

# 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 5<sup>th</sup> of December 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	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 Nicholas J Kaufman DRI	RW Eric G Grove PDDGM	WB Clay Kraemer	Bro Robert Woldt, DB
	RW George J Stypolkowski PDRI		Bro Chris Brown
	RW Fred W Fox PGC		Bro Carlos Torres
			Bro Pat Harrison
			Bro Jim Brown

RW George Stypolkowski sat in for the Senior Deacon, WB Matt Kaufman for the Junior Deacon, RW Fred Fox for the Tyler, Bro Carroll for the Sr Master of Ceremonies, Bro Torres for the Jr Master of Ceremonies, Bro Brown for the Senior Steward, Bro Harrison for the Junior Steward and Bro Woldt as Historian.

There were 15 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 of November 21st, 2024, that were distributed via email, were discussed. An error was reported and the minutes amended. These minutes were approved as Amended.

**Sickness and Distress:**

RW Fred Fox advised that Bro Henry Repp was back in the hospital but is expected to be home in time to attend the installation this weekend.

**Joys and Celebrations:**

N/A

**Presentation of Bills:**

<u>Bill For</u>		<u>Bill For</u>	
Lowes (lighting project supplies)	\$9.13	Amazon (lighting project supplies)	\$78.52
Lowes (lighting project supplies)	\$367.09	Ebay (lighting project supplies)	\$159.94
Lowes (lighting project supplies)	\$336.09	Nassau Cable (lighting project supplies)	\$84.90
Lowes (lighting project supplies)	\$65.69	Cooper Electric (lighting project supplies)	\$102.83
Lowes (lighting project supplies)-refund	(\$240.35)	Amazon (installation meal)	\$182.42
Lowes (lighting project supplies)	\$42.46	Amazon (installation meal)	\$9.02
Amazon (lighting project supplies)	\$303.85	Restaurant Depot (installation meal)	\$274.86
Amazon (lighting project supplies)	\$245.23	SC Sherrif-Annual Fired Safety Permit	\$54.00

The sum for the bills this evening is \$2,075.68. Motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills, when properly audited.

\*A motion was made and seconded to pay the bills as necessary over the holidays and report at next regular communication. The motion was carried.

**Communications:**

None at this time.

**Petitions:**

None at this time.

**REPORTS**

**Treasurer’s Report:**

The Worshipful Master provided an update on behalf of the Treasurer. He advised that all expenses have been proceeding as planned and that we will be solvent thru the end of the year. Our budget remains ahead of what was forecast at the start of his term, due to actively working to minimize costs and better than expected rental business.

**Buildings & Grounds:**

Bro Dugan deferred this report to the Worshipful Master as he was the champion of recent efforts in the lodge. The Worshipful Master reported that the lighting upgrade project is ongoing. The current plan is to complete the pre-purchase of all necessary materials to complete the work. The lodge room effort will likely

occur over the summer but will need to be closely coordinated with any upcoming rental event. Additional electrical work in the kitchen area for new equipment should be completed very soon.

### **Charity:**

The Worshipful Master reported that we have received notice to resume our Bread of Life activities at the church. We were first notified just prior to Thanksgiving but were too close to the holiday to marshal the necessary support. We are now planning to resume on Saturday, December 28. There will be a gathering the evening before to prepare at the lodge. We request that any brothers and their families that wish to participate, do so and advise Bro Dave King ([davek19662000@yahoo.com](mailto:davek19662000@yahoo.com)) who is coming and what, if anything, you may be bringing.

It was also suggested that we will welcome anyone willing to take the 12lb turkey from the lodge freezer home to cook and bring for the next event.

### **Rental Report:**

WB Matt Kaufman advised that there has been a steady flow of rental inquiries. He has a new contract in the works for February and is hoping to book a wedding over the summer.

### **Unfinished Business:**

Bro Ryan Carroll relayed thanks from Newton Rec Football for the generous donations to their recent event.

### **New Business:**

The Worshipful Master opened discussions as required at the Annual Communication for the following:

1. Lodge Dues for 2025:

The Worshipful Master called for suggestions, following up on this discussion from the last meeting. It was suggested that due to the Grand Lodge assessment increase to \$76.00 and the loss of members the past year, it would require an increase from \$220 overall to at least \$250 to make up for the increase and lost revenue. The Secretary advised that the 2024 Grand Lodge assessment is \$73.50. It was advised that the operating budget still has a shortfall in 2024 and will be projected to be in the red for 2025 as well. Although, the deficit was far less than anticipated, due to a much higher amount of rental income than expected and continuing efforts to minimize lodge expenses. Suggestions to raise annual dues included \$250, \$275, \$300 and \$365 (a dollar a day). The impact of an increase and the potential to lose members as a result, was discussed at length. It was also noted that despite the increase in dues that is set, there is no limitation on a brother contributing a greater amount.

A motion was made, seconded to raise the 2025 annual dues to \$300.00. The motion was carried.

2. 2025 Conferral Fee:

A motion was made and seconded to raise the conferral fee from \$550 to \$600 (twice the 2025 annual dues). The motion was carried.

3. 2025 Honorariums:

A motion was made and seconded to forgive the 2025 annual dues for the Worshipful Master, Treasurer, Secretary, Rental Coordinator and Buildings & Grounds Committee Chair. This due to their extensive efforts to manage the affairs of the lodge. It was pointed out that, despite such forgiveness, several of the aforementioned officers will likely donate much more throughout the masonic year. The motion was carried.

4. Election of officers for the 2025 Masonic Year:

The Worshipful Master appointed RW Eric Grove as Judge and Brothers Born and Carroll as tellers.

The nominations for the following positions were read and their responses noted-

Worshipful Master – RW Fred Fox (accepted)- unopposed

Senior Warden- Bro Stephen Dugan (accepted)- unopposed

Junior Warden- WB Chris Bailey (accepted)- unopposed

Secretary- Bro Barry George (accepted)- unopposed

Treasurer- Bro Arjune Sharma (accepted)- unopposed

Trustee- Bro Robert Woldt, DB (accepted)- unopposed

Proxy to GL- Bro Curvey Purkett (accepted), Bro Carlos Torres (accepted), Bro Pat Harrison (accepted), Bro Chris Brown (accepted)

A motion was made and seconded that if there is but one candidate for a position, that a unanimous ballot be cast. The motion was carried. The Lodge was put on refreshment to allow the brethren to vote for the position of Proxy to GL.

The Worshipful Master called the lodge off refreshment and declared the ballot closed. The results for 2025 as follows-

**Worshipful Master:** RW Fred Fox requested that RW Eric Grove cast his unanimous ballot.

Judge & tellers reported that a unanimous ballot for RW Fred Fox had been cast.

**Senior Warden:** Bro Stephen Dugan requested that WB Dan Kaufman cast his unanimous ballot.

Judge & tellers reported that a unanimous ballot for Bro Stephen Dugan had been cast.

**Junior Warden:** WB Chis Bailey requested that RW Nick Kaufman cast his unanimous ballot.

Judge & tellers reported that a unanimous ballot for WB Chris Bailey had been cast.

**Secretary:** Bro Barry George requested that RW Fred Fox cast his unanimous ballot.

Judge & tellers reported that a unanimous ballot for Bro Barry George had been cast.

**Treasurer:** Bro Arjune Sharma requested that WB Matt Kaufman cast his unanimous ballot.

Judge & tellers reported that a unanimous ballot for Bro Arjune Sharma had been cast.

**Trustee:** Bro Robert Woldt, DB requested that RW Eric Grove cast his unanimous ballot.

Judge & tellers reported that a unanimous ballot for Bro Robert Woldt, DB had been cast.

**Proxy to Grand Lodge:** RW Eric Grove reported that after review of all the ballots cast, Bro Curvey Purkett was the winner.

The Worshipful Master thanked the judge and tellers for executing their rolls and discharged them.

**Memorial Service:**

The following brothers were reported to us this year as having been called to the lodge on high-

	<u>Initiated</u>	<u>Passed</u>	<u>Raised</u>	<u>Called to the lodge on high</u>
Bro Ralph E Cummins	9/18/1958	10/16/1958	11/20/1958	2/22/2024
WB Douglas A Houskeeper	4/21/1983	10/20/1983	11/17/1983	2/27/2024
Bro Robert C Dabinet	6/13/1969	2/27/1970	10/23/1970	6/6/2024
Bro William C Gray	1/6/1955	2/3/1955	3/17/1955	8/17/2024
Bro Ronald S Kubala	9/4/1980	10/2/1980	11/6/1980	10/6/2024

The bell was tolled and the brothers remembered.

**Announcements:**

RW Eric Grove reminded the brethren to bring a new unopened toy to the installation on Saturday for the Toys for Tots box located in the lobby.

12/7 Harmony No. 8 Installation (open)

12/12 Blairstown No. 165 Installation (closed)

12/14 Musconetcong No. 42 Installation (open)

12/14 Wreaths Across America service at the Old Newton Cemetery. A public event starting a Noon.

12/19 Mansfield No. 36 Installation (open)

12/27 BOL prep at Harmony

12/28 BOL event

**Closing:**

As there was no further business, the Lodge was closed in harmony and good order, in short form at 9:05 pm by RW Eric Grove, assisted by WB Daniel C Kaufman for the last time as Worshipful Master.

Fraternally,

*Bro Barry W George*

Secretary 2024

Harmony Lodge No.8 F&AM

