



Clarksboro Lodge #87 F.&A.M.
PO Box 276
Clarksboro, NJ 08020
856-423-0173
secretary.clarksboro87@gmail.com
GPS address: 187 W. Cohawkin Road
Clarksboro, NJ 08020
CONSTITUTED APRIL 28, 2011
REGULAR COMMUNICATIONS
FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH
EXCEPT JULY & AUGUST
NOVEMBER 2024



Brethren,

I hope this communication finds you well, as all of us should know this November we will be voting on the upcoming masonic year. Also as you will see we have some very important topics to discuss. These two things alone should entice you to come to lodge for a meeting. BUT, as I am now master in my 11th month I find that attendance is lacking, and that is very disappointing. I understand that we all have lives, jobs, and worldly events to attend. I am reaching out through the trestle board to entice you to re read your obligations, your commitment to the fraternity, your wanting to be a mason. When I came to lodge and went through the degrees, there were good men sacrificing their time to make sure all went well, as all have gone through before. Should I mention that we had a combined EA degree in October and very few of our lodge members were there, Disappointing.

Get to lodge and be a part. If nothing else come out and enjoy a home cooked meal.

I am summoning all who are able to set aside 3-4 hours a month to be at lodge.

I am summoning all who can and have done degrees to participate as those before you have participated for you.

We will be having a master mason degree for 2 brothers on November 18th. Help is needed as it was given for you.

We will be having a degree in January, February, March and Probably April—show support for your brethren.

Fraternally,
John Higgins WM
WM Clarksboro Lodge #87 of Free and Accepted Masons

Upcoming News and Dates for Clarksboro Lodge

November 4 2024 Our regular communication with dinner will be at 6:30 pm and the degree starting at 7:30 pm. Several important items will be voted on.

-We will have lodge elections for the following positions for the 2025 Masonic year:

Worshipful Master = John Higgins

Senior Warden = Chris Roethke

Junior Warden = Eric Rathof

Treasurer = Brett Biel

Secretary = Jason Neal

Proxy to Grand Lodge = Jimmy Earle

Financial Trustees = Rich Bailey, Charles Murschell, and John Leech

Building Maintenance Trustees = Bill Dutka

-We will be also holding votes on dues increase to \$200 (See Worshipful Master's message below). If you have concerns about the increase this is your chance to voice your opinion.

-We will be holding a vote on the suspension of 14 members for non payment of dues which go into effect on December 31, 2024

November 18, 2024 We will having a Master Mason degree on two candidates Giovanni Andres Rodriguez and Ronald Erdman with dinner at 6:30pm and the meeting starting at 7:30pm.

November 25, 2024 District Lodge of Instruction at Clarksboro Lodge #87 starting at 7:00pm. All Master Masons are welcome to attend

A Special Message from the Worshipful Master regarding the 2025 dues increases:

We will be discussing this at November meeting along with but not limited to , fundraising, voting of offices, and dues.

Brethren, as master I would like to communicate the need for the recent Dues increase of \$16.50 per year. As some of you may know we have had 2 insurance claims in recent years totaling more than \$80K. We have done a great job in remediation of the insured events and our lodge building is in better condition than before the incidents. As typical after a review of our insurance coverage and claims, our carrier has dropped our coverage based on recent claims and the age of the building. That said we have received an offer for coverage; however, the annual insurance costs have tripled, and we are in a bind to get insurance coverage and have signed up for 1 year coverage, using funds from our investments. After a review of costs to operate the lodge and the overall increases of all items, especially the insurance bill we feel the need for the dues increase. This increase covers about 30% of the rate increase for the insurance, we plan to make the other 70% by an increase in rental rates and fundraising efforts along are relying on our investments to assist with the increase. As we continue to investigate insurance coverage alternatives and coverage amounts, if any brothers are in the insurance business, please reach out to me directly to discuss any options you may be able to assist our lodge with this endeavor.

Respectfully,
John Higgins WM

Living Past Masters

| | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1966 E. L. Erdner ^S | 1991 J. C. Magee, III ^P | 2008 G. R. Bruynell ^{PS} |
| 1970 J. M. Dare ^S | 1992 W. T. Dutka, PDDGM ^S | 2008 F. H. Stigale IV ^F |
| 1971 C. C. Murschell, Jr. ^S | 1992 D. P. Doak ^P | 2009 F. H. Stigale IV ^F |
| 1972 J. S. Emrick, Sr. ^P | 1993 G. E. Sleet ^S | 2010 J. A. Link ^{PS} |
| 1975 W.D. Hansen, Jr. ^F | 1994 A. L. Milsted, Jr.* | 2010 D. S. Moser ^F |
| 1979 W. L. Villanova ^S | 1995 P. J Peacock | 2012 C. J. Roethke PDDGM |
| 1979 T. D. Clow, PGMar ^F | 1998 W. T. Dutka, PDDGM ^{PS} | 2014 H. Egberts |
| 1980 T. D. Clow, PGMar ^F | 1999 D. C. Henson ^F | 2015 D. W. Getsinger |
| 1980 C. W. McTyre ^S | 2001 W. T. Dutka, PDDGM ^{PS} | 2016 J. P. Neal |
| 1983 J. R. Corliss ^P | 2002 R. B. Kell, PDDGM ^{PS} | 2017 R. L. Thomas PGC |
| 1987 R. B. Kell, PDDGM ^P | 2003 J. C. Legge ^{PS} | 2018 T. G. Rathof DRI |
| 1987 W. T. Dutka, PDDGM ^S | 2005 C.B. Jarrell ^{PS} | 2019 T. G. Rathof, DRI |
| 1988 R. B. Kell, PDDGM ^P | 2005 Ellis H. Otto ^F | 2020 J. C. Magee, III |
| 1988 W. T. Dutka, PDDGM ^S | 2006 Ellis H. Otto ^F | 2021 T. G. Rathof, DRI |
| 1990 W. T. Dutka, PDDGM ^S | 2007 R.D. Bailey PGC ^{PS} | 2022 E. J. Rathof |
| 1990 B. E. Bolopue ^P | 2007 J. N. Earle ^F | 2023 B. J. Biel |
| 1990 Lee Brown ^F | | |

^P -Paulsboro
^S -Swedesboro

Honorary Members

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1980 E. N. Peppler, PGM | 2007 H. S. May, III, PGC | MW L. S. Plasket PGM |
| 1993 R. Stowman, PM | 2008 F. D. Jones, PDDGM | RW A. L. Hann PJGD |
| 1996 W. E. Hackney, PGM | 2008 J. C. Stephenson, PDRI | RW C. G. Hocknell PDDGM |
| | 2009 W. H. Berman, PGM | 2018 MW D. B. Hees PGM |
| | 2014 D. A. Dorworth, PGM | |

21st Masonic District Lodges

| | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Penns Grove Excelsior No. 54, Carneys Point | 1st Wednesday at 7:30pm |
| Clarksboro No. 87, Clarksboro | 1st Monday at 7:30pm |
| Mantua No. 95, Mantua | 2nd Thursday at 7:30pm |
| Woodstown No. 138, Woodstown | 1st Tuesday at 7:30pm |
| Williamstown, No. 166, Williamstown | 1st & 3rd Tuesday at 7:30pm |
| Pitman, No. 197, Pitman | 2nd Tuesday at 7:30pm |

**Freemasonry promotes a way of life that binds like-minded men
with the principles of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth
in order to serve God, Family, Country, Neighbor and Self.
Find out More about us: The Grand Lodge of New Jersey
www.newjerseygrandlodge.org**

Clarksboro Lodge No. 87 F&AM

2024

Elected Officers

Senior Warden

RW Chris Roethke DRI
Cell 609-868-1232
croethkedd21@gmail.com

Worshipful Master

John J. Higgins
Cell 609-743-2043
jhiggs219@verizon.net

Junior Warden

WB Eric Rathof
Cell 609-929-8820
erathof68@yahoo.com

Secretary

WB Jason Neal
609-213-4763
jneal522@yahoo.com

Treasurer

WB Bret Biel
Cell 856 264-9629
bbiel77@gmail.com

Appointed Officers

Proxy to Grand Lodge
Chaplain
Senior Deacon
Junior Deacon
Sr. Master of Ceremonies
Jr. Master of Ceremonies
Senior Steward
Junior Steward
Marshal
Tyler
Director of Ritual

Jimmy Earle, PM
Roger L. Thomas, PGC
James Earle PM
Gerardo Batista
Bret Biel, PM
Joseph Pardo
Brian Spencer
Jesse Thorn
Cory Hunt, Jr.
Jack Magee, PM
Christopher J. Roethke, PDDGM

Trustees

Financial

R. D. Bailey PGC 2024

Temple Maintenance

Eric Rathof PM 2026
Thomas Rathof DRI 2025
R.B. Kell Grand Orator 2027
Wm T. Dutka, PDDGM 2024

Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons of the State of New Jersey

Most Worshipful Leonard Vander Horn

100 Barrack Street Trenton, NJ 08608 email: njgm2021@gmail.com

Right Worshipful Thomas Rathof District Deputy Grand Master of the 21st Masonic District

Phone: 856-981-8844 email:trathof@gmail.com

Right Worshipful Christopher J. Roethke

District Ritual Instructor of the 21st Masonic District

Cell 609-868-1232 croethkedd21@gmail.com

Right Worshipful Keith Lypka Grand Chaplain

Cell 856-361-4625 keithlypkal1@gmail.com

Right Worshipful Lenard Rust Grand Chaplain

Cell 856-404-3191 lenrust@gmail.com

If anyone in your Lodge is ailing, in need of a phone call, card, or visitation ... If you need assistance with a Masonic funeral ... Or anything else, please contact the Grand Chaplain