



# Union Masonic Lodge #618, A.F. & A.M.

**Special points of interest:**

- Comments
- Facilities and Maintenance Activity
- Brother Helping Brother

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## Comments

**Secretary—**  
In reply to a Past Due dues notice that I sent out last month, a brother asked that the Lodge cancel his membership. For the Lodge to issue an Absolute Demit(to “cancel a membership”), the member must be “clear on the books.” If dues are owed, the member is not “clear on the books”, and a demit

cannot be issued. If a member desires for whatever reason to terminate his membership—even temporarily—the member must be “clear on the books”, and submit in writing over his signature to the Lodge his request, or make that request in open lodge. If a member decides to just not pay his dues, unless there are bona fide rea-

sons for which he cannot, the Lodge likely will have to Suspend the member for Non-Payment of Dues at the October stated. Legitimate hardship circumstances submitted by the member can be considered by the Lodge potentially to remit the member’s dues for the year.

## Facilities and Maintenance Activity

WBs Darrell Cline, Bobby Burgess, and Bill Moss completed the ramp at the back door, with the

concrete being donated by McGee Brothers Concrete.

## Brother Helping Brother

Having recently had to spend some time in the hospital, and having to drastically reduce his physical activity, Brother Tim Smith turned to his Lodge brothers for some help accomplishing some seasonal work at his tree nursery that had to be taken care of very soon. He contacted WB Bobby Burgess who was able to assemble a group of

nine volunteers who spent about four hours placing screens and erecting a sign. Those doing the work were: WBs Bobby Burgess, Mike Blythe(and his son Coby), Charlie Morris, Bill Moss, Ronnie Sneed, and Brothers Tom Little, David Barbee and Vinnie D’Andrea.

## Upcoming events of interest

**March 17th**—Pancake Breakfast. 7:00 - 11:00

**March 22nd**—MM Degree, Past Masters Night, Union and Cabarrus Lodges working together. NOTE: Different times—**Supper at 6:00,**

**degree at 7:00.**

**March 24th**—Mandatory Five-Hour Lecture Service, 7:00am

**April 2nd**—EA Degree, 6:30 supper, 7:30 degree work

**April 9th**—April Stated

**Practices:** MM—Mar 15th at 7:00pm. EA—Mar 18th at 5:00pm; Mar 21st at 7:30pm; Apr 1st at 5:00pm

## March Birthdays (by age)

### AGE / BIRTH DATE REPORT (sorted by current age)

#### Age Birth Date Name

88 03/01/1924 EVANS L. CAUDLE

85 03/29/1926 FRANKLIN R. WALTMYER

83 03/01/1929 BAYNE W. LEFLER JR

80 03/20/1931 JAMES H. JEFFERS

78 03/17/1933 CHARLES W. FURR

72 03/10/1940 DONALD R. RIPPY SR

67 03/31/1944 JOSEPH G. CUTHBERTSON

61 03/14/1950 ROBERT L. HUNTER JR

60 03/20/1951 BUFORD E. FANNON

59 03/30/1952 THOMAS M. BLYTHE

52 03/09/1960 EARL E. SNEED

## Happenings at the March stated

The DDGL for the 28th Masonic District, WB Gary S. Yost, was receive on his official visit, and addressed the members.

We had 38 members present, including 17 PMs and 14 veterans.

Messrs. David Gordon Nash and John Robert Nash were elected to receive the degrees in Masonry.

We received a contribution of \$750 to our Contingencies Fund in full at the Gold Level

from Midland Chapter #260 OES.

Announced that we only recently learned that Brother Robert Spencer Goins passed away on December 12, 2011.

Following the recommendation of a committee formed in November of 2011 to study the feasibility practically to continue the custom of remitting the dues of our 50+ years members, the Lodge established that only the remission of the

Grand Lodge per capita annually would be remitted for members observing their 50-years anniversary **in 2013** and thereafter. Our current 50+ years members would continue annually to be voted upon for remission of their dues as is currently done.

Learned Mrs. Polly Knight had broken her arm. Also, Brother Ron Harkey will be having bypass surgery on his legs 3/19; and WB Larry Robbins has knee replacement surgery 3/22.

## April Birthdays

### AGE / BIRTH DATE REPORT (sorted by current age)

#### Age Birth Date Name

96 04/02/1915 LEVI J. GANN

86 04/12/1925 EARL C. PHIFER

83 04/24/1928 THOMAS A. JOYNER

78 04/21/1933 ROBERT L. LITTLE

72 04/21/1939 HOWARD L. JONES

71 04/03/1940 ARNOLD J. PRICE

71 04/09/1940 LEON E. SNIDER

70 04/26/1941 ROGER D. LONG

65 04/15/1946 JERRY W. PITTMAN

64 04/29/1947 GARY D. HARTSELL

57 04/09/1954 RICKY L. RUSHING

54 04/04/1957 JOHNNY SMITH

54 04/08/1957 JERRY L. BENNETT

53 04/24/1958 CHARLES T. SMITH

53 04/30/1958 BRADFORD S. REITZEL

51 04/04/1960 EDWARD W. GREENE

51 04/26/1960 TAB G. MORRISON

50 04/03/1961 RUSSELL N. DRAKE

44 04/14/1967 SCOTT M. WHITLEY

42 04/28/1969 MARTY Y. BENTON

40 04/26/1971 THOMAS L. NASH JR

## Masonic Interest Story (Ernest Borgnine, 33rd. From <http://www.masonsoftexas.com>)

In 1946, I travelled with a friend down to a little town called Abingdon, Virginia, to see what the Barter Theatre had to offer. It offered nothing except hard work and board. My friend, not accepting the work they offered him, stayed one day - I stayed five years. In that time I grew to love the town and all it offered. The people, in particular, were simply marvelous.

Occasionally I would be assigned to go down to the printing shop and get posters made for the upcoming shows at the Barter Theatre. One day, in talking to the owner of the print shop, one Elmo Vaughan, I found that he belonged to the local Masonic Lodge, No. 48, in Abingdon. My father was also a Mason and had advanced to the Thirty-second Degree in Scottish Rite Masonry, and I told this to Elmo. He was pleased, and sensing his pleasure, I asked him if maybe I could join. He said nothing, continuing his work, and a short while later, I took my posters and left.

The next time I saw Elmo, I asked him again about joining the Masonic Order - again he said nothing - and again my work took me away. We became good friends and finally one day I passed by and again I asked if I could join the Masons. Instantly, he whipped out an application and I hurriedly filled it out. I didn't learn 'til later, that in those days, you had to ask three times.

I was thrilled! Not only was I going to be the first actor ever in Lodge No. 48, but I could just imagine my father's surprise when I would spring the old greetings on him! I wanted only to surprise my Dad - and was I surprised, when after I was made an Entered Apprentice, I found I had to remember everything that happened to me at that event and come back and answer questions about it!

I was assigned to a dear old man of about 92 years of age who, I felt, must have been there when the Lodge first started. He was really of the old school - and he started me out with the foot-to-foot, knee-to-knee and mouth-to-ear routine of teaching.

Besides doing my work for the Barter Theatre and a little acting to boot, I was also going to that dear Brother for my work in Masonry. I would tramp all over those lovely hills and work on my "Whence came you's" and one day - oh, one fine day - I stood foot-to-foot with my Brother and answered every question perfectly! I was ecstatic! I was overjoyed and couldn't wait to get to Lodge to show my ability as an Entered Apprentice. (cont'd on next page)

After I quieted down, that dear Brother said, "You've done fine, but aren't you really only half started?" I couldn't believe him! I knew my work; what else was there? He said "Wouldn't it be better if you knew all the questions too?"

I couldn't believe my ears! All that hard work and only half done? He gently sat me down foot-to-foot, knee-to-knee and mouth-to-ear and taught me all the questions. That didn't come easy, because I was almost doing the work by rote, but with careful listening and by really applying myself, I was soon able to deliver all the questions and answers perfectly! The night that I stood in front of the Lodge and was asked if I were ready to answer the questions of an Entered Apprentice, I respectfully asked if I could do both - questions and answers. I was granted that wish and later found that I was the second man in my Lodge to have ever done so! I am truly proud of that, never having demitted, I am still a member in good standing in Abingdon Lodge No. 48.

I tell this story not for the merit it might gain me, but to tell you that learning the Entered Apprentice obligation taught me a great lesson in acting as well: that before I ever attempt to do a part I should work, rehearse, feel, almost live that part to know what I am talking about!

As I've advanced in Masonry, I have found we are an elite group of people who believe in God, country, family and neighbors. We work hard to help our fellowman; and through our charitable work, such as support for the Childhood Language Disorders Centers, we have made it possible to help many children grow into good American citizens. We should always be proud of the Order we belong to. Where in all the world do you find so many great men and Brothers who have helped the whole wide world? But - we are hiding our light under a bushel basket!

Recently I attended a dinner for a friend, and I ran across a Brother who identified himself in a hushed voice. I asked why he spoke in a whisper when talking about Masonry, and suddenly I realized he wasn't the only one who had ever done that. I speak out loud about Masonry to everyone! I'm proud of the fact that I belong to an organization that made me a better American, Christian, husband and neighbor; and all it took was a little self-determination by going foot-to-foot, knee-to-knee, and mouth-to-ear!

**UNION MASONIC LODGE #618,  
A.F.&A.M.**

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**ASKI**

*MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER.*

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**Send any constructive criticisms or  
comments to  
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***Don't forget to pass the word around that our Fellowship Hall  
is available to rent. Provide any interested party the mobile  
phone number for WB Darrell Cline, who manages all of the  
reservations. (704) 791-9470***

