowski PDRI	WB Clay Kraemer	Bro Carlos Torres

Bro Purkett sat in for the Junior Deacon, WB Matt Kaufman for the Tyler and Bro Woldt for the Historian.

There were 14 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.

Before proceeding any further, the Worshipful Master called RW George Stypolkowski and Bro Carlos Torres to the East for the purpose of performing the Master Mason proficiency exam. Bro Torres did so in exemplary fashion and was congratulated by the Worshipful Master and the brethren and given a warm welcome into the fraternity.

Minutes:

The minutes of the Regular Communication on October 3rd, 2024, Emergent Communication (MM Degree) on October 12th, 2024, and the Emergent Communication (Funeral) on October 14th, 2024, that were all distributed via email, were discussed. These minutes were approved as distributed.

Sickness and Distress:

RW Fred Fox reported that he received word that Bro Dan Fortini is in hospice care. No other information was available.

RW Nick Kaufman reported that RW Tom Murphy was having an issue with his vision and has now lost sight in one eye. Even so, he is still getting around and active with his masonic endeavors.

Joys and Celebrations:

RW George Stypolkowski reported that Bro Chris Brown’s wife gave birth to a boy (Gavin).

Presentation of Bills:

<u>Bill For</u>		<u>Bill For</u>	
Amazon (lodge maint supplies)	\$106.92	Completely Clean (October service)	\$292.80
Amazon (lodge maint supplies)	\$319.86	Amazon (mailing supplies)	\$15.94
Amazon (lodge maint supplies)	\$259.09		
Amazon (lodge maint supplies)	\$68.58		
Ballast Shop (lodge maint supplies)	\$36.20		

The total for the bills this evening is \$1,099.39. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills, when properly audited.

Communications:

N/A

Petitions:

A request for reinstatement from NPD was received from Bro Oscar Ortiz, of Mt. Vernon, OH. Having paid his back dues in full, his request is brought before the lodge.

Ballots:

The Worshipful Master spread a ballot for reinstatement from NPD for Bro Oscar Ortiz. All Master Masons voted and approved reinstatement.

Given the late date in the year, a motion was made to forgive Bro Ortiz’s 2024 dues, but to request that he pay his portion of the Grand Lodge assessment, if possible. The motion was seconded and carried by the lodge. Bro Secretary will make the necessary updates in Grand View and notify Bro Ortiz of his change in status.

REPORTS

Treasurer’s Report:

Given that this is the second meeting of the month, Bro Treasurer did not offer an update on the lodge’s financial status. However, he did advise that at the request of the Worshipful Master, he reviewed the projected expenses for the balance of the year.

He recommended that we withdraw \$5,000.00 from our investment account to cover these projections, which the Worshipful Master approved. It is important to note that the 2024 budget had forecasted the need to withdraw \$14,000.00 this year. So far, this \$5k is the first time we have had the need to do so, putting us well ahead of the budget.

Buildings & Grounds:

Bro Dugan reported the following:

1. Updates to the lighting in the kitchen and elsewhere around the lodge are in progress.
2. Looking to repair the lights in the outdoor sign.
3. The new refrigerators have been installed and are working wonderfully.
4. Looking to solicit estimates on professional cleaning, stripping & waxing the kitchen floor (now that we can see how much it needs to be done).
5. Evaluating what will be required to execute the plan to replace the lights in the lodge room.

Bro Dugan thanks all those that have assisted in these many efforts and welcomes all those that wish to join in the fun.

Charity:

The Worshipful Master advised that the Bread of Life is still on hiatus while the group and the church continue to sort out their differences. However, it has been reported that a resolution is near and awaits approval from the church to proceed. The lodge will need to follow the situation closely, as it was also reported that the current director was stepping down, leaving a void in leadership. The group will need to reorganize and fundraise to maintain their liability insurance. No word on how/when this will occur. The Worshipful Master suggested that while we wait, the lodge should evaluate whether we can continue to effectively support the event, given the low turnout of brethren over the past year. In the meantime, he advised that we should seek out other outlets for community service in the area and welcomes suggestions from the brethren.

Rental Report:

No new rentals to report at this time.

Unfinished Business:

Washington DC trip- RW Eric Grove reported that the final proceeds from the event netted \$5,270.00 to be split between the Harmony Foundation and the Lodge. We are looking to return to DC in 2025.

New Business:

Bro Ryan Carroll provided information on an opportunity to support a charitable event in the area. He personally participates as a coach for the Newton Youth Football rec league which is seeking sponsorships and donations for a tricky tray gift basket. Bro Carroll detailed the group as one that functions as an independent feeder program for the Newton Schools athletic programs. They are funded by sponsorships and donations from area businesses and participants families. He recommended that the lodge sponsor this group.

A motion was made to donate \$275.00 to sponsor the group, seconded and carried by the lodge. Bro Carroll will provide details on how the funds are to be distributed.

Bro Carroll also advised that the league is seeking assistance with staffing their concession stand during the season. All those interested in getting involved should contact him for more information.

Bro Secretary advised that the lodge has been reaching out to many of our brothers that we have not heard from in some time. Thus far we have been unable to reach the following brothers:

Bro Charles Gebhardt (Newton)
Bro Daniel McCole (Milford)

If you know of, or have any information regarding their condition or whereabouts, please contact the Secretary as soon as possible.

Bro Secretary reported on an investigation performed at the request of the Worshipful Master, regarding the purchase of a new piece of kitchen equipment (proofer/warmer). With the recent improvements to the kitchen, our ability to market the use of the kitchen with our rentals is increased. Adding this piece of equipment will not only improve our ability to rent the kitchen but enhance our capacity to cater our own events at the lodge. The best deal the Secretary found will require an investment of approximately \$1,600.00. The Worshipful Master then opened the floor for discussion and feedback on the topic. After some discussion, it was suggested that the lodge be allowed to think about the idea and visit the topic again at a later meeting.

The Worshipful Master reported that Bro King has set up a *Toys for Tots* collection box in the lodge lobby. He did not have the deadline date for donations at the time of the meeting but will advise as soon as possible.

Program:

The Worshipful Master read an article from the Midnight Mason's podcast entitled "Back to Basics", by Bro Ken Bealer (article to be attached these minutes for your reading pleasure). It reviewed how the meaning of the working tools and their lessons can impact our daily lives, followed by some discussion.

Announcements:

- No DLI in October, due to conflict with GL Candidates Night event.
- 10/28 Grand Lodge Candidates Night
- 10/25-26 & 11/1-2 Haunted Halls event @ Blairstown #165
- 11/2 Casino Night event @ Musconetcong #42
- 11/5-7 Grand Lodge Annual Meeting
 - *A motion was made to spend up to \$400 to pay for dinner for the brethren attending the GL Annual Meeting, seconded and carried by the lodge.*
 - *The Senior Warden will confer with the DDGM as to whether or not our normally scheduled regular communication on 11/7 can/should be held, due to GL event. An update will be provided to the brethren via email.*
- 11/21 Harmony Lodge nominations for 2025 officers closes
 - *The Worshipful Master declared nominations open as of this meeting, 10/17/24.*
- 12/5 Harmony Lodge Annual Meeting
- 12/7 Harmony Lodge Installation
 - *A motion was made to hold an open installation, seconded and carried by the lodge.*
- 12/21 Wreaths Across America event (old Newton Cemetery)- more information to follow.

RW Nick Kaufman advised the annual district GLI event for 2025 has been scheduled for September 22, 2025, location TBD.

Closing:

As there was no further business, the Worshipful Master called RW Fred Fox to the East to close in short form. The Grand Chaplain then called Bro Purkett and Bro Woldt to the East to assist him with the closing. The Lodge was closed in harmony and good order at 9:27 pm by RW Fred Fox, WB Dan Kaufman, Bro Curvey Purkett and Bro Bob Woldt, DB.

Fraternally,

Bro Barry W George

Secretary 2024

Harmony Lodge No.8 F&AM

