



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

PO Box 453 McMinnville, OR 97128

### **MASONIC NEWS & TRESTLEBOARD November 2015**

WM	John Porter	360-589-8692
SW	William MacRae	971-241-1771
JW	Matthew Gerbrandt	503-508-5893
Secretary	Frank Blair	503-434-9780
Lodge Office	(Leave Message)	503-472-2341
Email Address	unionlodge@onlinenw.com	
Website	<a href="http://www.unionlodge3.com">http://www.unionlodge3.com</a>	

“Winning the election is a good-news/bad-news kind of thing. The good news is, okay, now you’re the mayor. The bad news is, now you’re the mayor.” - Clint Eastwood

It’s that time of year again. The time when the air starts to turn crisp, the daylight hours get shorter, it’s dark when you go to work and when you get off, and when we start thinking in Lodge about elections. And dues. Both of these activities are important to the life of the Lodge. Elections are required in the Code – every year at the Stated Communication in November – to prepare for the following Masonic year. By electing officers to run and guide the Lodge, we confer a leadership role upon those that we think deserve it. In many Lodges and jurisdictions there is a natural progression, one that teaches not only the ritual of the various places and stations of the officers, but one that also teaches lessons about the life of the Lodge and leadership. In small, easy to manage increments, elected Brethren (and those they appoint) have an opportunity to learn and apply leadership in a safe, supportive environment; to hone those skills until they might become Master. If we support them well enough and they apply themselves to the implements of the Craft, they will start building a leadership toolkit that will serve them well, not only in Lodge, but also in their daily vocation.

For newly elected Masters, Mr. Eastwood’s observation often comes crashing in - the good news is that they were elected Master and all that preparation, training, and planning for a year of impactful programs can begin. The bad news is that they were elected Master and now the planning and strategizing for a year of impactful programs gets tested and, as I have heard from many military men: strategy never survives first contact. The theories of leading, influencing, and harmonizing contact the harsh realities of budget, time, and engagement. But, if we support them

well enough, they will do good things, plan for more and better, and leave the East energized by the experience.

If there’s a failure in Lodge, often it’s that we don’t support them well enough.

We don’t come to Lodge in sufficient numbers. We don’t pay our dues. We don’t come out for degrees to participate in the fluid life of the Lodge. Perhaps even more sad, is that turnout for Lodge elections isn’t much better than in many years than they are in the world of the regular, civil, body politic. We fail to support our chosen leaders by showing them the support of showing up and operating the levers of the process – a smaller scale frame of the very democratic process that we cajole and extol them in the Charge of the Entered Apprentice degree to participate in. “Be good citizens” we tell them.

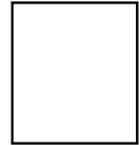
And then we aren’t ourselves. We aren’t good citizens in the context of Lodge.

Being a good citizen in our system – both Democratic and Masonic - means participating fully in the process. Voting. Showing up for elections. The Craft is about making good men better; not just letting good men stay good men. It’s more than just paying dues to stay in good standing. We should have a higher bar for what we consider “good standing”, much as we have a higher bar for what we consider “good men.”

So, elections are November 3<sup>rd</sup> here at Union Lodge #3. I urge everyone who can vote to come out and vote.

On a related note, dues notices (which have election reminders attached) have gone out. If you don’t have yours yet, just wait a couple days – it’ll be there. Dues are the way that we make actionable those plans that we have for showing charity and compassion to our Brethren, there widows and orphans, wheresoever dispersed, and connecting with the greater community. The sooner you have yours in, the sooner you don’t have to worry about it anymore.

Frank Blair  
Secretary  
Union Lodge # 3



**MASONIC NEWS & TRESTLEBOARD** **Page 2**

Published monthly when possible by Union Lodge # 3 A.F. & A.M.  
You are encouraged to submit articles for publication. Deadline  
for copy is the 15th of the month preceding publication date.  
All rights reserved to edit submitted copy.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS:**

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

**One More Gentle Reminder**

At our Stated Communication on Tuesday, November 3, we will be electing officers for the 2016 Lodge year.

You can't phone in your ballot, so please attend this most important meeting. Lodge opens promptly at 7:30 pm.



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

**Contacts for Eastern Star**

JoAnna Foster	503-472-9138
Hunt Compton	503-472-3082
Evelyn Bach	503-472 2387

**A Bit of Masonic Humor**

At the monthly Building Society meeting much discussion raged about the problem of mice in the Lodge building. Of course several suggestions on how to be rid of them were offered. Mouse traps. mouse poison. Buy a cat. Call an exterminator. The building manager took all this advice under consideration and it was agreed that at the next meeting he would make a report on his progress. Sure enough at the next meeting he was questioned. Did you use my idea of a cat? Did you use mine of traps? Finally he said, "All the mice are gone." All wanted to know how he had accomplished such a feat. "Well... I swore all the mice in as Master Masons and haven't seen them since!"

A young Entered Apprentice was being tested on his proficiency. After going over the signs and passwords, he looked at his tester and asked, "I noticed several of the older members sticking their fingers in their ears and whistling. What does that sign mean?"

"That's not a sign," his tester said, "Those are Past Masters adjusting their hearing aids."