

Minutes – Widows Sons New Jersey - Sunday November 14, 2021

Meeting held at Merchantville Lodge, Pennsauken and called to order at 2:00 PM.

Flag Salute, prayer – 13 members present

Minutes of June, 2021 meeting emailed to all and accepted as read.

Financial report given by Treasurer. General Fund Balance \$7585.95
Emergency Fund Balance \$1075.00
Widows & Orphans Balance \$1075.00
One check to Merchantville Lodge for \$250 was outstanding.

Old Business:

Third reading of bylaw changes made by the bylaw committee were read by chairman Dave Saunders. They were voted and accepted as read and an amended copy of the bylaws will be available on the state website. One of these changes involves combining the W&O fund and Emergency fund into one Charity fund making its present balance \$2150.00.

October 23 Poker Run which culminated at the American Legion of Cherry Hill brought 50 attendees including passengers and other guests. Toys were collected. A check for \$1100 was motioned, seconded and approved to be donated to Shriner's Hospital out of the proceeds.

New Business:

April 24, 2022 will kick off the season with a Blessing of the Bikes with a rain date of May 1, 2022. It will be held at the Masonic Home, Burlington and hosted by Pillars of Enoch. The bikes and riders will be blessed and we will take a ride around the village as we did in 2021. Afterwards we would like to meet at the Pic-a-Lili for refreshments but it will not be a sponsored or escorted ride to avoid insurance liabilities. Food has yet to be determined whether it will be provided by the chapter or ordered on your own. Either way there will be a door charge of some kind. There will be no entry fee for the blessing but donations to the Masonic Home are encouraged.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to put off the next State Gathering until 2023.

An offer was made to jointly host a poker run with the Cherry Hill American Legion Post. Date to be determined. The membership thought this was a good way to get ourselves better known out in the local community and a motion was made, seconded and approved to accept this offer.

The grand Master is holding a poker run June 17th or 24th. Both these dates are Fridays so I'm unsure if they are correct. He would like the Widows Sons to be very involved in setting it up as he is advocate of the Widows Sons and wants us to be involved. Motion made, seconded and approved to do as much as we can to make it a great run.

Our bylaws require one fund raiser a year to build our Charity Fund. It was determined the last raffle was a good money maker and probably the easiest way to fund raise. Motion made, seconded and approved to do another similar raffle in 2022.

A permanent Charter was awarded to Sanctum Sanctorum Chapter as they had been under a provisional charter since 2019. Their chapter has grown quite a bit over the last two years and they deserve our thanks and respect for their hard work.

The President spent some time discussing the need for our members to become more involved in the operation of our events, committees and meetings. The President who is also Grand Chapter president was involved in running seven events this year. While half of the world was hiding behind masks, Masons like these were out doing good things for the needy in their communities. That is why I am so proud to call myself a Mason. But we need all hands-on deck to continue to do these works. State meetings will now offer food since all Masons love to eat and that will hopefully encourage a better turnout. If you have a special talent, art, legal, advertising or whatever, offer it to the club or join a committee. If you have an opinion on an issue show up at the meeting and voice it. We will listen to and consider all opinions and ideas.

State Meeting Schedule for 2022 has been set:

- 1) Sunday, February 13, 2022 – 1:00 PM
- 2) Sunday, June 12, 2022 – 1:00 PM
- 3) Sunday, November 13, 2022 – 1:00 PM

Unless notified of a change Merchantville Lodge will be the meeting place. Time changed to 1:00PM.

Nominations for 2022 Officers were opened and will stay open until January 31, 2022. Nominations can be made by calling, mailing, texting or emailing the President, VP, or Secretary

Current nominations to date:

- President – Mike “Ape” Bencivengo
- Vice President – Rob “Nice” Lane
- Secretary – Frank “Kompass” Palmisano
- Treasurer – Tony “Tinman” Fazio
- Sgt at Arms – Dan “Twin” Custodio
- Guardian North – Charles “Tinker” McCarthy
- Guardian South – Dave “Sticky” Saunders

The secretary announced that Pillars of Enoch Chapter would be at the Millville Shoprite on November 20th collecting donations along with the Salvation Army to purchase turkeys for needy families in the community. It was motioned, seconded and approved to donate \$200 toward this endeavor.

Adjourn 4:25 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Dave “dB” Buckwalter
Secretary