

November 2016

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# THE BEACON

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

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### Attention Brothers

Union Lodge #3 will hold election of Lodge Officers at the Stated Meeting on Tuesday, November 1, 2016. Lodge opens promptly at 7:30 pm.

they've got their own bars and a more active calendar of social events. Just be aware that a social organization without an emphasis on morality and enlightenment can attract a low common denominator of character while losing members who are both intellectually curious and concerned with moral improvement. As a former member of one of the afore mentioned groups, I can tell you this information from first-hand experience.



### Tidings From the West

At times, there can be a fine line between a lighthouse offering direction and a siren leading a boat toward rocky shores. To this end, I would like to share some thoughts on "The Meaning of Masonry" by W.L. Wilmshurst.

In this book, Wilmshurst does an excellent job discussing the meaning of certain Masonic symbols and sheds light on aspects of the Blue Lodge degrees. As far as that goal is concerned, he does an excellent job and I would recommend this book as an addition to anyone's Masonic library. Wilmshurst makes a strong argument that as a descendant of the Western Schools of Mystery tradition, Freemasonry should be primarily considered as a path toward moral/philosophical enlightenment, rather than being considered as a social/fraternal group. While Wilmshurst is undeniably correct as to Freemasonry's origins, I believe that he has missed the boat regarding the full picture of what Freemasonry can and should offer its members.

From my perspective, if someone is looking for a strictly social organization, they might as well join a group such as the Elks or the Eagles. After all,

On the other hand, an organization that is hyper-focused on ritual and esoterica, while ignoring the tenets of Brotherly Love and Relief will find itself populated by well-meaning intellectuals who don't know how to put into practice all of the great things that they're trying to learn. In that way, reading a book about Freemasonry is a lot like reading a book about gymnastics – you will get some good ideas but you won't actually learn anything unless you get out there and do it.

Freemasonry has deep and fascinating philosophical truths to share. The rituals for opening and closing Lodge meetings and performing degrees are also wonderful and rich in meaning and tradition. However, I believe that it is the combination of philosophy, tradition, and community which has made Freemasonry important for centuries and will be the key to its relevance for centuries to come. All three of those components must be nurtured in order to grasp the meaning of Masonry and allow our Lodges to thrive.

The Buddha once said that the true path is in the middle. As Masons, we should set the highest possible standards for all aspects of the Craft while being careful to keep all things in due proportion. Striking this balance is no easy feat and is the

great duty incumbent upon all Masons. To this end, I found "The Meaning of Masonry" by W.L. Wilms-hurst to be a thought-provoking but incomplete analysis of Freemasonry's traditions and purpose.

Fraternally,  
Matt Gerbrandt  
Senior Warden, Union Lodge #3



### Tidings from the South

Good day from the South, Vacations or just time away is what I would like to touch bases on. I have lived most of my

adult life without going on vacations or getting out of town. I thought work was just too important and was I always in need of money. I'm learning as I go through life that you should take some time to get away from everyday things, even if it's only for a couple days. I am currently out of town for the weekend with my family and a couple really good friend. Makes most of the things that we consider stressful, not seem so bad. Laughing and enjoying friends company... can't replace that. We only live once and we hope to enjoy things in this lifetime as much as possible before that time has come.

Hope everyone can enjoy as much as possible. Have a great rest of the year. Happy Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Merry Christmas.

Fraternally,  
Mike Persons  
Junion Warden, Union Lodge #3



### From the Secretary's Desk

Greetings from the Secretary's Desk

Now is the time when we turn our attention to elections and dues.

Notices for both have gone out. I'll be auditing membership records and sending notices for other things out – make sure that you catch up on dues if you need to. Candidates – check the time elapsed on your degree progression; you might get a note from me to remind you to be working on your proficiencies.

We're gliding into installations and change of the Masonic year. Watch the Trestleboard for an-

nouncements on installation ceremonies, date, time, and related items.

We had a work day scheduled earlier this month (October) at the cemetery and got some work done – still lots to do, so don't be surprised if we call another one soon. We also had one scheduled for the building – the principal needs there are re-hanging Past Masters pictures (we have new frames, so they all need to be reframed) and past Grand Master pictures. There's some miscellaneous cleaning and "field-day" work to be done, as well, so let me know if you're up for that and what your availability might be.

It's never too early to start thinking about Sweet-heart's Dinner and Corned Beef and Cabbage. Sweetheart's is in February, usually around Valentine's Day, and is presided over by our own WB Rod Brown, Jr. Widows and wives, along with Brethren, are invited. Pricing and menu options will be announced closer to the date. This is one of those occasions that having ladies' information is really important to us so that we can make it known to as many wives and widows as possible. (The long threatened form to gather this information was included in your dues notices.) Also, don't forget Corned Beef and Cabbage. Always on the first Tuesday of March and preceding our Stated, it's always a Grand affair, with the Grand Master and many of the other Grand Lodge officers attending. If you can make it to Stated that night, that's a good night to come – good food, a good spread, and good fellowship. In the last few years we've added a Ladies' program. We're expecting the same for 2017 and Ladies will be invited again. Mark your calendar and watch this space for menu and program particulars.

Finally, remember if you move or your contact information changes (especially address, phone number, or email address), make sure to call the Lodge office or send us an email at the contact information in the Trestleboard masthead. That way we can ensure that you get notices and mailings or we can contact you by phone for funeral arrangements or other notifications. The Trestleboard is always available on the Lodge website if you want to catch up.

Fraternally,  
Frank Blair  
Secretary, Union Lodge #3



## Some Thoughts from WB Johnny Edwards

If you have ever wondered how Masonry came to Oregon, here is a link to a wonderful little document. Click on the underlined title below

to view the pdf file.

[How Masonry Came to Oregon](#)

## Tracing Boards

Did you know that we have tracing boards from the old Lafayette # 3 Masonic Lodge?

In 2012 while searching through the entire lodge building for records I came across the lower closet at the base of the stairs.

Inside the closet was all of what could be found of the Lafayette # 3 Masonic Lodge. After consolidation with Lafayette #3 it appears that all of the records were placed in this closet.

This is where I found the following Tracing Boards.

These Tracing Boards were used to instruct the candidate during the Masonic Rituals of Old. More than likely these were used prior to the consistent ritual that we know of today.

Click on the link below to view these six beautiful Tracing Boards.

[Tracing Boards](#)

## I See You've Traveled Some

Wherever you may chance to be--Wherever you may roam,  
Far away in foreign lands; Or just at Home Sweet Home;  
It always gives you pleasure, it makes your heart strings hum  
Just to hear the words of cheer,  
"I see you've traveled some."

When you get a brother's greeting, And he takes you by the hand,  
It thrills you with a feeling that you cannot understand,  
You feel that bond of brotherhood that tie that's sure to come  
When you hear him say in a friendly way  
"I see you've travelled some."

And if you are a stranger, In strange lands all alone  
If fate has left you stranded--Dead broke and far from home,  
It thrills you--makes you dumb, When he says with a grip of fellowship,  
"I see you've travelled some."

And when your final summons comes, To take a last long trip,  
Adorned with Lambskins Apron White and gems of fellowship-  
The Tiler at the Golden Gate, With Square and Level and Plumb

Will size up your pin and say "Walk In",  
"I see you've travelled some."

And finally...

**My Mason's Prayer**

This ring I wear,  
cast of silver fair,  
is so much more to me.  
With many symbols borne,  
sharp edges now worn,  
'tis a constant reminder and memory.

An Oath I took,  
for Brotherhood,  
of service to God and Man.  
Has been engraved,  
with tongue and blade,  
affixed on my right hand.  
May the world without,  
be shown no doubt,  
of my intent and plan.

That I should do,  
good Works and truth,  
always upright to stand.

My Mason's prayer,  
if through human error,  
perhaps my soul be stained.

With Light restore,  
this heart once more,  
Working till all be gained.

*Square & Compass, now keep me in, bounds now there transcribed;  
Allow me to live, through my cause might give, a whisper of Light and Life.*

~Jon Sage  
[www.morelightinmasonry.com](http://www.morelightinmasonry.com)



## SMIB

### November 2016 Calendar

- Nov 1 - Union # 3 - Stated 7:30 pm
- Nov 1 - Holbrook # 30 - Stated 7:30 pm
- Nov 2 - Rickreall # 110 - Stated 7:30 pm
- Nov 3 - Newberg # 104 - Stated 7:30 pm
- Nov 6 - Tuality # 7 - Stated 10:00 am
- Nov 9 - Sheridan-Dayton # 64 - Stated 7:00 pm
- Nov 29 - Union # 3 Trustees meeting 6:30 pm  
Officers meeting 7:30 pm

## 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](mailto: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. The Brothers of Union Lodge are encouraged to submit articles for The Beacon. Submissions should be in Microsoft Word documents. Please email your articles to

Tom Gardner at [gardner\\_t@onlinenw.com](mailto: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

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