



**November
2025**

*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 November 2025

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

Friday November 7th 7:45PM Meeting

**Enjoy an evening with Brotherhood and an Entered Apprentice Degree.
The Entered Apprentice Degree will be conferred upon**

**Pot Pie will be served for dinner at 6:30PM.
\$10 Donation is requested.**

Monday November 11th is Veterans Day

Thank you to all that have served our great country!

Friday November 21st 7:45PM Meeting

Enjoy masonic light with masonic birthdays, regular business, and brotherhood. Officer Nominations will take place for 2026. Please come out if you are willing to possibly request a position within our beloved Lodge. Dinner at 6:30PM. Donations accepted.

Annual Installation of Officers:

Saturday December 20th

Installation 1PM and Dinner at 4:30PM Details in this TB.



***By Order of
RW Michael I. Mattes
Worshipful Master***

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

Worshipful Masters Message

Brethren,

This month, I find my thoughts returning to one of the first and most overlooked symbols presented to us in the Lodge: the cable-tow. How well do you remember it from our first degree? What thoughts did it bring to your mind the first time it was wrapped around your neck? In that moment that rope became a symbol. A symbol of our state of darkness, of helplessness, and of submission to the will of the brethren in whom our trust was placed. It was a literal restraint, that implied this journey was not yet our own, but one guided by a conductor who would lead us toward learning more light. But as with all things in Masonry, the physical object is but a shadow of a deeper, spiritual truth. As we progress, the physical rope disappears, but the symbolic cable-tow remains, and its meaning transforms entirely from a symbol of restraint to a symbol of connection. It is no longer a tool used upon us, but rather a tie that binds us to each other. The cable-tow becomes the invisible, unbreakable cord of our obligation. It is the tether that connects our hearts, binds us to the principles of our ancient Craft, and ensures we are never truly alone. When we, as Master Masons, speak of our duties "within the length of my cable-tow," we are not speaking of a limitation, but rather a definition of our duties and responsibilities. This phrase is a moral guide. It teaches us two critical lessons. First is the duty to act.

The cable-tow represents the compass of our ability to aid a brother. When a call for help is made, we are obligated to answer it to the best of our ability. It is the measure of our charity, our fidelity, and our willingness to be of service. It is the force that pulls us from our own comfort to assist another in their distress.

The next is reality of prudence. Masonry is wise. It does not demand the impossible. It does not ask us to act beyond the length of our cable-tow, for to do so would mean neglect our essential duties to our families, our faith, and our livelihoods. These are the very pillars Freemasonry is designed to support, not subvert.

The question I pose to each of you, and to myself, is this: What is the length of your cable-tow? Is it a short, comfortable tether, keeping you close to your own affairs? Or is it a strong, elastic, and generous bond that you are willing to stretch, even when inconvenient, to reach a brother in need?

The true measure of a Mason is not the length of his cable-tow when all is well, but how far he is willing to extend it when a brother asks for assistance. I beg you, Brethren. Remember the ties that bind us. When you hear the call for aid, measure it against the length of your cable-tow, and may we all find the strength, compassion, and wisdom to ensure it is always long enough to be of service.

**Sincerely and fraternally,
Michael Isadore Mattes**

**Worshipful Master Laurel Lodge #237
Education Officer for the 18th District
Past Grand Pursuivant**

**Past Master Mozart Lodge #121 (2020/2021/2022)
Past President of the 18th District Masters and Wardens Association**

The View from the West-R.W. Scott P Vicari ATTGM

Masonic Balloting

The close of a Masonic year has a reciprocal effect on activity; as the year “winds down” activity increases, this is particularly true when it comes to balloting. About this time there is often a flurry of petitions submitted to avoid the annual installation and holiday season delays, the sad, but necessary, NPD votes, and Grand Lodge elections.

So, I thought this to be a good time to briefly review what I consider the three important principles of masonic conduct for balloting (I have combined them from the four listed in our constitution):

1. Obligations
2. Decorum
3. Secrecy

Obligations-As a Master Mason you are obligated to vote, failure to do so is considered un-Masonic conduct. I chair the Grand Lodge Registration and Ballot committee and have often been asked why, on a ballot with multiple choices, we can't skip voting for some of the choices (for example if three votes are required, you must cast a vote for three candidates). That is because the protocol for voting at Grand Lodge (even though we are not tyled or wearing aprons) is the same as voting in Lodge. You must vote for all candidates. Also, your obligations as a mason compel you to be conscientious, ethical and honest in your considerations and vote.

Decorum-Voting in lodge requires a stricter observance of proper conduct and decorum. Lodge meetings can at times become relaxed, and a certain amount of chatter and laughter may be tolerated (or sometimes even encouraged) by the Master. However, during a ballot, no such relaxation of the rules should be allowed. The reason for this is that no discussion, politicking or disclosure of voter choices, even the appearance thereof, is allowed. This also applies to Grand Lodge voting, which is why you should refrain from audible discussions or boisterous outbursts while in line to vote.

Secrecy-The secrecy of a Master Masons vote is very important and one of foundational principles of our craft. That is why great care is taken to ensure a brother's vote is hidden from view by the design of the ballot box and the extra space given to the voting brother by the one behind him in line. Also, we are obligated not to disclose how we have, or intend to, vote for anyone. I have found this to be the most frequently broken rule of balloting.

Did you know:

- In England a ballot for membership can have up to three black cubes and be considered favorable (2nd English constitution 1738)
- The reason the ballot is conveyed to the Worshipful Master and Wardens is because they represent the three immovable jewels of the lodge, so the ballot moves, and not the officers.

See you in Lodge!

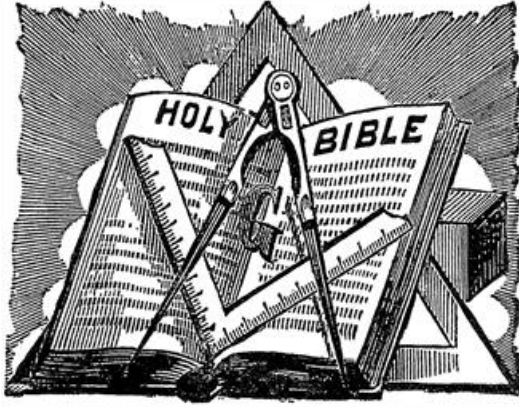
Part 3. Conduct of Voters.

- a) Bona Fide Vote. It is unmasonic to ballot against a petitioner except upon conscientious belief in his unworthiness.
- b) Requirement of Secrecy. The ballot must be kept strictly secret. A brother violates its secrecy by stating how he voted, and should not be permitted to state his reasons for opposing a petitioner.
- c) Requirement of Non-disclosure. No member may demand of a brother how he voted, or his reason for voting against a candidate, and no attempt should be made to discover who cast a negative ballot.
- d) Deliberation Prohibited. Discussion in the lodge as to the merits or eligibility of a petitioner is prohibited.

Annual Installation of Officers:



In Memorial



Worshipful Brother William E. Roche
Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason
May 4th, 2012
Called from Labor October 23rd, 2025



November Masonic Birthdays

Bro. Albert F. Pierce	1959	66
RW Robert W. Bates PSGD	1960	65
WB Frederick W. Knox PM	1967	58
Bro Robert F. Brittain	1970	55
MW Joseph H. Rival Jr., PGM	1971	54
RW James E. Miller, PGC	1983	42
DB Raymond T. McManus	1990	35
Bro. Michael J. Tuno	1990	35
WB Paul E. Burkhardt, PM	1992	33
RW Moses R. Hayes, Jr., PGC	1998	27
WB Richard J. McCunney, II PM	2000	25
WB Michael E. Owsiak, PM	2000	25
Bro. Kevin A. McElroy	2007	18
Bro. Kenneth L. Rutter, III	2007	18
Bro. Robert P. Scapicchio	2007	18
WB Joseph Abiuso, PM	2009	16
Bro. Richard A Greiner	2009	16
Bro Ronald S. Head	2009	16
Bro. John A. Delabo	2012	13
Bro James A. Drexel	2015	10
Bro. Francis M. Guthrie	2022	3
Bro. Jacob T. Keppen	2022	3
Bro. Thomas J. Santangelo	2022	3

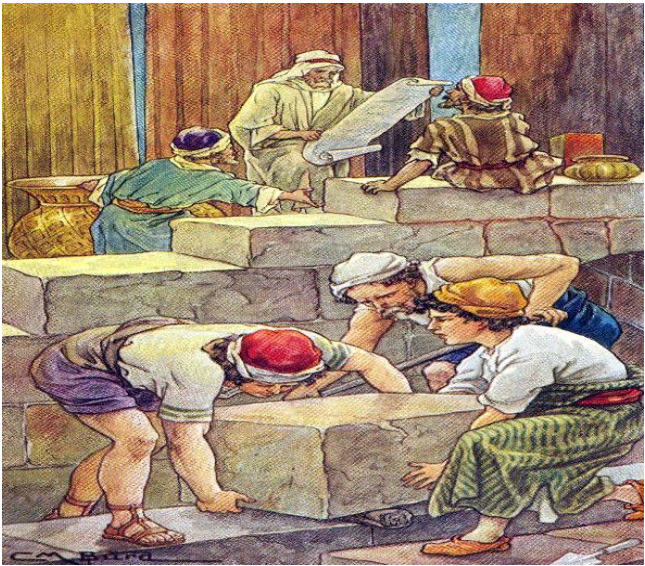
2025 Building Fund Benefactors

Bro Richard A Greiner	Bro William R Terwilliger
WB Eugene Applegate, PM	Bro Jay Colavita
WB Bill Roche, PM	Bro Ricardo Pena
Bro William Campbell	WB Robert A Taylor, PM
Bro Wilfredo S Halina	WB Eugene O Bathurst, PM
Bro Kenneth J Cheeseman	Bro Joseph A Cruz
RW Leonard M March, PDDGM	Bro James Griggs
Bro Richard L Wooster	Bro Richard A Faunce
Bro Wallace Carey	Bro Joseph J Novello
Bro Kenneth W Cashin	RW Frazier R Alburger, PGC
WB Ronald Rocco, PM	Bro Charles D. McMaster
WB Craig J Woodruff, PM	Bro Joseph Armstrong
Bro Bill Hughes	Bro Robert F Brittain
RW Scott P Vicari, ATTGM	Bro Alvin Fitting
WB John P. Gomen, PM	
Brethren, Thank you!	

Candidate Status

NAME	STATUS	LAST DATE	NEXT STATUS	NEXT DATE
	EA	1/20/23	FC	TBD
	EA	4/21/23	FC	TBD
-- -- -- -- --	Mr.	2/2/24	EA	TBD
-- -- -- -- --	Mr.	2/2/24	EA	TBD
	EA	3/1/25	FC	TBD
	Mr.	1/17/25	EA	TBD
	Mr.	11/7/25	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.



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:

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www.jjgunworks.com

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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

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-](https://www.facebook.com/Trident-Protection-2584900004858860/)

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

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648 7th Avenue Lindenwold, NJ 08021

Burkhardtscountertops@yahoo.com

Quality you can trust since 1983.

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. Peppler 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 #

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 PGC
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 PGP #
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 GC #
1996	Frazier R. Alburger, PGT *	2022	Donald L. Keppen Jr.
1996	James E. Miller, PGC #	2022	Michael Mattes #
1997	Raymond B. Kingett	2022	Casey Huston GC #
1997	Jerry R. Barnish #	2023	Jerry R. Barnish
1998	Kirk D. Nevius, Jr., PGC *	2024	Keith Verrico
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 JGW		
2012	David J. Lane Sr. PGC #		
2013	Kevin D. Kloss		
2014	James A. Weisensee		
2014	Brian McGovern #		
2015	Robert A. Taylor		
2015	Richard Hartshorne #		

2025 A.D.

Officer Line

6025 A.L.

Worshipful Master

RW Michael I Mattes, PGP – Janice

Senior Warden

RW Scott P. Vicari, PGP - Jacquelyn

Junior Warden

Bro Jay Colavita - Marianne

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

Officer Line Continued

<u>Senior Deacon</u>	Brother Thomas J. Santangelo
<u>Junior Deacon</u>	Brother Francis M. Guthrie
<u>S.M. Ceremonies</u>	WB Brother Don Keppen, Jr. PM
<u>J.M. Ceremonies</u>	WB Craig Woodruff, PM
<u>Senior Steward</u>	WB Brian McGovern, PM
<u>Junior Steward</u>	WB Keith P. Verrico, PM
<u>Marshal</u>	DB Robert S. Outlaw
<u>Chaplain</u>	Brother Christopher Broschard
<u>Tyler</u>	Brother William F. Anderson
<u>Historian</u>	Brother Jacob Keppen
<u>Proxy to GL</u>	Brother Thomas J. Santangelo
<u>Director of Ritual</u>	RW Brian J. Read, PJGS
<u>Webmaster</u>	DB Raymond T. McManus, DB
<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 JGW
<u>Advisor to Officers</u>	By Appointment – Volunteer needed.
<u>Refreshments</u>	By Appointment – Volunteer needed.
<u>Funeral Coordinator</u>	By Appointment – Volunteer needed.
<u>Scholarship Committee</u>	By Appointment – Volunteer needed.
<u>Building Trustees</u>	3 Year: DB Bob Outlaw 2 Year: Brother Thomas J. Santangelo 1 Year: By appointment – Volunteer Needed
<u>Financial Trustees</u>	3 Year: MW Joseph H. Rival Jr., PGM 2 Year: WB Craig Woodruff, PM 1 Year: WB Keith P. Verrico, PM
<u>Organist</u>	By Appointment – Volunteer needed.

New Jersey Grand Lodge Information

Grand Master: Most Worshipful: John Eugene Margroff

Deputy Grand Master: RW Omar S. Morris

Senior Grand Warden: Bruce C. Golway

Junior Grand Warden: RW Bernard J. Madgey V

Right Worshipful Grand Treasurer: MW Douglas R. Policastro

Right Worshipful Grand Secretary: MW Larry S. Plaskett

District Deputy Grand Master: RW Ken Carpenter

District Ritual Instructor: RW Vince Capone

18th Masonic District 2025 Grand Officers

Grand Chaplain: Right Worshipful Casey Huston GC

Aid to the Grand Master: Scott P. Vicari, ATTGM

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, PDDGM

RW Benjamin Foster PGC*

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