

Blairstown Lodge No. 165 Free & Accepted Masons

Met in a Regular Communication in their hall at the Masonic Temple,
11 Stillwater Rd, Blairstown, NJ
On the 23rd of January 2025 A.L. 6025

Officers Present

WB Matthew C Kaufman	X	Worshipful Master
Bro Joshua Williams-Como	X	Senior Warden
WB Edward Lubas	X	Junior Warden
WB Michael D Park	X	Treasurer
Bro Barry W George	X	Secretary
WB Daniel J Gialanella	X	Senior Deacon
Bro Tyrone Coronato	X	Junior Deacon
Bro Thomas J Bulger	Absent	Senior Master of Ceremonies
WB Daniel C Kaufman	X	Junior Master of Ceremonies
Bro Robert W Agolio	X	Senior Steward
WB William R Chadwick	Absent	Junior Steward
WB Stephen Z Gnall	X	Chaplain
RW Eric P Neuffer	X	Tyler
WB Walter S Orcutt, Jr	Absent	Marshal
WB Robert S Moorhead, Jr	X	Historian

Brothers Present

<u>Current Grand Officers</u>	<u>Past Grand Officers</u>	<u>Brothers Present</u>	
RW Nicholas J Kaufman DRI	RW Eric P Neuffer PGC		Bro FC John Caruso

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. The Worshipful Master then closed labor on the Master Mason Degree and opened labor on the Fellow Craft Degree, followed by a salute to the Flag of the United States of America.

Minutes:

The minutes of the Regular Communication of January 9th, 2025, that were distributed via email, were discussed. These minutes were approved as distributed.

Sickness and Distress:

None reported. However, the Secretary is clearly distressed because it's *too @#\$%&* COLD!!*

Joys and Celebrations:

None presented

Presentation of Bills:

<u>Bill For</u>		<u>Bill For</u>
Town Water Bill (4 th Qtr 2024)	\$109.25	
JCP&L (Jan. electric bill)	\$218.79	

The total for bills this evening is \$328.04. Motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills, when properly audited.

Communications:

The Secretary reported that a flyer concerning scholarship opportunities for children of Master Masons was received from the NJ Masonic Charity Foundation. It is available for review at the Secretary's desk after the meeting.

Petitions:

None at this time.

Ballots:

None at this time.

REPORTS**Treasurer's Report:**

The Treasurer advised that the current balance of the charity fund is \$6,987.45, the main operating account is \$16,269.80 and the savings account is \$52,456.76.

He also advised that he will be issuing the check for the annual Grand Lodge Assessment in the amount of \$3,857.00 this evening to be mailed out by the Secretary.

Buildings & Grounds:

RW Eric Neuffer presented a plan to upgrade the lodge foyer with estimated costs and a timeline for completion. It is a two phase plan:

1. Replace the existing ceiling and attic stairs, add insulation, replace light fixtures with new and then paint. Estimated material cost of \$995.00
2. Build new storage closet within foyer to create additional storage. Estimated material cost of \$260.00

The plan was well thought out and very detailed. After some discussion, a motion was made to purchase the phase 1 materials at a cost not to exceed \$1,000.00, it was seconded and carried by the lodge.

Charity:

No report

Rental Report:

WB Moorhead advised on upcoming rentals this Saturday at the lodge (Blairstown Hose Company) and another on Sunday 2/2 (RW Nick).

Unfinished Business:

RW Eric Neuffer advised that the lodge's Chili Cookoff is fast approaching, on February 22. All are encouraged to participate. \$20 to compete, \$10 to eat.

The Worshipful Master advised that he intends to follow up with the other lodges in the district at the DLI on Monday 1/27, regarding a date for the rescheduled Master Mason degree. There are several Fellow Crafts around the district waiting for a degree, including our own Bro FC John Caruso.

New Business:

The Secretary shared with those present a sample of a new style name badge and asked for feedback. The comments on the black engraved style were positive, but there was interest in seeing if a custom haunted halls type logo could be used. The Secretary will do some research and advise at the next meeting.

The Worshipful Master advised on the following:

1. There is no currently planned EA degree around the district that he is aware of and that we need to schedule our own along with rehearsals. The EA degree was then set for the second meeting in February, the regular communication on 2/27. Rehearsal dates to be announced.
2. That he is the chairperson for the Districts 1/11/14 annual reception on April 9th. He has been working to secure a venue and catering at the lowest cost possible. The Mansion in Denville has been selected. He also advised that it is customary for the lodges with members that have new GL appointments to split the up-front seed costs of securing the venue. Currently, that amount is approximately \$2,000.00 per lodge, which #165 will have to pay due to our own WB Brian Snead being the new Grand Sword Bearer. The plan is to then reimburse those contributing lodges with equal shares of the proceeds that come back. This is generally less than what was paid out.

The Worshipful Master also advised that if the lodge wishes to act as the bank for the event, and be responsible for paying the bills, it will not have to issue the \$2k check. After some detailed discussion, the lodge supported the idea of having a controlling interest by being the bank. The Worshipful Master advised that he will work to make that happen.

Announcements:

- 1/27 DLI @ Mansfield #36
- 2/8 JGW Reception in Burlington
- 2/10 Baldwin Chapter RAM @ Harmony #8
- 2/13 Regular Communication
- 2/16 Buffet Breakfast @ Musconetcong #42
- 2/22 Chili Cookoff @ Blairstown #165
- 2/27 Regular Communication (EA Degree)

Closing:

As there was no further business, the Lodge was closed in harmony and good order at 8:25 pm by WM Matthew C Kaufman.

Fraternally,

Bro Barry W George

Secretary 2025

Blairstown Lodge No. 165 F&AM

