



## UNION LODGE # 3 A. F. & A. M. OF OREGON

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### **MASONIC NEWS & TRESTLEBOARD February 2015**

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#### **Tidings from the East**

It is an exciting time to be a part of Union Lodge! With active members, new candidates and a renewed interest in Masonry it looks like we will be busy for some time.

This Wednesday (28<sup>th</sup> February) we will be conferring the Master Mason degree, and plans are already in the works for a Fellow Craft degree on 11<sup>th</sup> February. As we just wrapped up a double Entered Apprentice degree, it would take a denser fellow than myself not to notice how the pace has picked up. What a great time to be a Mason! The tide is rising, Brothers. We should be in for a great journey.

We have our Sweethearts Dinner and Corn Beef and Cabbage events coming up. Please check out the website and Facebook pages for information as plans are finalized. We are hoping to have more events like this during the year, possibly at least one every quarter. To make that easier on those who are organizing them, please make the effort to let us know if you plan on attending and how many guests you might be bringing. It helps us to get a good number to plan the meal around.

I had wanted to write an article about some of the things said about our Fraternity by non-Masons. There is some wild stuff out there, and it usually makes for some entertaining reading. They are actually right almost 10% of the time! We have too many announcements to really write an in-depth article this month, but I did note that most people in the anti-Masonic camp tend to call us elitist.

Really? You have probably met people who are elitist. That's the person who walks into the room thinking that they are the most important person there. The one that thinks society should be ruled by an Elite, and they are naturally a part of that Ruling Elite. It has been said that

all men wish to serve God, but some seem to think they should do so as an Advisor. That would be the elitist.

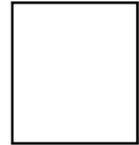
As Masons, we are elite. We accept none within our ranks who is not of good report and well recommended. We do not seek to change the minds of those who have chosen the wrong path, but rather to bring light and growth to good men who seek the right path. So we are elite. But we are not elitist.

I have seen elitism growing across our society, appearing more frequently in the news every day. But I have almost never seen it in our Lodge room. And the few times I have seen it, it lead to a rapid session of Kind and Gentle Ego Deflation. As Masons, we should strive every day to make ourselves better men. It is possible to be both humble and self-assured. Just ask a Mason. We know.

One of the challenges in the life of our Lodge is to prepare articles for our Trestleboard. This has been a challenge for every Worshipful Master I know, and I have been no exception. I don't like to write unless I have something worthy of sharing. I guess I have an aversion to being that author in need of housebreaking, leaving little piles of doggerel lying around. WB Tom has been both understanding and patient as my editor, but I know that we Worshipful Masters have been quite vexing for him. Or at least I have. I should like to try and change that.

With that in mind, I wish to start an impromptu writers group for those who want to work on Masonic articles. We will meet the second Tuesday of each month to discuss ideas, interesting topics of research, or reading and assisting in each other's work. Please show up on 10<sup>th</sup> February at 7:30 PM if you are interested. We'll start the meeting in the Refreshment Room, and I will strive to have the first article for the group to consider. It should make for good fellowship, and be a fun forum for Masonic education.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our next Stated Communication. The start of a Masonic Year is a little bit like the start of a child's life, all possibilities and promise. As a Past Grand Master was fond of saying, "What a great day to be a Mason!" See you all soon.



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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS:**

- Feb 3** Union Lodge # 3 Stated 7:30 pm
- Feb 3** Holbrook #30 Stated 7:30 pm
- Feb 4** Rickreall # 110 Stated 7:30 pm
- Feb 5** Newberg # 104 Stated, 7:30 pm
- Feb 7** Tuality # 6 Stated 10:00 am
- Feb 11** Sheridan-Dayton # 64 Dinner 6:00 pm  
Lodge 7:00 pm
- Feb 24** Union Lodge Trustees 6:30 pm - Officers 7:30pm

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**Mark Your Calendars**



On Tuesday, March 3rd, Union Lodge will again be hosting our annual corned beef and cabbage dinner. Dinner starts at 6:00 pm with Lodge following at 7:30 for the Brothers and a program for the ladies.

The Grand Master will be making his official visit that evening.

**Valentines Sweethearts Dinner**



On Saturday February 14, 2015, Union Lodge will have a dinner honoring the special ladies in our lives.

Dinner will start at 6:30 PM.

Your special lady eats for free.

Dinner is \$7.00 for everyone else.

Please **RSVP** as soon as possible to to WB Johnny J. Edwards at 971-237-4250 or johnny6\_28\_66@yahoo.com.



Brethren are encouraged to attend the February 3rd Stated Communication, as the Trustees will be bringing a large expenditure before the lodge for a **VOTE**: whether to accept a proposal for replacing the HVAC system for the Lodge which has grown increasingly costly to maintain as it has aged.

