



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

PO Box 453 McMinnville, OR 97128

MASONIC NEWS & TRESTLEBOARD March 2016

WM	William MacRae	971-241-1771
SW	Matthew Gerbrandt	503-508-5893
JW	Michael Persons	503-428-8560
Secretary	Frank Blair	503-434-9780
Lodge Office	(Leave Message)	503-472-2341
Email Address	unionlodge@onlinenw.com	
Website	http://www.unionlodge3.com	

Tidings from the East!

“How could they see anything but the shadows if they were never allowed to move their heads?”

-Plato, *“The Allegory of the Cave”*

Good day Ancient Craftsmen!

March is upon us, work is being performed, and the Brothers of Union Lodge are showing no signs of slowing down anytime soon. Over the past few months, I personally have seen a resurgence of energy and drive in all of you. The discussions we've had in Lodge and during our meetings have been interesting and dynamic. From where I sit, I find it not only intriguing, but also heartwarming to see my Brothers participating and sharing their thoughts. The Masonic Lodge has always been a hot bed for thoughts to be shared amongst those seeking to expand their scholarly and intellectual minds, and there is no exception of that at Union Lodge.

As each year starts anew, and we reach the month of March, Brothers from far and wide travel to our Lodge to participate in a local tradition that we have. For Freemasons, tradition is an important tenet of what we do and work within, and particularly for Union Lodge, each March signals two major events. Firstly, our Annual Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner, which will be held on March 1st, 2016. This event was created by WB Bill Bach and WB Art Robarre, and the first dinner was held on March 4th, 1997. Today, this dinner and event is continued on with love and care by WB Frank Blair, who assumed the honor and responsibilities of this event from WB's Bill and Art some years ago.

Coinciding with this event, quite often Union Lodge is graced to have the Grand Master of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons in Oregon as an honored guest. It is my understanding that this year will be no different. MWB Don Stapleton and his capable Grand Officers will follow tradition and join us for the evening. This also is the Grand Masters Official Visitation to our Lodge. Take some time and introduce yourself to MWB Don and the other Grand Officers, engage them in discussion and show them what Union Lodge is all about!

Following the Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner there is typically some sort of event that is open to the public, while we retire into the Lodge room for our Stated Communication. The presentation this year will be along Enlightenment themes, to mirror our theme for this year. The Public Event is typically organized and created by Kathleen Blair. I would like to thank her for all of her hard work and dedication. This is one of many examples of family involvement that truly strengthens the greater Masonic Community.

Last month I was in attendance of the Sweet Heart's Dinner and I spoke of our families as well. WBs Rod Brown Sr. and Jr. created a wonderful dinner that brought all of us together with our families. In attendance were also members of our Eastern Star family. I felt proud to have Sisters Evelyn Bach and JoAnna Foster with us for that evening.

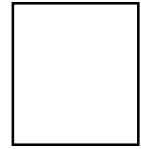
Also, last month we saw the culmination of a very long process of dual affiliation, across two states and many months. Welcome Bro. Scott Rassbach. As an interesting note, Bro. Scott's home Lodge in Wisconsin is also named Union Lodge - #32 F&AM. He has long been involved in our community, serving as Installing Chaplain for myself and my officers, and is noted for being the first presenter for Lucis Conquistores in January of 2013.

A few brief announcements – we have degrees in the works and we have some on the horizon. If you want to brush up on your ritual skills or become a part of the degree teams, please contact WB Frank Blair for further information and instruction. Various committees have been hard at work and one change that you, the reader, will soon see is specifically for our Trestleboard. See page 2 for further details. Remember that we are always interested in appropriate submissions to publish here.

Officer meetings will continue to be the last Tuesday of each month, following the Trustee meeting, beginning promptly at 7:30pm. Any Brothers who have comments or concerns are encouraged to attend and let their voice be heard. The next meeting will be held on February 23rd, 2016.

Remember, if you need a ride to Lodge for a special or stated communication, please contact the Lodge office and we will make the appropriate accommodations.

Fraternally,
WB William D. MacRae
Worshipful Master
Union Lodge #3 A.F. & A.M.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- Mar 1** Union Lodge # 3 Stated 7:30 pm
Mar 1 Holbrook #30 Stated 7:30 pm
Mar 2 Rickreall # 110 Stated 7:30 pm
Mar 3 Newberg # 104 Stated, 7:30 pm
Mar 5 Tuality # 6 Stated 10:00 am
Mar 9 Sheridan-Dayton # 64 Dinner 6:00 pm
Lodge 7:00 pm
Mar 29 Union Lodge Trustees 6:30 pm - Officers 7:30pm

An Announcement Concerning the Trestleboard

On February 8th WM MacRae convened a Trestleboard committee for the purpose of interrogating what we do for the future of the Trestleboard such as: how we do it, what it looks like, new ideas for more content, a plan to make it sustainable, both from a cost, time, and across WM years perspective, anything else that's related to the Trestleboard.

The committee decided several things:

We're reformatting to add much more content from many more sources. We also have a plan (at least the beginnings of one) that will help keep the production of the Trestleboard sustainable across months and years. The added content should support the goals of the Trestleboard - which are not only informational/scheduling, but also informing, educating, and inspiring and connecting the membership with the Lodge officers and the overall life of the Lodge. We expect the average Trestleboard to go from its current 1 page (front/back) to 6-8 pages on average, possibly going higher in particularly meaty months.

Unfortunately, those content changes will add a number of pages and some aesthetic changes to make it have a better look and feel. That adds considerable time to create, format, staple, label, and address, adds cost to print, and adds cost to mail.

The committee decided, then, to stop physical, printing and mailing of the Trestleboard and rely on digital distribution starting with the April Trestleboard.

If someone wants to continue to receive the Trestleboard and doesn't have a way to get it electronically, we may ask for volunteers to print and deliver or mail it to them.

Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner

On Tuesday, March 1st, 2016, Union Lodge #3 will be hosting our annual Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner preceding our Stated Communication.

The charge for dinner is \$7.00 per meal.

Dinner starts at 6:30 pm - Lodge opens promptly at 7:30 pm

Menu:

- Corned Beef and Cabbage
- Potatoes
- Carrots
- Irish Soda Bread
- Spotted Dog
- Spice Cake
- Miscellaneous Beverages

If you plan on attending, we ask that you **RSVP** for planning purposes. For more information or to RSVP, please send email to unionlodge@onlinenw.com or send a private message to WB Frank Blair on Facebook.



Keep up with current happenings in Union Lodge # 3 on Facebook, and be sure to Like us.