

WM Matthew Gerbrandt -
503-508-5893
SW Scott Rassbach -
503-208-6029
JW Matt Coady -
503-476-5006
Secretary John Porter -
360-589-8692
Lodge Office (Leave Message) -
503-472-2341
Email Address -
union3.secretary@gmail.com
Website -
http://www.unionlodge3.com



THE BEACON

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

March 2019

Table of Contents

[Tidings From the East](#)
[Tidings From the West](#)
[Tidings From the South](#)
[From the Secretary](#)
[From a Mason Abroad](#)
[From WB J.J. Edwards](#)
[Lodge Calendar](#)



Tidings From the East

Hello, Craftsmen and welcome to March! First off, I would like to extend a hearty congratulations to our Brother Chris Noble, who was passed to the

Degree of Fellow Craft on Wednesday, February 27th. Thanks to all who came out and supported Brother Chris and made this degree possible.

I'd also like to say "thank you in advance!" to all who are volunteering to pull off another Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner at our March stated communication. Special thanks to WB John Porter who is planning the event. Running a Lodge takes a lot of work and it's impossible for the Worshipful Master to be in charge of every event. Having people that can be counted on makes all the difference and saves me a great deal of stress.

We had a wonderful Breakfast with the Brothers on Friday, February 22nd at the Community Plate in McMinnville. If you are a member of Union Lodge who did not receive an email invitation to this event, please let me know. I don't have contact information for everyone and want to make sure that everyone is made aware of these sorts of events and has the option to go. It's very important to me that all of our Brothers know they are welcome and included in all our events, so please give me your contact information if I don't already have it. I'm going to try to make these breakfasts a monthly event.

Just a heads up to everyone – we will be performing an Entered Apprentice Degree on the evening of March 13th. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you there!

Events/Announcements

- **March 5th: Grand Lodge Visitation, Corned Beef and Cabbage**
- **March 13th:** Entered Apprentice Degree, 7:30 PM
- **April 2nd:** Official visitation from RWB Steve Vanderzanden, GL District Deputy
- **May 7th meeting program:** Jared Brandon Flande, topic TBA
- **May 18th:** Pancake Fundraiser for School Outreach Program
- **June 4th meeting program:** Bro. Scott Rassbach, Contemplative Masonry
- **June 6-8th:** Grand Lodge in Seaside
- **July:** Regional family picnic with Tuality Lodge, Holbrook Lodge, and others

Fraternally,
Matt Gerbrandt
Worshipful Master



**Union Lodge # 3 22nd Annual
Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner**

Tuesday, March 5, 2019

MWB James L. Morgan, Grand Master of Masons in Oregon, and his Grand Family will be in attendance for the Grand Master's official visit.

The dinner will start at 6:00 PM.

The cost for the dinner is \$10.00 per person.

Lodge starts promptly at 7:30 PM.

LADIES ARE WELCOME.

A ladies program is being planned.

An RSVP is very important for our planning. Please respond to:

WB Johnny J. Edwards at 971-241-5355 or email him at johnny6_28_66@yahoo.com



Tidings from the West

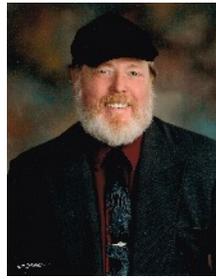
[Weather and work got in the way of Tidings from the West this month.](#)



Tidings from the South

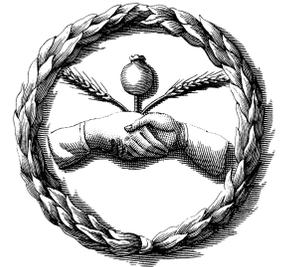
[And from the South as well.](#)

From the Secretary's Desk



**"Tell me thy company, and I'll tell thee what thou art."
– Miguel de Cervantes**

Part of being a Master Mason is the ability to Travel, to drop in on a Lodge wherever you may happen to be and meet Brothers you've never known. So this month I thought I'd talk a little about Masonic Recognition. It is important, as you journey, to make sure that the Lodge you want to visit is recognized by your home Grand Lodge as being regular. Particularly since that status can be open to change.



Case in point: there has been quite a bit of discussion recently about the Grand Lodge F&AM of Utah withdrawing their recognition of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of North Carolina (PHGL of NC). The reason that Utah decided to withdraw their recognition was that the PHGL of NC had granted charters in areas that already had existing recognized Grand Lodges—including Cameroon, Congo, Benin and France.

Now, the Prince Hall Grand Lodges are no strangers to chartering Lodges outside of the U.S. There were already Prince Hall Jurisdictions chartered in Canada, Liberia and the Caribbean. Nor are the mainstream Grand Lodges strangers to the practice—the Grand Lodge of New York recently chartered a Grand Lodge in Lebanon. Even our own Jurisdiction has been known to dip a toe in overseas charters...the Oregon Military Lodge No. 223 was originally chartered in Germany, after the shooting stopped in World War II.

What made the recent charters from PHGL of NC different is that they ignored the existing recognized Grand Jurisdictions in those areas where they chartered the new Lodges. The others that I've mentioned were started in places either without an existing Grand Jurisdiction or with one that allowed the sharing of territory (as we do with the MWPrince Hall Grand Lodge of Oregon, Idaho and Montana). The Oregon Military Lodge was in fact restoring Masonry to Germany—the Nazi govern-

ment had quite literally killed off the indigenous German Grand Lodges.

Now, to a degree this spat between F&AM of Utah and PHGL of NC is little more than an interesting development for us. We literally do not have a dog in that hunt, as we do not recognize PHGL of NC. This is because in Oregon, another Grand Lodge cannot gain recognition unless they request it. This leads to the rather odd situation where we recognize the PHGL of Oregon, Idaho and Montana (5 lodges according to their web site) and do not recognize the PHGL of Texas (135 Lodges). PHGL of Oregon asked for recognition, Texas hasn't.

In the case of PHGL of North Carolina, however, unless they disavow the charters in contested territories they would likely not be able to gain recognition by the Grand Lodge AF&AM of Oregon. Our Jurisdiction has a Committee on Recognition which uses the standards put forth by the Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America, back in 1952. These include 1) Legitimacy of origin, 2) Exclusive territorial jurisdiction except by mutual consent and/or treaty, and 3) Adherence to the Ancient Landmarks.

So even if they applied, the recent charters issued by PHGL of NC would stand against them. This could be a passing issue, though, as their new Grand Master appears to be taking steps to deal with those charters and bring their Grand Lodge back into amity with the other Grand Jurisdictions. Their last Grand Master served for 15 years (long tenures are normal in Prince Hall) but with a new administration there is the possibility for change. Time will tell.

Now, what is important for us is knowing whether a Lodge we wish to visit is part of a recognized Jurisdiction or not. It has been pointed out (with much justification) that the concept of recognition is more important in America than almost anywhere else in the world. It is quite literally a Masonic Offense to sit in a clandestine Lodge. So how does a poor humble worker in the Craft know who is recognized and who is clandestine?

Easy. There exists at the Lodge a book called the List of Lodges Masonic (the current issue is for 2018, and a very timely bright green). In it you will find entries for each recognized Grand Jurisdiction, listing whom they recognize and whom they don't. In it you can see whether that Lodge you want to visit is recognized and part of that Grand Jurisdiction.

It's also important to see if their Grand Jurisdiction recognizes *us*. You wouldn't want to get your hosts into trouble, after all. For instance, as previously mentioned we do not recognize PHGL of NC. They, however, do recognize AF&AM of Oregon. And F&AM of Utah. Weird, right? Right. But be careful, because weird can get you into trouble.

And should you get bitten by the desire to become a Traveling Man, let your Lodge Secretary know a little in advance and he can help you out. Oregon has a Lodge Certificate Form 21, which is basically a Masonic letter of Introduction. It will certify to all regular, recognized Lodges that you also hail from a regular, recognized Lodge.

And that could come in handy, because we belong to a Fraternity which spans the globe. And it's nice to think that as you travel around that globe, you can pop into the local Lodge and introduce yourself to a Brother that you've never met, and be made to feel at home in a Lodge you've never seen before. It drives home the point that as a Mason you are part of something truly special.

-Walk in light my Brothers.-



The Adventures of a Country Master Mason Abroad

(Continued from last month)

So, since I mentioned it earlier and don't seem to have really addressed it, what exactly is our value proposition? I think it's three distinct things:

1 – Leadership training.

This is the point of the chairs – each one teaches a skill necessary to serve the Lodge as a leader in it. By the time you get to the East, you have amassed or polished the skills that you need to own the chair, the hat, and the gavel. In the East, you have great power over the life of the Lodge; but you also have great responsibility. We should be teaching men these skills as they wing their way through the chairs. You are the First Among Equals, the servant leader, and a source of Light and instruction to everyone around you, both directly and by your example. Those skills and the confidence that goes along with them are applicable in Lodge, in our usual vocations, at home, in the community, and abroad in the world.

2 –A framework of moral, psychological, and emotional support.

Where else in the modern world do men obligate themselves to one another to support one another in practicing the moral and social virtues? Where else do men freely obligate themselves to be a resource for one another, both to uphold one another in times of struggle but also to uplift one another as they strive to improve themselves? Where else is there a safe place for men to hold one another accountable by whispering good counsel in one another's ears in pursuit of our shared goals of becoming better men, husbands, fathers, uncles, bosses, employees, and citizens?

I'll give you organized churches in their best incarnations. To be honest, I'm skeptical that many really provide the same set of obligations and support frameworks. They have some of the same problems and challenges that we do.

But, if it's there we don't supplant it, we supplement it. If it's lacking, we can and should supply it.

3 – Measured boundary conditions – rites of passage.

As a part of this we also offer "boundary conditions" – rites of passage from one of several states to another. In the First Degree, we pass from being a Profane to being a Brother – duly obligated and part of a community of practice – an Entered Apprentice at the beginning of our Craft experience. In the Second Degree we pass from being a mere Brother with simple obligations to a deeper understanding and more complex obligations – a Journeyman or Fellowcraft, practicing our Craft and adding to our skills by the application of the various arts and sciences. In the Third Degree we advance to being Master of our Craft – we have all the tools now we need to study, practice, and apply them with diligence and intention to ourselves and offer advice to others as Master Masons. When we enter the chairs to fulfill a role for Lodge, each position represents its own right of passage. Most of them are small and incremental until you get to the Master's Chair in the East.

Most human societies have and value these boundary conditions as measure of maturity and growth. You're not just thrown into a position of responsibility with expectations of being able to adequately fulfill that role without training and testing and

proving and a community of support in the process. A boy becomes a man and a man becomes an elder in their community when they have shown that they are ready and performed the necessary deeds and rituals. Modern, Western society has lost or laid aside ours. We have milestones based on chronological age, not emotional, psychological, and moral maturity. The Fraternity offers the structure and support to provide those kinds of experiences for our members.

Each of these are distinct benefits, if not particularly entertaining. But, the icing on this giant, rant-y cake is that these experiences and values can create the social bonding and "entertainment" aspects of the Fraternity that make participating in our lights and privileges more fulfilling. And, I believe, make it more likely that men coming into the Fraternity will stay and contribute and grow. Provided we practice our discernment properly, educate them in the requirements and benefits, and support them as a community when they cross that first barrier in the First Degree.

Ultimately, we enjoy ourselves and find pleasure in our collective company and that of our families as we grow and produce more Light, becoming beacons. We do good for ourselves and our communities and grow the bonds and the benefits of Charity, Relief, and Brotherly Love.

Frarnally,
-Frank



Some Thoughts from WB Johnny Edwards

The following is from WB Frank Blair's Facebook page on the occasion of his receiving his Master's Degree from Bristol University in Bristol England. Thought you might enjoy it.

Close this chapter.

The votes for kilts won out, so I suited up. Received many appreciative and very generous comments. One couple stopped us mid-crosswalk to tell me that she and her friend voted me "best dressed" of the entire convocation. (I was, as far as I know, the only one in formal Scottish.) I'll take it... make my own certificate and have it framed. When you're called to join the line to cross the stage there was a brief hallway portion where people were helping to straighten out your hood and

gown. The one that I ended up with was Scottish and very pleased to see the kilt out and about. It was good advice.

Academic dress for graduands at The University of Bristol does not include a cap or mortarboard. It does include gown and hood. The hood is hidden in this shot, as is most of the kilt but it's there. Masters candidates in the Faculty of Arts have black gowns and a hood that is maroon with a white lining that is turned out. It looks not altogether unlike something from the set of Harry Potter ("Y'er a wizzard, Frankie 'Two-Keys".) The Ph.D. will have me looking more like a choir director - more colorful if not more wizard-y.

An interesting pedantic note - until the actual graduation ceremony and the ritual conferral, the degree is just awarded. It is considered "conferred" when your hands are clasped by the presiding officer (only 5 people are vested with the authority of office to confer degrees.) At Bristol this is accomplished by crossing the stage, putting your hands together in an attitude of prayer and supplication (or pleading), and the presiding officer clasps your hands in theirs. At that moment, the degree is considered conferred. I have a video clip, you'll see what I mean.

It makes a little more sense if you know the Cambridge ceremony. In the long form, the Praelector announces the candidate in Latin:

"Dignissima domina, Domina Procancellaria et tota Academia praesento vobis hunc virum (hanc mulierem) quem (quam) scio tam moribus quam doctrina esse idoneum (idoneam) ad gradum assequendum (name of degree); idque tibi fide mea praesto totique Academiae."

("Most worthy Vice-Chancellor and the whole University, I present to you this man (this woman) whom I know to be suitable as much by character as by learning to proceed to the degree of (name of degree); for which I pledge my faith to you and to the whole University.")

The graduand kneels before the Vice-Chancellor with hands as described and when the Vice-Chancellor clasps their hands, s/he says:

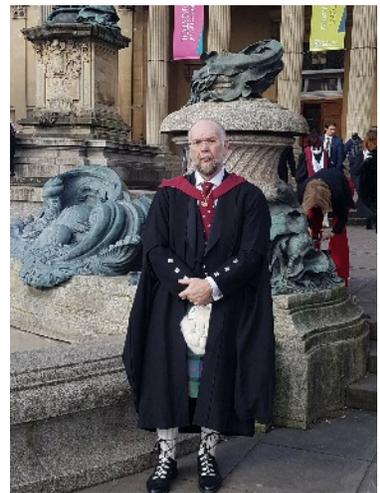
"Auctoritate mihi commissa admitto te ad gradum (name of degree), in nomine Patris et Filii et Spiritus Sancti."

("By the authority committed to me, I admit you to the degree of (name of degree) in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.")

That's typically only done for higher doctorates and special degrees. The rest of the rabble are done four or five at a time with an abbreviated script, but it follows the same basic formula. Ours is related to that but even more stylized.

So, anyway, for me attention turns fully and completely to the Ph.D. - moar research, moar thinking, moar writing. But I can tick off this box and out of the collection of conferred honors, this is the first one I've "walked" for since High School. It's a good day. Glad I did it. Glad I kilted up.

This particular photo is taken outside of Victoria Rooms with a statue of Edward VII looking on at the various and sundry graduates (at this point, post-ceremony.) I'm not unhappy; that's my "resting sun in my eyes" face. The weather has been beautiful all day - just cool enough, not too cool, and sunny.



After the ceremony, we went up to a short reception at the School of Humanities. My supervisor was there so I said hello and chatted a bit with our new head of school. Shared a bit of bubbly in celebration and excellent conversation with the other graduands, including a good friend from the cohort and his family. We went to lunch with them after the reception, which was tasty with lively conversation and good fellowship.

We're headed to London tomorrow for a couple days now to chill and celebrate the milestone. I should get to hit Temple Church and get some communing time in with William Marshall and a couple other Crusaders, maybe hit the Silver Vaults, Cecil Street, St. Pauls Cathedral, National Portrait Gallery... who knows what else.

Congratulations WB Frank.

On Friday, February 22nd some of the Brothers of Union Lodge gathered for brunch at the Community Plate in McMinnville. Picture is on the next page.



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.](#)

Onward and upward.

March-April 2019 Calendar

- Mar 2 - Tuality # 7 - Stated - 10:00 am
- Mar 5 - Official visit by the Grand Master -
Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner
See page 2 for details.
- Mar 5 - Holbrook # 30 - Stated - 7:30 pm
- Mar 6 - Rickreall # 110 - Stated - 7:30 pm
- Mar 13 - Union Lodge EA Degree - 7:30 pm
- Mar 13 - Sheridan-Dayton - Stated - 7:00 pm
- Mar 14 - Newberg # 104 - Stated 7:30 pm
- Mar 26 - Trustees Meeting 6:30 pm
Officers meeting 7:30 pm
- Apr 2 - Union Lodge Stated 7:30 pm