

Masonic Temple Wednesday Evening 27 August 2025

At a Stated Communication of St. John's Lodge #3, A.F. & A.M.

New Bern, North Carolina

HELD ON THE ABOVE DATE PRESENT:

Bro. Arthur B. Romans W.M.
Bro. Dominick P Giorgianni S.W.
Bro Douglas L. Soltow, PM as J.W.
Bro Thomas L. Williams, PM Treas.
Bro. William C. Zerby, PM Sec'y.
Bro Robert W. Webster Chaplain



Bro. Francis L. Anson S.D.
Bro. Joseph S. Kawalski J.D.
Bro. Nicholas C. Coyle Steward
Bro. Christopher A. White Steward
Bro. Mark E. Bledsoe as Tyler
Bro. _____ as Marshall

Lodge opened on the third degree of Masonry in Due Form at 7:30 p.m.

St. John's Lodge #3 was opened in due form by the WM. After the Flag Ceremony, WM recognized all Veterans, Certified Lecturers, Past Masters, Coaches, First Responders, and prior/current District Officers.

SD introduced our guests

Sick and Shut-ins: WB James Warren, keep him in your thoughts and prayers.
Keep WB Fred Whitty in our thoughts and prayers
WB David Daniels recovering from shoulder surgery
WB Riley Hughes in recovery
Bro Earl Temple is suffering from cancer
WB James Wiley is having eye issues
Candi Williams, wife of WB Tom Williams, is in the hospital
WB Billy Joiner is having a bad time with the passing of his wife
WB Glenn Carpenter having issues with cataracts
Those in the western part of the state in our thoughts and prayers
Unspoken needs of our Brothers and Widows

Good News: WM extended thanks to all who brought in donations for Stuff the Bus.
Also, Thanks to all brothers who attended the 251st New Bern Resolves.
It was announced that we were awarded the Platinum Award in Lion & Pillar

WM dispensed with labor in this MM lodge and directed the SD to conduct bro Roger Baysden before the east for examination on the Entered Apprentice catechism. The examination was given by Bro Dominick Giorgianni. The WM found bro Baysden's examination to be satisfactory and congratulated the bro.

Masonic Education: Bro George Marut from the NC Masonic Foundation gave a lesson on Investment & Scholarship opportunities.

WM asked all who are not MM to retire and labor was resumed in this MM lodge.

The minutes of the last Stated Communication of Aug 13 was read for information.

Treasurers Report: WB Tom Williams gave the treasurers report: Gen Acct: \$73,775.34
Mngt Acct: \$4,510.10

Bills Allowed: \$38.36 to bro Chris White for tonight's meal

Motion by bro Nicholas Coyle 2nd by bro Joe Winchester to pay the bills, motion carried.

Old Business: - Reminder to Brethren, please pay your dues for 2025, we currently have 26 brothers owing dues for 2025, As a reminder, later this year, anyone owing dues for 1 year or more will be excluded for Non Payment of Dues in accordance with the Code.

- WM commented on the Endowed Membership, cost is currently only \$1911.00 for one-time payment or can be broken up into 5 annual payments of 477.75
- Past Masters Ladies Night renaming to St. John's Lodge No. 3 Homecoming Banquet honoring our Past Masters, Ladies and Awardees.
- Whitestone Fraternal Friendship WB Joey Transou will be giving an educational program on 22 Oct 25. This will be given after the meal, but before the lodge is opened, this education will be open to all Masons, Spouses and Widows who would like more information on this program.
- Scottish Rite Golf Tournament, ask if the lodge would like to sponsor a team or just a hole. (report on associated costs) Lodge will be supporting the tournament by providing tours of the lodge during the weekend

New Business: - Reminder, beginning on the first stated in September we will be going back to Coat and Tie for communications.

- Notice that the next stated communication will be fairly administrative in nature, as we will read off our list of brethren owing dues and appoint a committee to contact these brethren before voting to exclude for nonpayment of dues.
- We will also be reading and deciding on how the lodge would like its delegates to vote on the proposed amendments to The Code.
- 2nd Degree officially called for 17 Sept 2025
- Schenevus Trip Discussion was cancelled
- Bro Dominick Giorgianni gave the quarterly budget report
- WB Tom Williams recommended paying the PO Box fee for 6 month & find an alternate method of receiving mail. A motion was made by WB Tom Williams 2nd by bro Dominick Giorgianni to pay 6 months for PO Box, motion carried.

Coaching Report: William Hall – working on 3rd deg, Aaron Weems awaiting 3rd deg w/ WB Larry Mares.
Roger Baysden - examined

Building Report: Work on fireplace leak is being finished
The theater asked about replacing chairs in the theater due to age.
Outside openings are being repaired in order to keep animals out of the building.

Fundraiser Report: Bro. Mark Bledsoe gave an update on raffle

Membership Outreach: Bro Mark Bledsoe gave an update on the coffee & donuts event. Next event scheduled for Sept 6 @ 9am
He also spoke on the "Fishin-with-a-cop" event on Sept 1
The blood drive will be held on Friday Sept 5 from 12-5 @ York Rite Temple

Book Club: WM gave reported on the book club. The next meeting will be 21 Sept 2025 @ 2 pm. The book reading will be "The Craft & It's Symbols".

The New Bern Masonic Theater, Historic Preservation Foundation: WB David Daniels gave an update on the "Best of Broadway" event and asked for help with the distribution of flyers on Thursday. Also, needs help with building stairs for the stage on Sept 8 plus looking for donations for the purchase of plates & utensils.

- Important Dates:
- 1 Sept - Fish-with-a-cop. Time 730-1 pm
 - 2, 11, 16 Sept @ 6:30PM Practice 2nd Degree,
 - 13 Sept - NB Preservation Foundation will have "Best of Broadway". They are looking for donations
 - 17 Sept - 2nd Degree meal 630 degree 730
 - 18-20 Sept- Grand Lodge in NC Annual Communication
 - 4 Oct - Scottish Rite Golf Tournament in New Bern
 - 5 Sept - Blood drive 12-5 @ York Rite Temple
 - 17 Sept - DAR/SAR is having a ceremony to celebrate the signing of The Constitution. Place- Tryon Gates, Time- 245 pm
 - 21 Sept - Book Club @ 2 pm

WM thanked bro Terry Tripp for the meal.

The meal was served in Lowthorp hall before the meeting.

There being no further business to come before this Lodge, the minutes were read and approved, and this Lodge was closed in due form.

William C. Zerby. PM
Secretary