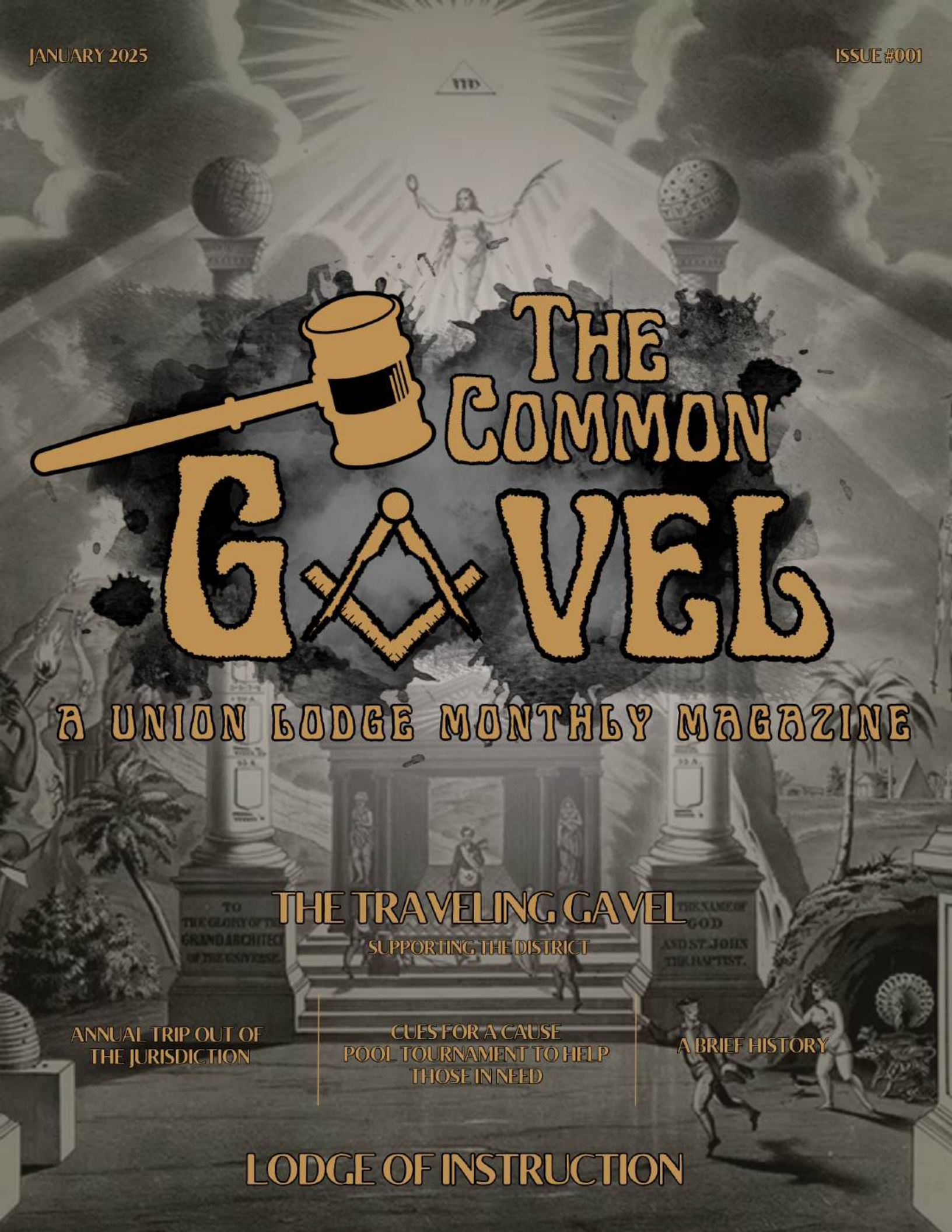


JANUARY 2025

ISSUE #001



THE COMMON GAVEL

A UNION LODGE MONTHLY MAGAZINE

THE TRAVELING GAVEL

SUPPORTING THE DISTRICT

ANNUAL TRIP OUT OF
THE JURISDICTION

CUES FOR A CAUSE
POOL TOURNAMENT TO HELP
THOSE IN NEED

A BRIEF HISTORY

LODGE OF INSTRUCTION

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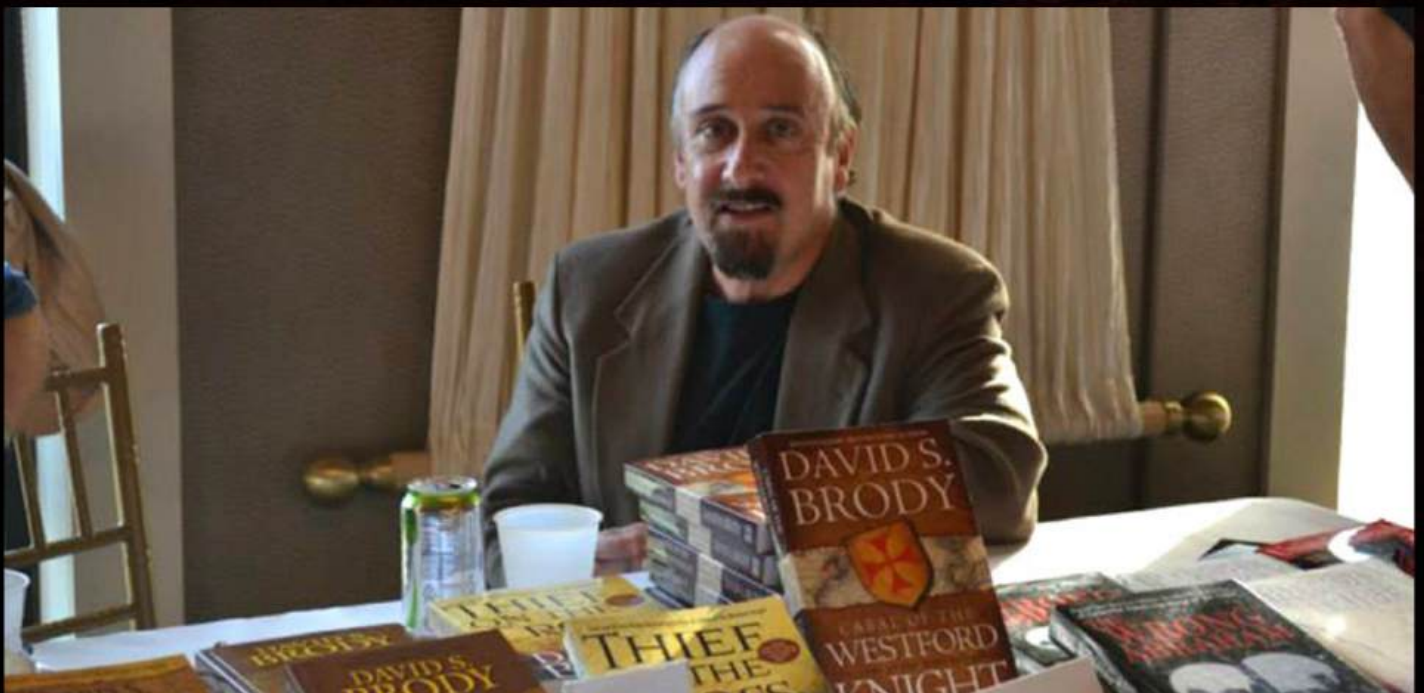
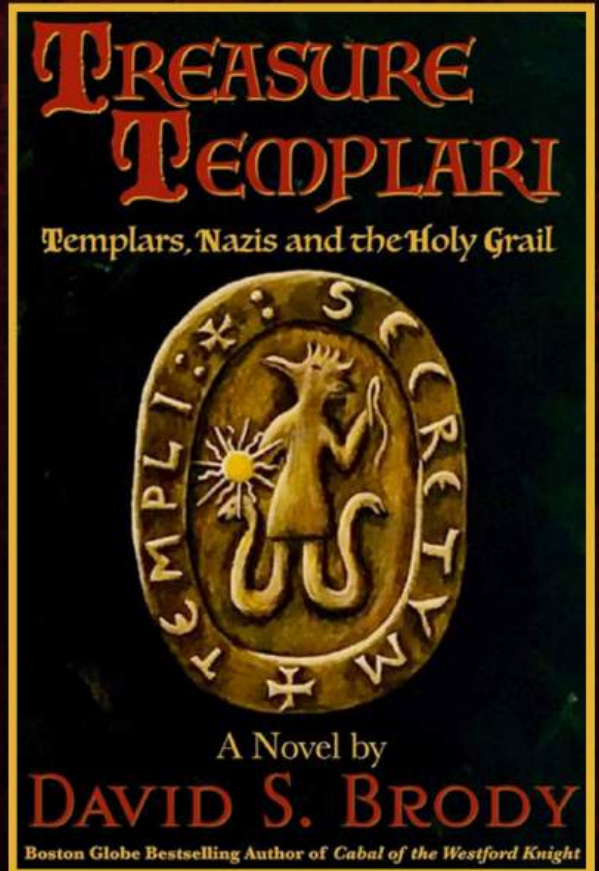
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WHAT IS THE PURPOSE?

LODGE OF INSTRUCTION

This month's Lodge of Instruction will take place at the Norwood Masonic Building at 76 Day St, Norwood, MA 02062 at 7:00pm. This LOI will include an installation of Lodge of Instruction officers, as well as, include a discussion from David S. Brody, author of the novel *Treasure Templari* (Templars, Nazis, and the Holy Grail).

David S. Brody is a Boston Globe bestselling fiction writer. His children call him a "rock nerd" because of the time he spends studying ancient stone structures which he believes evidence exploration of America prior to Columbus. A graduate of Tufts University and Georgetown Law School, he has appeared as a guest expert on documentaries on History Channel, Travel Channel, PBS and Discovery Channel, as well as the Coast to Coast AM radio program. He lives in Westford, MA with his wife, sculptor Kimberly Scott. The seven prior books in his *Templars in America* Series have been Amazon Kindle Top 10 Bestsellers in their category, with three titles reaching #1. *The Swagger Sword* is his eleventh novel. For more information, please visit DavidBrodyBooks.com



CUES FOR A CAUSE

UNION LODGE IS DEDICATED TO ENHANCING OUR CHARITABLE INITIATIVES THIS YEAR! WE'RE EXCITED TO PARTNER WITH CELESTIAL LODGE FOR A POOL TOURNAMENT, AIMED AT RAISING FUNDS TO PROVIDE HOLIDAY/EASTER DINNERS FOR FAMILIES IN NEED. THIS EVENT PROMISES TO FOSTER FRATERNALISM AND FRIENDLY COMPETITION WITHIN THE DISTRICT, ALL WHILE SUPPORTING A WORTHY CAUSE.

MARCH 22ND

UNION AND CELESTIAL LODGES PRESENT

Cues for a Cause TOURNAMENT

GRAND PRIZE 50" TV

MARCH 22ND, 2025 @2:30 PM

- BRACKET STYLE POOL TOURNAMENT
- ONE ON ONE TIMED GAMES
(AT END OF TIME, PLAYER WITH MOST SUNK BALLS WINS)
- 2 GAMES AT ONE TIME
- CORNHOLE GAMES FOR \$5 PER GAME
(WINNER OF EACH GAME GETS THEIR MONEY BACK)
- CONCESSIONS FOR A RECOMMENDED DONATION
- OTHER GAMES AND ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE DAY
- PRIZES FOR 1ST, 2ND, AND 3RD!

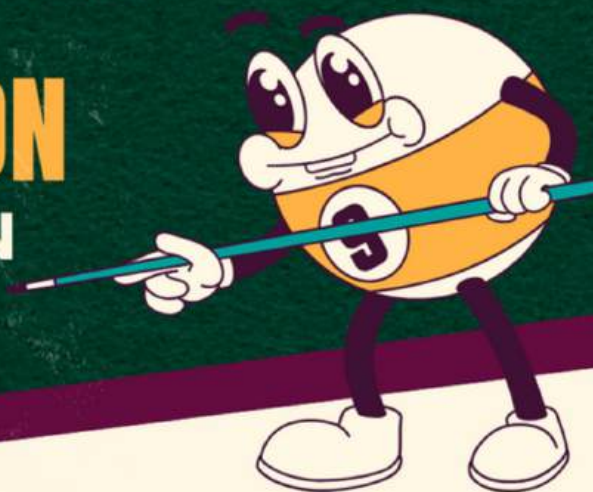
\$5

FOR

SPECTATORS

\$50 PER PERSON

**PRE-REGISTRATION
IS REQUIRED**



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO RSVP:
ANDY KNIGHT
F2NBASS@YAHOO.COM

**PLEASE RSVP BY
MARCH 15TH, 2022**

ANNUAL

*NEW YORK
City*

TRIP FOR

DEGREES



This year, we are excited to attend the Grand Lodge of Masons in New York for our annual trip.

BY WOR. ANDY KNIGHT

Brethren, these trips offer immense benefits to our fraternity that may not be immediately obvious. They foster friendships, camaraderie, a deeper pride in our rituals, enhance our historical knowledge, and contribute to our mental well-being.

The aspects of friendship and camaraderie are quite familiar. We have the opportunity to connect more deeply with one another as we travel alongside brothers from our lodge and beyond.

Last year, we had the opportunity to meet several brothers for the first time during our trip. These relationships evolved from mere acquaintances to true brotherhoods. We engaged in profound conversations and shared stories late into the night, deepening our connections.

Our pride in our rituals is amplified by the responsibility to demonstrate to a different jurisdiction the effort we've invested in providing an exceptional experience for the candidate. During our visit to Alexandria, Virginia, we had the honor of having the Grand Master of Virginia present as we conducted a Massachusetts 3rd degree ceremony for a candidate in their state.

On both trips, we were fortunate to receive in-depth tours of the historic buildings, rich with heritage. These experiences enlightened us about how Masons from various regions laid their foundations, revealing the commonalities we share as Masons. We uncovered historical insights about our founding fathers that no textbook or classroom could ever impart.

MORE INFO WILL BE RELEASED SOON REGARDING THIS YEARS TRIP



THESE PHOTOS ARE FROM OUR TRIP LAST YEAR TO THE GRAND LODGE OF PHILADELPHIA

A PIECE OF OUR

1902 Masonic Building - Upham's Corner -Dorchester, MA



LODGE HISTORY

A look back at the original Historical Sketch of Union Lodge 1796-1896

This segment will continue to be added to each month of this publication. For the first month we take a look back to the "Historical Sketch of Union Lodge, Dorchester" book that was released initially in 1897. There has since been an update in 1926 for the first 130 years of our Lodge's history. The book mentioned can be purchased online from Amazon or eBay!



The history of Union Lodge may be properly divided into three periods, each of which is strongly marked by its own condition of progress or decline. Whether this condition be measured by the numerical force of the membership, by the state of the finances, or by the attendance upon the regular and special communications of the Lodge, the indications are the same, and the same result is reached in the marking out of these periods. It may be well briefly to describe them before the flow of events in the Lodge is followed out in detail.

The first period extends from the formation of the Lodge, in 1796, to the year 1826, a term of thirty years, during which it seems to have enjoyed uninterrupted prosperity. This is the period of progress.

The second period extends from 1826 to 1846, a term of twenty years, during which the Lodge steadily declined, even to the verge of dissolution, and there was nothing left of it but its fund and the unconquerable spirit of a few of its remaining active members to hold it together. During this period not a single member was added to the Lodge.

The third period extends from 1846 to 1876, and covers a term of thirty years, during which the Lodge, beginning this term in a state of complete prostration, very slowly and gradually increased in strength and numbers till it attained to a condition of efficiency and prosperity second to no other Lodge in the jurisdiction. The British origin of American Masonry introduced English customs into the Lodges. The social and convivial element, which is still one of the strongest features of the Institution in England and Germany, was fully recognized in Union Lodge during the first period; and to some extent and in a modified form, it has been restored in the third period.

It is a significant fact that the Brethren in 1826 - the first year of the period of decline began to curtail the refreshments in the Lodge, and in 1829 voted to dispense with them entirely, except on the occasion of the visitation of the District Deputy Grand Master. In the third period, when the Lodge occupied Friendship Hall, it became as famous for its "doughnuts" as it had been in the first for its hot punch; and since its meetings have been held in Freemasons' Hall, it has been provided with a banqueting-room and a kitchen, and the collation has been a frequent institution, especially when the remarkable prosperity of the Lodge seemed to justify the expenditure for this purpose.

The social customs of society in the United States have been revolutionized since Union Lodge came into existence; the use of intoxicating drinks has happily been abolished, as a general rule, at the regular and special meetings of the Lodges; but it is interesting to inquire to what extent their prosperity has been promoted by the introduction of the social and convivial element, without which a Lodge in England or Germany would hardly attempt to exist. Public sentiment within the Fraternity would not tolerate the use of strong drinks in the Lodge, even if it were desirable; and the later history of Union Lodge indicates that a simple collation answers the social purpose quite as well, to say the least, as heap wine and hot punch.



THE 6TH RMASSONIC DISTRICT TRAVELLING GAVEL

Worshipful Robert Butler Shedd Award

The 6th Masonic District Traveling, also known as, the “Worshipful Robert Butler Shedd Award” was implemented during R.W. Glenn Kubick’s time as District Deputy Grand Master for the 6th Masonic District. This award was created to provide a sense of friendly competition and to give each Lodge a reason to push their attendance at Fraternal and Official Visits to the next level.

The award is named after R.W. Robert P. Shedd’s father, Wor. Robert Butler Shedd, a Past Master of West Roxbury Lodge in 1970. He was a beloved Brother in the Fraternity for over 50 years.

This year Union Lodge has won the Gavel 6 out of 9 times between the Official Visits in the Fall and starting off the Fraternal Visits in 2025 by taking the award twice.

Good attendance at the Official and Fraternal Visits gives the officers in the Lodge an opportunity to meet the Brethren in the same positions as them. In an ideal outcome the Junior Deacons of all of the Lodges should ultimately become Masters at the same time. Having good attendance helps support other Lodges especially in a time where sideline attendance is dwindling. In order to be on the suite you must be present in a tuxedo or have permission from the DDGM to wear a suit (the DD may wave a new member who hasn’t been installed as an Officer for example)

