

A stated communication of Harmony Lodge No. 42 A.F. & A.M. was held at the Masonic Temple, 531 Highland Avenue, Waterbury, Connecticut on Thursday, **December 4th, 2025**, with the following officers in attendance:

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| Worshipful Master: | Jason Gadue | Senior Warden: | Kevin Kazlauskas |
| Junior Warden: | Matthew Renaudo | Treasurer: | Michael Kenausis |
| Secretary: | Gary A. Byram, | Senior Deacon: | Alex J. DeFranzo , Absent |
| Junior Deacon: | Colten Matthews | Senior Steward: | Michael Pranulis |
| Junior Steward: | Feoddor J. Stack | Chaplain: | Donald Wisman , Absent |
| Historian: | Gerry Matthews | Marshal: | Matthew Elwell, PM |
| Tiler: | Martin Gelinas , Absent | Assistant Secretary: | Kenneth Tarwood, PM |
| Almoner: | Hal Elwell, PM | Librarian: | |

In the East: WM Jason Gadue. Pro tem': Patrick Donnelly, PM as Chaplain and Gerry Matthews as Senior Deacon

Past Masters: 11 Past Grand Masters:1 Grand Lodge Officers: 2 Total: 35

Harmony Lodge No. 42 opened on the Entered Apprentice Degree at 7:25PM, by the officers only as the fraternity was directed to wait in the dining hall, as WM Jason then proceeded to put the lodge at refreshment and directed the officers to join the craft in the dining hall where all received a report presentation from Bro. Andre Aflalo on our investment funds. Tonight's Stated Communication was the Annual Meeting where all reports were to be presented and other business conducted at the will and pleasure of WM Jason.

Investment Funds Presentation: Bro. Andre presented an in-depth analysis, YTD and multi-year performance data of all three funds managed by his company, LPL Financial, consisting of Harmony Lodge (Main Fund), Scottish Rite/V of W, and Harmony Lodge (Secondary Fund). The combined funds as of 12/03/25 totaled **\$2,275,549** with an aggregate growth of **14.3%** that equates to a total gain of **\$264,000**. His presentation was projected on the wall for better viewing by all and with hard copies made available. The report included a Point Presentation and live access to our account that allowed him to answer detailed questions and provide current data and information directly via his laptop. It must be duly noted that all financial matters and submitted reports are considered highly confidential and should not be disclosed to anyone outside of Harmony Lodge. Investment Fund report is on file with the Trustees, Treasurer, and Secretary.

After a 5-minute break, all were ordered to be reconducted to the lodge, WM Jason brought the lodge back to labor and opening, led the craft in Pledge of Allegiance to our Nation's Flag. The WM then welcomed our Past Masters, PGM Marshall K. Robinson, Grand Lodge Officer RW Shane Defresne, and all brothers in attendance.

Secretary's Business Report:

- **\$227.00** collected for dinner, given to treasurer.
- Acknowledged a thank you letter received from Children's Dyslexia Center of our **\$1000** donation.
- Announced that I would be submitting my name list of those brothers who responded for badges and title plate inserts. This is my first submission to WB Doug Barry, Jr., who is coordinating this badge effort for three lodges in our District with the intent of keeping the cost down with volume purchases.
- Having no further normal business to present to the craft, WM Jason ordered me to lead into my annual meeting report.

Secretary's Annual Report: Copies handed out to the craft.

- Total amount in my TD Bank Account and PayPal combined is **\$1307.31**. Note that the PayPal amount of **\$66.00** are derived from transaction fees that PayPal has yet to deduct from my account. These fees are from receiving monies and then transferring to my Secretary's TD Bank checking account. All TD Bank statements and PayPal summary transaction report are on files within the Secretary's report and also were made available during our Inspection Night.
- General receipts to date received from collected current and past dues, candidate fees, dinner receipts, donations totaled **\$19,335.00**.
- Monies received from special events and dispersed to the Treasurer totaled **\$1280.00**
- Total Membership = 192, which is +7 gain over 2024.
- The main topic of my report is the collection of current and past year(s) membership dues. This matter has been a major concern of mine because it occupies much of my time, including updating member contact information, and now formally changing members in the arrear's status to Suspended-NPD. I noted to the craft that I approached every brother with empathy and a willingness to assist each situation with a plan to work with them, the Almoner, and for those who decided to essentially walk away from freemasonry I reminded them that 'raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason, you are always a Master Mason', and to never hesitate to call me if you want to petition to return to Harmony Lodge. Tonight, I learned that all member names with past dues must be read aloud to the craft, each situation discussed and then voted upon. I stress that this topic I consider to be the most confidential matter to

be discussed in lodge only when in labor! With that said, I have added “Members Owing Dues” to the Secretary’s Report. The craft was reminded that regardless of members not paying their dues, Harmony Lodge still pays the CT-GL per captive fee invoice of **\$65.00** per member. I have divided the membership unpaid dues into four categories of which I asked that each be discussed amongst the craft and put to a vote as follows...

1. 5 Brothers who owe 2, 3, and 4 years and who requested to be removed from the membership roll consist of and in random order; Andrew Landona, James Trenski, Patrick DeVaul, Shamir Ferreira (verbally confirmed the day after the Annual Meeting) and Aaron Bruce all have confirmed that they no longer wish to pay their dues and leave freemasonry. In addition, Brother Eric Blalock has not made any attempts to respond back to me in 3 years. I requested a motion to allow me to remove these brothers from the membership roll and change each profile to Suspended-NPD. Discussion had, motion made as such, and thus so approved. Note that I have since changed these 6 members only to Suspended-NPD, a total loss of **\$1290.00** to the fraternity.
2. 3 Brothers who owe **\$180.00** and one at **\$270.00**. After much discussion, I moved to motion a vote that brothers owing 2-years in the arrears going into December and after numerous contacts attempts have been made on my part, that as Secretary be given permission to change each membership to Suspended-NPD if I do not receive payment by December 20th as it allows me ample time to manage this task, along with my other year-end office obligations, before Grand Lodge roll memberships into 2026. A reminder was presented to the craft, that as of January 1st of the following year (i.e. 2026) all members listed in CT-Grand Lodge membership lodge roll automatically are grouped into the per Capita Fee of **\$65.00**, then invoiced to the lodge. As of the writing of these minutes the total amount in this category totals **\$810.00**.
3. Brothers in Health and Financial Distress = **\$270.00**: There are two brothers in this category that I requested dues payments be taken from the Cooley Fund. I have been in touch with these brothers and find that they truly in distress and have been openly communicating with us. This is honorable and humbling on their part as I stated in lodge. With that said and within these minutes I’m compelled to withhold their names from this report only, but know that these two names were read out loud in lodge. I yield to confidentiality of such personal matters with any brother, thus be withheld from this report. Unless I am so ordered upon the fraternity reading and approving this portion of the report, I withhold these names. I requested a motion be made, discussion followed, our Treasurer requested that the requested **\$270.00** to be taken from our general funds and not the Cooley Fund, all agreed, motion revised to reflect this amended change. The discussion continued, motioned to vote and approved thereof. Secretary so ordered to update these two brothers’ membership to reflect a \$0.00 balance.
4. 9 Brothers owing just one year of \$90.00 in dues, totaling **\$810.00**. I motioned that they be rolled over to 2026 and let their 2026 invoices reflect **\$180.00 – 2-years**. That all new invoices shall include a footnote stating members who owe 2-years in dues, and contacted by the Secretary numerous times who do not reply or acknowledge that will not pay their dues, will be subjected to their membership be changed to NPD-Suspended if payment is not received into the hands of the Secretary by 12/20/2026, be so mentioned at the Annual Meeting to be voted upon as NPD by the fraternity. Discussion was had, amendments recommended, put to vote and thus so approved. The intent here is to ensure that at each year-end the membership roll will never reflect members having unpaid dues of **\$270.00/3-years** on the membership roll.

WB Joe Pisani and RW Shane Dufresne each contacted a brother on the list which produced positive results. In moving forward, I shall share the brothers owing dues with several PM’s as they know many brothers that I do not. To conclude this topic, the owed Y-T-D dues amount totals **\$1620.00** of which attempts to collect said funds shall continue. This is a difficult part of our business agenda and my office obligation; I sincerely thank all who offered guidance and constructive input.

- **Past Masters Aprons:** I added this topic to my report because I did not know what the standard practice was for cost and apron style that past Secretaries had ordered or if a common practice was in place. My goal is to come to an understanding and set criteria of ordering PM aprons. This led to a motion, further discussion by the craft. WB Ken Tarwood advised all that past Secretary WB Martin Macary consistently order one style from the same company. With that stated, it was determined to stay with that same criterion, set a limit of \$175.00 as an allowance to the Worshipful Master who would then make his own purchase of a PM apron with the set allowance and purchase an apron case at his pleasure. I asked that this be put to a final motion, no further discussion was had, voted upon and approved as stated. WB Ken gave the details of his PM apron, and I shall research that company. It is noted that WM Jason Gadue, WB Patrick Donnelly, PM and WB Matthew Elwell, PM need aprons. Vouchers shall be provided by the Secretary and given to the Treasurer for checks to be issued.

Treasurer’s Report: Copies handed out to the craft.

- Total Year Expenditures = \$49,337.25 - Total Operational Funds Received = \$46, 911.00 = **Net \$2426.25**
- Cooley Fund Balance (as of 08/30/2023): \$6500.00
- Almoners Fund (as of 11/30/2025): \$1200.00
- Ben Franklin Fund (as of 11/30/25): \$5226.00

- Harrub Trust (Y-T-D): **\$11,870.48**. Note that this fund still requires the Treasurer + two brothers are required to discuss and make recommendations for the disbursement of funds as charitable donations.

Charitable contributions open to discussion and options suggested. The following charities were finalized, motioned to vote, approved and are as follows - The Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Act's 4 Ministries, Safe Haven of Greater Waterbury, Greater Waterbury of Interfaith Ministries, St. Vincent DePaul Mission of Waterbury, Tunnels to Towers, and the Gary Sinise Foundation. WB Gary Rosengrant stressed that the approved funds be mailed out now as this is the most critical time of the year that donations are needed.

WM Jason introduced a new idea for Harmony Lodge to create a 50-year time capsule with a cost limit of **\$1000.00**. The capsule would be sealed and placed in the library. General discussion continued but several brothers said the timing of this may not be the best, thus WM Jason moved to put this idea on hold and allow incoming WM Kevin Kazlaukas to add to his agenda.

Gerry Matthews discussed the hard work, efforts, and long hours put forth by the Treasurer and Secretary noting that their yearly stipend of **\$750.00** is not enough and motioned that it be increased to **\$1000.00**. Some discussion was had, then motion made, all voted in favor. Secretary will present vouchers at the first Stated Communication in January. Both officers expressed gratitude and thanks for this action.

Almoners Report: Copies handed out to the craft.

- This year we did not exceed the set limit of **\$2500.00** and proceeded to read his report to the craft.
- Hearing no comments or questions, the report was motioned to vote, all approved thereof, accepted as presented.

Trustees Report: Copies handed out to the craft.

- Bro. Eric Bogert presented the report on behalf of the trustees. Upon reading his report in full, including financial gains, emphasizing several items presented by our financial advisor's report given while the craft was at refreshment. Report was put to motion for approval, no further discussion was had, thus so approved and accepted by the craft.

WM Jason ordered the Senior Deacon to bring both the Senior and Junior Stewards to the East, where he presented J.S. Bro. Frank Stack with his Master Mason certificate, and S.D. Bro. Michael Pranulis praised him for all his hard work and dedication to his chair, and more especially his excellence at presenting degree lectures, and presented him with a lapel pin. A well-deserved round of applause was given by the craft.

WM Jason ordered the Senior Deacon to escort Bro. Andre Aflalo to the East, there to be presented with his 20-year service pin.

WM Jason then at this point, 9:45PM, brought the lodge back to refreshment to give the craft a short break, and then bringing the lodge back to labor at 9:53PM.

The next point of business was WM Jason advising the craft that the time has come when Harmony Lodge had to vote on two members to serve on the WMTC board of managers. Our two current members serving this term are WB Ken Tarwood and WB Chris Martinelli. Bro. Gerry Matthews, who also serves on the board as an AASR member, mentioned that our two current brothers offered to remain in their position, and given both had agreed to continue term representing the interests of the lodge, no discussion continued, motioned so moved to vote, all voted in favor of, and thus so approved as such.

WM Jason so orders that the 2025 officers' elections commence, ballots and pens are disbursed, a table and chairs set in place for three brothers to tally the votes of whom consist of WB Joe Pisani, WB Danny Sharkis, and Bro. Frank Bombadier. The craft voted, ballots collected and counted, incoming officer elect results are as follows.

- WM Kevin Kazlaukas, SW Matthew Ranaudo, JW Alex DeFranzo, Secretary Gary Byram, Treasurer Michael Kenausis, and WB Gary Rosengrant as Trustee.
- WM Jason so orders SD Gerry Matthews to escort Bro. SW Kevin Kazlaukas to the East where, in the tradition of Worshipful Masters of Harmony Lodge No. 42, passes down his Master's Square and pins it upside down to the lapel of the incoming worshipful master. The craft applauds and congratulates Bro. SW Kevin.

And now in honorary custom and due form from his chair in the East, proudly announcing his full slate of officers; SD Gerry Matthews, JD Michael Pranulis, Chaplain WB Daniel Sharkis, Marshal WB Joseph Pisani, Almoner WB Kenneth Tarwood, SS WB Patrick Donnelly, JS Peter Testa, Historian WB Gary Rosengrant, Tiler Frank Bonbadier (TBD), and Organist WB Donald Wismann. A round of applause proudly given to all. No further discussion took place.

WB Joseph Pisani announced that the Garibaldi Club wants to meet at the lodge on Wednesday nights. It was noted that the WMTC grants such permission, of which was granted, that Harmony Lodge does not grant such permission, though acknowledges this action and thus the Secretary shall record this discussion.

WM Jason made mention of several calendar events such as the 12/13/2025 Christmas Party, Past Master's Degree on Friday night 12/12/25, and the Installation of Officers on Saturday 12/20/25.

Given that normal lodge business was ending, Bro. Michael Kenausis brought to focus the successful projects completed by the WMTC and acknowledging all the efforts and hard work by the board members, and the Trustees. Indeed, a great job well done by all!

WM Jason given the craft an open floor to present any new business, given that none was presented, he offered last word to RW Shane Dufresne, who then proceeded to mention several items of his upcoming year as incoming CT-GL MWGM, and acknowledged that from Harmony Lodge, of which will be 228 years old next year and the best lodge in all Connecticut, and in 4 months is moving into his next role as the MWGM of CT-GL, and whereby these Harmony brothers having accepted officer positions under him and who will be installed in April are WB Hal Elwell as Chaplain, WB Ken Tarwood as District Deputy of 3A and WB Don Wismann as Organist. RW Shane gave final word and warm fraternal greetings from MWGM Rinaldo Maglaino, Jr.

In Closing, having no further business appearing before the craft, WM Jason closed the lodge at 10:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gary A. Byram

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Secretary

Harmony Lodge No. 42