

December 2016

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THE BEACON

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

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Tidings from the East

Hello, Brethren and thank you so much for electing me as your Worshipful Master for next year.

Being chosen to serve the Freemasonry in that capacity is a humbling honor and is something that I have hoped to do for a very long time.

Although the past month has been difficult, we're off to an excellent start as we look toward the coming year. We have been in touch with Habitat For Humanity and will hopefully be participating in one or two work days to help build homes for those in our community who are struggling economically. WB Johnny Edwards has also reached out to me with the idea of starting up a formal committee to make sure that we stay in touch with Masonic widows to make sure that they're doing alright and that they're aware of Lodge functions that they may be interested in. In addition, we will be hosting one or more "open house" events, including a pancake breakfast fundraiser for our school outreach program which provides clothing and other necessities to children in need.

There's a lot to look forward to and a lot to do in the coming year. If any of these programs are appealing to you, please let me or one of the other Lodge officers know. There's plenty of room for you to help!

Fraternally,
Matt Gerbrandt, Worshipful Master Pro-Tem



Tidings From the West

I would like to thank you all for the opportunity to talk about some of my favorite books related to the Craft during this past year. As much as I have enjoyed writing about esoteric topics such as Alchemy and exploring little known historical events with you, I would like to close out my year in the West by encouraging you to read the Standard Manual published by our own Grand Lodge of Oregon.

A thorough understanding of the Masonic ritual is essential to upholding our traditions and deepening our understanding of Masonry's teachings. While our Standard Manual may not delve deeply into esoterica, it provides us with the required foundation for understanding those concepts and their role in the Lodge.

Further, a well-run Lodge meeting demonstrates to our members that the Lodge officers hold Freemasonry in high regard and take their roles seriously. This leadership by example is essential for respecting the time of our long-standing members as well as making a good impression on our newer brothers. I feel very fortunate to be part of a Lodge which takes these traditions and responsibilities seriously.

While I cannot guarantee that my ritual work will be 100% flawless in the year to come, I can promise you that I will continue studying our Standard Manual in order to improve my work and I strongly encourage you to do the same.

Fraternally,
Matt Gerbrandt
Senior Warden, Union Lodge #3

**See page 3 for the schedule for
Installation of Officers**



From the Secretary's Desk

Greetings from the Secretary's Desk

As is sometimes the case, I had a topic that I thought might be both interesting and timely, incorporating some historical research and witty discourse. Unfortunately, that topic seems to be one upon which no one has really done any history. At least that I can find. So, I'll put that topic back in my back pocket and save it for another day.

In the meantime, let's not forget that installation of Lodge Officers for 2017 is coming up. We hope to see as many folks as possible there to welcome and support the new slate as they get ready to be put to work at the changing of the Masonic year in December.

If you haven't updated your Code or Ritual lately, now might be a good time. After Annual Communications every year we receive addendums and changes that you have to use to replace particular pages in the books. After a certain point, full printed copies are available. If you've gotten behind on addendums or just haven't updated your copy lately, let me know and I can order a new set of documentation. There is a nominal cost involved for printing and shipping – for example, Code and Ritual would be \$7.00 plus shipping to update your copy. Also, there are other pamphlets and booklets available that might be useful – Masonic Etiquette, Duties of the Investigating Committee, Officers Handbook, Mentor's Packets, and more. If you're interested in something or looking for something, let me know and I'll see if we have some materials to help you out. I have some of them in stock in the Lodge office.

Response to the information gathering that went out with the dues notices has been good. Thank you for the responses! This dovetails nicely with a new Lodge management/Secretary's portal available at Grand Lodge. Now Lodge Secretaries have some additional capabilities which include keeping track of wives and widows information, doing updates in real time (as opposed to submitting paper forms or email for Grand Lodge folks to handle), and uploading other forms, reports, and documentation. This is related to the new Grand Lodge website, which, if you haven't been out to it lately, is a nice update. There are some member features, too. Check it out if you have a chance: <http://www.masonic-oregon.com>.

On a related note, just a gentle reminder that we started publishing meeting minutes to the Union Lodge website. They are in a members-only area which requires registration and they are encrypted. There are certain other security restrictions on the files themselves (for example, you can't print.) If you need help getting to them, let me know and I can send you instructions. We try to have them posted about mid-month to allow for plenty of review time before the Stated Communication. This makes review and revision much easier and saves time in the regular meeting for other work, such as programs.

Looking ahead, we have a couple major events coming up. The Sweethearts Dinner in February, prepared and hosted by WB Rod Brown, Jr. All Widows and Ladies are invited, Masons also, of course, but this one is focused on the Ladies. More information will be available closer to the time, including RSVP information. And, it's never too early to start thinking about Corned Beef and Cabbage in March. That one will precede our Stated Communication on March 7th. This is always a lot of fun and usually has good attendance. The Grand Master and some of his Grand Line will be in attendance for an official visit, which draws in Brethren from all over the jurisdiction. Start clearing your calendars and pencil it in now. RSVP and more information to follow, probably in the February Beacon.

Finally, this month we lost two Brethren to the Celestial Lodge, that house not made with hands. WB Robert Orr and Bro. O.C. Yocom, Jr., 68 and 67 year members of the Fraternity, respectively. Please keep these Brother's families in your prayers. We will be remembering them and all the Brethren who have passed on this year at our December Stated Communication.

Fraternally,
Frank Blair
Secretary, Union Lodge #3



Some Thoughts from WB Johnny Edwards

How to Recognize a Real Freemason

Posted on December 12, 2015 by Jeff Peace on
Freemasonry 101

" Many people believe that the way to recognize a real Freemason is through the exchange of secret words and handshakes, but these are merely symbolic allusions to something far more profound. So, how can you recognize a real Freemason?

The real Freemason extends friendship towards all, because he views all human beings as part of one great brotherhood under God.

He does not judge others, because he knows that only God has the wisdom to judge the hearts of men.

He is honest and fair in all his dealings. He defends the weak from abuse by the powerful. He discovers the inner beauty within all people and things.

He lives in the present moment, neither the past nor the future have claim over his thoughts and mind.

He follows the dictates of his own conscience, and is not subject to external influences. He is guided by both Faith and Reason.

He is not a slave to his passions, but is passionate about living a life with purpose. He seeks to heal the divisions that separate men, and to sow the seeds of tolerance in their hearts.

He helps to raise others up to recognize their true potential. His heart and mind are open to understanding. He has attained both virtue and probity through quiet reflection.

Do you know any real Freemasons? "

May my love for my brother be what binds us together far stronger than any folded cord.

Let division remain at the outer door of our hearts.

May providence be the Guide to the confused.

Let us offer aid to those who are destitute.

And may we never forget that death is only an illusion For we live on by the souls we influence.

PM Josh Northcutt
Stone Cutters of Freemasonry
Facebook Group

And finally...

SMIB

Installation of the Officers of Union Lodge # 3 for the 2017 Lodge Year will be held in the Lodge Room on Sunday, December 18, 2016, at 3:00 pm.

Following Installation, a spaghetti dinner prepared by WB Frank Blair will be served in the dining room.

This is a PUBLIC Installation.

Please RSVP to the Lodge email address, unionlodge@onlinenw.com or call 503-472-2341 and leave a message no later than December 16th.

Menu:

Spaghetti with Marinara or meat sauce
Salad
Garlic Bread
Tiramisu
Assorted beverages

December 2016 Calendar

Dec 1 - Newberg # 104 - Stated 7:30 pm

Dec 3 - Tuality # 7 - Stated 10:00 am

Dec 6 - Union # 3 - Stated 7:30 pm

Dec 6 - Holbrook # 30 - Stated 7:30 pm

Dec 7 - Rickreall # 110 - Stated 7:30 pm

Dec 14 - Sheridan-Dayton # 64 - Stated 7:00 pm

Dec 18 - Union # 3 Installation of Officers
and dinner

Dec 27 - Union # 3 Trustees meeting 6:30 pm
Officers meeting 7:30 pm

May this Holiday Season bring Joy,
Peace and Love to you and your
Loved Ones.

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. The Brothers of Union Lodge are encouraged to submit articles for The Beacon. If possible, 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.

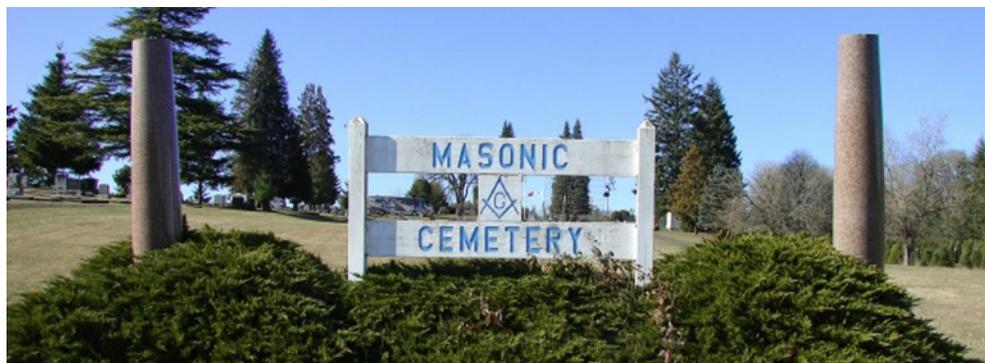
Be sure to keep up with Lodge activities between editions of the Beacon by checking our website <http://www.unionlodge3.com>

or



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

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THE MCMINNVILLE MASONIC CEMETERY
SINCE 1876

REGULAR BURIAL PLOTS
AND
COLUMBARIUM NICHES AVAILABLE

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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