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THE BEACON

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

October 2019

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Tidings From the East

Welcome to October, Craftsmen!! I hope that you're all doing well and that you enjoy this pumpkin spiced edition of the Beacon!

At our September stated communication we had an excellent presentation from our own WB Johnny Edwards, who taught us about the Willamette Mystery Stone. In addition to learning about the Mystery Stone, we were also given a lot of interesting information about the establishment of Freemasonry in Oregon. Well done, WB Johnny!

Continuing our geologic theme, our October stated communication will feature a presentation about the Stone of Destiny by RW R. Eugene Hill, PGC, PDRI. Be there and be on the square!

Many thanks to Worshipful Brothers Tom Gardner and JP Porter, who will be presenting our check to Dayton Elementary for the purpose of providing impoverished children with school supplies, clothes, and whatever else they may need. Great work, Brothers!

Fraternally,
WB Matt Gerbrandt
WM, Union Lodge #3

Events/Announcements

- October meeting program: RW Gene Hill, Stone of Destiny
- November: Voting for 2020 Lodge Officers

- December: Installation of 2020 Lodge Officers, date TBD



Tidings from the West

October: Masonic Liberal Arts

The Fellowcraft Degree commends Freemasons to study the Liberal Arts and Sciences, which are grammar, rhetoric, logic, arithmetic, geometry, music, and astronomy. When we study the historical background for this list, we will uncover layers of Masonic meanings for us in each of the seven areas of knowledge.

Proverbs 9:1 says, "Wisdom hath built herself a house, she hath hewn her out seven pillars." Religious scholars have long speculated upon the seven pillars of Wisdom. Wisdom is poured out to seven vocations or callings. Wisdom also is seen presiding over branches of knowledge.

There must be many fields of knowledge that could have been listed: history, chemistry, or literature. Yet this list is commended to our consideration. Why "grammar"? Why "rhetoric"? We may well ask, "Why this list and not others?"

The phrase, the liberal arts, comes from the Latin *artes liberales*. *Liber* is translated both as Free and Book. Much of the well-educated in antiquity disliked work. If you were indentured as an apprentice, you were not free to study what you wanted. You had to do what was assigned to you. The *artes illiberales* were vocational studies aimed for an economic purpose, such as a being a stonemason.

So it is intriguing that speculative Masonry encourages us to study the liberal arts and sciences.

There is wisdom in the order of the items in the list. Teachers and scholastics have found these seven and their general order to be of great utility. Home-schoolers today are returning to this list to start with grammar and rhetoric in their education. The list is divided into two parts. The first is the Trivium: Grammar, rhetoric, and logic; and it deals with language. The second is the Quadrivium: arithmetic, geometry, music, and astronomy. These deal with numbers and the nature of the universe.

As infants, we are unable to speak. We must learn words to describe everything. Words organize our thoughts. Language is essential for learning. As we progress up the winding stairs, we learn to speak with eloquence and grace, which is rhetoric. We learn to use logic to make our arguments persuasive and true.

We advance up the lessons to higher levels of arithmetic, geometry, and music. These require abstract thinking and greater levels of concentration. As we mature in life, we gain perspective and wisdom as we enjoy the glorious works of creation, the stars and planets, astronomy, and the Divine. The order of these topics was developed over a thousand years. They continue to attract our attention today.

The Trivium comes from the Latin for Three Vias or roads. The first three of the Seven Liberal Arts and Sciences represent a crossroads or intersection where the public meets. We could call it the public square, where the public meets to discuss the usual topics of the day: the weather and harvest.

Those who excel at quickly remembering common experience are good at "trivia." Trivia is at the center of everyday knowledge. The Trivium consists of Grammar, Rhetoric, and Logic.

The Quadrivium is associated with science and learning the mysteries of the universe. Pythagoras is chiefly responsible for these four branches of science: arithmetic, geometry, music, and astronomy.

The Quadrivium means the Four Vias or paths. Where four roads converge is the center of the town or city. We leave the village of three roads and progress to the more advanced level of the city. A robust mind progresses as if upon roads or paths to the secrets of wisdom. A wise man strolls along the paths of science.

There is a charge to us in these seven steps. That charge for us is to continue to be learners. Our education doesn't stop in high school or college. We are to continue to read classic literature, the Bible, biographies, history. We should see ourselves as life-long learners.

We should better comprehend the use of music, plays, and art in our lives. We should use math and geometry. We need to continue even with the Trivium to expand our vocabulary and practice writing. As we persevere in learning throughout our lives, we will become better men in Masonry.

—My thanks to Richard D. Marcus, George Washington Lodge # 337 F&AM, Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin for his informative article.

Scott Rassbach - Senior Warden



Tidings from the South

After last month's stated meeting I was thinking about Brother Johnny Edward's presentation on the mystery stone and different Masonic cornerstones. I happened to be traveling for work the following week to San Francisco. I arrived at my hotel early and had a few hours before my first work meeting. I did a quick search on my phone for Masonic Lodges that were walking distance from my hotel. The Grand Lodge of California was one mile away. Perfect!

So I started walking uphill. It was straight up, quite a steep climb. With my legs fully burning and breathing hard I made it. I was sitting on the steps of Grace cathedral across the street from the Lodge to admire the views around Nob Hill.



Perfect weather sunny and 85 degrees. After sitting for 5 minutes catching my breath I decide to find the cornerstone. A huge complex with underground parking and the auditorium that seats around 3,500 people.

The auditorium when not being used for the annual communication is a music venue. The day i was there the Doobie Brothers were playing. And no i couldn't go.

Because I had to get back to my hotel I decide to take a few pictures and walk around. The security guard at the front desk asked if he could help me I said where's the lodge said it's upstairs and so I called up to the Lodge introduced myself on a whim.

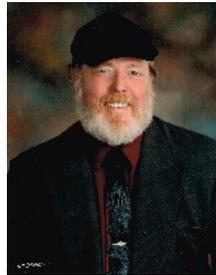
The brother said can i help you? I told him i was writing my Beacon article on the building's cornerstone. He said he was not sure but the older Masonic buildings in the City are rich with symbolism. He asked if I would be in around the next day for a tour i told him of my 3 hour window of time and he chuckled. It would be fun to visit some of the other lodges and old Masonic buildings but I can do that in Oregon.

The original SF grand lodge building was completed 1863 and burned down in the great earthquake of 1906. The next location was used from 1913 to 1958 when the current site was completed. in the above picture it has a carved relief on the top left of the building with service members from the four branches of the military in a global tug of war a with a caption reading

"Dedicated to our Masonic Brethren who died in the cause of freedom"

FYI I never did find the cornerstone on my 3 hour journey.

-In fraternity,
Matthew Coady, Junior Warden



From the Secretary's Desk

"I Love writing. What I can't stand is the paperwork."

-Peter De Vries, American Satirist

I thought this month I'd try something a little different and talk about one of the reports that we have to send in to Grand Lodge each month. There are a handful of these, but none is more enigmatic than the Volunteer Report.

Say you are a Lodge Secretary, and oddly enough you want to do a good job. So when you run across this report you crack open the Secretary's Handbook to see what it is all about—and find the form number. That's it. Looking for what it's actually supposed to be reporting? On that issue you will find nothing. Zip. Zilch. Nada. Bupkis. As founts of information go, the NSA is more forthcoming.

So what's a curious paper-pusher to do? Well, one thing that has worked well in the past is to reach out to another curious paper-pusher. So I approached a past Grand Secretary with this stunningly erudite question: "What the heck are we supposed to do with this?" And he kindly filled me in what was actually supposed to go on the form.

So now I am reaching out to you, the kind reader, for your assistance. Because it turns out that there's a whole lot of stuff that should be on here that we've never really passed along. As it happens, the form is meant to report anything that is done as a volunteer in relation to the Lodge, outside of the normal duties of one's office.

Presided over a Stated Communication as the elected Worshipful Master? Doesn't need to go on the form. Came in to fix the bloody mic on your podium afterwards? That would go on the form. Scored points with your Lady by actually taking out the trash



for a change? Good for you, but we don't need to report it. Showed up early to cook something for Agape when you're not a Steward? You've got it—that goes on the form. Shared a story with the Brothers about your Guinness record-breaking navel lint collection? Yikes, TMI dude. Spent a few hours reading to kids at the local grade school whilst wearing your Lodge t-shirt? Yup, that would be a great thing to report.

So obviously, for a fairly active Lodge like ours there is a lot going on that should be making its way onto this report. Does anyone actually read these things? Well, let's put it this way. There are 107 Lodges in our Grand Jurisdiction. And everyone I talked to before the past Grand Secretary said they just fill in "Nothing to report." That's a whole lot of nothing to report. And I must admit that I don't get any warm fuzzy feelings from the fact that the Secretaries Manual doesn't even mention what the report is about.

But you never know! There could be some ink-covered scribe deep in the bowels of Grand Lodge who pours over these things each month, wishing that somebody somewhere would actually do something worth reporting. Scanning from form to form, bleakly noting yet another field that says "Nothing to Report." The sheer drudgery. Our humanity calls out to us to help this poor wretch out. Giving them something, anything, to relieve the tedious monotony.

On this issue of the Beacon you will find my e-mail address. You know what to do.

If you drop by the Lodge to work on something, drop me a note. Helped the Brothers mow at the cemetery? Flipped pancakes at the Lodge for a fund-raiser? Shoot me a line. Help out in the community whilst showing the colors by wearing a Masonic shirt or cap? Keep me in the know. We'll be able to do this thing up proper. And you might even gain the thanks of some ink-covered scribe up at Grand Lodge. Wouldn't that be nice?

-Walk in light my Brothers.-



The Adventures of a Country Master Mason Abroad

WB Frank has been studying on the European continent of late. His regular column will return next month. -Editon



Some Thoughts from WB Johnny Edwards

See 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.](#)



Join us for our Third Annual Conference at Kenton Masonic Hall in Portland, Oregon on October 5th, 2019.

This year's conference features a keynote by scholar and fringe Freemasonry expert Dr. Richard Kaczyski. A special early Friday night meditation session hosted by Worshipful Brother Doug Russell has also been added at a venue close by for Brethren who arrive early.

\$30.00

Date And Time

Sat, October 5, 2019

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM PDT

Location

Kenton Lodge #145

8130 North Denver Avenue

Portland, OR 97217

CLICK LINK BELOW FOR TICKETS

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/3rd-annual-esotericism-in-freemasonry-conference-tickets-51339094614?aff=ebdssbeac>

October-November 2019 Calendar

Oct 1 - Union # 3 - Stated - 7:30 pm

Oct 1 - Holbrook # 30 - Stated - 7:30 pm

Oct 2 - Rickreall # 110 - Stated - 7:30 pm

Oct 3 - Newberg # 104 - Stated 7:30 pm

Oct 5 - Tuality # 7 - Stated - 10:00 am

Oct 9 - Sheridan-Dayton - Stated - 7:00 pm

Oct 22 - Trustees Meeting 12:30 pm

Nov 5 - Union Lodge Stated 7:30 pm
Election of 2020 Officers