

WM Matthew Gerbrandt -
503-508-5893
SW Johnny J. Edwards -
971-237-4250
JW John Porter -
360-589-8692
Secretary Frank Blair
503-858-5445
Lodge Office (Leave Message) -
503-472-2341
Email Address -
unionlodge@onlinenw.com
Website -
http://www.unionlodge3.com



THE BEACON

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

April 2017

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Tidings From the East

Mark Zuckerberg, founder of Facebook, recently wrote an excellent article titled "Building Global Community." The key

questions that he put forth in his article were as follows:

- How do we help people build **supportive communities** that strengthen traditional institutions in a world where membership in these institutions is declining?
- How do we help people build a **safe community** that prevents harm, helps during crises and rebuilds afterwards in a world where anyone across the world can affect us?
- How do we help people build an **informed community** that exposes us to new ideas and builds common understanding in a world where every person has a voice?
- How do we help people build a **civically-engaged community** in a world where participation in voting sometimes includes less than half our population?
- How do we help people build an **inclusive community** that reflects our collective values and common humanity from local to global levels, spanning cultures, nations and regions in a world with few examples of global communities?

Zuckerberg's article really resonated with me because it propounds the exact questions which we've been wrestling with and attempting to address at Union Lodge. We are strengthening our community with our school outreach program and our Habitat for Humanity work day. We are fostering an informed community with our guest speakers and creating an inclusive community with our fellowship during and after meetings.

However, none of these efforts will be sustainable without a committed effort from each of you. In the coming months, please make a priority of attending our school outreach fundraiser (Saturday, May 20th) and our Habitat for Humanity work day (Saturday, June 10th).

Your presence at our stated communications is essential to the functioning of our Lodge and the existence of our Masonic community. However, if we are to live up to our high moral standards and fulfill our stated purposes in the community, we've got to set aside some time for helping the less fortunate among us. Do not assume that someone else will be able to take up the slack if you do not participate. There is no community without you.

Speaking of dedication to the Craft, I would like to extend a very hearty thanks to WB Frank Blair, his wife Kathleen, and all of those who pitched in make our Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner in March a wonderful success. It was a lot of work and your efforts are much appreciated. My wife and I were lucky enough to have left-overs on hand while I was recovering from my hernia surgery the following day. That was truly one of the finest meals I've had in a while.

Also, thanks to WB Johnny Edwards, MWB Hunt Compton, and others for their dedication to the job of framing and hanging all of the Past Master photos in our Lodge. Your efforts at preserving our Lodge's history are a real gift to present and future Masons here in McMinnville.

Last but not least, I'm quite pleased that we are in the process of organizing an Entered Apprentice Degree in April. Our candidate, Jared, has shown real dedication to meeting the criteria for receiving a petition and we are lucky to have such an earnest and nice young man joining our ranks. We're currently working on selecting a date that works for everyone. Details to follow via email.

Fraternally,
WB Matt Gerbrandt



Tidings from the West

Historical Deed Found

As members of Union #3 we are all very much aware that our Masonic lodge owns and has the responsibility of care of the McMinnville Oregon Masonic Cemetery.

Some of the newer members might not be aware that we also received the responsibility of care and ownership of the Lafayette Oregon Masonic Cemetery upon consolidation with Lafayette #3 in 1990.

Lafayette #3 was originally Chartered from the sponsoring of the Grand Lodge of California on May 9, 1851 and was named California #15 under this 1851 Charter. California #15 became Lafayette #3 from a Grand Lodge of Oregon Charter September 15, 1851¹.

On June 8, 1990 Lafayette #3 consolidated with Union #43 and it was at this time Union #43 was renamed Union # 3.

This is the basic history of how we as Union #3 acquired the Lafayette Oregon Masonic Lodge.

It has not been easy trying to understand the history of this small pioneer cemetery. The history of this cemetery appears to have not been documented in any way.

The Trustees have been collecting articles, maps etc. for several years. Piecing this history together one entry, one document at a time.

There are many maps that were created over the years with different entries in different areas of the Lafayette Masonic Cemetery which are slowly being compared and compiled into one working cemetery map and listing of burials.

In February of 2017 a very small parchment tightly rolled was found in a cabinet.

This parchment was the original transfer deed from the family who owned the land where the Lafayette Masonic Cemetery is today.

With the area of the Public Burial Ground being a very prominent piece of the cemetery on many of the maps it was always a question of why it was called the Public Burial Ground.

The transfer deed from the Johnson family to the Lafayette Oregon Masonic Lodge on November 28, 1890 makes it very clear that the Johnson family wanted this land to be given not just to the Lafayette Masonic Lodge for its use but to all of the Lafayette Citizens.

This is where the name of the Public Burial Ground came about.

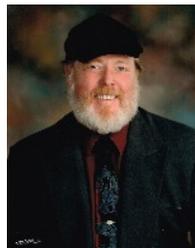
This is a very important find for the ongoing documentation of the History of the Lafayette Oregon Masonic Lodge.

Enjoy!

¹ Proceedings GLO 2012, pg 271

[Click Here to view the historic documents](#)

Johnny J. Edwards
Senior Warden
Union #3



Tidings from the South

It is often challenging to us as Masons to see how much a difference we make in our communities and in society. As men, we strive each day to make ourselves better, keeping in mind the lessons that Masonry has taught us. And since we are human, some days we do better than others. But as we meet our daily challenges, caught up in the minutia of life, the contemplative Mason has to wonder how big a difference we really make. Our fraternity is smaller in numbers than it

once was, how large an impact could it possibly have?

From my perspective, quite large indeed. We are so used to the society in which we live that it is easy to miss the obvious signs that show how much Masonry has shaped it. When a car dealership is advertising a square deal, they are making an unwitting nod to a Masonic lesson. When someone says that they will level with you, once again a Masonic influence stands forth. Our Fraternity has been around so long that it has influenced not just society, but the very language itself.

Nor has the influence been limited simple phrases. They say that imitation is the truest form of flattery. Should you have the chance to visit other fraternal societies, you will be quite surprised at how much an influence Masonry has had on them. Having seen an Elks Lodge, I was struck by the similarities in their officers and positions. When walking through an Odd Fellows Lodge in a small town, I was surprised by how at home I felt. It was a small Lodge, in a relatively tiny room. But more impressive than the elegant woodwork was the fact that all of the furniture was exactly in place. If you did not know it, you would swear that you had stepped into a turn-of-the-century Blue Lodge. Even some religions have drawn heavily from Masonry, and that makes a very interesting study all by itself.

Nor are the influences limited to the past. The other day I came across a rather flamboyant union sticker on a pickup. What do you think? Look familiar?



As individuals, we can only control our own actions. But when we make sure that those actions are truly Masonic, then we improve our little corner of the world...and demonstrate through our actions what being a Mason really means. And people notice. When the Lodge

acts Masonically it improves our community. And when the Fraternity, spread across the globe, demonstrates through its actions the meaning of truth, friendship and brotherly love; then we improve our world. And if others see fit to emulate our actions,

then Masonic virtues spread beyond the Fraternity itself.

So the next time you wonder whether we are making a difference, rest assured, we are. And if you happen to see something that makes you think that someone was trying to copy the Fraternity, feel free to be amused. It's just very sincere flattery.

Walk in light, my Brothers.

Fraternally,
John Porter
Junior Warden



From the Secretary's Desk

"History is shaped by the people who seek to preserve it. We, of the present, decide what to keep, what to put on display, what to put into storage, and what to discard."

Susanna Kearsley, author

If you were at the Stated Communication a couple weeks ago, you no doubt heard that the Grand Master's Edict of our very own MWB Hunt Compton's Grand Year is being extended and refreshed. A form was sent along to spur getting the creative, historical juices flowing for the Lodge historian. As a trained historian, I like the idea – so often, we go through the motions and days turn to weeks, which turn to months, which turn to years. Before any of us knows it, we're at the end of our Masonic career and history has just passed us by. It's good to capture that in the context of the Lodge.

That being said, I find the form to be a little, "antiseptic", for lack of a better word. Basic facts about things that happened. On a form.

The thing about history is (and this is the part that often gets short shrift in elementary school and high school), it's a narrative. It's not just a collection of facts – it's the relationship between those facts and several groups of people: the people who contributed to the facts at hand by leading up to them, the people directly concerned with the facts at hand, and the people who are reading about it in the present. That's a narrative; that's a story. Our story. Our history. It requires interpretation. It requires context. And it requires meaning.

I collect coins. Very often I have a conversation along similar lines with people who "inherited a coin collection from their grandfather." Nine times

out of ten they pull out a bag of wheat pennies and I spend some time explaining the difference between an “accumulation” (a large group of things) and a “collection” (a group of things that are curated for meaning.) Facts are like that, too. A large group of facts is just an accumulation. A large group of facts that are curated for meaning is a history.

Unfortunately, we can’t keep everything and, even if we did, it very often lacks one of those requirements. This speaks directly to Kearsley’s quote, above – we can’t keep everything and we’re constantly making decisions that impact what becomes part of our history and how (sometimes “if”) it can be interpreted.

While preparing Past Master’s pictures to re-hang them before Corned Beef & Cabbage we discovered a history of Union Lodge written about 1925 by the then Secretary Leroy Lewis. It was intriguing and there were many salient details that don’t appear in later histories. It was a narrative form, but taken from the minutes, sometimes with a little embellishment of things that he knew personally or filling in gaps to make the minutes more readable. We have the cost of the current building and some notes about the process that authorized it and saw it built. We know roughly when the dishes in the dining room were purchased and for what amount. There’s a tantalizing reference to a “previous brick building” on the same location where we are today which may indicate that we are in the third building on this spot. Some of the processes related to the establishment of the cemetery are also recounted.

WB Johnny, as Lodge Historian, is working on several projects to aggregate, preserve, and make available our history. He’s been going through cabinets and boxes of kept items and writing a narrative of his own that incorporates those previous works – 1960s, 1990s, and now 1925. We can also add to it a history of Lafayette Lodge #3 that was written about 1904 for a better picture of how we came to be the Lodge that we are and how the Fraternity has settled into McMinnville, Lafayette, and Yamhill County.

I’m working on several projects of my own in my “copious free time” related to preserving and making searchable copies of cemetery and membership records. (Minutes will go in there too, at some point.)

All of this is good stuff.

You might consider writing your own story to contribute to the history of the Lodge - your own Masonic history. We keep the basic facts – the important dates of your Masonic career, mostly, along with mentions in the Minutes. That doesn’t capture the good times, the hard times, the projects, and the triumphs of your time in Lodge – the things that provide context and meaning to you. Put enough of those together and we’d be able to pass on a rich context for the next generations of Brothers who trod the third floor.

Some Brethren have recently donated some materials – books and paraphernalia – to the library/museum at Lodge. While interesting in their own right, the history that goes along with them would also be good to know. Consider taking the time to write a brief history of the piece or pieces – how you came to have them, Brethren that might have been instrumental in your being involved or acquiring them, what they meant to you, from whom they might have been inherited. Donate that, too. The narrative will go a long way to providing context for future generations.

Museums, libraries, and histories are all about context.

Oddly enough, in many ways, so are we in the Fraternity.

Fraternally,
Frank Blair
Secretary



Some Thoughts from WB Johnny Edwards

Here are some links to podcasts that you might find interesting:

<https://www.thewindingstairs.com/>

www.thewindingstairs.com/freemasonry-podcast/

<https://scottishrite.org/about/media-publications/tylers-place/>

www.blogtalkradio.com/masonic-central

www.masonicpodcast.com/

www.themasonictrowel.com/masonic_podcast.htm

www.wcypodcast.com/

www.themasonicroundtable.com/

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 simple 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 you email address or screen name along with the magic password.

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.

March/April 2017 Calendar

- Mar 28** - Officers Meeting 7:30 pm
- Apr 1** - Tuality # 7 - Stated 10:00 am
- Apr 4** - Union # 3 Stated Meeting - 7:30 pm
- Apr 4** - Holbrook # 30 - Stated 7:30 pm
- Apr 5** - Rickreall # 110 - Stated 7:30 pm
- Apr 6** - Newberg # 104 - Stated 7:30 pm
- Apr 12** - Sheridan-Dayton # 64 - Stated 7:00 pm
- Apr 25** - Union # 3 Officers meeting 7:30 pm

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.