



**December
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 December 2025

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

Friday December 5th 7:45PM Meeting

**Enjoy masonic light with masonic birthdays, regular business, brotherhood and 2025 Officer Elections. Dinner at 6:30PM.
Donation requested \$10**

Saturday December 20th 7:45PM Meeting

Annual Installation of Officers:

**Laurel Lodge No. 237 Open Installation and Dinner
Dinner will be at Filamena Cucina Rustica
13 Cross Keys Road West Berlin 08091
Dinner is 1:00PM to 4:30PM Cost per Person is \$50.00.
RSVP contact: RW Scott Vicari 856-952-3459
Installation begins 5:30PM. No qualification.
There is no meeting Friday December 19th**



Worshipful Masters Message

Brethren,

I would like to start off by saying I hope that you and your family had an enjoyable Thanksgiving holiday. This time of year, is always so exciting. We close out one chapter as our newest past masters join the ranks, and the beginning of a new chapter within the lodge begins with so much promise and excitement. As my year in the east comes to a close, I would like you to invite you to join me in my travels in and around this jurisdiction for Installation season. I am listing all the Installations that I will be attending this week. If you are able to join me, please consider doing so. This is a great way to meet your counterparts and begin developing relationships that can come in quite helpful in the years to come.

December 1st- Lazarus Lodge #303- Haddonfield Temple 6:30 pm dinner, and Installation will begin at 7:30pm. No qualification. This is a closed installation (Masons Only) Suit and Tie would be the uniform of the day
December 2nd- Merchantville-Mozart Lodge #119- Merchantville Masonic Lodge- Dinner is at 6:30pm and Installation will begin at 7:30pm. No qualifications. This is a closed installation (Masons Only) Uniform of the day would be suit and time

December 3rd- USS NJ #62- Merchantville Masonic Lodge- Dinner is at 6:30pm and Installation will begin at 7:30pm. Qualification will be around 7:00pm. This is an open installation. Uniform of the day is suit and tie.

December 5th- Laurel lodge Annual Communication- Dinner will be at 6:30pm, Lodge opens at 7:45. THIS IS NOT OUR INSTALLATION- Uniform of the day is tails.

December 6th- Adoniram Lodge #80- Lyndhurst Masonic Lodge- Installation begins at 7:00pm- Uniform of the day would be suit and tie.

December 7th- Cannon Lodge #103- Cannon Masonic Lodge - Installation begins at 1pm.- Uniform of the day would be a suit and Tie.

Please let me know if you would be interested in traveling to any of the longer distance installations. It's always better to travel with your brothers.

**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, PAGM
Winter Solstice and The Holy Saints John

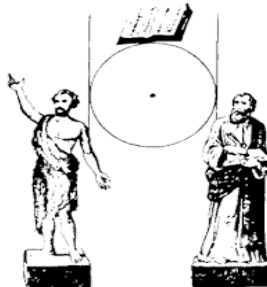
This month Laurel Lodge will hold its one hundred and third officer installation ceremony, and if elected, I will become your Worshipful Master for the ensuing Masonic year. I hope that you will be pleased with the activities and events that I have planned for us.

Our Installation is on Saturday, December 20th which is the last day of fall 2025. The following day marks the Winter Solstice, the shortest day of the year and a significantly symbolic day for many cultures and people around the world, especially for Freemasons. The Winter Solstice marks the end of the long slide into darkness which began last June with the Summer Solstice; from this point on the days will get longer. We, as Free and Accepted Masons, find the physical return of light to the world to be an excellent metaphor for acquiring and spreading Masonic light in the new year ahead.

In fact, we mark the occasion of both solstices with the Feasts of Saint John; Saint John the Baptist on June 24th and Saint John the Evangelist, December 27th. Historically, lodges would hold installation ceremonies around these dates, and early Freemasons were known as "St. John's Men." Some have even interpreted the two parallel lines in the circumpunct as not only representing the two Saints Johns, but also the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, which are a direct link to the solstices. These two feast days then become the symbolic book ends of a brother's journey of renewal, to both find and give light, while on his journey to become a better man.

In closing, please enjoy this poem by Thomas W. Davis. See you in lodge!

"Let there be light!" the great Creator spoke,
And, at the summons, slumbering nature woke,
While from the east the primal morning broke,
Back rolled the curtains of the night,
And earth rejoiced to see the light.
"Let there be light!" the Master's lips proclaimed,
And heart and hand unite in glad acclaim
To hail th' enrollment of a brother's name,
While he beholds with ravished sight
The glories of the perfect light.



Annual Installation of Officers for 2026:



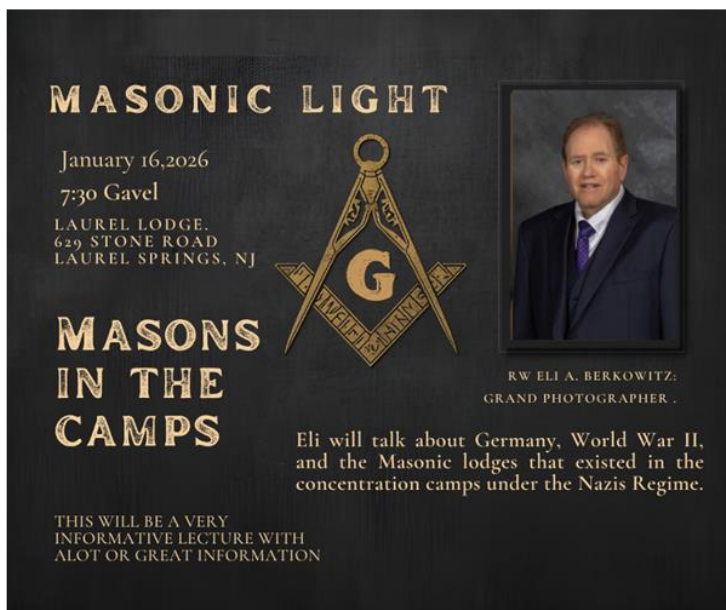
LAUREL LODGE
#237
F&AM

Annual Installation of Officers

Saturday, December 20th
Ceremony 1PM Dinner • 4:30 at Filomena Cucina Rustica

See the Senior Warden to make your dinner reservations today!

The installation ceremony and dinner are open to family and friends.
Dinner is \$50/person and seating is limited.




MASONIC LIGHT

January 16, 2026
7:30 Gavel
LAUREL LODGE,
629 STONE ROAD
LAUREL SPRINGS, NJ

MASONS IN THE CAMPS

THIS WILL BE A VERY
INFORMATIVE LECTURE WITH
ALOT OR GREAT INFORMATION



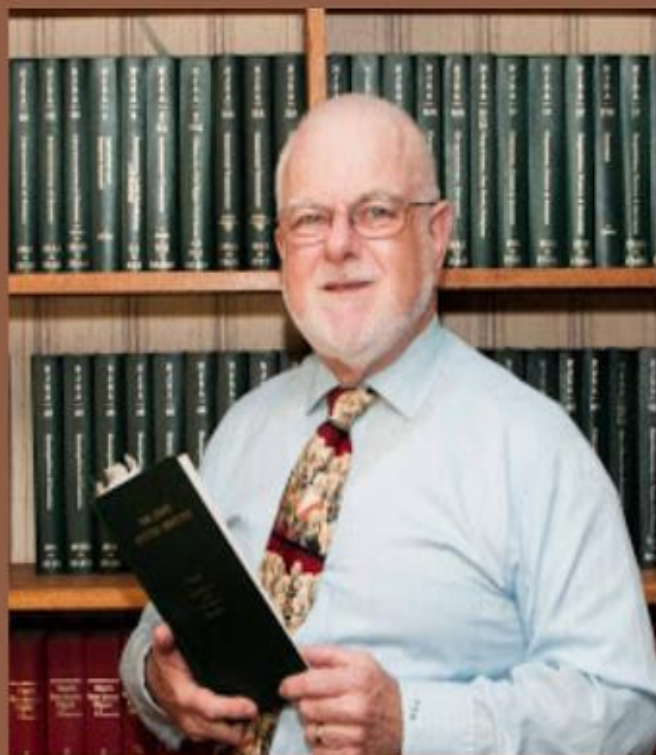
RW ELI A. BERKOWITZ,
GRAND PHOTOGRAPHER .

Eli will talk about Germany, World War II,
and the Masonic lodges that existed in the
concentration camps under the Nazis Regime.



"Masonic Stuff"

*Come hear the "the stuff lectures are made of"
from the New Jersey Lodge of Research and
Education Distinguished Laureate Brother Emeritus*



R.W. Howard Kanowitz
Friday, January 2nd

Dinner at 6:30 PM Lodge opens at 7:45 PM



Love is
Funny!

STAND UP COMEDY

Show



Joey Callahan



Jimmy Q



Natty Bumpercar

TICKET

\$75

*includes
buffet dinner*


Date: Saturday, February, 7th

Where: The Kove 20 West
Atlantic Ave., Audubon, NJ

Time: Dinner 6PM Show 8PM

Presented by :

Laurel Lodge No. 237 F.& A.M.

Ginger Ninjas
PRODUCTIONS 

To Purchase tickets Contact:

Scott Vicari
vicari427@gmail.com

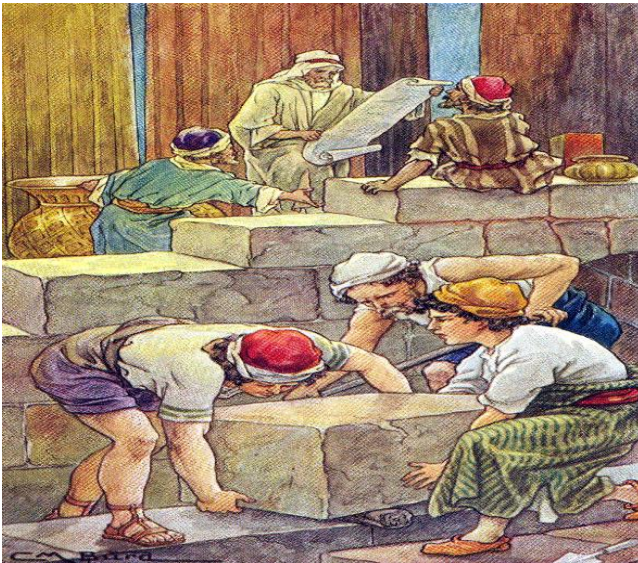
2025 Building Fund Benefactors

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 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 | FC | 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:

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

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



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*A Unique Support Program
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Hal Hazen
Office Coordinator
856-234-2200
Fax 856-234-7499
www.hopesnj.org
hopesnjhelps@gmail.com
16 East Main Street • Moorestown, NJ 08057

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.

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 | 2025 | Michael I Mattes, PGP |
| 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: Omar S. Morris

Deputy Grand Master: RW Bruce C. Golway

Senior Grand Warden: RW Bernard J. Madgey, V

Junior Grand Warden: RW Glenn T. Visscher

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*

GRAND LODGE WEBPAGE

WWW.NEWJERSEYGRANDLODGE.ORG

LAUREL LODGE WEBPAGE

WWW.LAURELLODGE237.ORG



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