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# THE BEACON

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

May 2017

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### Tidings From the East

Hello, Craftsmen and welcome to May! Thanks to all who turned out for the Entered Apprentice Degree that was held

for our new Brother - Jared Brandon-Flande. We are honored and grateful to have this fine young man join our Lodge.

Our stated communication for this month will include a visit from our District Deputy, RWB Steve Vanderzanden. We are all looking forward to hearing the latest news from the Grand Master and our Grand Lodge. Our meeting will also include a presentation from WB Thomas Pierce titled "The Craft's Philosophical Underpinnings." We are excited to have WB Thomas return to our Lodge for another of his excellent and educational talks.

Our May stated communication will also have a discussion of Grand Lodge legislation which will be voted on during the Grand Lodge Annual Communication in Bend, Oregon on June 1-2. If you're interested in the proposed legislation, you can obtain a digital copy from the Grand Lodge website or from the Union Lodge officers. Due to the number of items on the agenda for our May stated communication, please familiarize yourself with the legislation prior to the meeting so that our discussion can be focused on any proposed revisions.

WB Tom Gardner and I are also expecting to deliver another check to the Dayton Elementary School this month on behalf of Union Lodge and our School Outreach Program. During the past year, our School Outreach Program made it possible for dozens of children to receive school supplies and clothing which they would have been otherwise un-

able to afford. I hope that you are all planning to attend our Pancake Fundraiser on the morning of May 20<sup>th</sup> to help support and grow this wonderful program. FOR DETAILS SEE THE SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT ON PAGE 5.

Fraternally,  
WB Matt Gerbrandt



### Tidings from the West

A well furnished Masonic Lodge has at its center pictures of their Past Masters placed on a wall for all to see.

When a candidate enters the lodge for the first time it is important to impress upon him the pride and honor we as the Brothers of Union #3 have toward our history.

One way that this is accomplished is through our Past Master photographs.

If you attended lodge last month you were sure to have noticed our Past Master Picture Project slowly coming to an end.

The first series of Union #3 Past Master frames have been placed upon the ledge of the main entrance to the lodge for everyone to see.

This project has been an extremely long process.

First thing that had to be accomplished was to remove all of the old Past Master frames from their previous home in the Tylers room.

Next these frames were placed in many stacks awaiting the newly ordered frames to arrive.

150 years of Past Masters pictures were then removed from their very old frames and cleaned, documented and then scanned.

This took many months.

Then the long process of installing all of the Past Master pictures into the new frames took another several months to complete.

In March 2017 this project was completed when the most current Past Master picture was placed in a frame.

During your next visit to lodge please take a quiet moment and look at the new home of our honored Past Masters.

These Worshipful Brothers devoted themselves to their lodge and to their Brethren and we are giving them our devoted Fraternal respect by placing them with honor within our Masonic Lodge once again.

Johnny J. Edwards  
Senior Warden  
Union #3



### From the Secretary's Desk

*"Don't only practice your art, but force your way into its secrets; art deserves that, for it and knowledge can raise man to the Divine." - Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)*

As I write this, we're preparing for an Entered Apprentice degree to be conferred on April 19<sup>th</sup>. I've written about (and performed my interpretive dance program, for those lucky enough to be around) my thoughts on the Entered Apprentice degree conferral. The "Reader's Digest" version is this: One of the things that our, modern society lacks are true "rites of passage." The closest that we have, really, are milestones – the ability to drive, the ability to drive, the ability to vote, the ability to be considered an adult for the purposes of contract law and general society. Some of them have some conditions placed around them, but none of are really boundary conditions. Navigating the crossing is important. It's not uncommon for a man, for example, in a structured culture to be a 50-year old "child" – unable to marry, be considered an elder, participate in adult rites, etc.

The Entered Apprentice degree is just that – a rite of passage that guides a candidate across the boundary that separates the profane from the Brethren; the boundary that separates the seeker from the Light. That's one of the reasons that I'm attached to the idea that turnout and participation is important in the EA degree. We are there to help guide and support the candidate in following an important and solemn path. We are there to show them the community that is there for them. It may fall to them, individually, to force their way into the art but they won't be alone in doing it. It's important that they know – and more important that they see – us in that context.

When it's well executed and well-attended, each of the degrees are profound and moving experiences. In the Entered Apprentice, the candidate becomes a brother Apprentice. In the Fellowcraft degree the Apprentice becomes a journeyman, not fully independent but confident in some knowledge and practice, more especially their place in the Fraternity. In the Master Mason degree, they come more fully into their own – independent and secure, fully empowered and imbued with the tools and support necessary to make their way on what will be a lifetime of study and work.

Two MM conferrals brought that home for me in the last year or so. The first was the Malheur Cave Degree last August, my first experience at "the Cave" and privileged to be invited to participate. With the sort of attendance that a special, jurisdiction-wide, long-standing tradition evokes, it was truly profound. The power of that many voices speaking in unison, amplified by the echo in the case itself was spectacular. It was powerful for me; I can only imagine how the Brother upon whom the degree was being conferred felt. The other was just last week when I conferred the MM on a Brother at Corvallis #14. This one was special because the candidate's father, also a Brother, had flown over from England to participate and be a part of his son's advancement to the sublime degree. Not only did it have that special quality, but the turnout was very good compared to many degrees that I've seen. Not as large as the Cave, but large enough that it, too, was profound.

My question – my challenge, really – is this: why does it have to be a "special occasion" to bring us out in numbers to support our candidates and Brethren? I've said it before, as much as I'd love to see every Brother every month at Stated Communi-

cations... if you have to make a choice, come to the degrees and be an integral part of the community.

On a related note, we had a practice last weekend to prepare for the Entered Apprentice degree. It was good to work with Brothers on making sure that we do our part and give our candidate the experience that he deserves and improve ourselves in the process. If you're interested in participating in the degrees, let me know and we can work on getting you coached and up to speed. In short order, I expect that we'll be having a Fellowcraft and Master Mason and could use the help.

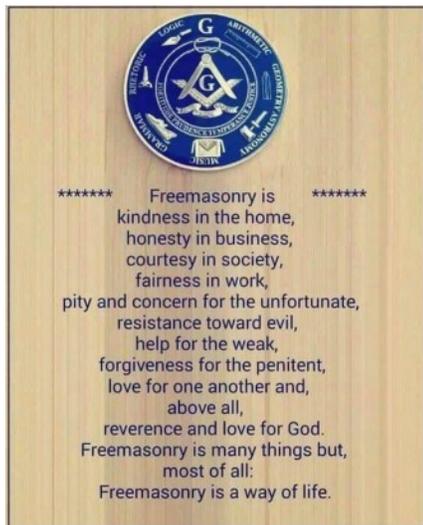
I've been lenient on dues notices, but a round of letters will be going out shortly. Please attend to them promptly.

Also, we're rapidly coming up on "we need to cram three months of work into three weeks of time" season at the cemetery. The rain is not cooperating with us this year and I suspect that we'll be hitting it hard in the last half of May to get ready for Memorial Day. If you're free to help, let me know.

Fraternally,  
Frank Blair  
Secretary



### Some Thoughts from WB Johnny Edwards



Brothers, the following links are to a collection of different histories of the Lodge that have been written over the years by different brothers. These have been collecting for several years. With recent new finds in the records of the Lodges I would like to share these new histories with everyone.

The lodge history titled, "Union 3 History 1992" was given to the lodge in February 2017 by MWB Hunt M. Compton with other papers and books that were in his possession.

The lodge history titled, "History of Union #43 - 100 years draft was given to the lodge in February 2017 by MWB Hunt M. Compton with other papers and books that were in his possession. This history appears to be an exact copy of a portion of the History titled, "The First Century of Masonry in McMinnville 1968".

[History of Union Lodge #43 - First 100 Years](#)

[1920 Union Lodge #43 History - L Lewis](#)

[Union Lodge #3 1992](#)

[Master and Secretary History Listing](#)

Here are links to two photographs that make up the original charter of Union #43.

I assume the copy was made upon consolidation with Lafayette #3 because we had to surrender the old charter for our new Union # 3 charter that we have in the tube

[Charter image 1](#)

[Charter image 2.](#)

And finally, a little something to smile about:

A Mason was having trouble with his ritual, and was telling a fellow Mason about his difficulty in a pub one day, and his friend said, "I know a man down the road who sells parrots who know the ritual and can prompt you when you have any trouble."

So the next day, off he went to the shop, where the owner told him he had three such parrots. He pulled back a curtain and there they were sitting in their cages, one with a Worshipful Junior Wardens apron on, one with a Worshipful Master's apron on and the last one wearing the apron of Past Master.

The wee Mason asked the owner how much was the parrot wearing the WSW apron. "£2000" said the owner, "but he knows all the Ritual, including the inner workings, and will always prompt you when you get stuck."

"No, No." says the wee Mason, "too expensive. What about the one with the RWM apron on?"

"Well" says the owner, "that's £1000, but he knows all the Ritual, but not the inner workings, and will always prompt you when you get stuck."

"No" says the wee mason, "Still too expensive, "what about the one with the Past Masters apron on?"

"You can have him for £10." says the owner?.

"£10." says the wee Mason, "Why so cheap? He must know all the ritual and the inner workings?"

"Oh Yes" says the owner, "he knows it all, but when you make a mistake, all he does is sit there, shake his head and goes tut! tut! tut!"

Facebook - Masonic Worldwide

### 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 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](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.

### April/May 2017 Calendar

**Apr 25** - Officers Meeting 7:30 pm

**May 2** - Union # 3 Stated Meeting - 7:30 pm

**May 2** - Holbrook # 30 - Stated 7:30 pm

**May 3** - Rickreall # 110 - Stated 7:30 pm

**May 4** - Newberg # 104 - Stated 7:30 pm

**May 6** - Tuality # 7 - Stated 10:00 am

**May 10** - Sheridan-Dayton # 64 - Stated 7:00 pm

**May 20** - Union Lodge Pancake Breakfast

**SEE NEXT PAGE FOR DETAILS**

**May 30** - Union # 3 Officers meeting 7:30 pm



*Hear Ye, Hear Ye*

Union Lodge Pancake  
Breakfast for our School  
Outreach Fund

Saturday, May 20, 2017

8:00 - 11:00 am

\$5.00 for adults

\$3.00 for children

At Union Lodge #3, 235 NE Third Street,  
McMinnville, OR 97128

Stairs to third floor on Third Street.  
Elevator located in the parking lot behind  
Harvest Fresh.

Hope to see you there.