



**April
2024**

*Please send correspondence to PO Box 127 Stratford NJ
08084*

*Address of Laurel Lodge
629 Stone Road Laurel Springs, NJ 08021
Constituted May 25th 1922*

Communications for April 2024

You are cordially and fraternally requested to attend the following communications of Laurel Lodge No. 237, F&AM

Friday April 5th 7:45PM Meeting

Enjoy masonic light with masonic birthdays, regular business, Brotherhood and Birthdays. Dinner to be determined.

Friday April 19th 7:45PM Meeting

Enjoy Masonic Light, Birthdays, Brotherhood and Regular Business. Dinner at 6:30 Lasagna prepared by WB Craig Woodruff suggested donation is \$10 Meeting to follow.

Brethren: 2024 Dues were due 12/31/23

Please note the following important information.

If you have a question or concern regarding 2024 due's or 2023 dues, please call or e-mail WB Jerry Barnish at 609-458-5122 or laurellodge237@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events

**Laurel Lodge 3rd Annual Drum Fishing Trip
Saturday May 25th 4PM to 12PM
See more detail in this Trestleboard.**

**Annual Canoe Trip in the Pine Barrens
See more detail in this Trestle Board.**

Ax Throwing Date TBD

***By Order of
WB Keith Verrico
Worshipful Master***

***Attest
WB Jerry R. Barnish, PM
Secretary***

New Jersey Grand Lodge Information

Grand Master Most Worshipful Leonard Vander Horn

District Deputy Grand Master: Keith A. Herman

District Ritual Instructor: Right Worshipful Kenneth F. Carpenter Jr.

18th Masonic District 2024 Grand Officers

Grand Marshal: Bernard J. Madgey V, GM, PDDGM

Grand Chaplain: Right Worshipful Joseph Abiuso GC

Grand Chaplain: Right Worshipful Mark Frederich

Laurel Lodge Distinguished Brethren

DB Richard P. Alspach*, DB Raymond T. McManus,

DB John C. Read Jr., DB Robert S. Outlaw

Laurel Lodge Honorary Members

MW William H. Sackett, Grand Master 1986 *

MW Edgar N. Pepler, Grand Master 1979

MW Larry S. Plasket, Grand Master 2002

MW William H. Berman, Grand Master 2009

MW David A. Dorworth, Grand Master 2013

RW Chester H. Clark PGC

RW Keith A. Herman, DDGM

RW Benjamin Foster PGC*

Quarterly Reminder Dues for 2024

Three quarters of annual achieved.

Brethren: This reminder for payments of dues helps us to achieve our goal of holding meetings and having a place to meet. We all know that Grand Lodge of the State Jersey assessed us during the fall of 2023.

That means this carries over and our finances carry the burden of unreimbursed monies. This places a strain on the lodge finances.

How each member helps:

- Paying on time reduces the carry over charges.
- Contacting the secretary with financial issues.
- Exempt members sending in the assessment or what they can afford.

This is our lodge, Laurel Lodge # 237 of Free and Accepted Masons.

A lodge with a proud tradition of service to the community and our Fraternity.

Attest: W.B. Jerry Barnish P.M. 2024

GRAND LODGE WEBPAGE

WWW.NEWJERSEYGRANDLODGE.ORG

LAUREL LODGE WEBPAGE

WWW.LAURELLODGE237.ORG



TINYURL.COM/LAUREL237-FACEBOOK



@LAURELLODGE237

Worshipful Masters Message

“The secret of Masonry, like the secret of life, can be known only by those who seek it, serve it, live it. It cannot be uttered; it can only be felt and acted. It is, in fact, an open secret, and each man knows it according to his quest and capacity. Like all things worth knowing, no one can know it for another and no man can know it alone.”

-William Howard Taft

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and I look forward to seeing you all in lodge!

Fraternally, WB Keith Verrico Worshipful Master



Officer Line Continued

<u>Senior Deacon</u>	Brother Jay Colavita – 856-261-3278
<u>Junior Deacon</u>	WB Brian McGovern, PM - 609-975-2121
<u>S.M. Ceremonies</u>	Brother Thomas J. Santangelo – 609-923-5466
<u>J.M. Ceremonies</u>	Brother Francis M. Guthrie – 609-221-6145
<u>Senior Steward</u>	WB Donald L. Keppen, PM
<u>Junior Steward</u>	Brother Jacob Keppen
<u>Marshal</u>	DB Robert S. Outlaw - 609-471-2869
<u>Chaplain</u>	WB Craig Woodruff, PM
<u>Tyler</u>	Brother William F. Anderson - 609-828-1535
<u>Historian</u>	Brother Jacob Keppen
<u>Proxy to GL</u>	Brother Jay Colavita – 856-261-3278
<u>Director of Ritual</u>	RW Brian J. Read, PJGS 609-922-0877
<u>Webmaster</u>	DB Raymond T. McManus, DB - 856-346-9150
<u>Dir. of Craftsmen</u>	By Appointment - Need Volunteer
<u>Entertainment</u>	By Appointment – Need Volunteer
<u>Sick and Visiting</u>	By Appointment – Volunteer needed.
<u>Auditing, Budget & Finance</u>	By Appointment – Volunteer needed.
<u>Blood Bank Chairman</u>	By Appointment – Volunteer needed.
<u>Photographer</u>	By Appointment – Volunteer needed.
<u>Masonic Education</u>	RW Brian J. Read, PJGS, RW Bernard J. Madgey, V GO / PDDGM
<u>Advisor to Officers</u>	RW Albert L. Hann, PJGD
<u>Refreshments</u>	By Appointment – Volunteer needed.
<u>Funeral Coordinator</u>	RW Albert L. Hann, PJGD 856-845-6951
<u>Scholarship Committee</u>	RW Frazier Alburger, PGT
<u>Building Trustees</u>	3 Year: Brother Thomas J. Santangelo 2 Year: Brother Eugene Emenecker 1 Year: Brother Jay Colavita
<u>Financial Trustees</u>	3 Year: Year: Brother Bill Anderson 2 Year: By Appointment 1 Year: WB Craig Woodruff, PM
<u>Organist</u>	By Appointment – Volunteer needed.

2024 A.D. Officer Line 6024 A.L.

Worshipful Master
WB Keith Verrico – Deanna

Senior Warden
RW Michael I Mattes, PGP – Janice

Junior Warden
RW Scott P. Vicari, PGP - Jacquelyn

Treasurer
WB Robert Taylor, PM – Susan

Secretary
WB Jerry R. Barnish, PM - Beth

Secretary Emeritus
RW Louis W. Bradley PGT*
Treasurer Emeritus
WB Charles W. Bell PM
WB John R. Beetle, PM
WB Whitney H. Myers, PM *
MW Joseph H. Rival, PGM

Meeting Minutes March 1st A.D. 2024

Laurel Lodge #237

Brethren gathered previous to the meeting for a Dinner cooked by W.B. Don Keppen's lady at 6:30 p.m. It was a fine preparation as usual by Mrs. Keppen. A regular communication of Laurel Lodge #237 was opened in due and ancient form on the Master Mason degree by W.M. Keith Verrico At 7:45 p.m. with all members reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Visitors and members present as per the register.

All officers present with one absence.

Worshipful Master Verrico called for the reading of the Bills and were approved for payment by the brethren.

Worshipful Master called for petitions there being one for restoration Of Brother Daniel Cane. Restoration was approved unanimously.

Correspondence was called for but nothing recent.

Secretary W.B. Barnish reminded the brethren of the Grand Master's reception March 23, 2024 at Grove Hall in Burlington at 5 p.m. for social hour And dinner commencing 6:30 p.m.

Visitors were greeted by Worshipful Master and were given a warm Welcome by him and the brethren.

Worshipful Master called for preparation of Candidate Christopher Broschard For the conferment of the Entered Apprentice Degree.

Worshipful Master closed the Master Mason degree and duly Placed the lodge on the Entered Apprentice degree.

R.W. Scott Vicari occupied the East for the first part of the degree. After and brief refreshment lodge was continued. While W.B. Craig Woodruff continued the second half giving the Lecture in his usual excellent form. The reception address was given By Brother Senior Steward Jacob Keppen with continued excellence.

Worshipful Master Keith Verrico assumed the East for closing and Presented the gavel to R.W. Joseph Abiuso to close the lodge after Greeting him and presenting him to the brethren.

Having no further business to attend to R.W. Abiuso closed Laurel Lodge at 9:45 p.m.

Attest : W.B. Jerry Barnish P.M.
Secretary 2024

A.L. 6024

Meeting Minutes March 15th A.D. 2024 A.L. 6024

Laurel Lodge #237Lodge was opened in due and ancient form by W.M. Keith Verrico at 7:45 p.m with all present reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

W.M. asked if the brethren if they enjoyed the dinner previous to the meeting. All agreed that it was good and gave a round of applause to W.B. Craig Woodruff for providing a meal of corned beef and cabbage.

W.M . called for reading of the bills.

Lowe's \$25.50 for building materials for secretary cabinet purchased with Debit card. W.B. Barnish will reimburse the lodge as a donation.

\$110. 95 for this evenings dinner by W.B. Craig Woodruff by Lodge debit card.

\$16.26 for desert by W.B. Craig Woodruff by Lodge debit card. Both items purchased at Shoprite.

Acme \$4.99 by Bro. Fran Guthrie for ice. Beverages from Acme for \$33.54.

MacFerrans for trestleboard printing \$120.00.

Atlantic City Electric \$284.13.

South Jersey Gas \$256.27.

Comcast bill for lift phone \$74.91.

Borough of Laurel Springs MUA \$230 quarterly payment.

Total of \$1387.05.

Motion to pay bills was presented by R.W. Mattes, Senior Warden and R.W. Vicari, Junior Warden.

W.M. called for a reading of correspondence and Secretary Barnish informed that there were no important items to be read. They will be read at the next meeting.

Past Masters of Laurel Lodge #237 Continued

*** Deceased # Served another Lodge**

1990	Benjamin Foster, PGC # *	2016	Gene G. Olson
1990	Donald C. Lever, PSGS *	2016	Eric Erickson #
1991	Stewart D. Walsh *	2017	John P. Gomen
1991	Ralph S. Hill, Jr. # *	2017	Scott Vicari #
1991	William H. Berman, PGM	2018	Joseph Abiuso
1992	George W. Stott, Jr. *	2019	Edward S. Bohi
1992	Harry H. Wible # *	2020	William E. Roche
1993	Dale A. Lynch, Jr., PDDGM	2020	Michael Mattes #
1994	Henry J. Rahn, Jr. PSGS *	2021	Craig J Woodruff
1994	Charles A Castley PDDGM *	2021	Michael Mattes #
1995	Russell B. Hoyle, Sr.	2021	Casey Huston #
1996	Frazier R. Alburger	2022	Donald L. Keppen Jr.
1996	James E. Miller, PGC #	2022	Michael Mattes #
1997	Raymond B. Kingett	2022	Casey Huston #
1997	Jerry R. Barnish #	2023	Jerry R. Barnish
1998	Kirk D. Nevius, Jr., PGC *		
1999	Scott D. Cianci		
1999	Frank M. Blizard, III #		
2000	Paul E. Burkhardt		
2001	Robert F. DiOrio		
2001	Donald. C. Sharp Sr. #		
2002	Leonard M. March, PDDGM		
2002	Craig J. Woodruff #		
2003	Eugene J. Applegate		
2004	Eugene O. Bathurst		
2005	Juan A. Caraballo, Jr		
2006	Moses R. Hayes, Jr., PGC		
2007	Richard J. McCunney, II		
2008	Michael E.Owsiak		
2009	Robert E. Kunze		
2010	Craig R. Thorpe		
2011	Brian J. Read, PSGS		
2011	George W. Niessner, PSGS #		
2012	Bernard J. Madgey, V GO PDDGM		
2013	Kevin D. Kloss		
2014	James A. Weisensee		
2014	Brian McGovern #		
2015	Robert A. Taylor		

Past Masters of Laurel Lodge #237

* Deceased # Served another Lodge

1922	Albert C, Stack *	1961	John P. Steffan*
1923	Harry A, Beck *	1962	Harold H. Croom*
1923	William S. Martin # *	1963	Charles F. Yost *
1924	Arthur Scrimshaw *	1963	Benjamin Foster, PGC # *
1925	Benjamin Forrest *	1964	Charles W. Engler, Jr.*
1926	Elmer F. Giffin *	1965	Daniel A. Mullen, III *
1927	Charles B. Giffin *	1965	Carl H. Gamp # *
1928	John T. Reif *	1966	Edgar N. Pepler PGM #
1929	Charles V. Osborne, Sr. *	1966	Albert L. Hann, PJGD
1930	Samuel G. Garrison, Jr. *	1967	Henry Baumert *
1931	Charles P. Mills # *	1968	Robert E. Walsh, Jr.*
1932	William R. Cannon *	1969	George E. Carpenter *
1933	Noah C. Bender *	1970	Henry Sannipolli, PDDGM *
1934	F. Maurice Goodwin *	1971	Leonard O. Beebe *
1935	Michael Balent, Jr. *	1972	Robert D. Rowand *
1936	Enos J. Jarvis *	1973	Louis W. Bradley, PGT*
1937	Robert F. Ranken *	1974	Robert W. Bates, PSGD
1938	John H. Fisher, Sr. *	1975	Frederick W. Knox
1939	Oscar M. Hansen *	1976	Leroy See *
1940	Albert F Neidinger PGP*	1976	John J. Eitel # *
1941	Lawrence E. Gardiner *	1977	Roy F. Gutshall, Jr.*
1942	B. Franklin Cope *	1978	John R. Beetle
1943	Fred Humphrey *	1978	James J. Golley #
1944	Charles. S. Schenick *	1979	Charles W. Bell
1945	Ora L. Wooster, Sr. *	1980	Benjamin H. Read, Jr.*
1946	Carl C. Caldwell *	1981	Joseph H. Rival Jr., PGM
1947	Benjamin A. Glatz *	1982	Warren E. Rival, PGC *
1948	Joseph H. Matthews *	1982	Ronald A. Rocco #
1949	Ralph E. Husted *	1983	Hugh C. Williams *
1950	Thomas Milne *	1984	Walter C. Knett *
1951	Ferdinand Herbst *	1984	Charles E. Oppido, Jr. # *
1952	Charles Mannice *	1984	Larry S Plasket, PGM, #
1953	Robert C. Osborne, PGC*	1985	Frank A. Applegate, Sr.*
1954	Earl B. Hallowell *	1985	Henry Bubacz # *
1955	Harry M. Ireland *	1986	Wilfred E. Wilson *
1956	John M. Fisher, Jr.*	1986	Donald L. Keppen Sr. #
1957	Albert C. Stack, Jr.*	1987	Robert F. Butler *
1958	Whitney H. Myers *	1988	William E. Hand *
1959	George F. McCann *	1989	Edwin W. Griffiths, Jr. # *
1960	Harold T. Wolf*	1989	James E. Miller, PGC #

Meeting Minutes Continued March 1st A.D. 2024 A.L. 6024

Treasurer W.B. Taylor gave the monthly report. Statement balance 1 February 2024 of \$42,654.67. Deposits were \$11,000.52. Debits were \$16,585.39 including the payment for Grand Lodge Assessments.

Statement balance of Feb. 29, 2024 \$37,069.84. Grand Lodge assessment totaled \$13,831. Treasurer Taylor reiterated additional expenditures stated from January 2024. There were no discussions about the bills and was passed by the brethren and so ordered by the Worshipful Master.

W.M. Verrico asked for ballots and petitions. Secretary Barnish stated that there were neither this evening.

W.M. asked for visitors and Grand Lodge officials. He greeted them on the sideline per their request.

W.M. stated that there was no report of Sick and Visiting by R.W. Al Hann as he has been ill.

R.W. Alburger gave a statement of his health and need of visitation himself.

W.M. then asked for Masonic birthdays.

Bro. Anderson, 19 years. W.B. Don Keppen Jr. 12 years. R.W. Scott Vicari 11 years. W.B. Gene Bathhurst, 26 years. R.W. Dale Lynch, 37 years, 11 months and 26 days. R.W. Frazier Alburger, 47 years. This totaled to 152 years of masonry. W.M. then asked to sing Happy Birthday to our brethren. Not having an organist to accompany, our brethren did their best.

W.M. asked Secretary Barnish if his desk was clear before closing. W.B. Barnish stated that a discussion was held with Treasurer Taylor if we had a member named Clarke. He had an unknown debit related to this name. Some frantic research feeling possible fraud revealed no one by the name of Harland Clarke was ever a member. On further investigation it was a debit for new checks and is the name of the company that does the printing. W.B. Keppen Jr. wanted to make a motion limiting W.B. Barnish and W.B. Taylor with their jokes. W.M. Verrico said he had no legal statutes to cover that.

W.M. Verrico asked R.W. Schittone, 10th. District Ritual Instructor to close the lodge for his presentation of Memory techniques after lodge is closed. Lodge was closed in proper form at 8:45 pm.

R.W. Daniel Schittone gave a very informative presentation of memory retention and was well Received by the Brethren.

Attest: W.B. Barnish, Secretary 2024

Message about Dues payment to Laurel Lodge 2024

Good day Brethren. I hope all is well with everyone. I understand that there is much confusion concerning payment of dues. Dues notices are to be sent during the fall of each calendar year. Normally our Lodge will send the notices after Grand Lodge of New Jersey notifies each lodge of the assessment inventory for the next year. At that point, each member will have an invoice sent with the lodge dues including any increase voted by the membership usually during September of the current year. According to the by-laws of Laurel Lodge, the membership is required to pay dues for the next year by December 31st of the of the current year. This may be the source of confusion. Think of renewing dues for the forthcoming year in this fashion. If one subscribes to a magazine annually and one receives the renewal notice before the first issue of the magazine arrives for the New year, a reminder letter will be sent to the subscriber. If payment is not received, then a second notice will be sent. Thus, it is with lodge. This coming fall dues notices for 2025 will be sent to all Members. This also helps our lodge with payment of the assessment to Grand Lodge with no worries of the financial status of our lodge. The Master and Wardens will be able to look to working within the past spending nature for the betterment of our membership and contributions to society for charity. To answer a question of a grace period, members have by by-laws of the individual lodge and Grand Lodge up to 12 months to pay the aforementioned notice. Here is a rub for me serving as Secretary. When December 31st hits, the entry for dues on Grand View accounting turns red. Just like in the days of typewriters having a red ribbon for entering accounting entries, that is what would be seen. Black Friday is so named because of ledger entries by the typist for P&L statements. For the membership, Grand Lodge of the State of New Jersey has set forth a program called Grand View. If you are not aware of this, members can log into the site provided by Grand lodge to view status of each member and provide additional information about oneself for general viewing by the membership at large. Also, each member may view their individual financial statement with Their lodge. Your statement may be printed for your records, an invoice for payment maybe printed along with a number 10 envelope with address of the lodge to send payment if so desired and/or each members skill and expertise will be up to task. The lodge secretary will accommodate the wish of the member by adding notations to each account. I find it very convenient. I plan, with Master's permission, to demonstrate the system at lodge one meeting on the overhead projector so to clear any questions one may have.

Please contact me with your questions.

Fraternally, Jerry Barnish, P.M. Secretary 2024

Brethren helping Brethren Continued:

Call or contact WB Moser for the following service:

Financial Planning: WB Moser is a second generation financial planner with over 30 years experience. I was the last Past Master of Florence Lodge in Woodbury.

Donald S Moser - DSM Capital Wealth Management
Managing Director/ CCO www.dsmwealthmanagement.com
609/221-9276

Call or contact Brother Kingett for the following service:

Estate Planning, Wills, Trusts & Elder Law

Donald L. Kingett, Esq. Offices in Gloucester County & Camden County
856-374-5800 or DKingett@KingettWarren.com

Call or contact Brother Jay Colavita for the following service:

Trident Protection Group Contact Brother Jay Colavita (609) 481-8091
We're a full-service security agency providing armed or unarmed guards and K9 units. We specialize in event security (no size too big or small), executive protection, property and asset protection (facilities, fine arts, gems, and resources), and transportation.

Website: <https://tridentprotection.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Trident-Protection-2584900004858860/> / Email: tridentprotectionk9@gmail.com



Contact WB Paul Burkhardt or Mark Burkhardt for the following Service:

Burkhardt's Custom Countertops

Paul and Mark Burkhardt Owners/Fabricators
856-435-2020 / Burkhardtscountertops.com
648 7th Avenue Lindenwold, NJ 08021

Burkhardtscountertops@yahoo.com

Quality you can trust since 1983.

Brethren helping Brethren:

Call or contact WB Olson for the following service:

GENE OLSON ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS LLC

1 WINDSOR ROAD GIBBSBORO, NJ 08026

License# 13794 Office (856) 782-0077 and Cell (609) 868-2218

Residential Electric Work | Commercial Electrical

Services www.olsonelectricnj.com

Gene Olson Electrical Contractors, LLC has provided dependable residential & commercial electrical services in Camden, Gloucester and Burlington counties since 1996.

Call or contact Brother Halina for the following service:

Trophies, Plaques, Medals and other Awards

FAMILY IMPORTS, LLC 630 N Black Horse Pike Blackwood, NJ 08012

Tel 856 228 6400 or famimports@yahoo.com

Call or contact WB Abiuso for the following services:

Firearms, Ammunition, Accessories and More.

J&J GUNWORKS

310 White Horse Pike Clementon, NJ 08021 856-784-1910

www.jjgunworks.com

YOUR 2nd Amendment Store.

Call or contact RW Brian Read for the following Service:

Alcoy's Spa Service Parts and Service for Whirlpool Baths and Hot Tubs

800-322-7727

Call or contact Brother Drexel for the following Service:

DREXEL HVAC, LLC

27 Canyon Drive, Berlin, NJ 08009 - NJ Master HVACR Contractor

#19HC00586400

Office – 856-809-9342 or e-mail drexelhvac@hotmail.com

Sales/Service/Installation/Oil to gas conversions

2024 Building Fund Benefactors

WB Robert E Kunze, PM	WB Robert A Taylor, PM
Bro Richard A Greiner	RW Frazier Alburger, PGC
WB Craig J Woodruff, PM	WB Eugene Applegate, PM
Bro William Campbell	Bro Russell Van Zyl
RW Scott Vicari, PGP	Bro Charles D McMaster
Bro William E Hughes III	Bro Alvin C Fitting
WB Ron Rocco, PM	Bro Robert Harrell
WB Eric Erickson, PM	Bro Phillip Hatfield
Bro Ricardo Pena	Bro Thomas Santangelo
Bro John Stahl	Bro Wallace Carey
WB Bill Roche, PM	Bro Richard A Faunce
Bro Wilfredo S Halina	Bro William R Terwilliger
Bro James D Griggs	Bro Jay Colavita
Bro Robert F Brittain	RW Albert L Hann, PGJD

Brethren, Thank you!

Masonic Family Day in the Pine Barrens

Pine Barrens Canoe Trip

Saturday June 15TH arrival is 10:00am

This is a 3 Hour (Tour) Canoe Trip down the Wading River in the Pine Barrens.

Beware of the Jersey Devil.

RSVP cutoff is Sunday June 9th to WB Robert Taylor 856-834-3917.

Individual Payments will happen June 15th on arrival.

For rates click:

<https://www.mickscanoerental.com>



LAUREL LODGE 3ND ANNUAL DRUM FISH TRIP

May 25, 2024, 4 pm to 12 am, on the CAPE MAY LADY

Docked at 504 W Rio Grande Ave. West Wildwood, NJ 08260

Cost based on 20 people @ \$ 100 per person

(Includes bait, tackle, \$10 pool & \$10 tip)

Let me know if you need rod & reel to use on the boat!

Bring your own food & drinks.

To sign up call or text Capt. Bill Anderson @ 609-828-1535

I need 20 people paid up by May 5th lodge meeting.

"When the dogwood are blooming, the Drum are booming"



Candidate Status

NAME	STATUS	LAST DATE	NEXT STATUS	NEXT DATE
	MM	10/21/23	MM Exam	TBD
	MM	10/21/23	MM Exam	TBD
	EA	1/20/23	FC Degree	TBD
	EA	4/21/23	FC Degree	TBD
	EA	3/1/24	FC	TBD
	Mr.	2/2/24	EA	TBD
	Mr.	2/2/24	EA	TBD

Brethren, many sets of hands make lighter work. Let us continue to work towards building a stronger Masonic Temple. If you have a question or concern, please contact Lodge Leadership promptly.

