

# 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 16<sup>th</sup> of January 2025 A.L. 6025

## Officers Present

RW Fred W Fox, PGC	X	Worshipful Master
Bro Stephen J Dugan	Absent	Senior Warden
WB Christopher A Bailey	X	Junior Warden
Bro Arjune M Sharma	X	Treasurer
Bro Barry W George	X	Secretary
RW George Stypolkowski, PDRI	X	Senior Deacon
Bro Curvey A Purkett, Jr	X	Junior Deacon
Bro Ryan M Carroll	Absent	Senior Master of Ceremonies
Bro Carlos Torres	X	Junior Master of Ceremonies
Bro Chris Brown	X	Senior Steward
Bro Patrick Harrison	Absent	Junior Steward
WB Clay Kraemer	X	Chaplain
WB Matt Kaufman	X	Tyler
Bro Henry F Repp	Absent	Organist
WB Dan Kaufman	X	Marshal
Bro Robert Woldt, DB	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		
	RW George J Stypolkowski PDRI		
	RW Fred W Fox PGC		

WB Chris Bailey sat in for the Senior Warden and RW Eric Grove for the Junior Warden.

There were 13 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 January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, that were distributed via email, were discussed. These minutes were approved as distributed.

**Sickness and Distress:**

As noted on the District GroupMe chat, RW David Lorenc's wife (Kim) was home from the hospital after a recent medical emergency and is recovering well. A card was circulated and will be sent to them letting them know that they are in our prayers.

Brother Steve Dugan was not in attendance this evening as he is currently under the weather.

**Joys and Celebrations:**

It was reported that Bro Curvey Purkett is a newly minted Grandfather. Congratulations to the Purkett family on their new addition to the family.

It was noted that WB Dan Kaufman was recently nominated for Vigil honors in the Scouting honor society known as Order of the Arrow (OA).

**Presentation of Bills:**

<u>Bill For</u>		<u>Bill For</u>	
Amazon (new US Flag)	\$59.99		
Grand Lodge (blue cards)	\$50.00		
Macoy Publishing (name badges)	\$157.95		
Grand Lodge (travel certificate)	\$16.00		

The total for bills this evening is \$283.94

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills, when properly audited.

**Communications:**

The Secretary reported that the lodge received a notice from the NJ Masonic Charity Foundation regarding college scholarships available to the children of brother masons for 2025. The information is available for review by interested brothers at the Secretary's desk after the meeting.

**Petitions:**

Petition for reinstatement from NPD from Bro Dhaval Trivedi was received. Payment for 2024 dues was received.

**Ballots:**

The Worshipful Master spread the ballot for reinstatement of Bro Dhaval Trivedi from the suspension for NPD list. All Master Masons present voted. The ballot, being clear in the West, South and East, was declared by the Worshipful Master to be in favor of reinstatement. The Secretary will notify Brother Trivedi and update the necessary records.

**REPORTS****Treasurer's Report:**

Bro Treasurer reported that the balance of our operating account is currently at \$10,535.0 with an additional deposit of \$1,420.00 pending. We have recently paid for a delivery of heating oil in the amount of \$2,260.52 that will come from the operating account.

He also advised that we will be paying for our 2025 Grand Lodge Assessment, in the amount of \$6,761.00. These funds have been collected over the past year and come from a separate account earmarked for this purpose.

#### **Buildings & Grounds:**

No report this evening.

#### **Charity:**

It was noted that the next Bread of Life event is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>. All those able to assist should contact Bro David King, [davek19662000@yahoo.com](mailto:davek19662000@yahoo.com), to advise of your availability and any items you may be donating. All are welcome.

#### **Rental Report:**

It was reported that we have one rental booked in the month of February and several later in the year. There remains a high level of interest and WB Matt Kaufman remains optimistic about making additional bookings this year.

#### **Unfinished Business:**

The Secretary advised of some housekeeping resolutions that need to be made to account for the changes in the Lodge's elected officers. The following resolutions were read by Bro Barry George in open Lodge for the members present-

2025-1 Updates the signatories to the Lodge Financial Investment Accounts

2025-2 Updates the signatories to the Lodge Operating Account

2025-3 Updates the signatories to the Lodge Post Office Box Account

A motion was made and seconded to approve these resolutions. There was some discussion about follow-on actions with the investment account brokerage. The motion was carried.

RW Eric Grove reported that planning for the next Washington DC trip has yet to begin. He advised that an email was sent to participants on the last trip for feedback and suggestions.

#### **New Business:**

The Worshipful Master advised on several initiatives he intends to pursue during this masonic year, as follows-

1. Return of the Fisherman's Breakfast, on Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>.
  - He made an open request for assistance with social media advertising.
  - It was suggested that there we could have raffles for new fishing gear and/or 50-50's during the event.
  - It was suggested that there could also be an opportunity to sell used fishing equipment.
2. Host a blood drive at the lodge, perhaps in May, similar to what is being done at Musconetcong Lodge.
3. Host a chicken barbeque at the lodge sometime in May/June.
4. Host a Table Lodge event in the fall. He advised of his efforts to secure a famous guest speaker, but has as not yet been successful in doing so.

The Secretary advised that paper blue cards are now available for those that have paid their 2025 dues. Come to lodge and see Bro George before or after meetings to obtain them.

**Program:**

The Worshipful Master read a short story about a union civil war soldier that was a FC Mason looking for a lodge in Savannah during the war so he could be raised to MM. He detailed how he found one and was escorted by Confederate troops safely behind the lines and back to do so. This demonstrates how brotherhood can supersede patriotism. A discussion about the many other similar examples from the civil and revolutionary wars followed.

**Announcements:**

1/19 Breakfast at Musconetcong #42

1/25 Bread of Life

1/27 DLI at Mansfield #36

2/6 Regular communication at Harmony #8

2/8 Superbowl watch party at Harmony #8 (see Bro George for details)

2/22 Chili Cookoff at Blairstown #165

The Worshipful Master called WB Chris Bailey to the East and tended him the gavel.

**Closing:**

As there was no further business, the Lodge was closed in harmony and good order at 9:10 pm by WB Chris Bailey.

Fraternally,

*Bro Barry W George*

Secretary 2025

Harmony Lodge No.8 F&AM

