



**2014 OFFICERS**

Worshipful Master	Louis Devillon (865) 317-1453
Senior Warden	Eric Windhausen, (402) 304-2263
Junior Warden	David Alexander (865) 213-4578
Treasurer	Lloyd Cook
Secretary	Christopher Harris, P.M.
Chaplain	Jerry Brackett, P.M.
Senior Deacon	Bryce Harris
Junior Deacon	John Alexander
Senior Steward	Danny Patterson
Junior Steward	John Owings
Tiler	Dennis Myers, P.M.
Marshal	Hoke Colbertson, P.M.

**TRUSTEES**

Trustee	Jerry Brackett, PM
Trustee	John Carter, PM
Trustee	Charles Ray

**CIVILITY**

*by Bro. Russ Charvonia  
Deputy Grand Master, Grand Lodge of California*

I believe we have a problem in today's society; the world about us is becoming increasingly uncivil.

Polarized and hostile speech dominates the news media, our political arenas, and our everyday lives. This behavior has become epidemic. It is costing us money, our health, and our dignity, and is putting our democratic heritage in jeopardy.

We tolerate being talked at instead of talking with each other. Listening has become an endangered skill. We have allowed divisions to grow into chasms so deep that simply getting people into the same room to talk has become difficult, and at times impossible. We have allowed ideological intolerance to evolve into self-righteousness, condemnation and, ultimately, persecution---and we all know that's wrong.

And let's admit it: This incivility even makes its way into our lodge rooms. I have to believe that each of us has been witness to situations where brothers have disturbed the peace and sanctity of our lodges by bringing inappropriate and undesirable behavior and attitudes across the threshold.

I believe that if we don't address this state of affairs now, incivility will soon become our "new normal". And when this happens we may be within just a single generation of it becoming so ingrained in our collective psyche, that our children and grandchildren may not know any other way. Do we really want to imagine such a world?

"These are the times that try men's souls," Thomas Paine said in his 1776 essay.

When we are uncivil to one another, we take his or her voice away. This is not a Masonic value.

As Masons were are about allowing and perpetuating alternative voices and ideas. Masonic lodges have long promoted the democratic habits of generous listening and civil discourse.

My brethren, civil dialogue is the cornerstone that allows us to see things from a more enlightened perspective. This is not about avoiding difficult and complex topics. It is not about just "being nice" and keeping the dialogue on a superficial level. It does not silence those who wish to be heard. Instead, civil dialogue allows all voices to be valued.

And it can be achieved. We can restore civility back into our society.

Uncivil behavior often triggers a physiological response in us that perpetuates this dangerous cycle. It limits the ability to have complex conversations and stops learning in its tracks.

Masonry is different.

- The world is politically divided and antagonistic; Masons are taught to be good citizens and to welcome the opinions of others.

- The world is often dominated by factions that are hostile, confrontational and rude; Masons learn how to be civil and respectful.

- The world is fractured by religious intolerance and bigotry; Masons respect all religions and welcome all believers in the The Great Architect of the Universe---in whatever form that belief may take.

So if society hungers for a return to civility, and if we, as Masons, have the common language, tools, values, and desire to create a better world, isn't it our duty to do all that we can to bring civility back into society? Aren't we uniquely positioned to tackle this problem?

While it is perfectly acceptable, and even encouraged, that we debate policies where we have disagreement, we must always respect the office that our representatives hold. The demonizing of others is the lowest form of human behavior.

Thomas Jefferson said to William Hamilton in 1800, "I never consider a difference of opinion in politics, in religion, in philosophy, as cause for withdrawing from a friend."

And we can go further, my brothers. The need for safe and open dialogue about difficult and complex subjects has certainly not diminished. There just are fewer places and opportunities for this to occur. We need to communicate in more than 140-character sound bites and we need to return to real, face-to-face conversations; and we can provide the forums to do so.

As Masons, we can serve as catalysts for change and be facilitators of civil dialogue. We are well skilled and aptly qualified to teach those in our midst the means of treating each other with dignity and respect.

And perhaps most importantly, we can be instrumental in this effort because we have what I refer to as a perfect and unique "delivery system" to promote civil dialogue. In North America, we have nearly one-and-a half million men who have each taken an obligation to support each other and our fellow citizens, utilizing a common language and a system of morals and values. For example, when we, as Masons, meet "on the level," we set the stage for a dialogue where every voice matters. We can share this concept with others in an effort to improve our world. As Masons, we are stewards of the language of civility. But we cannot keep it hidden in our lodge rooms. Our communities need what we have to offer.

Together, as Masons, we can build a toolbox of resources that can be used by Lodges and members throughout North America to engage in civil dialogue and create more effective communities.

Think about how we might take the working tools of Freemasonry to fill this symbolic toolbox with implements that can be used to create and demonstrate civil behavior. How might we utilize the plumb, square, level, compasses, and even the trowel to illustrate and explain to our non-Mason friends how to deal with each other from a point of enlightenment?

As the current and future leaders of our beloved Craft, one of our roles is to engage more of our members in our respective jurisdictions in the lifestyle of Freemasonry. Perhaps our circling the wagons around such a civility effort will mobilize some of our less connected members. Didn't we all become Masons with the ideal of making the world better, by making ourselves better men?

Freemasonry provides the opportunity for ordinary men, who hold a shared set of morals and values to do extraordinary things. And each of us has been honored with this very special opportunity. We must not let our brethren down. We cannot let society down.

I therefore ask you, my brethren, if not us, then who? And if not now; well, I shudder to even consider the consequences of our inaction.

It is my hope, that we, as the leaders of our gently Craft throughout North America, will have the courage to incorporate our Masonic tools and enlightenment to help to repair our world. Do we have the fortitude to take full advantage of this opportunity, to bring civility back into our society, and into our communities, which so desperately need our leadership? If so, then we, as The Freemasons of North America, will be true ambassadors of civility in society. We can demonstrate our relevance in our communities. We can say, with conviction that, due to our efforts, our world is a better place.

And then my brethren, may harmony forever prevail!

*(This presentation we delivered by the author at the Conference of Grand Masters of North America in Baltimore in February, 2014).*

## EVENTS AT UNION LODGE

A Fellowcraft Degree is scheduled for Tuesday, May 20th. Meal at 6 p.m. Degree to follow.

Grand Lecture's visit is scheduled for Tuesday, September 16th.

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Several masonic appendent bodies meet at Union Lodge, including:

**Order of the Eastern Star, Chapter No. 405.** Meets on the third Monday at 7:30 p.m.

**Roane County Scottish Rite Club.** Meets the second Thursday. Meal at 6 p.m. Meeting at 7 p.m.

**Amaranth, Charity Court No. 17.** Meets the third Thursday. Meal at 6:30 p.m. Meeting at 7:30 pm.

**Burlington Forest No. 207, Tall Cedars of North America.** Meets the second Saturday of February, April, June, August, and November at Union Lodge No. 38, Kingston, Tennessee.

**Widow's Sons.** Meets the third Saturday of each month at 10 a.m.

Keep up with lodge activity at: [www.union38.org](http://www.union38.org) or on Facebook.

*Stated Meetings are held on the first Monday of every month. Meal at 6 pm. Meeting at 7 pm. We practice ritual each week on Tuesday evenings at 7 pm.*

## OTHER NEWS

**The 2014 Grand Master's knife** is now available. It is a two-bladed orange and white knife. It's available in a Frost (\$40) and CASE (\$75). Please contact PGM Tom Boduch if you'd like to purchase one. Knives are also available at Union Lodge.

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### This month in history.....

**May 1** - On this date in 1865, William McKinley (U.S. President 1898-1901) received his 1st degree in Hiram Lodge #21, Winchester, Virginia.

**May 3** - On this date in 1886, Rudyard Kipling received is 2nd degree.

**May 5** - On this date in 1851, Andrew Johnson (U.S. President 1865-1869) received his 1st degree in Greenville Lodge #119, Tennessee.

**May 8** - On this date in 1843, a national Masonic Congress was begun in Baltimore, sometimes referred to as the Baltimore Convention, to attempt to establish a uniform ritual for United States Grand Lodges.

**May 12** - On this date in 1932, the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, in Alexandria, Virginia, was dedicated in a very large ceremony, attended by thousands, including the President of the United States.

**May 12** - On this date in 1931, Senator Barry Goldwater (candidate for U.S. President in 1964) received his 1st degree in Arizona Lodge #2, Phoenix AZ.

**May 24** - On this date in 1901, Sir Winston Churchill received his 1st degree in Studholme Lodge #1591, London.

**May 31** - On this date in 1801, the Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States, "mother council of the world," was established, in Charleston, South Carolina.

## PAST MASTERS OF UNION LODGE NO. 38 F&AM

1821-22 John Brown *	1917 John W. Bowman *	1957 H. K. Deatherage *	1991 David M. Bunch
1823-24 R. Richardson *	1918 John G. Harding *	1958 E. E. Smith *	1992 Hoke S. Culbertson
1825 William G. Dunlap *	1919 A. H. Stegall *	1959 William G. Harvey *	1993 W. Dale Brown
1826-28 R.S. Gilliam *	1921 W. T. Ferguson *	1960 W.E. Pierce *	1994 J. Donald Bowers
1829-37,50-52 Lewis W. Jordon *	1923 O. N. McCallum *	1961 Kenneth E. Deal *	1995-96 Thomas Boduch, PGM
1838-49 Henry L. Welcker *	1924 William R. Ladd *	1962 William Seaver *	1997 Michael R. Mann
1853,55-56,59 Henry Liggett *	1925 William A. Smith *	1963 John A. Davis *	1998 Jerry L. Brackett
1854 Thomas A. Brown *	1926 John L. Fritts *	1965,71 Victor M. Hovis *	1999 John R. Carter
1857-58 Edward A. Yost *	1927,44 Janes C. Fly *	1965 A.T. Wallace *	2000 Eugene J. LaBounty *
1860-65 N. A. Patterson *	1928 Hugh E. Wyatt *	1966 John B. Arp, Jr. PGM *	2001 Ross L. Hickey*
1866-67 James W. McNutt *	1929-30,41,43 Robert S. Ladd *	1967 M.E. Wimberly *	2002 Johnnie C. Trivett
1868-69, 72-73 Evan E. Young *	1931 Martin L. Howard *	1968 Fred H. Rasco, Jr. *	2003,05 Terry W. Jones
1870, 78-79 H. Crumbliss, Jr. *	1932 A. Sl White *	1969 L.C. Hubbard *	2004 Daniel H. Morgan
1871 James Sevier *	1933, 45 Henry Parker *	1970 Ocee C. Cole	2006 Ronald B. Sales
1874-75,77,86 James M. Melton *	1934 Lewis E. Johnson *	1972 Leon A. Mead *	2007 Louis J. Scherf, Sr.
1876 J. M. Denning *	1935 James R. Heifner *	1973 K. C. Patterson *	2008 Eugene W. Livesay
1880-82,83 Evan E. Young *	1936 Thomas W. Pickel *	1974 Alvin Arthur *	2009 Joel M. Crowe
1881,85,87,91-92 H.Crumbliss Jr *	1937 Jessie R. Johnson *	1975 Fred J. Barger *	2010 Fritz Stevens
1884 W. L. Welcker *	1938 John R. Evans *	1976 C.G. Ruffner *	2011 John M. Parkinson
1888 W. C. Shelly *	1939 Clair W. Liggett *	1977 G.R. Jackson *	2012 Christopher Harris
1889 G. W. Henderson *	1940 Paul C. Henry *	1978 Roger L. Guinn *	2013 James Tucker
1890 R. W. Gambill *	1942 John G. Roberts *	1979 Robert L. Sneed *	
1893-95 J. C. DeArmond *	1946 S. L. Bowman *	1980 Charles L. Smiddy *	
1896-97 J. Frank Corman *	1947 Thedor E. Howard *	1981 E.I. "Bill" Leach *	
1898-99 J. B. Goodwin *	1948 H. D. Wattenbarger *	1982 Eddie Parish	
1900-1,3,7 J. G. Crumbliss *	1949 Samuel S. Henley *	1983 E.T. Strunk *	
1902 Geroge L. Burk *	1950 Robt. H. Crowder *	1984 Alvin Pierce	*At Rest
1906 James C. Pope *	1951 Earl L. Loop *	1985 Howard M. Trapp *	
1908-9 W. M. Gambil *	1952 A. G. Spurgeon *	1986 C. C. McPheeters *	
1912 Edward A. Wyatt *	1953 Mack H. Smith *	1987 Russell O. Thornton *	
1913 Jehu C. Pope *	1954 Walton T. Hall *	1988 L. Dow Odum *	
1914 Dr. John Roberts *	1955 William B. Logan *	1989 Marion E. Zeigler	
1915-16,20,22 John S. Parker *	1956 Avery L. Bright *	1990 Evertt Massengill	