



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

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MASONIC NEWS & TRESTLEBOARD January 2015

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Tidings from the East

Brethren, this month I wanted to talk about the history of the Prince Hall Lodges. In our Grand Jurisdiction, the Prince Hall Lodges are recognized as regular and thus we can travel to them if we wish. We cannot hold dual membership with a Prince Hall Lodge, not because of any rule of ours but because Prince Hall does not allow it. Still, the Brothers whom I know who have gone to visit say that they experience was great, and it was very interested to see how our Masonic traditions were developed in Lodges which have existed alongside ours since the Revolutionary War.

Before the American Revolution, fifteen free-born men of color applied for Masonic membership in St. John's Lodge in Boston. Given the attitudes of the time and the need for a unanimous vote, it isn't too surprising that they were turned down. Undaunted, these men approached the military Lodge attached to the British 38th Foot, Lodge No. 441 of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, and were initiated into the Craft on 6th March 1775. They then proceeded to form African Lodge No. 1 and Prince Hall was elected their first Grand Master under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

At the end of the conflict, as the British forces withdrew, African Lodge No. 1 sought recognition by the local Boston Lodges. This was only partially given, as they were allowed to hold meetings, march in the Masonic procession on St. John's Day, and perform Masonic funerals. They were not allowed to confer degrees or perform other Masonic functions.

But the Lodge was widely popular, and on 20th September 1784, the Grand Master of the Mother Grand Lodge of England, HRH the Duke of Cumberland issued a Charter for the Lodge, granting them recognition through the same authority that had Chartered a number of American Lodges. The Grand Lodge of England named Prince Hall a Provincial Grand Master in 1791, and in 1797 they organized African Lodge No. 459 at Providence, RI, which later became Hiram Lodge No. 3. A Lodge was also started in Philadelphia.

In 1808, these three Lodges (Boston, Providence and Philadelphia) came together and formed the current Grand Lodge, named Prince Hall in honor of their first Grand Master. Recognition was grudging where it existed at all, and in 1813 the merger of the Antients and Moderns into the current United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE) the Prince Hall Lodges were dropped from the new Register of Recognized Lodges. This was done to

many Lodges from the two different English Grand Lodges, as any Lodge which had not maintained communication was presumed defunct. UGLE would later restore its recognition of the Prince Hall Lodges. In 1827, the Prince Hall Grand Lodge declared its independence from UGLE and from the white Masonic Lodges of the United States, beginning the current practice of Prince Hall Lodges existing alongside those of our own Grand Jurisdictions.

The level of recognition extended by each state has varied, with most southern states not even recognizing the Prince Hall Lodges, whilst other states adopted the current approach of Texas, where the Lodges were recognized but visitation was not allowed. Recognition was to wait for a long time from our own Jurisdiction, but in our sister State of Washington recognition was first granted in 1888.

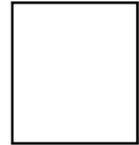
In 1897 two black Brothers, Gideon Bailey and Con Rideout, requested that the Grand Lodge of Washington devise some method where they might share in Masonic Fellowship. At the time, there were two Prince Hall Lodges active in the State. A special committee of three was appointed to consider the matter, which included two Past Grand Masters. The next year, a Resolution drafted by the committee was presented in which the Prince Hall Lodges were recognized as "Regular, Just and Legitimate." After some intense debate, the Resolution was passed by a large majority.

But official recognition was to last only for a year, as the majority of State Grand Lodges withdrew recognition from Washington unless they repealed the Resolution. Bowing to this pressure, the Grand Lodge rescinded the Resolution the very next year. PGM William H. Upton, one of the original three committee members, was so incensed by this callous and high-handed action that he declared that he would not accept Masonic funeral rites until the Prince Hall Lodges were recognized.

In June of 1990, the Grand Lodge of Washington once again extended recognition to the Prince Hall Grand Lodge, which replied in kind shortly thereafter. So ninety-one years after he made his declaration, Brothers from the two Grand Lodges gathered in Walla Walla, Washington. In a very public ceremony, MWB William Upton was granted his desire for Masonic funeral rites in a world where fellowship and amity existed between the two Grand Lodges.

So please feel free to travel and experience the Prince Hall Lodges. But be sure to bring an apron, as their tradition includes every Brother bringing his own apron to Lodge. And be prepared to sing, as I am told one way they deal with dissent in the Lodge is to break into song. Lots of songs.

Today there are Prince Hall Lodges in the U.S., Canada, the Caribbean and Liberia. So your opportunity to travel and enjoy fellowship is wide-spread, and if you manage to do it in the Caribbean you will have the envy of most of the Lodge. May peace and Brother Love prevail, and every moral and social virtue cement us. Enjoy your travels, my Brothers.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- Jan 1** Newberg # 104 Stated, 7:30 pm
- Jan 3** Tuality # 6 Stated 10:00 am
- Jan 6** Union Lodge # 3 Stated 7:30 pm
- Jan 6** Holbrook #30 Stated 7:30 pm
- Jan 7** Rickreall # 110 Stated 7:30 pm
- Jan 14** Sheridan-Dayton # 64 Dinner 6:00 pm
Lodge 7:00 pm
- Jan 27** Union Lodge Trustees 6:30 pm - Officers 7:30pm

Meet your Union Lodge Officers for 2015

Worshipful Master: John Porter
Senior Warden: Will MacRae
Junior Warden: Matt Gerbrandt
Treasurer: Johnny Edwards
Secretary: Frank Blair
Senior Deacon: David Coelho
Junior Deacon: Michael Persons
Senior Steward: Tom Gardner
Junior Steward: Alex Bogetti
Chaplain: Lorie Harrell
Marshall: Hunt Compton
Tyler: Tom Duncan

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On behalf of the members of Eastern Star we would very much like to wish all the members of Union Lodge a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy, Prosperous New Year to each and everyone.

From our Secretary, WB Frank Blair

Just a reminder that your dues for 2015 are due. Please get you check in the mail soon.

Your new plastic membership card will be mailed as soon as you pay your dues and we receive the cards from the Grand Lodge.



Brethren are encouraged to attend the January Stated Communication, as the Trustees will be bringing a large expenditure before the lodge for discussion: whether or not to replace the HVAC system for the Lodge which has grown increasingly costly to maintain as it has aged.

