

Masonic Temple, Wednesday Evening, 8 April 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
Bro W. Terry Tripp	S.W.
WBro. Joseph E. Fuller "as"	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. C. Brian Fuller	Steward
Bro. Jason P. Maxey	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 Brothers Brian Fuller and Robert Webster for the delightful meal. (Chicken Alfredo)

There were no guests this evening.

Sick and Distressed Report:

WB. Tom Williams' wife Candy, please keep in thoughts and prayers.

Bro. Amos Mantlya diagnosed with ALS.

WB. Wayne Lynton's wife is currently under home hospice.

Prayer was given by Chaplain

Glad Tidings Report:

Congratulations to Brother William Hall and his family on their new addition. Luna Elieen Hall 6lbs 3oz 18.5' Long (Girl)

Bro. Mark Bledsoe Daughter-in-Law just got her first professorship at Santa Clara University..

Bro. Joseph Kawalski- son received his license.

Thanks to all the Brothers who attended the Liberty Tree Dedication on March 26th. Especially to Brother Bledsoe for making it happen. It was a great success and is now listed on the national site.

Thank you to the Brothers who attended the funeral service of Brother Melin on the 28th. The family was very appreciative, and we sent our Brother off with proper Masonic Rites.

Thanks to the Brothers who helped move the refrigerator from the storage unit to the lodge. We'll figure out the next steps.

Thanks to the Officers for the EA degree. The new EA's were very appreciative and impressed by the degree ritual.

Thanks to Brother Aquiles for hosting the Coffee and Donuts with Masons on Saturday the 4th of April.

Masonic Minute Given by Master:

THIS DAY IN MASONIC HISTORY: Masonic Minds: Jefferson, Franklin, and Masonic Foundations of Revolution.

The Secretary read the minutes of the Stated Communication of 25 March 2026 and Emergent Communication of 1 April 2026 for information.

The Treasurer made his report:

- Lodge Checking: \$ 36191.55
- Lodge Management: \$ 510.10
- NC Masonic Foundation Investment:

The Secretary Cleared His Desk –

Collected: \$161 from Meal Basket

The following bill was presented

- \$16.53 R. Webster (Meal Reimbursement). 4/1/26 (Emergent Communication)
- \$119.24 C. Brian Fuller (Meal Reimbursement). 4/1/26 (Emergent Communication)
- \$20.42 R. Webster (Meal Reimbursement). 4/8/26 (Stated Communication)
- \$55.85 C. Brian Fuller (Meal Reimbursement). 4/8/26 (Stated Communication)
- \$232.79 SGA Oxford for March / April Trestle Board

A motion was made by Bro. Joseph Kawalski, Seconded by Bro Mark Bledsoe. to pay the bills.
Motion Carried.

Old Business:

-Dues Update 16 Brother Owe Dues for 2026 / Delinquency notices have been mailed out.

-4th of July Float Update: We now have a truck/trailer and garage. We are needing brethren to assist with building walls and print banners. Move trailer in June over to Billy Zerby's garage.

-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 @ 1:00-1:30PM. GL will be in attendance. (Food Assisted by OES)

Scholarship Fund (Status)

Honest Renovations has been notified of our selection for them to complete work, which will be beginning in the upcoming weeks.

New Business:

- Veterans and First Responders Lunch with Doric lodge #568 on Wednesday April 15, 11am-2pm. SJ3 is to provide garlic bread, drinks and dessert. Need some volunteers for set up and breakdown. This would be a great opportunity to partner with another lodge and receive L&P credit for the event. At York Rite Temple.

Committee Reports:

- Coaching- James Laurine Coaching / Ed Brinson Coaching
- Building/ NBMTHPF Report given by WB. Arthur Romans (Look at Gutter in Bathroom Window)
- Fundraising- Soliciting Ideas for Fundraisers (Grill / Pellet Smoker / Blackstone)
- Membership Outreach - Coffee and Donut Report of 4 April 2026. (7 Visitors)
- St. John's Book Club: On hold until summer.
- America 250 - Patriot Square Brick Fundraiser.

Education: WB Bob Martelet- "Declaration of Independence"

Important Dates and Announcements:

- April 11th, 2026 – Royal White Hart No. 2 Stated Communication / 250th Halifax Resolves Anniversary
- April 15th 2026 - Officer Practice
- April 22nd 2026 - Stated Communication
- April 25th 2026 - Cornerstone Rededication
- 8 Aug 2026- Lecture / Instructor Examinations (Greenville/ Wilmington)

Good of Masonry:

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 8:35 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

MASONIC MINDS: JEFFERSON, FRANKLIN & MASONIC FOUNDATIONS OF REVOLUTION

6. Influential figures like Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin played significant roles in the discussions held at Masonic lodges, particularly during the period leading up to and during the American Revolution.

Both Jefferson and Franklin were deeply influenced by Enlightenment thinkers. Their ideas on liberty, equality, and the social contract aligned with the principles discussed in Masonic lodges, providing a philosophical foundation for revolutionary thought. They advocated for reasoned debate and critical thinking, which were central to Masonic discussions. Their presence and ideas helped cultivate an environment where members could explore complex political and social issues.

As Freemasons, their membership connected them with a network of like-minded individuals who valued knowledge and civic responsibility. Their involvement in lodges facilitated the exchange of revolutionary ideas among influential leaders.

Franklin held various leadership positions within Masonic lodges, which allowed him to influence discussions and decisions. His active participation helped shape the direction of Masonic thought during a pivotal time. Franklin's efforts to engage the public through pamphlets and articles echoed the educational initiatives of Masonic lodges, which mobilized support for the revolutionary cause.

Jefferson's drafting of the Declaration of Independence reflected the ideals discussed in Masonic lodges. His ability to articulate the need for independence and self-governance inspired many Masons to take action.

Their willingness to explore new concepts and challenge existing norms inspired lodge members to think critically about governance and society, fostering a culture of innovation and reform.

Jefferson and Franklin's ideas about liberty and democracy became integral to Masonic teachings. Their contributions helped solidify the lodge's commitment to these principles, influencing future generations of Masons.

Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin were not merely influential figures in the American Revolution; they were also vital contributors to the discussions held at Masonic lodges. Their philosophical insights, leadership roles, and advocacy for independence helped shape the revolutionary dialogue, making Masonic lodges important centers for the exchange of ideas that ultimately contributed to the founding of the United States. Their legacy continues to inspire the values of liberty, education, and civic responsibility within the Masonic tradition.