

Masonic Temple, Wednesday Evening, 25 March 2026

At a Stated Communication of St. John's Lodge No. 3, A.F. & A.M. New Bern, North Carolina

HELD ON THE ABOVE DATE PRESENT:

W. Bro. Dominick P. Giorgianni Master
W. Bro Joe Fuller "as" S.W.
Bro. Francis L. Anson J.W.
Bro. Kito B. Romans Treas.
W. Bro. Arthur B. Romans, PM Sec'y.
Bro. Aquiles P. Faustino Chaplain



Bro. Joseph S. Kawalski S.D.
Bro. Nicholas C. Coyle J.D.
Bro. Robert W. Webster Steward
Bro. Christopher White "as" Steward
Tyler

St. John's Lodge No. 3 was opened on the Third Degree of Masonry in Due Form at 7:30 p.m.

After the Flag Ceremony,

The Master recognized all Veterans, Certified Lectures, Past/Present First Responders, Past Masters, Certified Lectures, Coaches, Past/Present Grand Lodge and District Officers

The Master thanked Bro. Rob Webster for the delightful meal. (Swedish Meatball Casserole and Mixed Veggies)

The Master recognized our guest: WB. Kevin Hall Past Master of Haymarket Lodge No. 313, Haymarket VA.

Sick and Distressed Report:

WB. Riley Hughes, please keep in thoughts and prayers.
WB. Tom Williams' wife Candy, please keep in thoughts and prayers.
Bro. Terry Tripp's wife Cindy is recovering from a medical procedure.
Bro. Amos Mantlya diagnosed with ALS.
Bro. Joe Nobles Grotto Monarch requiring open heart surgery.
Bro. James Warren in our thoughts and prayers.

Prayer was given by Chaplain

Glad Tidings Report:

Bro. Bill Vestal Celebrated his 90th Birthday.
Bro. Steven Langenscheidt announced that his wife Natasha's birthday is tomorrow.
Congratulations to Brother's Mark Bledsoe, Aquiles Faustino and Steven Langenscheidt for becoming 32° Masters of the Royal Secret in the Scottish Rite.
Thanks to the (10) Brothers who attended the Master Mason Degree at Doric Lodge on March 14th.

Masonic Minute Given by Master: Lodges of Liberty: Masonic Influence in Revolutionary Education.

THIS DAY IN MASONIC HISTORY: Joseph Montfort Dies in 1776.

The Secretary read the minutes of the Stated Communication of 11 March 2026 for information.

The Treasurer made his report:

- Lodge Checking: \$ 34781.84
- Lodge Management: \$ 510.10
- NC Masonic Foundation Investment:\$49663.99

The Secretary Cleared His Desk –

Collected: \$155.00 from Meal Basket

The following bill was presented

- \$91.29 Rob Webster (Meal Reimbursement).

A motion was made by Bro. Nick Coyle, Seconded by Bro. Chris White to pay the bill.
Motion Carried.

A Petition for Affiliation for WBro. Kevin Hall was read and balloted on, WBro. Hall was elected for affiliation with St. John's Lodge No. 3.

A Petition for Degrees for Mr. Edward Brison was read and balloted on. Mr. Brinson was elected to receive the degrees of Masonry.

Petitions for the Degrees of Masonry for Mr. Nathan R. Davis and Mr. Brian D. Sprecher was read to the lodge.

Old Business:

-Dues Update 18 Brother Owe Dues for 2026 / Delinquency notices have been mailed out.

-Liberty Tree Reminder:: Liberty Tree Dedication in the Town of River Bend on Thursday, March 26th, 2026 in partnership with SAR/DAR. Time: 1200 at 51 Shoreline Drive - River Bend Memorial Garden.

-4th of July Float Update: We now have a truck/trailer and garage. We are needing brethren to assist with building walls and painting banners.

-Cornerstone Rededication on 225th Anniversary (Actual date is 15 April, but we are trying to coordinate GLNC for representation (Date of Rededication is scheduled for April 25th @ 11:00. GL will be in attendance.

Scholarship Fund (Status)

Thanks to brother Mark for helping clear out W. Bro. James Wiley's storage unit.

We have received (2) estimates for the work to be completed in Lowthorp Hall.

Motion Made by Joe Fuller and 2nd by Joe Kawalski for work to utilize Honest Renovations.Motion Carried.

New Business:

- The Master called for an Entered Apprentice Degree on 1 April 2026, 6:30PM DINNER / 7:30PM DEGREE /
- TUESDAY 31 MARCH 2026 PRACTICE AT 6:30PM.

Committee Reports:

- Coaching- NONE
- Building/ NBMTHPF Report given by WB. Arthur Romans Stairstep Plaques Sold (7) / Scottish Rite Reunion Update
- Fundraising- Soliciting Ideas for Fundraisers
- Membership Outreach - Next Coffee and Donuts will be on 4 April 2026.
- St. John's Book Club: On hold until summer.
- America 250 - Patriot Square Brick Fundraiser.

Education: W. Bro. Joe Fuller "The Master's Chair"

Important Dates and Announcements:

- April 1st - Entered Apprentice Degree, Meal at 6:30PM / Degree at 7:30PM.
- April 4th - Coffee and Donuts
- April 8th - Next Stated Communication
- April 11th, 2026 – Royal White Hart No. 2 Stated Communication / 250th Halifax Resolves Anniversary
- 8 Aug 2026- Lecture / Instructor Examinations (Greenville/ Wilmington)

Good of Masonry:

Bro. Joe Kawalski congratulated the Master and Secretary, on their appointments to the York Rite Grand Council Line.

There being no further business to come before this lodge, the minutes were read and approved, and this Lodge was closed in due form at 9:00 PM by the Master.

At the conclusion of the meeting the brethren departed and were invited to The Old Pinnix for Fellowship.



Arthur B. Romans, PM
Secretary

Attendance Roster Attached



St. John's Lodge #3

Date 3/25/26

	Name	Lodge	No.	City/State
1	ROBERT MULL	ST JOHN'S	3	NEW BERN
2	Doug Salton	St John's	3	NB
3	James Wiley	St. John's	3	NB
4	Bob Martele	ST. John's	3	New Bern NC.
5	Kevin Hall	Hay Market	313	Haymarket, VA
6	Ken Baker	St. John's	3	NB
7	CRAIG ZIMMERMAN	ST. JOHN'S	3	NEW BERN.
8	Robert Parks	St. John's	3	NB
9	Roger Baysden	St. Johns	3	New Bern
10	MARK BLEDSON	ST JOHN'S	3	NEW BERN
11	Joe Owen	St John	3	New Bern
12	Steven Langenscheidt	St John's	3	New Bern
13	Roy FARON P.M.	ST. JOHN'S	3	New Bern
14	FRED WHITTY PM	ST JOHN'S	3	NB NC
15				
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LODGES OF LIBERTY: MASONIC INFLUENCE IN REVOLUTIONARY EDUCATION

5. Masonic lodges played a crucial role in promoting education and disseminating revolutionary literature, significantly impacting public awareness of the principles of freedom and independence during the American Revolution.

Many lodges organized public lectures to discuss Enlightenment ideas, emphasizing concepts like liberty, equality, and democracy. These gatherings served as platforms for educated members to share revolutionary thoughts and engage the community in meaningful dialogue. St. Andrew's Lodge (Boston) was known for its intellectual gatherings where revolutionary literature was discussed, and ideas were exchanged among influential citizens, helping to galvanize support for independence.

Some lodges took the initiative to improve literacy within their communities, believing that an informed populace was essential for a functioning democracy. They established reading groups and funded local schools to promote education.

Masonic lodges often distributed pamphlets and articles that promoted revolutionary ideas. For instance, lodges in various towns would circulate Thomas Paine's "Common Sense," which argued for independence from Britain and inspired many to support the revolutionary cause.

Many lodges had connections to local printers and newspapers, allowing them to publish and distribute revolutionary content. Members would write articles advocating for independence, highlighting injustices, and rallying public support. At Lodge No. 2 in Philadelphia, its members contributed to local newspapers and published pamphlets that promoted revolutionary ideas, playing a key role in spreading the message of independence throughout the colony.

After the Revolution, the educational initiatives of Masonic lodges contributed to the establishment of public education systems in the United States. Their commitment to education laid the groundwork for future generations to understand and appreciate the value of freedom and democratic principles. Through these various efforts, Masonic lodges significantly contributed to the education of the public and the dissemination of revolutionary literature, helping to inform and inspire the populace during a critical time in American history.

The Master's Chair (Masonic Education)

There is a chair in the East that most people will never understand. It isn't special because of how it looks. It isn't powerful because of where it sits. And it sure as hell isn't comfortable. The Master's Chair is heavy—not with wood or fabric, but with responsibility, doubt, sacrifice, and expectation.

When a man is placed into that chair, something changes. Not because he's better than the Brothers around him—but because from that moment on, he carries them. Their harmony. Their disagreements. Their hopes for the Lodge. Their frustrations when things don't go right. Every empty seat on the sidelines. Every Brother who drifts away. Every one who stays.

That chair does not elevate a man—it exposes him.

It exposes his patience when it runs thin. His temper when tested. His humility when pride whispers. It forces him to make decisions that won't make everyone happy. It forces him to choose what is right over what is easy. And sometimes, it forces him to sit alone with those choices long after the lights are off and the doors are locked.

There are nights when the Lodge feels quiet. Too quiet. Nights when you look out and see empty chairs and wonder what more you could have done. Nights when you question whether you were strong enough, wise enough, or even worthy enough to sit where so many good men sat before you.

No one tells you that part.

No one tells you about the weight you feel when you raise the gavel for the first time—or the lump in your throat the last time you set it down. No one tells you how much of yourself you will give, or how little recognition you will ever receive for it. And no one tells you how deeply it will change you.

The Master's Chair demands everything you have—and then asks for more.

It asks you to lead men who are older than you, men who know more than you, men who may not agree with you. It asks you to stay calm when emotions run high. To protect the harmony of the Lodge

even when your own spirit feels worn down. To put the Lodge first,
even when life outside its walls is heavy.

And still—you show up.

Because Masonry was never about comfort. It was never about titles.

It was about service, even when service hurts.

When you sit in that Chair, you don't sit alone. You sit with the
ghosts of every Master who came before you—the ones who
struggled, the ones who failed, the ones who gave everything they
had. You feel their presence whether you realize it or not. You feel
the unspoken expectation: leave it better than you found it.

And when your year is done, when the apron is folded and the gavel
is passed on, you don't walk away unchanged. A piece of you stays in
that Chair. In the floor you walked. In the Lodge you worried over. In
the Brothers you tried to lead the best way you knew how.

The Master's Chair doesn't make a man great.

But it will break him down.

It will humble him.

It will test him.

And if he's honest about the experience—it will make him better.

So when you see a Brother in the East, don't see a man seeking
power. See a man carrying weight. A man who chose responsibility
over recognition. A man who sat in a chair that demanded more than
it ever gave back.

And if you've ever sat there yourself—you already know.