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THE BEACON

The monthly Trestleboard of Union Lodge #3, A.F. & A.M

July 2016

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Tidings From the East

*"Courage doesn't always roar.
Sometimes courage is the quiet
voice at the end of the day say-
ing 'I will try again tomorrow'."*

-Mary Anne Radmacher, American author and artist.

Good day Ancient Craftsmen!

Greetings and welcome back from a short pause we took during the summer. While we were dark for one month this season, there was plenty going on in around the Lodge. There have been some renovations in the Lodge building, you'll notice some new but familiar additions to the Library, and even the cemetery has had some major hands on work this year. In today's day and age, it seems for the average person that responsibilities and time consuming activities are at an all-time high, and increasing still.

Remember, my Brothers, the lesson of the cable-tow. This lesson is as true today as it was the day you were taught it, and likewise during the era it was created. Even though we all know this lesson, I see Brothers each day push themselves and attempt to take on more than they should. I've discussed this in previous articles that I have written, specifically about the investment of time and how we all spend that. I want to discuss another, but equally important avenue of thought with this – the matter of perseverance.

As Masons, we act like a Beacon of Light, not only to ourselves but to those around us within and without the fraternity. The more of us together working on something, the brighter that Light shines. Our organization is structured in such a way

where we are designed to support and augment each other. Everything that we do whether it is usual Lodge business, or ritual, or a group of brothers heading to help a brother down on his luck; we know that when we come together we are at our strongest.

But what of the Brother who doesn't make it to the Stated Communications? Or the Brother whose obligations have stacked up and they must focus their time elsewhere? It is all too easy to allow our obligations to stack up higher than they should in our lives. If and when you find yourself in this situation, remember that your Brothers are here for you, to support and offer direction if needed. Despite whatever obstacles or challenges you may come across in your life, you will make it through. Be true and strong to yourself – you will persevere! Your Light shines bright, even in the darkest of circumstances.

A few quick announcements – WB Frank and I are still looking for help and volunteers to assist at the McMinnville Masonic Cemetery. Any sort of help whether big or small would be greatly appreciated. To discuss this further, please contact one of us. There is much to do and before too long Fall will be upon us.

Additionally, I would like to remind the Brothers that the Beacon is a place where we are always looking for fresh and interesting material to print. Book reviews, poems, original works, excerpts from published material that you wish to share – we are interested in seeing it all. If there is an article that you wish to submit, reach out to myself or WB Tom Gardner and we will get you taken care of.

Officer meetings will continue to be the last Tuesday of each month, following the Trustees meeting and beginning promptly at 7:30 PM. Any Brothers who have comments or concerns are welcomed and encouraged to attend. Let your voice be heard! The next meeting is scheduled for September 27th, 2016.

Remember if you need a ride to Lodge for a Special or Stated Communication, please contact the Lodge office and we shall make the appropriate accommodations.

Sincerely and Fraternally,
WB William D. MacRae
Worshipful Master
Union Lodge #3 A.F. & A.M.



Tidings From the West

Although I grew up in a family with a long history of Masonic involvement, I had a lot of questions about Freemasonry prior to joining. One of the best books I found for answering my questions about the world's largest and oldest fraternity was "Freemasons for Dummies", by Worshipful Brother Christopher Hodapp. If you're unfamiliar with the "... for Dummies" brand of books, don't be fooled by the title - these books are known for being both thorough and very well written. Hodapp's book is no exception to this reputation.

As a Past Master and member of the Scottish Rite and York Rite, Hodapp brings an impressive wealth of first-hand knowledge to the topic of Freemasonry. Over the course of this book, Hodapp provides details on a wide range of topics, including:

- Historical facts about the origins of Freemasonry.
- An overview of most of the appendant Masonic groups, such as the Scottish Rite, The Shrine, and Eastern Star.
- A surprising amount of detail on Masonic symbolism from the three Blue Lodge degrees.
- A fair and unbiased overview of the main conspiracy theories and allegations which

have been leveled against the Masonic institution over the past few hundred years.

The breadth of topics covered by the author, in addition to the well documented sources for his research make this book a great reference for the neophyte as well as any Mason who is seeking more light on a particular topic.

Fraternally,
Matt Gerbrandt
Senior Warden, Union Lodge # 3



Tidings From the South

Good day to all,

I just want to talk about a little something that is very close to my heart. Family. Family is the one thing that a would consider to be the most precious thing. Almost any type of group that you care about and they care about you could be your family. Mother, father, sister, brother, cousins, Masonic Brothers, close friends ... they are all types of family. As everyday passes try and spend as much time as possible with those special people we call family before our time has come to pass through the shadow of death and stare at those pearly white gates. We shall not look back and say "I should have chose to spend more time with them". We will say instead "I will be waiting to see you again." live life to the fullest!

Fraternally,
Mike Persons
Junior Warden, Union Lodge # 3



From the Secretary's Desk

"Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all of one's lifetime." - Mark Twain

We encourage Brethren to travel as much as possible, starting with the lower degrees. Taking an Entered Apprentice or Fellowcraft along to another Lodge that is conferring a degree is very helpful in a variety of ways. It certainly helps them cement in their minds their proficiency work, providing context. They have the opportunity to see other Brethren perform the work which may be different from our own Lodge's work in subtle choices of interpretation related to the roles. (I didn't know that there

was a tradition of conferring certain degrees or sections of degrees in costume until I visited another Lodge that still does that.) The lower degree candidates require a Master Mason as an escort who can vouch for them, but their escort will very often know Brethren in those Lodges. Thus, they can help the newer Brethren to establish friendships and connections with individuals and Lodges that will flow through their Masonic career. Ideas can also hitch a ride to and from our Lodge on how we can engage each other and the community more effectively and inculcate the teachings of the Lodge such that we can grow as men and Masons.

All of these benefits hold true for the Master Mason as well. One of the great privileges of a Master Mason is the ability to travel to other Lodges, both within our Grand Jurisdiction and in other Grand Jurisdictions, and sit with other Brethren. We all should avail ourselves of that privilege as much as possible to spread Brotherly Love and Affection between Lodges. This can come in many forms from helping with degree conferrals, to attending their annual or other big events to show support, to just showing up for a Stated Communication to extend Fraternal greetings from our Lodge and enjoy each other's company.

Before you travel, however, there are some things to think about.

If you are a lower degree, do you have a Master Mason available to go with you as an escort? If you are a Master Mason traveling within the Grand Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Oregon, do you know a Brother in the Lodge where you might be visiting that has sat in Lodge with you or can otherwise vouch for you as a Master Mason? Do you have your dues card? (You should always carry your dues card, even if you are traveling in Oregon and even if you are going to your home Lodge.) Are you current on your dues? Lodges in Oregon should know how to check for standing, but do you know how they check so that you are prepared? Do you know what may be expected of you when you are examined? Do you know your rights and responsibilities as a visitor being examined? If you are traveling to a foreign Grand Jurisdiction in the United States, are they recognized by the Grand Lodge of Oregon as being regular?

As your Secretary, I can help you answer most of those questions and I'm happy to assist. Just let

me know when and where you're traveling and we can get you in good stead.

If you are traveling outside of the United States, you should contact the Grand Lodge office for assistance with ensuring regularity and establishing contact. They can also draw up a letter of introduction that will help you establish your credentials and standing once you are there. Some Grand Jurisdictions don't encourage travel and visitation in the same way that the American Grand Lodges do. Visiting uninvited may be uncommon or discouraged. Grand Lodge can help identify those situations and provide guidance on how to approach them; they may even contact the Grand Lodge of that jurisdiction to work out a way for you to visit.

The key here is starting with our Grand Lodge to proactively act as a liaison because there are limitations on how Lodges and Secretaries can communicate across jurisdictional lines that may complicate your ability to travel and visit. For example, a Brother recently contacted a Lodge in a European jurisdiction about the possibility of a visit while nearby. That Lodge contacted their Grand Lodge who contacted our Grand Lodge who copied the Brother and myself to offer just that sort of assistance. The Secretary of that Lodge can't call me directly (or vice versa) to correspond on matters of membership, standing, and the like. That communication has to go Grand Lodge to Grand Lodge, which can add time, and potentially confusion, to the process. So, as much as is possible, be proactive and start early.

In the end, however, we should all visit as much as is practical. The questions and suggestions here are brief, but should at least get you thinking about how you can work a Lodge visit into your other plans. If you're going further afield, make a call to me or Grand Lodge a part of your travel planning. We'll make it as smooth as possible so that we can all "... acquire broad, wholesome, and charitable views of men and things."

Fraternally,
Frank Blair
Secretary



Some Thoughts from WB Johnny Edwards

Brothers,

This was shared from a Long Beach Ca. Freemason on a reading blog on the Internet. Brutally honest and to the point and I like it.

Three types of Freemason's.

ANONYMOUS MASONS

These are the Masons who loyally pay their dues but are never seen in the Lodge. They are either incapable of attending (due to a short cable-tow, they live out of town, or simply don't care), or they joined for the notoriety of being a Mason in the hopes it might help their professional career, or they joined in order to advance to another Masonic related body, such as the Shrine, and never look back. Lodge Secretaries are familiar with the Brother's name, but cannot place a face to it. The Anonymous Mason is also commonly referred to as the "M.I.A. Mason" (Missing In Action).

AMATEUR MASONS

Perhaps a better adjective for this type of Mason is "casual" as they tend to dabble in the fraternity. For example, they may occasionally make an appearance in the Lodge, send in a donation for a worthy Masonic cause, or read a book or article pertaining to the fraternity. They truly like being a Mason but balk at making a major commitment to it, such as becoming an officer or serving on a committee. They are also the first to complain when a dues increase is proposed or if the Lodge doesn't look quite right. Instead of becoming more active and finding out the cause of the problems in the Lodge, they find it easier to grouse from the sidelines thereby disrupting harmony.

PROFESSIONAL MASONS

In every Lodge there is a handful of Brothers you can count on for leadership and to lend a hand when the chips are down. They are intimate with the mechanics of the Lodge and the fraternity and do not hesitate to step forward when needed, and help mentor younger and less experienced Brothers so they may grow and take their place in the Lodge hierarchy. The Professional Mason is not a zealous control freak with a huge ego, but rather is unselfish and appreciates the power of teamwork

and the tenets of Freemasonry. He rightfully understands that Freemasonry is more about the overall Brotherhood as opposed to the glory of a single individual.

The "The 80/20 Rule" (aka "Pareto's Principle") is a management concept commonly found in business, whereby 80% of the work is performed by 20% of the workers. We see this not only in business but in any nonprofit organization, including Freemasonry. Do not be alarmed, this is natural. In the Lodge, 80% of the work is performed by the Professional Masons, and the remaining 20% is squeezed out of the Amateur and Anonymous Masons. If this is true, the Lodge becomes in danger if Professional Masons are eliminated. Another danger is when an Amateur Mason rises and is elected to the East. This type of person is more interested in obtaining a Past Master's apron, than doing anything of substance.

So, the question arises, "What kind of Mason are you?" I guess it ultimately comes down to why you joined the fraternity. If you are truly seeking further light, then you are on the right path. If not, you will probably be nothing more than an Amateur or Anonymous Mason, and we have too many of them already.

Keep the Faith.

What to do with that Masonic "Stuff"

"You only truly possess that which you cannot lose in a shipwreck."
— ابو الغلام محمد بن محمد (Abū Ḥāmid Muḥammad ibn Muḥammad al-Ghazālī, Sufi mystic, c. 1058-1111)

One of the things that we, as Masons, are pretty good at is acquiring things. We receive our lamb-skin apron when we've gone through the degrees. By that time, we have also acquired a stack of books and binders: the Ritual, the Code, the etiquette book, a dictionary of Masonic symbolism, a book for each degree that tells us something about that degree, the Standard Manual, various helpful and supplemental booklets, not to mention a stack of "Short Talk Bulletins" from the Masonic Service Association, if you're lucky. Eventually an Officer's Manual also joins the collection. Beyond that and as we seek to enlarge our body of knowledge, we buy, or are gifted, even more books.

When we go to Grand Lodge or have a visitation from the District Deputy or a Grand Lodge visitation for Corned Beef and Cabbage we very often get a pin. It's innocent enough and the donation goes to

a good cause. But that one pin starts an avalanche of pins, tie tacks, tie bars, hood ornaments, sticky decals, shirts, caps, and the like, all with Masonic emblems or associations. Many of us, in the United States, anyway, will obtain one or more rings that we cherish to remind us of our obligations and our associations with the Blue Lodge and other appendant bodies.

Fast forward fifty years and you have a closet, three drawers, two suitcases, and a nightstand over-brimming with all of your Masonic things. You have passed away after a long career as a conscientious Mason and your family is left with trying to sort all of that stuff out.

Now what?

The question comes up a lot and probably should come up a lot more. Last month, MWB Hunt re-presented to Lodge a gavel that was found at a garage sale. It had an engraving that commemorated being presented to Union Lodge #43 back in 1949. Now it's back home and will take up a place in our fireplace room. Things that have a clear Lodge association are relatively easy to deal with – get them to the Lodge for safe-keeping.



But what about the other things?

The common denominator for most of these things is making your wishes known to your loved ones before you pass so that they don't have to worry about it or think about it too much. Setting those desires out in a document – whether a will or some other form – is always a good idea.

Lambskin Apron

The lambskin apron should go with your body to the grave or the crematory. It is your personal emblem and that is its intent. You should make sure that your wife or children or executor knows that that is your intent and ensures that it goes with you as necessary. Sometimes that can't happen or the circumstances are such that it just doesn't make it. Periodically, we find aprons at garage sales, on eBay, or families contact the Lodge because they are discovered in boxes after a Brother has de-

ceased. I have a collection of five or six in the Lodge office that we've found over the years.

That's ok – we have a process for dealing with that. If the apron doesn't go with the body, it should be given to a Lodge who can ensure that it is disposed in a dignified way, according to our precepts. We have a ritual that we perform once a year at an outdoor degree specifically for the purpose of dealing with aprons that were separated from the Brethren, but we can also do it *ad hoc* to ensure proper handling.



A collection of aprons found around Lodge office

Engraved / Personalized Items

Things like the presentation gavel in the example, above, should be donated to the Lodge to whom they were originally presented. Likewise, if something is engraved to you as part of your time as Master, for example, the Lodge would love to have that item to remember you by and educate future generations of Brethren as to our shared heritage (of which you are a part.) These things have geographic and chronological historical value for the Lodge and its Brethren. That being said, your family can also keep these items as heirlooms for the same purpose and that is perfectly acceptable and understandable.

Rings / Personal Jewelry

Rings and other personal jewelry very often have intrinsic value because of the precious metals or gemstones that are part of their construction. You should make sure that you have a good inventory of those items, their karat weight, if applicable, and where they are if you don't wear them on your person. These are great examples of items that should be included in a will so that your preferences can be made clear and followed.

What rings don't have is intrinsic Masonic value. So if your family ends up with a ring, they have several options.

Holding it for a family member that may have an interest in the Fraternity as an heirloom is a good choice. My own Blue Lodge ring belonged to my wife's grandfather and I felt a special connection to her family and all our previous generations of Brethren by being able to extend its useful life by wearing it regularly. Donating it to Lodge so that it might be useful to the Lodge. Or even selling it outright - because as we are often told, a ring doesn't make a man a Mason. Many people choose to wear their rings along with their aprons and take them to the casket. That being said, being small, portable, valuable, and easy to dispose of, rings and other personal jewelry are the most commonly stolen items when people are not able to have full visibility to their whereabouts or control over them.

Tie Tacks / Pins / Medals / Memorabilia

This is a broad category of things but they all have in common that they don't really have Masonic value, although they may have historic value or be interesting as a collection with ties to specific times, places, or people. As such, donating them to a Lodge or Grand Lodge makes a lot of sense so that they can be preserved, displayed, and curated in that manner or made available for the use by the Lodge and its members. Some of them (especially watches, fobs, tie tacks and pins, etc) may have precious metals incorporated and some care should be taken to ensure that your family at least knows what they have before they donate it.

There's no harm in disposing of generic items that don't have a personal connection or a connection to a particular Lodge - things like decals, bumper stickers, things like that.



A collection of pins donated by Donna Burkette

Books

Ideally, books on Masonic subjects - including the Ritual, Code, and Standard Manuals - should end up with Brethren who can make use of them to enlarge their own knowledge. This could be by bequeathing them to family members or friends in the Fraternity or donating them to a Lodge. Our Lodge has a recently renovated Fireplace and Museum room where we can make them available. We're hoping to expand our selections and make them available for Brethren to check out or study there.



A collection of books donated by Donna Burkett

These are just a few of the possible things that might come up that your family should know how to handle. Other examples might include costumes, paraphernalia, or regalia, either from the Blue Lodge or appendant bodies. I'm probably even missing a few categories.

With the exception of the lambskin apron, which has a very specific purpose and Masonic connection, most of the things that we acquire during our Masonic careers don't really have deep connections to the Fraternity. But, they really should be gifted as heirlooms to younger friends or family with a Fraternal connection so that they can enhance their own connection to the Fraternity and you as a Brother or donated to Lodge so that they can be shared with a wider audience.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me or Lodge. I'm happy to help you brainstorm.

Fraternally,
Frank Blair
Secretary

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING MINUTES OF LODGE COMMUNICATIONS

To speed up our Stated and Special Communications, and to provide all brothers with the opportunity to review the minutes of the previous month's meeting(s) before the next meeting, WB Blair has made them available on the Union Lodge website. To have access to these documents you will need to obtain a password from WB Frank. Email him at unionlodge@onlinenw.com and he will contact you with the password.

After you receive the password, please do the following:

1. On the menu bar on any page of the Lodge website, click on "Meeting Minutes."
2. Click on the red & white button labeled "Meeting Minutes."
3. In the Login box on the left side of the page, click on "Sign up."
4. You will be asked for your email address, a screen name (your name for example), the password provided by WB Frank, your location and your date of birth. NOTE: The date must be entered in dd/mm/yyyy format, or simply select the month, year and date from the calendar display.
5. Click the "Agree" box and then click "Submit."

You will receive an email from "server@serifwebresources.com" that contains a link to click to activate your account.

From then on you can view the minutes by simply logging in with your email address or screen name along with the magic password.

September 2016 Calendar

- Sept 1 - Newberg # 104 - Stated 7:30 pm
- Sept 3 - Tuality # 7 - Stated 10:00 am
- Sept 6 - Union # 3 - Stated 7:30 pm
- Sept 6 - Holbrook # 30 - Stated 7:30 pm
- Sept 7 - Rickreall # 110 - Stated 7:30 pm
- Sept 14 - Sheridan-Dayton # 64 - Stated 7:00 pm
- Sept 27 - Union # 3 Trustees meeting 6:30 pm
Officers meeting 7:30 pm

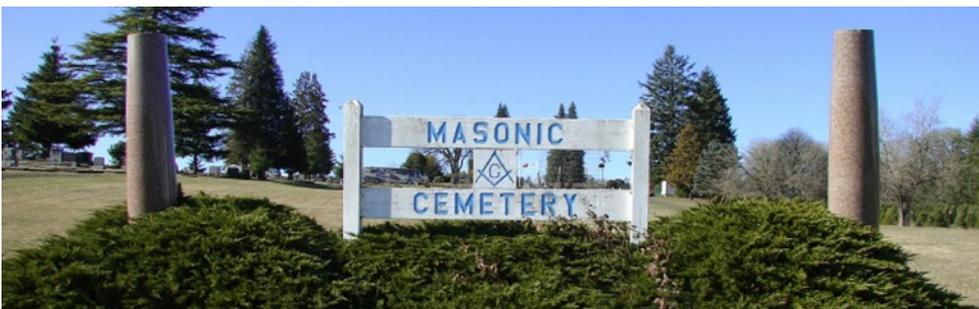
The Brothers of Union Lodge are encouraged to submit articles for the The Beacon. Submissions should be in Microsoft Word documents. Please email your articles to Tom Gardner at gardner_t@onlinenw.com by the 15th of the month for inclusion in the following month's edition of The Beacon.

Be sure to keep up with Lodge activities between editions of the Beacon by checking our website <http://www.unionlodge3.com>

or



Visit Union Lodge # 3 on Facebook and be sure to Like us.



THE MCMINNVILLE MASONIC CEMETERY
SINCE 1876

REGULAR BURIAL PLOTS
AND
COLUMBARIUM NICHES AVAILABLE

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

THE LODGE OFFICE (503) 472-2341
OR
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