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THE BEACON

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

June 2017

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Tidings From the East

Hello, Craftsmen and members of our Masonic community! May was a big month for the Lodge and our School Outreach Program in particular. On Thursday, May 11th WB Tom Gardner and I presented another check to Dayton Elementary School during their morning assembly. Using these funds from Union Lodge, the school will be able to continue providing school supplies and other necessities, such as shoes and winter jackets, to children who would otherwise be unable to afford them. It's wonderful to see our Lodge making a positive impact in our community and it's an honor to be a part of that effort.



Seeing the good work that's happening in Dayton, we held our first fundraiser at the Lodge on Saturday, May 20th in order to grow the amount of money available for this program. The fundraiser was quite successful, especially for a first attempt and raised

several hundred dollars. In the coming months, we will choose an additional school to help out and begin establishing a connection with their staff.

There were a lot of lessons learned in the course of pulling off this fundraiser, as well as new ideas for how we could integrate our fundraiser into the UFO Festival. Over the course of this next year, we will form a School Outreach Fundraiser committee to discuss and implement these ideas.

I would like to personally thank the following Brothers who showed up to help out:

WB Frank Blair - We truly could not have pulled it off without your help purchasing and preparing the food. Also, thanks to your wife Kathleen for lending a hand!

Brother David Pfendler - It was great to have you there manning the pancake maker all morning and it was wonderful to see you again!

WB Johnny Edwards - Thanks again for holding down the cashier responsibilities, helping with cleanup, and giving guided tours of the Lodge.

Brother Scott Rasbach - Your efforts at bringing people in off the street made a big difference and was much appreciated. Also, the farm fresh eggs were outstanding!

Brother Matt Coady - Thanks for helping out and making sure the widows felt welcome.

Also, thanks to the Brothers and their families who came out to support this program and enjoy a morning of fellowship!

Our June stated communication will be held on Tuesday, June 6th and we will be visited by the Capitol Chapter of DeMolay. They will be putting on a

degree and we're all quite interested to see what that's like. I hope to see you all there!

On an unrelated note, I would like to remind everyone that we will be going dark in July and August. Have a fun and safe summer. I look forward to seeing you all in September!

Fraternally,
WB Matt Gerbrandt



Tidings from the West

Going Dark?

I understand the use of the term of Going Dark but I have always had a problem with its use.

A Worshipful Master uses the term to signify the lodge being inactive for the summer.

It is my belief that Brothers are never in the Dark if one walks with the Fraternal Light of the Ancient Craft.

Unfortunately many times in my personal walk with Freemasonry I have had to witness the Darkness of Man take over a lost Brother and even an entire Lodge. During those cloudy days I have to remind myself that we are a Progressive Science and we are Progressing Thus.

When a lodge goes Dark during the summer we are never truly Dark.

Does 'Going Dark' mean we as Brothers can not meet on the level and share our personal and Fraternal Light with each other?

I have shared my belief many times that the Ancient Craft is more than just a Fraternity. It is a way of life, a philosophy.

We as Brothers carry our own personal and Fraternal Light. When a Brother combines his Light with other Brothers a very Bright Light surrounds them.

This Bright Light is easily obtained while a Lodge is Dark.

During the months of July and August do not wait for another Brother to make the call to gather to make that Bright Light.

Take it upon yourself to make the call.

"We might be Dark but let's create a very Bright Light and meet on the level."

See you in September.

Johnny J. Edwards
Senior Warden
Union #3



From the Secretary's Desk

"Death is natural and necessary, but not just. It is a random force of nature; survival is equally accidental. Each loss is an occasion to remember that survival is a gift."
- Harriet McBryde Johnson

It was a warm, sunny day. I was supposed to meet lawnmower-man up at the cemetery at noon to work on mowers. I waited until 12:30 pm and then set out to do the other things I needed to do. One of those things involved taking one of the zero-turn mowers to the Lafayette cemetery.

I talk about mowing at "the" cemetery a lot, but we are actually on the hook for two. The big, active one in McMinnville and a smaller, older one in Lafayette, a few miles up the road. It's no longer active (meaning that we don't bury people there anymore) but it does get some visitors on Memorial Day weekend. It probably gets more around Halloween as it is away from town, secluded, and notorious for some nonsensical association from the late 19th c. With the exceptions of Memorial Day weekend or pre-arranged appointments, the gate is locked and closed.

The earliest graves in the Lafayette Masonic Cemetery (that we know of) are 1851, shortly after the Lodge in Lafayette was chartered and only slightly longer after the town of Lafayette was founded (1846.) The cemetery itself is situated on the crown of a tree-ringed hill just outside of the town. It flows down the side of the hill about three-quarters of the way. The very top, laid out beneath a tall tree grove, was the "public burying ground" for the town back in the day. That's actually how it's listed on the plot maps that we have. Unfortunately, no detail accompanies them.

Lately, we've paid a landscaping crew to go up and string trim the whole place to get ready for Memorial Day. There's a ton of tree limbs that fall in the intervening year and a lot of stones that have toppled, either because of the tree-fall or thrill-seeking, juvenile people (of all ages.) That made us reluctant to try to mow. But this year, I figured I'd haul a

mower up and see how much I could get done safely and confidently.

As it turns out, quite a lot. I probably hit 75-80% with the mower in about 3.5 hrs. I got stuck once and had to trek out to get rope so I could drive the truck down the hill and pull the mower up to solid ground. That set the lower boundary and after that, it went okay. There were some areas that weren't safe on the mower or were too dense in stones. I made a dent, though.

The grass was an easy 3-4' tall in places and the mower wasn't the right tool, but it's the tool I had. (If all you have is a hammer, everything looks like a nail.) Four or five passes over the same ground to get it looking decent later and it worked out. Next time will be easier (I hope) and if I sharpen the blades, so much the better. We'll still need the trimming crew, but I suspect that I can cut the bill by 50-70% and that was the point.

My great triumph, however, turned sour on me around midway through the mowing. I made a pass down the hill through the tall grass and on the return pass saw a bunny in the new-mown grass that hadn't made it out in time. The blades didn't get him, but he was got, nonetheless.

I have hunted and I fish and I have exactly zero qualms about killing for a purpose and with intent. I'm less keen on doing so accidentally.

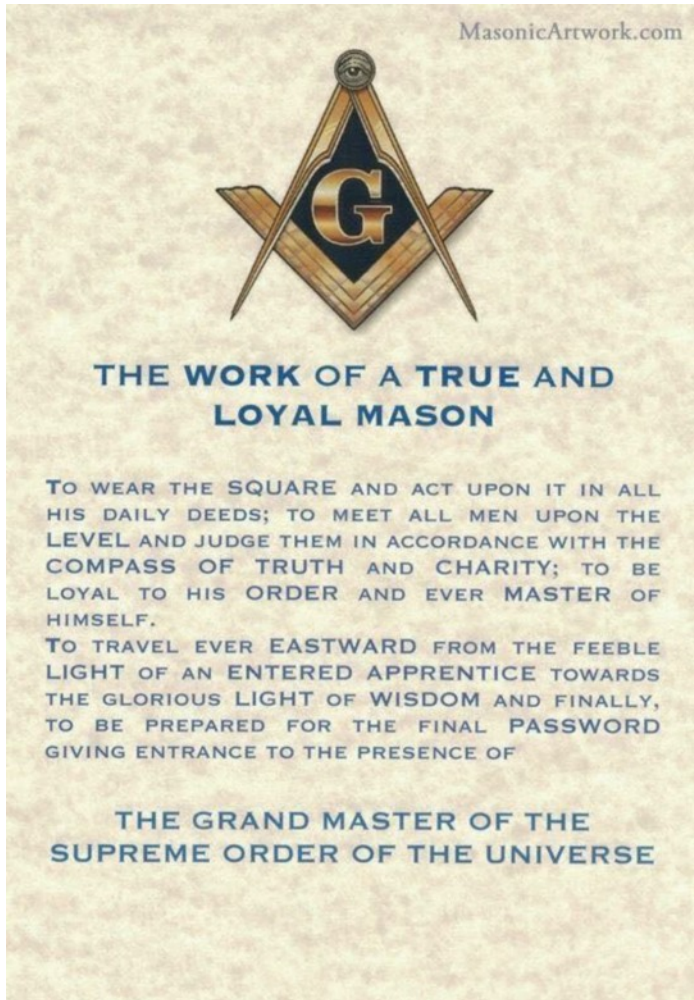
I found him a quiet, secluded spot down the hill and proceeded that much slower, hoping that the commotion of the slow procession would drive anybody else out well ahead of the machine.

Fraternally,
Frank Blair
Secretary



Some Thoughts from
WB Johnny Edwards





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.

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.

May/June 2017 Calendar

- May 30** - Officers Meeting 7:30 pm
- June 3** - Tuality # 7 - Stated 10:00 am
- June 6** - Union # 3 Stated Meeting - 7:30 pm
- June 6** - Holbrook # 30 - Stated 7:30 pm
- June 7** - Rickreall # 110 - Stated 7:30 pm
- June 8** - Newberg # 104 - Stated 7:30 pm
- June 14** - Sheridan-Dayton # 64 - Stated 7:00 pm
- June 27** - Union # 3 Officers meeting 7:30 pm

Remember Brothers, Union Lodge will be dark in the months of July and August.

We hope to see you at our June Stated Meeting on June 6th.