

Masonic Temple, Wednesday Evening, 24 June 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. Mark Bledsoe	"AS" Chaplain



Bro. Joseph S. Kawalski	S.D.
Bro. Nicholas C. Coyle	J.D.
Bro. Robert W. Webster	Steward
Bro. C. Brian Fuller	Steward
WBro. Craig Zimmerman	"AS" 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, Past/Present First Responders, Past Masters, Certified Lectures, Coaches, Past/Present Grand Lodge and District Officers.

The Master thanked Bro. Rob Webster and Bro. Brian Fuller our Stewards for the delightful meal (Cheesy Bacon Ranch Chicken, Roasted Red Potatoes, Green Beans, and Salad with Dessert)

-There was (23) St. John's No. 3 Members in Attendance, +1 Honorary Member (SGW Mike Register).

The Senior Deacon Introduced our (0) Guests that were in attendance:

Sick and Distressed Report:

- Bro. Terry Tripp please keep in thoughts and prayers.
- WB Rubert Fuller recovering from Triple Bypass on 6/8, please keep in our thoughts and prayers.
- Bro. Ron Packard is now at Bayview Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.
- WBro. James Warren is in the Hospital undergoing cancer treatment.
- WBro. James Wiley's wife Joy is going to be undergoing cancer treatment.
- Please keep Bro Johnny Ray McAlexander in your thoughts and prayers.
- Bro Harry Sanders' wife Lyn passed away on June 15th.
- Bro. Chris White's grandfather Floyd White who is a member of Grantham Lodge, is undergoing bypass surgery on 6/25/26, please keep in thoughts and prayers.

A prayer was given by the Chaplain

Glad Tidings Report:

- Bro. Faustino is representing the Nubia Grotto at the Grottos International.
- Thanks to the brethren who attended Bro. David Arthur's funeral service.
- Thanks to the brothers who helped with the Reposo House in River Bend.
- Congratulations to our new Scottish Rite brethren who attended the Scottish Rite Ring Ceremony and received their Scottish Rite Patent and 14th Degree Ring.

Masonic Minute Given by Master: *The Bonds that Built a Nation*

Examinations: NONE

The Secretary read the minutes of the Stated Communication of 10 June 2026..

The Treasurer made his report:

- Lodge Checking: \$26,944.72
- Scholarship: \$7500.00
- Foundation: \$55,213.04
- Lodge Management: \$ 510.10

The Secretary Cleared His Desk –

- Reminder we currently have 7 Brothers remaining that owe dues for 2026.
- Report that we received 3 Endowed Membership Applications and Payments this evening..

Collected: \$144.00 from Meal Basket

The following bills were presented

- Bro. Rob Webster - \$93.66 Meal 6/24
- Quality Heating & Cooling - \$1085.28
- Dominick G. - \$ 348.78 Decorations America 250 / 4th of July
- Brian Fuller - \$35.16 Meal 6/24

A motion was made by Bro Nick Coyle., Seconded by Bro. Bob Mull to pay the bills. *(Motion Carried)*.

Chaplain

Old Business:

- 4th of July Float reminder. Getting ready to build. The date will be announced by the Master for decoration.
- Table Lodge Planning
- Flag Poles for the front of the building have been purchased, we will put flags out before 4th of July.
- Proposed Bylaws Dues Modifications / (REQUIRED a $\frac{2}{3}$ VOTE for approval). Motion Carried.

New Business:

- Adopt A Street Application (City of New Bern Hancock St.)
- James B. Green Lodge No. 735 wants to plan a Saturday visit to tour lodge and New Bern and would like to have lunch with brethren from the lodge if possible. Waiting for a date from James B. Green Lodge.

Education: Bro. Bob Mull

Committee Reports:

- Scholarship Committee Report: Reestablishing Scholarship Fund / Scholarship name (St. John's Lodge No. 3 Scholarship) / Requirements: Be a resident of Craven County and have a family member who is involved in Masonry. Need to raise \$25,000, currently at \$7,500 in the bank.
- Coaching: Report on EA (Ed Brinson / Cody Laurine / Nathan Davis / Brian Sprecher)
- Building: Lowthorp Progress / Slow moving but moving forward. (Paint Color Scheme)
- Fundraising: Report by Bro. Mark Bledsoe / Grill Raffle
 - Start Date: July 1st / End Date: Oct 28th
 - 5 Prizes Trager / Blackstone / Weber Grill / 2 Gift Cards.
- Membership Outreach: No Coffee and Donuts for 4th of July.
- The New Bern Masonic Theater, Historic Preservation Foundation:
- Lion and Pillar: Need signature from Senior Warden / will submit to Lion and Pillar Committee

Important Dates and Announcements:

- 25 June 2026 - Doric Lodge (EA Degree)
- 1 July 2026 - Emergent Communication @ St. John's No. 3 / Entered Apprentice Degree 6:30PM Meal / 7:30 Degree (2) Candidates, Officers in Black Suits
- 4 July 2026 - City of New Bern 4th of July Parade will post information on Facebook page with meet up time and Location.
- 8 July 2026 - Stated Communication
- 12-14 July 2026 - York Rite Summer Assembly (Maggie Valley)
- 22 July 2026 - Stated Communication

Good of Masonry:

- Reminder to the Brethren, since it is after Memorial Day we are now authorized by the Master to wear Lodge Polo's and Slacks for Stated Communications. (As a reminder, all degree work will still be conducted in Coat & Tie.)
- New Bern York Rite Yard of Flags Fundraiser \$5 to Honor someone with Tag on flag pole.

The Lodge was closed in Due Form at PM

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



Arthur B. Romans, PM
Secretary

Attached:

- Attendance Roster-
- Masonic Minute-
- Approved Bylaws Modification

ST. JOHN'S NO. 3 A.F. & A.M.

Attendance Roster

Date: 6/24/26

	NAME	LODGE	NO.	CITY	STATE
1	Doug Sotter, PM	St. John's	3	New Bern	NC
2	James Wiley PM	St. John's	3	New Bern	NC
3	Bill Mantel	St. John's	3	New Bern	NC
4	Kevin Hall	St. John's	3	New Bern	NC
5	ROBERT MULL	ST JOHN'S	3	NB	NC
6	CRAIG ZIMMERMAN	ST JOHN'S	3	NB	NC
7	Bill Joiner PM	St John's	3	New Bern	NC
8	JOSEPH WINCHESTER PM	ST JOHN'S / CITRUSVILLE	3/26	NB / FAIRVIEW, NV	NC
9	Joe Owens	ST John	3		
10	John T. Pugh PM	St John's	3	NB	NC
11	Roy Jaron P.M.	St John's	3	New Bern	NC
12	Steven Langenscheidt	st John's	3	New Bern	NC
13	Fred H. Whitty, PM	St John's	3	NB NC	
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The Bonds That Built a Nation

How Freemasonry Fostered Trust Among America's Revolutionary Leaders

One of the most important ways Freemasonry influenced the American Revolution was by helping build trust among leaders. Freemasonry created a network of men bound not by politics, but by shared values, ethical principles, personal relationships, and mutual respect. In the 18th century, when communication was slow and loyalties were often uncertain, these bonds could be invaluable.

This does not mean that Freemasons all shared the same political views. Loyalists, revolutionaries, and even British officers could be found within the fraternity. However, membership often provided a foundation of familiarity and confidence between men who might otherwise have been strangers.

We see this in the life of Benjamin Franklin. As a Mason in both Philadelphia and Paris, Franklin used his Masonic and intellectual connections to build relationships with influential French leaders and thinkers. While France supported the American cause for its own national interests, Franklin's reputation and relationships helped open doors and establish credibility for a young nation seeking allies.

We also see it in Boston, where Dr. Joseph Warren and Paul Revere worked closely together as patriots and fellow Masons. On the eve of Lexington and Concord, Warren entrusted Revere with one of the most important missions in American history—to warn colonial leaders of the British advance. Their shared circles of trust helped make swift action possible during a critical moment.

Later, in 1782, General George Washington approved American Union Lodge No. 1 within the Continental Army. There, officers from different colonies gathered under a common fraternal bond, helping foster cooperation and a growing sense of national identity.

One fascinating example of Masonic trust occurred between enemies. There are accounts from the Revolutionary War of American and British officers recognizing one another as Masons and extending courtesies that might not otherwise have been offered.

The lesson is clear. Freemasonry did not create the American Revolution, nor did it direct it. But it provided a framework where trust could flourish, where leaders could build lasting relationships, and where men from different backgrounds could unite around common principles. In a time when the future of a nation depended upon cooperation and character, those bonds helped strengthen the alliances that made independence possible.

And perhaps that remains one of Freemasonry's greatest contributions—not simply the building of a nation, but the building of trust among the men who helped lead it.

St. John's No. 3. A.F. & A. M.
516 Hancock Street
New Bern, NC 28560



TO: The Master, Wardens and Members of St. John's Lodge No. 3 New Bern

FROM: St. John's By-Laws Committee

DATE: 27 May 2026

RE: Proposed By-Laws change

At our Stated Communication on 13 May 2026 the Master delivered a presentation on the findings of the Finance and Budget Committees and consequent recommendations for dues and fees adjustments to ensure the continued solvency and survival of the organization and building. A motion was made and seconded to move forward with the recommended adjustments to the dues and fees. The motion passed.

The Master created an ad-hoc by-laws review committee and charged them with developing the necessary language change to the relevant sections of the by-laws. The below text satisfies that requirement and is formally presented to the lodge for action.

CURRENT:

ARTICLE 9

SECTION 1 . The fees for the degrees in this lodge shall be seventy-five dollars (\$75.00), all of which must accompany the petition and be paid in full before the petition shall be received by the lodge plus the cost of the criminal background check assessed by the Grand Lodge. (59-12.19).

PROPOSED CHANGE:

ARTICLE 9

SECTION 1 . The fees for the degrees in this lodge shall be three-hundred-sixty-five dollars (\$365.00), all of which must accompany the petition and be paid in full before the petition shall be received by the lodge plus the cost of the criminal background check assessed by the Grand Lodge. (59-12.19).

CURRENT:

ARTICLE 10

SECTION 1 . The annual membership dues in this lodge shall be fifty-five dollars (\$55.00) plus Grand Lodge per capita tax as specified in Regulation 20-1.1_Of The Code which each member shall pay in advance on or before the first day of January. (77-2; 77-3).

PROPOSED CHANGE:

ARTICLE 10

SECTION 1 . The annual membership dues in this lodge shall be one-hundred-forty-nine dollars (\$149.00) plus Grand Lodge per capita tax as specified in Regulation 20-1.1 Of The Code which each member shall pay in advance on or before the first day of January. (77-2; 77-3).

CURRENT:

ARTICLE 11

SECTION 1. The fee for affiliation with this lodge shall be thirty dollars (\$30.00) which must accompany the application for affiliation and be paid in full before the application shall be received by the lodge. (39-11; 75-13).

PROPOSED CHANGE:

ARTICLE 11

SECTION 1. The fee for affiliation with this lodge shall be two-hundred-twenty-five dollars (\$225.00) which must accompany the application for affiliation and be paid in full before the application shall be received by the lodge. (39-11; 75-13).

The process will follow that which is mandated in Article 24, Section 1, herein provided for information.

3) *Review and abide by Article 24 Section 1.*

ARTICLE 24

SECTION 1 . These by-laws shall be amended only in the following manner: (44-2.1). The proposed amendment shall specify the affected section or subsection and shall contain the entire section or subsection rewritten in such form as to express the law as intended, and shall be submitted in writing and read at a stated communication as a substitute for the existing section or subsection, or as an addition thereto, or as a change in the seal of the lodge, as the case may be; after which it shall lay over for one lunar month when it shall again be read and submitted to a vote, and adopted by not less than two-thirds affirmative vote of the members present. While such amendment is under consideration, it may be amended if the amendment thereto is germane to the subject. After the adoption of such amendment or revision, two complete copies thereof with two copies of a Certificate on Official Form 60 under the seal of the lodge shall be forwarded to the Grand Lodge Committee on By-laws of Subordinate Lodges and no amendment, revision, or change in the by-laws shall be effective until the date it is approved by the Grand Lodge Committee on By-laws of Subordinate Lodges; an amendment providing for an additional subsection shall be lettered as a section or a subsection but not as an additional article . (43-10;45-3.4.E)•

Sincerely and fraternally submitted,

St. John's By-laws Committee

Terry Tripp

Bob Mull

Francis Anson

**THESE PROPOSED BY-LAWS CHANGES WERE
APPROVED BY A 2/3'S VOTE OF THE BRETHREN
PRESENT AT THE STATED COMMUNICATION OF
24 JUNE 2026.**